

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, $ab(a^6 + 64)(b^6 + 64) \geq 4400194256896$ then:

$$a^2 + b^2 \geq 128$$

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Let us assume : $a^2 + b^2 < 128$ and then :

$$128 > a^2 + b^2 \geq 2ab \Rightarrow ab < 64 \rightarrow (1)$$

We have :

$$4400194256896 \leq ab(a^6 + 64)(b^6 + 64) = ab(a^6b^6 + 64(a^6 + b^6) + 64^2)$$

$$= ab \left(a^6b^6 + 64 \left((a^2 + b^2)^3 - 3a^2b^2(a^2 + b^2) \right) + 64^2 \right) \overset{\substack{\text{assumption} \\ \text{and} \\ \because -3a^2b^2(a^2+b^2) \leq -6a^3b^3}}{<} <$$

$$ab(a^6b^6 + 64(128^3 - 6a^3b^3) + 64^2) \left(\because ab \geq \frac{4400194256896}{(a^6 + 64)(b^6 + 64)} > 0 \right)$$

$$\therefore t^7 + 64 \cdot 128^3 t - 384t^4 + 64^2 t > 4400194256896 \quad (t = ab)$$

$$\Rightarrow t^7 - 384t^4 + 134221824t - 4400194256896 > 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (t - 64) \left(t^6 + 64t^5 + 4096t^4 + 261760t^3 + 16752640t^2 + 1072168960t + 68753035264 \right) > 0 \Rightarrow t > 64$$

($\because t = ab > 0$) which is a contradiction to (1) \therefore our assumption is incorrect

and hence we conclude that : $a^2 + b^2 \geq 128$, " = " iff $a = b = 8$ (QED)