

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $x, y, z \in [-1, 1]$ and $x + y + z + xyz = 0$, then prove that :

$$\sqrt{x+1} + \sqrt{y+1} + \sqrt{z+1} \leq 3$$

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$$\begin{aligned} x + y + z + xyz = 0 &\Rightarrow x(1 + yz) = -y - z \Rightarrow x = -\frac{y+z}{1+yz} \\ \Rightarrow x+1 &= 1 - \frac{y+z}{1+yz} = \frac{1-y-z(1-y)}{1+yz} \Rightarrow x+1 = \frac{(1-y)(1-z)}{1+yz} \rightarrow (1) \end{aligned}$$

Case 1 $xyz \geq 0$ and then : $\sqrt{x+1} + \sqrt{y+1} + \sqrt{z+1} \stackrel{\text{CBS}}{\leq} \sqrt{3} \cdot \sqrt{\sum_{\text{cyc}} x+3}$

$$\stackrel{x+y+z+xyz=0}{=} \sqrt{3} \cdot \sqrt{3-xyz} \stackrel{xyz \geq 0}{\leq} \sqrt{3} \cdot \sqrt{3} \therefore \sqrt{x+1} + \sqrt{y+1} + \sqrt{z+1} \leq 3$$

Case 2 $xyz \leq 0$ and then : **either** **Case 2i** $x, y, z \leq 0$ so that : $\sqrt{x+1} + \sqrt{y+1} + \sqrt{z+1} \leq \sqrt{1} + \sqrt{1} + \sqrt{1} \therefore \sqrt{x+1} + \sqrt{y+1} + \sqrt{z+1} \leq 3$

or **Case 2ii** one variable ≤ 0 and the other two ≥ 0 and WLOG we may assume $x \leq 0; y, z \geq 0$ and $\therefore m^2 + 4m + 4 \geq 4m + 4 \forall m \geq 0$

$$\therefore m+1 \leq \frac{(m+2)^2}{4} \Rightarrow \sqrt{m+1} \leq 1 + \frac{m}{2} \text{ and so, } \sqrt{y+1} + \sqrt{z+1} \leq 1 + \frac{y}{2} + 1 + \frac{z}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt{x+1} + \sqrt{y+1} + \sqrt{z+1} \leq \sqrt{\frac{(1-y)(1-z)}{1+yz}} + 2 + \frac{y+z}{2}$$

$$\left(\text{note : } \frac{(1-y)(1-z)}{1+yz} \geq 0 \therefore 0 \leq y, z \leq 1 \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt{x+1} + \sqrt{y+1} + \sqrt{z+1} - 3 \leq \sqrt{\frac{(1-y)(1-z)}{1+yz}} + \frac{y+z}{2} - 1$$

$$= \sqrt{\frac{(1-y)(1-z)}{1+yz}} - \frac{(1-y) + (1-z)}{2} \stackrel{\text{A-G}}{\leq}$$

$$\sqrt{\frac{(1-y)(1-z)}{1+yz}} - \sqrt{(1-y)(1-z)} \left(\because (1-y), (1-z) \geq 0 \right) \text{ as } 0 \leq y, z \leq 1$$

$$= \sqrt{(1-y)(1-z)} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+yz}} - 1 \right) = \sqrt{(1-y)(1-z)} \cdot \frac{\frac{1}{1+yz} - 1}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+yz}} + 1}$$

$$= -\sqrt{(1-y)(1-z)} \cdot \frac{yz}{(1+yz) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+yz}} + 1 \right)} \leq 0 \therefore 0 \leq y, z \leq 1$$

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$$\begin{aligned} &\therefore \sqrt{x+1} + \sqrt{y+1} + \sqrt{z+1} \leq 3 \therefore \text{combining all cases,} \\ &\sqrt{x+1} + \sqrt{y+1} + \sqrt{z+1} \leq 3 \forall x, y, z \in [-1, 1] \mid x + y + z + xyz = 0, \\ &\quad \text{"=" iff } x = y = z = 0 \text{ (QED)} \end{aligned}$$