

Solution for Problem J377

We know that $\sin^2 \frac{A}{2} = \frac{1-\cos A}{2}$. Hence the statement to be proved is $\frac{m_a}{R} \geq (1 - \cos A)$.

Now, we know that $m_a = \frac{\sqrt{2b^2+2c^2-a^2}}{2}$.

Using the cosine law to substitute for a^2 , we get that $m_a = \frac{\sqrt{b^2+c^2+2bccosA}}{2}$.

Also, using the extended sine law, we substitute $\frac{a}{2\sin A}$ for R .

Thus the statement to be proved reduces to:-

$$\frac{\sqrt{b^2+c^2+2bccosA}}{\frac{a}{\sin A}} \geq 1 - \cos A \Leftrightarrow (b^2 + c^2 + 2bccosA)(\sin^2 A) \geq a^2(1 + \cos^2 A - 2\cos A) \Leftrightarrow b^2 \sin^2 A + c^2 \sin^2 A + 2bccosA \sin^2 A \geq (b^2 + c^2 - 2bccosA)(1 + \cos^2 A - 2\cos A) = b^2 + c^2 - 2bccosA + b^2 \cos^2 A + c^2 \cos^2 A - 2bccos^3 A - 2b^2 \cos A - 2c^2 \cos A + 4bccos^2 A$$

Shifting everything to the RHS of the inequality, simplifying the resulting expression and factoring out $\cos A$, we get:-

$$0 \geq (-2)(\cos A)(1 - \cos A)(b - c)^2.$$

But, since $A \in (0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$, $\cos A \geq 0$. Also, since $(1 - \cos A)$ and $(b - c)^2$ are always non-negative, it's obvious that the inequality $0 \geq (-2)(\cos A)(1 - \cos A)(b - c)^2$ is true because -2 is negative.

For the upper bound, we know that $\cos^2 \frac{A}{2} = \frac{1+\cos A}{2}$. So replacing $1 - \cos A$ with $1 + \cos A$ and simplifying as above, we get:-

$0 \leq 2(\cos A)(1 + \cos A)(b - c)^2$. Again, since all of the terms $\cos A$, $(1 + \cos A)$ and $(b - c)^2$ are non-negative, and since 2 is positive, we see that this inequality is also true.

Note that in both the inequalities, equality occurs when $A = \frac{\pi}{2}$, when $\cos A = 0$.