

# ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

Let  $a, b, c \geq 0$  such that  $ab + bc + ca = 3$ . Prove that

$$\sqrt{a+1} + \sqrt{b+1} + \sqrt{c+1} \geq 3\sqrt{2}$$

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WLOG, we assume that  $0 \leq a \leq b \leq c$ . Since  $3 = ab + bc + ca \geq 3a^2$ , then  $0 \leq a \leq 1$ .

We have  $a^2 + 3 = (a+b)(a+c) \leq \left(\frac{2a+b+c}{2}\right)^2$ , then  $b+c \geq 2(\sqrt{a^2+3} - a)$ .

Let  $t := \sqrt{a^2+3} - a \in [1, \sqrt{3}]$ . We have  $b+c \geq 2t$ ,  $a = \frac{3-t^2}{2t}$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} (\sqrt{b+1} + \sqrt{c+1})^2 &= b+c+2+2\sqrt{b+c+bc+1} = b+c+2+2\sqrt{(b+c)(1-a)+4} \\ &\geq 2t+2+2\sqrt{2t\left(1-\frac{3-t^2}{2t}\right)+4} = 4(t+1). \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{a+1} + \sqrt{b+1} + \sqrt{c+1} &\geq \sqrt{a+1} + 2\sqrt{t+1} = \sqrt{\frac{3-t^2}{2t}+1} + 2\sqrt{t+1} \stackrel{?}{\geq} 3\sqrt{2} \\ &\Leftrightarrow 4\sqrt{\left(\frac{3-t^2}{2t}+1\right)(t+1)} \geq 13-4t-\frac{3-t^2}{2t}. \end{aligned}$$

If  $13 \leq 4t + \frac{3-t^2}{2t}$ , the last inequality is true.

Otherwise, after squaring, the last inequality is equivalent to  $-1 + 28t - 62t^2 + 44t^3 - 9t^4 \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow (t-1)^2[t(25-9t) + t-1] \geq 0$ , which is true for all  $t \in [1, \sqrt{3}]$ . So the proof is complete.

Equality holds iff  $a = b = c = 1$ .