

# ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

S.2436 If  $a, b, c > 0$  and  $a + b + c = 3$  then find:

$$\max \left\{ \frac{a}{a+2} + \frac{b}{b+2} + \frac{c}{c+2} \right\}.$$

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Solution 1. We have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{a}{a+2} + \frac{b}{b+2} + \frac{c}{c+2} - 1 = \\ &= \frac{3a}{5a+2b+2c} - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{3b}{2a+5b+2c} - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{3c}{2a+2b+5c} - \frac{1}{3} = \\ &= \frac{2(a-b)+2(a-c)}{3(5a+2b+2c)} + \frac{2(b-c)+2(b-a)}{3(2a+5b+2c)} + \frac{2(c-a)+2(c-b)}{3(2a+2b+5c)} = \\ &= \frac{2(a-b)}{3(5a+2b+2c)} - \frac{2(a-b)}{3(2a+5b+2c)} + \frac{2(b-c)}{3(2a+5b+2c)} - \frac{2(b-c)}{3(2a+2b+5c)} \\ & \quad + \frac{2(c-a)}{3(2a+2b+5c)} - \frac{2(c-a)}{3(5a+2b+2c)} = \\ &= \frac{2(a-b)(2a+5b+2c-5a-2b-2c)}{3(5a+2b+2c)(2a+5b+2a)} + \frac{2(b-c)(2a+2b+5c-2a-5b-2c)}{3(2a+5b+2c)(2a+2b+5c)} \\ & \quad + \frac{2(c-a)(5a+2b+2c-5a-2b-2c)}{3(2a+2c+5c)(5a+2b+2c)} = \\ &= -\frac{2(a-b)^2}{(5a+2b+2c)(2a+5b+2a)} - \frac{2(b-c)^2}{(2a+5b+2c)(2a+2b+5c)} \\ & \quad - \frac{2(c-a)^2}{(2a+2c+5c)(5a+2b+2c)} \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

It results that

$$\max \left\{ \frac{a}{a+2} + \frac{b}{b+2} + \frac{c}{c+2} \right\} = 1,$$

obtained for  $a = b = c = 1$ .

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**Solution 2.** We will prove that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{a}{a+2} + \frac{b}{b+2} + \frac{c}{c+2} \leq 1 &\Leftrightarrow \frac{a}{5a+2b+2c} + \frac{b}{2a+5b+2c} + \frac{c}{2a+2b+5c} \leq \frac{1}{3} \\ &\Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{5} - \frac{a}{5a+2b+2c} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{3b}{2a+5b+2c} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{3c}{2a+2b+5c} \geq \frac{3}{5} - \frac{1}{3} \\ &\Leftrightarrow \frac{b+c}{5a+2b+2c} + \frac{c+a}{2a+5b+2c} + \frac{a+b}{2a+2b+5c} \geq \frac{2}{3}. \end{aligned}$$

Applying Bergström inequality we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{b+c}{5a+2b+2c} + \frac{c+a}{2a+5b+2c} + \frac{a+b}{2a+2b+5c} = \\ &= \frac{(b+c)^2}{(b+c)(5a+2b+2c)} + \frac{(c+a)^2}{(c+a)(2a+5b+2c)} + \frac{(a+b)^2}{(a+b)(2a+2b+5c)} \geq \\ &\geq \frac{4(a+b+c)^2}{4(a^2+b^2+c^2) + 14(ab+bc+ca)}. \end{aligned}$$

It remains to prove that

$$\begin{aligned} 6(a+b+c)^2 \geq 4(a^2+b^2+c^2) + 14(ab+bc+ca) &\Leftrightarrow \\ a^2+b^2+c^2 \geq ab+bc+ca. \end{aligned}$$