

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $a, b > 0$, $(\sqrt{a} + 1)(\sqrt{b} + 1) = 4$ then:

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

Proposed by Nguyen Hung Cuong-Vietnam

Solution by Tapas Das-India

$$(\sqrt{a} + 1)(\sqrt{b} + 1) = 4 \text{ or } \sqrt{ab} + (\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b}) + 1 \geq 4 \text{ or}$$

$$\frac{a+b}{2} + \sqrt{2(a+b)} \geq 3 \text{ (Am - Gm \& CBS)}$$

$$u^2 + 2\sqrt{2}u - 6 \stackrel{u=\sqrt{a+b}>0}{\geq} 0 \text{ or } (u + 3\sqrt{2})(u - \sqrt{2}) \geq 0 \text{ or}$$

$$u - \sqrt{2} \geq 0 \text{ (as } u > 0) \text{ or } u \geq \sqrt{2} \text{ or } u^2 \geq 2 \text{ or, } a + b \geq 2 \text{ (1)}$$

$$\frac{a^3}{(a+1)^2} + \frac{b^3}{(b+1)^2} \stackrel{CBS}{\geq} \left(\frac{a^3}{2(a^2+1)} + \frac{b^3}{2(b^2+1)} \right) =$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left(a - \frac{a}{a^2+1} + b - \frac{b}{b^2+1} \right) \stackrel{AM-GM}{\geq}$$

$$\geq \frac{1}{2} \left((a+b) - \left(\frac{a}{2a} + \frac{b}{2b} \right) \right) \stackrel{(1)}{\geq} \frac{1}{2} \left(2 - \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \right) = \frac{1}{2}$$

Equality holds for $a = b = 1$