

Problem 11945

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Proposed by M. Lukarevski (Macedonia).

Let a , b , and c be the lengths of the sides of triangle ABC opposite A , B , and C , respectively, and let w_a , w_b , w_c be the lengths of the corresponding angle bisectors. Prove

$$\frac{a}{w_a} + \frac{b}{w_b} + \frac{c}{w_c} \geq 2\sqrt{3}.$$

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

Solution. By using the inequality $x + y \geq 2\sqrt{xy}$ twice, we have that

$$w_a = \frac{2bc}{b+c} \cdot \cos(A/2) = \sqrt{bc} \cdot \cos(A/2) = \sqrt{s(s-a)} = \frac{2\sqrt{s(3s-3a)}}{2\sqrt{3}} \leq \frac{4s-3a}{2\sqrt{3}}$$

where $s = (a + b + c)/2$. Hence

$$\frac{a}{w_a} + \frac{b}{w_b} + \frac{c}{w_c} \geq f(a) + f(b) + f(c) \geq 3f\left(\frac{a+b+c}{3}\right) = 3f\left(\frac{2s}{3}\right) = 2\sqrt{3}$$

where we used the fact that $f(x) = \frac{2\sqrt{3}x}{4s-3x}$ is convex in $[0, 4s/3)$ (note that $3 \max(a, b, c) < 2(a + b + c) = 4s$). \square