

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

J.2428. If $a, b, c \geq 0, a + b + c = 2$ then:

$$a^2b^2 + b^2c^2 + c^2a^2 + \frac{11}{8}abc \leq 1.$$

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Since $a + b + c = 2$, the inequality is equivalent to

$$16(a^2b^2 + b^2c^2 + c^2a^2) + 11abc(a + b + c) \leq (a + b + c)^4 \quad (1)$$

Here two proofs for (1):

I. Since the inequality is symmetric and homogeneous of 4 degree, it suffices to prove for

$$c = 0 \text{ and } b = c.$$

For $c = 0$ we have to prove that $16a^2b^2 \leq (a + b)^4$, true by *AM – GM* inequality.

For $b = c$ we have to prove that

$$16(2a^2b^2 + b^4) + 11ab^2(a + 2b) \leq (a + 2b)^4$$

$$a(a^3 + 8a^2b - 19ab^2 + 10b^3) \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow a(a - b)^2(a + 10b) \geq 0$$

II. The inequality (1) is equivalent to

$$a^2(a - b)(a - c) + b^2(b - c)(b - a) + c^2(c - a)(c - b) + 5ab(a - b)^2 + 5bc(b - c)^2 + 5ca(c - a)^2 \geq 0,$$

which is true by Schur inequality

$$a^2(a - b)(a - c) + b^2(b - c)(b - a) + c^2(c - a)(c - b) \geq 0.$$

Equality holds if and only if $(a, b, c) = \left(\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{3}\right), (0, 1, 1), (1, 0, 1), (1, 1, 0)$.