

**Problem 5096.** Let  $a, b, c$  be positive real numbers. Prove that

$$\frac{a}{b + \sqrt[4]{ab^3}} + \frac{b}{c + \sqrt[4]{bc^3}} + \frac{c}{a + \sqrt[4]{ca^3}} \geq \frac{3}{2}$$

*Proposed by José Luis Díaz-Barrero, Barcelona, Spain*

*Solution by Ercole Suppa, Teramo, Italy*

By weighted AM-GM inequality we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{a}{b + \sqrt[4]{ab^3}} + \frac{b}{c + \sqrt[4]{bc^3}} + \frac{c}{a + \sqrt[4]{ca^3}} \geq \\ & \geq \frac{a}{b + \frac{1}{4}a + \frac{3}{4}b} + \frac{b}{c + \frac{1}{4}b + \frac{3}{4}c} + \frac{c}{a + \frac{1}{4}c + \frac{3}{4}a} = \\ & = \frac{4a}{a + 7b} + \frac{4b}{b + 7c} + \frac{4c}{c + 7a} \end{aligned}$$

so it suffices to prove that

$$\frac{a}{a + 7b} + \frac{b}{b + 7c} + \frac{c}{c + 7a} \geq \frac{3}{8}$$

This inequality is equivalent to

$$\frac{7(13a^2b + 13b^2c + 13ac^2 + 35ab^2 + 35a^2c + 35bc^2 - 144abc)}{8(a + 7b)(b + 7c)(c + 7a)} \geq 0$$

which is true. Indeed according AM-GM inequality we obtain

$$13a^2b + 13b^2c + 13ac^2 \geq 13 \cdot 3 \cdot \sqrt[3]{a^3b^3c^3} = 39abc$$

$$35ab^2 + 35a^2c + 35bc^2 \geq 35 \cdot 3 \cdot \sqrt[3]{a^3b^3c^3} = 105abc$$

and, summing these inequalities, we get

$$13a^2b + 35ab^2 + 35a^2c - 144abc + 13b^2c + 13ac^2 + 35bc^2 \geq 144abc$$

This ends the proof. Clearly, equality occurs for  $a = b = c$ . □