

**Problem 11815**

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Proposed by G. Apostolopoulos (Greece).

Let  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  be positive numbers such that  $x + y + z = 3$ . Prove that

$$\frac{x^4 + x^2 + 1}{x^2 + x + 1} + \frac{y^4 + y^2 + 1}{y^2 + y + 1} + \frac{z^4 + z^2 + 1}{z^2 + z + 1} \geq 3xyz.$$

Solution proposed by Roberto Tauraso, Dipartimento di Matematica, Università di Roma "Tor Vergata", via della Ricerca Scientifica, 00133 Roma, Italy.

We have that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x^4 + x^2 + 1}{x^2 + x + 1} + \frac{y^4 + y^2 + 1}{y^2 + y + 1} + \frac{z^4 + z^2 + 1}{z^2 + z + 1} &= (x^2 - x + 1) + (y^2 - y + 1) + (z^2 - z + 1) \\ &= 3 \cdot \frac{x^2 + y^2 + z^2}{3} \geq 3 \left( \frac{x + y + z}{3} \right)^2 = 3 \\ &= 3 \left( \frac{x + y + z}{3} \right)^3 \geq 3xyz, \end{aligned}$$

where we used first the convexity of  $t \rightarrow t^2$  and, then the AGM inequality. □