

Problema S140. Let a, b, c be integers. Prove that

$$\sum_{cyc} (a-b) (a^2 + b^2 - c^2) c^2$$

is divisible by $(a+b+c)^2$.

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Clearly we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{cyc} (a-b) (a^2 + b^2 - c^2) c^2 = \\ &= \sum_{cyc} a^3 c^2 + \sum_{cyc} ab^2 c^2 - \sum_{cyc} ac^4 - \sum_{cyc} a^2 bc^2 - \sum_{cyc} b^3 c^2 + \sum_{cyc} bc^4 = \\ &= \sum_{cyc} a^3 c^2 - \sum_{cyc} ac^4 - \sum_{cyc} b^3 c^2 + \sum_{cyc} bc^4 = \\ &= \sum_{cyc} a^3 (c^2 - b^2) + \sum_{cyc} a^4 (c - b) = \\ &= \sum_{cyc} a^3 (c - b)(a + b + c) = (a + b + c) \sum_{cyc} a^3 (c - b) \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

so the given sum is divisible by $a + b + c$.

Let us rewrite the expression $\sum_{cyc} a^3 (c - b)$ in the following form

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{cyc} a^3 (c - b) &= a^3 (c - b) + b^3 (a - c) + c^3 (b - a) = \\ &= (b - a) [c^3 - (a^2 + b^2 + ab) c - ab(a + b)] \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Now, observe that the roots α, β, γ of the polynomial

$$P(c) = c^3 - (a^2 + b^2 + ab) c - ab(a + b)$$

satisfy the Viète's formulas

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 0 \quad , \quad \alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha = -a^2 - b^2 - ab \quad , \quad \alpha\beta\gamma = -ab(a + b)$$

An easy computation show that $\alpha = a, \beta = b, \gamma = -a - b$, hence

$$P(c) = (c - a)(c - b)(c + a + b) \quad (3)$$

Finally, from (1),(2) and (3) it follows that

$$\sum_{cyc} (a-b) (a^2 + b^2 - c^2) c^2 = (b - a)(c - a)(c - b)(a + b + c)^2$$

and the proof is finished. \square