

Problem. Given four positive real numbers a, b, x, y satisfying

$$\frac{a}{x} + \frac{b}{y} = 1.$$

Prove that

$$x + y + \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \geq 2a + 2b + 2\sqrt{2ab}.$$

(Pham Huu Hoai)

Solution 1. (Michael Rozenberg) By the AM-GM inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} x + y + \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} - 2(a + b) &= \left(x + y + \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \right) \left(\frac{a}{x} + \frac{b}{y} \right) - 2(a + b) \\ &= \left(\frac{y + \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}{x} - 1 \right) a + \left(\frac{x + \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}{y} - 1 \right) b \\ &\geq 2 \sqrt{\frac{(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} + y - x)(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} + x - y)ab}{xy}} \\ &= 2\sqrt{2ab}. \end{aligned}$$

The proof is completed. □

Solution 2. (Nguyen Van Huyen) We write the inequality as

$$\left(x + y + \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \right) \left(\frac{a}{x} + \frac{b}{y} \right) \geq 2a + 2b + 2\sqrt{2ab}. \quad (1)$$

Let $a = ux, b = vy$. The inequality (1) become

$$(x + y + \sqrt{x^2 + y^2})(u + v) \geq 2ux + 2vy + 2\sqrt{2xyuv},$$

equivalent to

$$(u + v)\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} - 2\sqrt{2xyuv} \geq (x - y)(u - v).$$

It's easy to check $(u + v)\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \geq 2\sqrt{2xyuv}$. It remains to prove that

$$\left[(u + v)\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} - 2\sqrt{2xyuv} \right]^2 \geq (x - y)^2(u - v)^2,$$

or

$$2uv(x^2 + y^2) + xy(u + v)^2 \geq 2\sqrt{2}(u + v)\sqrt{xyuv(x^2 + y^2)}.$$

By the AM-GM inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 2uv(x^2 + y^2) + xy(u + v)^2 &\geq 2\sqrt{2uv(x^2 + y^2) \cdot xy(u + v)^2} \\ &= 2\sqrt{2}(u + v)\sqrt{xyuv(x^2 + y^2)}. \end{aligned}$$

Equality holds for $2uv(x^2 + y^2) = xy(u + v)^2$, or $(ay + bx)^2 = 2ab(x^2 + y^2)$. □