

**Problem 12319**

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Proposed by M. Bencze (Romania).

Let  $ABC$  be a triangle with all angles less than  $120^\circ$ , and let  $F$  be the Fermat point of  $ABC$  (the point in the interior that minimizes the sum of the distances to  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$ ). Prove

$$\frac{FA^4}{AB^2} + \frac{FB^4}{BC^2} + \frac{FC^4}{CA^2} \geq \frac{FA^3 + FB^3 + FC^3}{FA + FB + FC}.$$

Solution proposed by Roberto Tauraso, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy.

*Solution.* Since all angles of  $ABC$  are less than  $120^\circ$ , then  $F$  is an interior point of the triangle from which each side subtends an angle of  $120^\circ$ . Hence, by the law of cosines,

$$AB^2 = x^2 + xy + y^2, \quad BC^2 = y^2 + yz + z^2, \quad CA^2 = z^2 + zx + x^2$$

where  $x = FA$ ,  $y = FB$ ,  $z = FC$ .

Hence we have to show that

$$\sum_{\text{cyc}} x \cdot \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{x^4}{x^2 + xy + y^2} \geq \sum_{\text{cyc}} x^3.$$

We have that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\text{cyc}} x \cdot \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{x^4}{x^2 + xy + y^2} &= \sum_{\text{cyc}} x \cdot \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{x(x^3 - y^3) + xy^3}{x^2 + xy + y^2} \\ &= \sum_{\text{cyc}} x \cdot \sum_{\text{cyc}} x(x - y) + \sum_{\text{cyc}} x \cdot \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{xy^3}{x^2 + xy + y^2} \\ &= \sum_{\text{cyc}} x^3 - 3xyz + \sum_{\text{cyc}} x \cdot \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{xy^3}{x^2 + xy + y^2} \\ &= \sum_{\text{cyc}} x^3 + xyz \left( \sum_{\text{cyc}} x \cdot \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{y^2}{z(x^2 + xy + y^2)} - 3 \right) \\ &\geq \sum_{\text{cyc}} x^3. \end{aligned}$$

The last step is implied by the following fact: by the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality,

$$\sum_{\text{cyc}} z(x^2 + xy + y^2) \cdot \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{y^2}{z(x^2 + xy + y^2)} \geq \left( \sum_{\text{cyc}} y \right)^2$$

and, after noting that  $\sum_{\text{cyc}} z(x^2 + xy + y^2) = \sum_{\text{cyc}} x \cdot \sum_{\text{cyc}} xy$ , we find

$$\sum_{\text{cyc}} x \cdot \sum_{\text{cyc}} \frac{y^2}{z(x^2 + xy + y^2)} \geq \frac{\left( \sum_{\text{cyc}} y \right)^2}{\sum_{\text{cyc}} xy} = \frac{\sum_{\text{cyc}} y^2}{\sum_{\text{cyc}} xy} + 2 \geq 1 + 2 = 3.$$

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