

*Proposed Solution to #5729 SSMJ*

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**Statement of the Problem:** Let  $0 < a < b$  be real numbers. Prove the following inequality:

$$(a+b)^{(a+b)}(b-a)^{(b-a)} < \left(\frac{a^2+b^2}{b}\right)^{2b}$$

**Solution of the Problem:** We modify the problem taking  $\ln$  on both sides,

$$(a+b)\ln(a+b) + (b-a)\ln(b-a) < 2b\ln\left(\frac{a^2+b^2}{b}\right) \quad \dots\dots\dots(1)$$

Now, we will focus on proving this statement.

Then, consider a function  $f(x) = \ln(x)$ . Then  $f''(x) = -\frac{1}{x^2} < 0 \forall x > 0$ . So, the function is concave  $\forall x \neq 0$ . Also notice that both  $a+b$  and  $b-a$  are strictly positive here.

Now, using Jensen's inequality,

$$\frac{(a+b)\ln(a+b) + (b-a)\ln(b-a)}{a+b+b-a} \leq \ln\left(\frac{(a+b)(a+b) + (b-a)(b-a)}{a+b+b-a}\right)$$

which on simplification gives

$$(a+b)\ln(a+b) + (b-a)\ln(b-a) \leq 2b\ln\left(\frac{a^2+b^2}{b}\right)$$

And the equality holds when  $a+b = b-a \Rightarrow a=0$ . But since  $0 < a < b$ , the equality does not hold. Hence, we have proved (1).