

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

S.2479 Let $a, b, c \geq 0$ such that $ab + bc + ca = 1$. Prove that

$$\frac{4(a^3 + b^3 + c^3)}{3} \geq a(1 - b^2)(1 - c^2) + b(1 - c^2)(1 - a^2) + c(1 - a^2)(1 - b^2) \geq \frac{108}{\left(\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c}\right)^3}$$

Proposed by Nguyen Van Canh – Vietnam

Solution by Titu Zvonaru-Romania

$$\begin{aligned} & a(1 - b^2)(1 - c^2) + b(1 - c^2)(1 - a^2) + c(1 - a^2)(1 - b^2) = \\ &= a - ab^2 - ac^2 + ab^2c^2 + b - bc^2 - a^2b + a^2bc^2 + c - a^2c - b^2c + a^2b^2c = \\ &= (a + b + c)(ab + bc + ca) + abc(ab + bc + ca) - a^2b - ab^2 - b^2c - bc^2 - c^2a \\ & \quad - ca^2 = 4abc \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c} = \frac{ab + bc + ca}{abc} = \frac{1}{abc}.$$

The inequality is equivalent to:

$$\frac{a^3 + b^3 + c^3}{3} \geq abc \geq 27a^3b^3c^3 \quad (1)$$

The left inequality from (1) is *AM – GM* inequality.

Equality holds if and only if $a = b = c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$.

Applying again *AM – GM* inequality, it follows that

$$1 = ab + bc + ca \geq 3(a^2b^2c^2)^{1/3}$$

that is $1 \geq 27a^2b^2c^2$; the right inequality from (1) is proved.

Equality holds if and only if $a = b = c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$.