

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $a, b, c > 0$ and $ab + bc + ca + 2abc = 1$, then prove that :

$$\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c} - (a + b + c) \geq \frac{9}{2}$$

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$$1 = 2abc + \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \stackrel{\text{A-G}}{\geq} 2abc + 3 \cdot \sqrt[3]{a^2 b^2 c^2} \Rightarrow 2x^3 + 3x^2 - 1 \leq 0$$

$$(x = \sqrt[3]{abc}) \Rightarrow (2x - 1)(x + 1)^2 \leq 0 \Rightarrow 2x \leq 1 \Rightarrow \sqrt[3]{abc} \leq \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow abc \leq \frac{1}{8} \rightarrow (1)$$

$$\text{Now, } \frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c} - (a + b + c) - \frac{9}{2} = \frac{\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab - abc \sum_{\text{cyc}} a - \frac{9}{2} \cdot abc}{abc} \geq$$

$$\frac{\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab - \frac{1}{3} (\sum_{\text{cyc}} ab)^2 - \frac{9}{2} \cdot abc}{abc} \stackrel{ab+bc+ca+2abc=1}{=} \frac{1 - 2t - \frac{(1-2t)^2}{3} - \frac{9t}{2}}{abc} \stackrel{?}{\geq} 0 \quad (t = abc)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 8t^2 + 31t - 4 \stackrel{?}{\leq} 0 \Leftrightarrow (8t - 1)(t + 4) \stackrel{?}{\leq} 0 \Leftrightarrow t = abc \stackrel{?}{\leq} \frac{1}{8} \rightarrow \text{true via (1)}$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c} - (a + b + c) \geq \frac{9}{2}$$

$$\forall a, b, c > 0 \mid ab + bc + ca + 2abc = 1, \text{ " = " iff } a = b = c = \frac{1}{2} \text{ (QED)}$$