

Problem (Nguyen Duy Tung)

Let  $x, y, z, t$  be positive real number such that  $\max(x, y, z, t) \leq \sqrt{5}\min(x, y, z, t)$ .

Prove that:

$$\frac{xy}{5x^2 - y^2} + \frac{yz}{5y^2 - z^2} + \frac{zt}{5z^2 - t^2} + \frac{tx}{5t^2 - x^2} \geq 1$$

Proof: From

$$\max(x, y, z, t) \leq \min\sqrt{5}\min(x, y, z, t)$$

we have

$$5x^2 - y^2, 5y^2 - z^2, 5z^2 - t^2, 5t^2 - x^2 \geq 0.$$

Setting

$$a = \frac{x}{y}, b = \frac{y}{z}, c = \frac{z}{t}, d = \frac{t}{x}$$

we have  $abcd = 1$

The inequality can rewrite:

$$\frac{a}{5a^2 - 1} + \frac{b}{5b^2 - 1} + \frac{c}{5c^2 - 1} + \frac{d}{5d^2 - 1} \geq 1.$$

We have:

$$\frac{a}{5a^2 - 1} \geq \frac{1}{a^3 + a^2 + a + 1} \Leftrightarrow \frac{(a-1)^2(a^2 + 3a + 1)}{(5a^2 - 1)(a^3 + a^2 + a + 1)} \geq 0$$

(true)

We will prove that:

$$\frac{1}{(1+a)(1+a^2)} + \frac{1}{(1+b)(1+b^2)} + \frac{1}{(1+c)(1+c^2)} + \frac{1}{(1+d)(1+d^2)} \geq 1.$$

Without loss of generality assume that  $a \geq b \geq c \geq d$

. Then from Chebyshev's inequality we have that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{(1+a)(1+a^2)} + \frac{1}{(1+b)(1+b^2)} + \frac{1}{(1+c)(1+c^2)} \geq \\ & \geq \frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{1}{1+a} + \frac{1}{1+b} + \frac{1}{1+c} \right) \left( \frac{1}{1+a^2} + \frac{1}{1+b^2} + \frac{1}{1+c^2} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Lemma (Vasile Cirtoaje): If  $a \geq b \geq c \geq d$  and  $abcd = 1$

then it holds that  $\frac{1}{1+a} + \frac{1}{1+b} + \frac{1}{1+c} \geq \frac{3}{1+\sqrt[3]{abc}}$ .

Proof of the Lemma: We know that

$$\frac{1}{1+a} + \frac{1}{1+b} \geq \frac{2}{1+\sqrt{ab}}.$$

So, it suffices to prove that  $\frac{1}{1+c} + \frac{2}{1+\sqrt{ab}} \geq \frac{3}{1+\sqrt[3]{abc}}$ .

Let us denote by

$$x = \sqrt{ab}, y = \sqrt[3]{abc} \implies c = \frac{y^3}{x^2}$$

Substituting them to the above inequality we get that

$$\frac{1}{1+c} + \frac{2}{1+\sqrt{ab}} - \frac{3}{1+\sqrt[3]{abc}} = \frac{x^2}{x^2 + y^3} + \frac{2}{1+x} - \frac{3}{1+y},$$

which reduces to the inequality

$$\frac{(x-y)^2 [2y^2 - y + x(y-2)]}{(1+x)(1+y)(x^2+y^3)}$$

, which is obvious since

$$2y^2 - y + (y-2)x \geq 2y^2 - y + (y-2)y^3 = y(y-1)(y^2 - y + 1) \geq 0.$$

Back to our inequality now, from the above lemma we deduce that:

$$\frac{1}{1+a} + \frac{1}{1+b} + \frac{1}{1+c} \geq \frac{3}{1+\sqrt[3]{abc}}$$

$$\frac{1}{1+a^2} + \frac{1}{1+b^2} + \frac{1}{1+c^2} \geq \frac{3}{1+\sqrt[3]{a^2b^2c^2}}.$$

For convenience denote by  $k$  the  $\sqrt[3]{abc}$ .

Therefore we have that

$$\frac{1}{(1+a)(1+a^2)} + \frac{1}{(1+b)(1+b^2)} + \frac{1}{(1+c)(1+c^2)} \geq \frac{3}{(1+k)(1+k^2)}.$$

Thus it remains to prove that

$$\frac{3}{(1+k)(1+k^2)} + \frac{1}{(1+d)(1+d^2)} \geq 1$$

But  $abcd = 1$ .

So, the last fraction is of the form

$$\frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{1}{k^3}\right) \left(1 + \frac{1}{k^6}\right)}.$$

After that we get

$$\frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{1}{k^3}\right) \left(1 + \frac{1}{k^6}\right)} + \frac{3}{(1+k)(1+k^2)} \geq 1$$

Conclusion follows from the obvious inequality

$$\frac{(k-1)^2(2k^4 + k^3 + k + 2)}{(k^3 + 1)(k^6 + 1)} \geq 0$$

Q.E.D The Enquality holds when  $x = y = z = t = 1$ .

Remark: Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  be positive real number such that  $\max(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \leq \sqrt{5} \min(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ . Prove that:

$$\frac{x_1x_2}{5x_1^2 - x_2^2} + \frac{x_2x_3}{5x_2^2 - x_3^2} + \dots + \frac{x_nx_1}{5x_n^2 - x_1^2} \geq 1$$

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