

# ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

**If  $a, b, c > 0$  and  $a + b + c = abc$ , then prove that :**  
 $(a^2 - 1)(b^2 - 1)(c^2 - 1) \leq \sqrt{(a^2 + 1)(b^2 + 1)(c^2 + 1)}$

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Assigning  $b + c = x, c + a = y, a + b = z \Rightarrow x + y - z = 2c > 0, y + z - x = 2a > 0$  and  $z + x - y = 2b > 0 \Rightarrow x + y > z, y + z > x, z + x > y \Rightarrow x, y, z$  form sides of a triangle with semiperimeter, circumradius and inradius =  $s, R, r$  (say);

$$\text{so } 2 \sum_{\text{cyc}} a = \sum_{\text{cyc}} x = 2s \Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} a = s \rightarrow (1) \Rightarrow a = s - x, b = s - y, c = s - z$$

$$\therefore abc = r^2 s \rightarrow (2) \text{ and such substitutions } \Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab = \sum_{\text{cyc}} (s - x)(s - y)$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab = 4Rr + r^2 \rightarrow (3), \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 = \left( \sum_{\text{cyc}} a \right)^2 - 2 \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \stackrel{\text{via (1) and (3)}}{=} s^2 - 2(4Rr + r^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 = s^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2 \rightarrow (4),$$

$$\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 b^2 = \left( \sum_{\text{cyc}} ab \right)^2 - 2abc \left( \sum_{\text{cyc}} a \right) \stackrel{\text{via (1),(2) and (3)}}{=} (4Rr + r^2)^2 - 2r^2 s \cdot s$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 b^2 = r^2((4R + r)^2 - 2s^2) \rightarrow (5)$$

$$\text{Now, } (a^2 + 1)(b^2 + 1)(c^2 + 1) \stackrel{a+b+c=abc}{=} abc$$

$$\left( a^2 + \frac{abc}{\sum_{\text{cyc}} a} \right) \left( b^2 + \frac{abc}{\sum_{\text{cyc}} a} \right) \left( c^2 + \frac{abc}{\sum_{\text{cyc}} a} \right)$$

$$= \frac{abc}{(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a)^3} \left( a \sum_{\text{cyc}} a + bc \right) \left( b \sum_{\text{cyc}} a + ca \right) \left( c \sum_{\text{cyc}} a + ab \right)$$

$$\stackrel{a+b+c=abc}{=} \frac{abc}{a^3 b^3 c^3} \left( abc \left( \sum_{\text{cyc}} a \right)^3 + a^2 b^2 c^2 + abc \left( \sum_{\text{cyc}} a \right) \left( \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 \right) + \left( \sum_{\text{cyc}} a \right)^2 \left( \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 b^2 \right) \right)$$

$$\stackrel{\text{via (1),(2),(4) and (5)}}{=} \frac{r^2 s^4 + r^4 s^2 + r^2 s^2 (s^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2) + r^2 s^2 ((4R + r)^2 - 2s^2)}{r^4 s^2}$$

$$= \frac{16R^2}{r^2} \Rightarrow \sqrt{(a^2 + 1)(b^2 + 1)(c^2 + 1)} = \frac{4R}{r} \rightarrow (i)$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Again, } (a^2 - 1)(b^2 - 1)(c^2 - 1) &= a^2b^2c^2 - 1 - \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2b^2 + \sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2 \stackrel{a+b+c=abc}{=} \\
 &\left(\frac{\sum_{\text{cyc}} a}{abc}\right)^3 \left(a^2b^2c^2 - \left(\frac{abc}{\sum_{\text{cyc}} a}\right)^3 - \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2b^2\right) \left(\frac{abc}{\sum_{\text{cyc}} a}\right) + \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} a^2\right) \left(\frac{abc}{\sum_{\text{cyc}} a}\right)^2\right) \\
 \text{via (1),(2),(4) and (5)} &\stackrel{=}{=} \left(\frac{s}{r^2s}\right)^3 (r^4s^2 - r^6 - r^4((4R+r)^2 - 2s^2) + r^4(s^2 - 8Rr - 2r^2)) \\
 &= \frac{4s^2 - 16R^2 - 16Rr - 4r^2}{r^2} \stackrel{\text{Gerretsen}}{\leq} \frac{4(4R^2 + 4Rr + 3r^2) - 16R^2 - 16Rr - 4r^2}{r^2} \\
 &= 8 \stackrel{\text{Euler } 4R}{\leq} \frac{4R}{r} \stackrel{\text{via (i)}}{=} \sqrt{(a^2 + 1)(b^2 + 1)(c^2 + 1)} \\
 \therefore (a^2 - 1)(b^2 - 1)(c^2 - 1) &\leq \sqrt{(a^2 + 1)(b^2 + 1)(c^2 + 1)} \\
 \forall a, b, c > 0 \mid a + b + c = abc, &'' = '' \text{ iff } a = b = c = \sqrt{3} \text{ (QED)}
 \end{aligned}$$