

Problem 11905

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Proposed by C. Lupu (USA).

From a point P inside a triangle ABC , the perpendiculars PP_A , PP_B , and PP_C are drawn to its sides. Let R be the circumradius and r the inradius of the triangle. Prove that

$$\frac{R}{2r} \leq \frac{|PA||PB||PC|}{(|PP_B| + |PP_C|)(|PP_A| + |PP_C|)(|PP_A| + |PP_B|)}.$$

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

We have that

$$\frac{|PP_B| + |PP_C|}{|PA|} = \sin \alpha_1 + \sin \alpha_2$$

where $\alpha_1 = |\widehat{PAC}|$ and $\alpha_2 = |\widehat{PAB}|$.

Hence, by using similar notations for the other factors, the inequality is equivalent to

$$(\sin \alpha_1 + \sin \alpha_2)(\sin \beta_1 + \sin \beta_2)(\sin \gamma_1 + \sin \gamma_2) \leq \frac{2r}{R} = 8 \sin \left(\frac{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2}{2} \right) \sin \left(\frac{\beta_1 + \beta_2}{2} \right) \sin \left(\frac{\gamma_1 + \gamma_2}{2} \right)$$

which holds because the function $\sin x$ is positive and concave in $(0, \pi)$ and

$$(\sin x_1 + \sin x_2) \leq 2 \sin \left(\frac{x_1 + x_2}{2} \right)$$

for all $x_1, x_2 \in (0, \pi)$. □