

Problem A3. Given ABC is a triangle with ℓ_a, ℓ_b, ℓ_c are the bisectors of A, B, C respectively. Prove that the following inequality holds

$$\frac{a+b}{\ell_a+\ell_b} + \frac{b+c}{\ell_b+\ell_c} + \frac{c+a}{\ell_c+\ell_a} \geq 2\sqrt{3}$$

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Let $s = \frac{a+b+c}{2}$. From the well known formula of the angle bisector we have

$$\ell_a = \frac{2bc}{b+c} \cos \frac{A}{2} = \frac{2bc}{b+c} \sqrt{\frac{s(s-a)}{bc}} \leq \frac{2\sqrt{bc}}{b+c} \sqrt{s(s-a)} \leq \sqrt{s(s-a)}$$

and similar inequalities hold for ℓ_b, ℓ_c . Thus from AM-QM inequality we get

$$\begin{aligned} \ell_a + \ell_b &\leq \sqrt{s(s-a)} + \sqrt{s(s-b)} \leq 2\sqrt{\frac{s(s-a) + s(s-b)}{2}} \leq \\ &\leq \sqrt{2s(2s-a-b)} = \sqrt{(a+b+c)c} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, in order to demonstrate the proposed inequality, is enough to prove that

$$\frac{a+b}{\sqrt{(a+b+c)c}} + \frac{b+c}{\sqrt{(a+b+c)a}} + \frac{c+a}{\sqrt{(a+b+c)b}} \geq 2\sqrt{3} \quad (*)$$

WLOG we can assume that $a+b+c = 1$. Then the inequality (*) becomes

$$\frac{1-a}{\sqrt{a}} + \frac{1-b}{\sqrt{b}} + \frac{1-c}{\sqrt{c}} \geq 2\sqrt{3} \quad (**)$$

The inequality (**) follows directly from Jensen's inequality, because the function:

$$f(x) = \frac{1-x}{\sqrt{x}}$$

is convex on $[0, 1]$ since:

$$f''(x) = \frac{x+3}{4x\sqrt{x}} \geq 0 \quad , \quad \forall x \in (0, 1]$$

So the proof is complete. \square

Remark. The inequality (**) can be proved also by means of classic inequalities, in the following way. By Cauchy-Schwartz inequality we have

$$\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b} + \sqrt{c} \leq \sqrt{1+1+1}\sqrt{a+b+c} = \sqrt{3}$$

Thus, taking into account the inequality between harmonic and arithmetic means, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1-a}{\sqrt{a}} + \frac{1-b}{\sqrt{b}} + \frac{1-c}{\sqrt{c}} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{b}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{c}} - (\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b} + \sqrt{c}) \geq \\ &\geq \frac{9}{\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b} + \sqrt{c}} - (\sqrt{a} + \sqrt{b} + \sqrt{c}) \geq \\ &\geq \frac{9}{\sqrt{3}} - \sqrt{3} = 2\sqrt{3} \end{aligned}$$

and (**) is proven.