

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $a, b, c > 0$ and $abc = 1$, then prove that :

$$\frac{a}{b} + \frac{b}{c} + \frac{c}{a} \geq \frac{3}{2}(a + b + c - 1)$$

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

$$\Leftrightarrow \boxed{2b^3c^3 + 2 + 2b^3 + 3b^2c \stackrel{(*)}{\geq} 3b + 3b^3c + 3b^2c^2}$$

Case 1 $bc \geq 1$ and **Case 1a** $b \geq 1$ and $\therefore b^3c^3 + b^3 + b^3 \stackrel{A-G}{\geq} 3b^3c$

\therefore it remains to prove : $b^3c^3 + 2 + 3b^2c \geq 3b + 3b^2c^2$

$\Leftrightarrow 3b(bc - 1) + (bc - 1)(b^2c^2 - 2bc - 2) \geq 0$

$\Leftrightarrow (bc - 1)(b^2c^2 - 2bc - 2 + 3b) \geq 0$; but $\therefore bc - 1 \geq 0$ and $3b \geq 3$

$\therefore (bc - 1)(b^2c^2 - 2bc - 2 + 3) = (bc - 1)^3 \geq 0 \Rightarrow (*)$ is true

Case 1b $b \leq 1$ and $\therefore 2b^3c^3 - 3b^2c^2 + 1 = (bc - 1)^2(2bc + 1) \geq 0$ \therefore it

remains to prove : $2b^3 - 3b + 1 + 3b^2c(1 - b) \geq 0$; but $\therefore bc \geq 1$ and $1 - b \geq 0$

$\therefore 2b^3 - 3b + 1 + 3b^2c(1 - b) \geq 2b^3 - 3b + 1 + 3b(1 - b) = 2b^3 - 3b^2 + 1$
 $= (b - 1)^2(2b + 1) \geq 0 \Rightarrow (*)$ is true

Case 2 $bc \leq 1$ and **Case 2a** $b \leq 1 \wedge c \geq 1$ and $\therefore 2b^3c^3 - 3b^2c^2 + 1$

$= (bc - 1)^2(2bc + 1) \geq 0$ \therefore it remains to prove : $2b^3 - 3b + 1 + 3b^2c(1 - b)$

≥ 0 ; but $\therefore c \geq 1$ and $1 - b \geq 0$ $\therefore 2b^3 - 3b + 1 + 3b^2c(1 - b)$

$\geq 2b^3 - 3b + 1 + 3b^2(1 - b) = (1 - b)^3 \stackrel{b \leq 1}{\geq} 0 \Rightarrow (*)$ is true

Case 2b $b \geq 1 \wedge c \leq 1$ and $\therefore 2b^3c^3 - 3b^2c^2 + 1 = (bc - 1)^2(2bc + 1) \geq 0$

\therefore it remains to prove : $2b^3 - 3b + 1 \geq 3b^2c(b - 1)$; but $\therefore bc \leq 1$ and $b - 1 \geq 0$

$\therefore 3b^2c(b - 1) \leq 3b(b - 1) \stackrel{?}{\leq} 2b^3 - 3b + 1 \Leftrightarrow 2b^3 - 3b^2 + 1 \stackrel{?}{\geq} 0$

$\Leftrightarrow (b - 1)^2(2b + 1) \stackrel{?}{\geq} 0 \rightarrow \text{true} \Rightarrow (*)$ is true

Case 2c $b, c \leq 1$ and we have : $\frac{1}{b} - 1, \frac{1}{c} - 1 \geq 0$ and we let : $x = \frac{1}{b} - 1$ and

$y = \frac{1}{c} - 1$ ($x, y \geq 0$) $\therefore b = \frac{1}{x + 1}$ and $c = \frac{1}{y + 1}$ $\therefore (*)$ transforms into :

$$\frac{2}{(x + 1)^3(y + 1)^3} + 2 + \frac{2}{(x + 1)^3} + \frac{3}{(x + 1)^2(y + 1)} - \frac{2}{x + 1} - \frac{2}{(x + 1)^3(y + 1)} - \frac{3}{(x + 1)^2(y + 1)^2} \geq 0 \stackrel{\text{simplifying}}{\Leftrightarrow}$$

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

$$2x^3y^3 + 6x^3y^2 + 3x^2y^3 + 6x^3y + 9x^2y^2 + 2x^3 + 9x^2y + 3xy^2 + y^3 + 3x^2 + 3xy + 3y^2 \geq 0 \rightarrow \text{true} \because x, y \geq 0 \Rightarrow (*) \text{ is true} \therefore \text{combining all cases, } (*) \forall b, c > 0$$
$$\therefore \frac{a}{b} + \frac{b}{c} + \frac{c}{a} \geq \frac{3}{2}(a + b + c - 1) \forall a, b, c > 0 \mid abc = 1,$$

" = " iff $a = b = c = 1$ (QED)