

Problem (The S.O.S Theorem). Given six *real* numbers a, b, c, x, y, z satisfying

$$x + y + z > 0, \quad xy + yz + zx \geq 0, \quad a + b + c = 0.$$

Prove that

$$xa^2 + yb^2 + zc^2 \geq 0.$$

Solution. (Nguyen Van Huyen) Denoting $m = xy + yz + zx$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & 2(x + y + z)(xa^2 + yb^2 + zc^2) \\ &= \sum (2x^2 + m)a^2 - 2(xyab + yzbc + zxca) + (a + b + c) \sum xy(a + b - c) \\ &= \sum (2x^2 + m)a^2 - 2(xyab + yzbc + zxca) \end{aligned}$$

We need to prove

$$(2x^2 + m)a^2 + (2y^2 + m)b^2 + (2z^2 + m)c^2 \geq 2(xyab + yzbc + zxca).$$

This inequality follows from adding this inequality and two similar inequalities

$$(2x^2 + m)a^2 + (2y^2 + m)b^2 \geq 4xyab.$$

Indeed, noting that $m \geq 0$ and using the AM-GM inequality, we have

$$(2x^2 + m)a^2 + (2y^2 + m)b^2 \geq 2(x^2a^2 + y^2b^2) \geq 4xyab.$$

The proof is completed. □

Note. In addition, with

$$\sum (ax - by)^2 = (ax - by)^2 + (by - cz)^2 + (cz - ax)^2.$$

We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & 2(x + y + z)(xa^2 + yb^2 + zc^2) \\ &= (xy + yz + zx)(a^2 + b^2 + c^2) + \sum (ax - by)^2 + (a + b + c) \sum xy(a + b - c) \\ &\geq (xy + yz + zx)(a^2 + b^2 + c^2). \end{aligned}$$

This gives

$$xa^2 + yb^2 + zc^2 \geq \frac{(xy + yz + zx)(a^2 + b^2 + c^2)}{2(x + y + z)}.$$