

Problem 11906

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Proposed by R. Bosch (USA).

Let $x, y,$ and z be positive numbers such that $xyz = 1$. Prove that

$$\sqrt{\frac{x+1}{x^2-x+1}} + \sqrt{\frac{y+1}{y^2-y+1}} + \sqrt{\frac{z+1}{z^2-z+1}} \leq 3\sqrt{2}.$$

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

Since \sqrt{x} is concave in $[0, +\infty)$, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{\frac{x+1}{x^2-x+1}} + \sqrt{\frac{y+1}{y^2-y+1}} + \sqrt{\frac{z+1}{z^2-z+1}} &\leq 3\sqrt{\frac{(x+1)g(x) + (y+1)g(y) + (z+1)g(z)}{3}} \\ &\leq 3\sqrt{\frac{3+g(x)+g(y)+g(z)}{3}} \end{aligned}$$

where $g(t) = 1/(1-t+t^2)$ satisfies $1-tg(t) = (1-t)^2/(1-t+t^2) \geq 0$.
Hence it suffices to show that if $x, y, z > 0$ and $xyz = 1$ then

$$g(x) + g(y) + g(z) \leq 3.$$

Finally, we notice that the following stronger inequality was proved in my solution of Problem 11867,

$$g(x) + g(y) + g(z) + (1-xg(x))(1-yg(y))(1-zg(z)) \leq 3.$$

By expanding and by taking account of the constraint $xyz = 1$, the above inequality is equivalent to

$$x^2y^2 + y^2z^2 + z^2x^2 - 3(xy + yz + zx) + 6 \geq 0,$$

or, by letting $X = 1/x, Y = 1/y, Z = 1/z$, to

$$h(X, Y, Z) := X^2 + Y^2 + Z^2 - 3(X + Y + Z) + 6 \geq 0.$$

In order to prove it, we use the mixing variables method.

Without loss of generality we can assume that $Z \leq 1$, then $XY = 1/Z \geq 1$ and

$$h(X, Y, Z) = h(\sqrt{XY}, \sqrt{XY}, Z) + (X - Y)^2 - 3(\sqrt{X} - \sqrt{Y})^2 \geq h(\sqrt{XY}, \sqrt{XY}, Z)$$

because $(\sqrt{X} + \sqrt{Y})^2 \geq 4\sqrt{XY} \geq 4$ and

$$(X - Y)^2 - 3(\sqrt{X} - \sqrt{Y})^2 = (\sqrt{X} - \sqrt{Y})^2((\sqrt{X} + \sqrt{Y})^2 - 3) \geq 0.$$

Finally, $Z \leq 1$ implies

$$h(\sqrt{XY}, \sqrt{XY}, Z) = h(1/\sqrt{Z}, 1/\sqrt{Z}, Z) = (Z^2 + 2Z\sqrt{Z} + 2(1 - \sqrt{Z}))(\sqrt{Z} - 1)^2/Z \geq 0.$$

□