

Solution for Problem J376

$$\frac{1}{5-4\cos\alpha} + \frac{1}{5-4\cos\beta} + \frac{1}{5-4\cos\gamma} = \frac{1}{1+4(1-\cos\alpha)} + \frac{1}{1+4(1-\cos\beta)} + \frac{1}{1+4(1-\cos\gamma)} = \frac{3+8\Sigma(1-\cos\alpha)+16\Sigma(1-\cos\alpha)(1-\cos\beta)}{1+4\Sigma(1-\cos\alpha)+16\Sigma(1-\cos\alpha)(1-\cos\beta)+64\Pi(1-\cos\alpha)}$$

Thus the statement to be proved is $\frac{3+8\Sigma(1-\cos\alpha)+16\Sigma(1-\cos\alpha)(1-\cos\beta)}{1+4\Sigma(1-\cos\alpha)+16\Sigma(1-\cos\alpha)(1-\cos\beta)+64\Pi(1-\cos\alpha)} \geq 1$.

Multiplying both sides by the denominator and simplifying we get:-

$$2 + 4\Sigma(1 - \cos\alpha) \geq 64\Pi(1 - \cos\alpha) \Rightarrow 1 + 2\Sigma(1 - \cos\alpha) \geq 32\Pi(1 - \cos\alpha)$$

Now, using the inequality $\Sigma \cos\alpha \leq \frac{3}{2}$ if α, β and γ are angles of a triangle, we get that:-

$$\Sigma(1 - \cos\alpha) = 3 - \Sigma \cos\alpha \geq 3 - \frac{3}{2} = \frac{3}{2} \Rightarrow 1 + 2\Sigma(1 - \cos\alpha) \geq 4. \text{ Thus if we can prove that } 4 \geq 32\Pi(1 - \cos\alpha) \Rightarrow \frac{1}{8} \geq \Pi(1 - \cos\alpha)$$

then we're done.

$$\text{We note that } (1 - \cos\alpha) = 2\sin^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} \Rightarrow \Pi(1 - \cos\alpha) = 8(\Pi \sin(\frac{\alpha}{2}))^2 \text{ implies that } \frac{1}{8} \geq \Pi(1 - \cos\alpha) \Rightarrow \frac{1}{64} \geq (\Pi \sin(\frac{\alpha}{2}))^2 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{8} \geq \Pi \sin(\frac{\alpha}{2}).$$

Finally, using the fact that $\Pi \sin(\frac{\alpha}{2}) = \frac{r}{4R}$, where r and R denote the inradius and circumradius of the triangle respectively, we get that the statement to be proved is $\frac{r}{4R} \leq \frac{1}{8} \Rightarrow 2r \leq R$, which is obviously true.

Note that in both the inequalities $\Sigma \cos\alpha \leq \frac{3}{2}$ and $R \geq 2r$ used for proving our result, equality holds iff $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = \frac{\pi}{3}$, and hence:-

$$\frac{1}{5-4\cos\alpha} + \frac{1}{5-4\cos\beta} + \frac{1}{5-4\cos\gamma} \geq 1, \text{ if } \alpha, \beta \text{ and } \gamma \text{ are angles of a triangle. Equality holds iff } \alpha = \beta = \gamma = \frac{\pi}{3}.$$