

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $a, b, c \in [0, 1]$, then prove that :

$$\frac{a+1}{b+2} + \frac{b+1}{c+2} + \frac{c+1}{a+2} \leq 2$$

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Case 1 $a = b = c = 0$ and then : $LHS = 3 \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{2} < 2 \therefore \sum_{cyc} \frac{a+1}{b+2} < 2$

Case 2 Exactly 2 variables equal zero and WLOG we may assume : $b = c = 0$

and then : $LHS = \frac{a+1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{a+2} \stackrel{?}{<} 2 \Leftrightarrow \frac{(a+1)(a+2) + 2 \stackrel{?}{<} 3}{2(a+2)}$

$\Leftrightarrow a^2 + 3a + 4 \stackrel{?}{<} 3a + 6 \Leftrightarrow a \stackrel{?}{<} \sqrt{2} \rightarrow \text{true} \therefore 0 \leq a \leq 1 < \sqrt{2}$

$\therefore \frac{a+1}{b+2} + \frac{b+1}{c+2} + \frac{c+1}{a+2} < 2$

Case 3 Exactly 1 variables equals zero and WLOG we may assume $a = 0$ and

then : $LHS = \frac{1}{b+2} + \frac{b+1}{c+2} + \frac{c+1}{2}$
 $= \frac{2c + 4 + 2(b+1)(b+2) + (b+2)(c+2)(c+1) \stackrel{?}{\leq} 2}{2(b+2)(c+2)} \Leftrightarrow$

$bc + 4 \stackrel{?}{\geq} bc^2 + 2b^2 + 2c^2 \rightarrow \text{true} \therefore 0 \leq b, c \leq 1 \Rightarrow bc \geq bc^2, 2 \geq 2b^2 \text{ and } 2 \geq 2c^2$

$\therefore \frac{a+1}{b+2} + \frac{b+1}{c+2} + \frac{c+1}{a+2} \leq 2, " = " \text{ iff } (a = 0, b = c = 1) \text{ and permutations}$

Case 4 $a, b, c > 0$ and then : $\left(\frac{1}{a} - 1\right), \left(\frac{1}{b} - 1\right), \left(\frac{1}{c} - 1\right) \geq 0$ and denoting $\frac{1}{a} - 1$

$= x, \frac{1}{b} - 1 = y, \frac{1}{c} - 1 = z$, we get : $a = \frac{1}{x+1}, b = \frac{1}{y+1}, c = \frac{1}{z+1}$

Now, following simplification, $\frac{a+1}{b+2} + \frac{b+1}{c+2} + \frac{c+1}{a+2} \leq 2$ is equivalent to :

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{cyc} ab + 4 + 2abc \geq \sum_{cyc} ab^2 + 2 \sum_{cyc} a^2 \\ \Leftrightarrow & \sum_{cyc} \left(\frac{1}{x+1} \cdot \frac{1}{y+1} \right) + 4 + 2 \left(\frac{1}{x+1} \cdot \frac{1}{y+1} \cdot \frac{1}{z+1} \right) \geq \\ & \sum_{cyc} \left(\frac{1}{x+1} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{y+1} \right)^2 \right) + 2 \sum_{cyc} \left(\frac{1}{x+1} \right)^2 \\ \Leftrightarrow & \frac{\sum_{cyc} x + 3 + 4 \prod_{cyc} (x+1) + 2}{\prod_{cyc} (x+1)} \geq \end{aligned}$$

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$$\frac{\sum_{\text{cyc}}((x+1)^2(y+1)) + 2 \sum_{\text{cyc}}((x+1)^2(y+1)^2)}{\prod_{\text{cyc}}(x+1)^2}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 4x^2y^2z^2 + 8xyz \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} xy \right) + 2 \sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2y^2 + 17xyz \left(\sum_{\text{cyc}} x \right) + 4 \sum_{\text{cyc}} x^2y + 5 \sum_{\text{cyc}} xy^2$$

$$+ 40xyz + 13 \sum_{\text{cyc}} xy + 3 \sum_{\text{cyc}} x \geq 0 \rightarrow \text{true} \because x, y, z \geq 0, " = " \text{ iff } x = y = z = 0 \Rightarrow \text{iff}$$

$$a = b = c = 1 \therefore \text{combining all cases, } \frac{a+1}{b+2} + \frac{b+1}{c+2} + \frac{c+1}{a+2} \leq 2 \forall a, b, c \in [0, 1],$$

$$" = " \text{ iff } (a = 0, b = c = 1) \text{ or } (b = 0, a = c = 1) \text{ or } (c = 0, a = b = 1)$$

$$\text{or } (a = b = c = 1) \text{ (QED)}$$