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**Problem 1:** Let  $x_1, x_2, x_3$  be non-negative real numbers and satisfy  $x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 = 3$ .

Prove that

$$\frac{x_1}{x_1^4 + 2x_2^2 + 9} + \frac{x_2}{x_2^4 + 2x_3^2 + 9} + \frac{x_3}{x_3^4 + 2x_1^2 + 9} \leq \frac{1}{4}.$$

*Solution:*

We have

$$x_1^4 + 2x_2^2 + 9 = x_1^4 + 1 + 2(x_2^2 + 1) + 6 \geq 2x_1^2 + 4x_2 + 6 \geq 4x_1 + 4x_2 + 4$$

$$x_2^4 + 2x_3^2 + 9 \geq x_2^4 + 1 + 2(x_3^2 + 1) + 6 \geq 2x_2^2 + 4x_3 + 6 \geq 4x_2 + 4x_3 + 4$$

$$x_3^4 + 2x_1^2 + 9 \geq x_3^4 + 1 + 2(x_1^2 + 1) + 6 \geq 2x_3^2 + 4x_1 + 6 \geq 4x_3 + 4x_1 + 4$$

Deduce

$$\frac{x_1}{x_1^4 + 2x_2^2 + 9} + \frac{x_2}{x_2^4 + 2x_3^2 + 9} + \frac{x_3}{x_3^4 + 2x_1^2 + 9} \leq \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{x_1}{x_1 + x_2 + 1} + \frac{x_2}{x_2 + x_3 + 1} + \frac{x_3}{x_3 + x_1 + 1} \right)$$

We need prove

$$\frac{x_1}{x_1 + x_2 + 1} + \frac{x_2}{x_2 + x_3 + 1} + \frac{x_3}{x_3 + x_1 + 1} \leq 1$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{x_1}{x_1 + x_2 + 1} + \frac{x_2}{x_2 + x_3 + 1} + \frac{x_3}{x_3 + x_1 + 1} \leq 1 \\ \Leftrightarrow & \frac{x_2 + 1}{x_1 + x_2 + 1} + \frac{x_3 + 1}{x_2 + x_3 + 1} + \frac{x_1 + 1}{x_3 + x_1 + 1} \geq 2 \end{aligned}$$

By the *Cauchy – Schwarz inequality*, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{x_2 + 1}{x_1 + x_2 + 1} + \frac{x_3 + 1}{x_2 + x_3 + 1} + \frac{x_1 + 1}{x_3 + x_1 + 1} \\ & \geq \frac{(x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + 3)^2}{(x_2 + 1)(x_1 + x_2 + 1) + (x_3 + 1)(x_2 + x_3 + 1) + (x_1 + 1)(x_3 + x_1 + 1)} \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand

$$\begin{aligned} & 2[(x_2 + 1)(x_1 + x_2 + 1) + (x_3 + 1)(x_2 + x_3 + 1) + (x_1 + 1)(x_3 + x_1 + 1)] \\ & = 2x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + 2x_3^2 + 2x_1x_2 + 2x_2x_3 + 2x_3x_1 + 6x_1 + 6x_2 + 6x_3 + 6 \\ & = (x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + 3)^2 \end{aligned}$$

As such

$$\frac{x_2 + 1}{x_1 + x_2 + 1} + \frac{x_3 + 1}{x_2 + x_3 + 1} + \frac{x_1 + 1}{x_3 + x_1 + 1} \geq 2$$

Thus

$$\frac{x_1}{x_1^4 + 2x_2^2 + 9} + \frac{x_2}{x_2^4 + 2x_3^2 + 9} + \frac{x_3}{x_3^4 + 2x_1^2 + 9} \leq \frac{1}{4}$$

*Problem 2:* Let  $x_1, x_2, x_3$  be positive real numbers. Prove that

$$\frac{1}{2x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 4} + \frac{1}{x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 4} + \frac{1}{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 2x_3^2 + 4} \leq \frac{1}{8} \left( \frac{1}{x_1} + \frac{1}{x_2} + \frac{1}{x_3} \right).$$

*Solution:*

We have

$$2x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 4 = 2 \left( x_1^2 + 1 + \frac{x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 2}{2} \right) \geq 2(2x_1 + x_2 + x_3)$$

$$x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 4 = 2 \left( x_2^2 + 1 + \frac{x_3^2 + x_1^2 + 2}{2} \right) \geq 2(x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3)$$

$$x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 2x_3^2 + 4 = 2 \left( x_3^2 + 1 + \frac{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 2}{2} \right) \geq 2(x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3)$$

As such

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 4} + \frac{1}{x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 4} + \frac{1}{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 2x_3^2 + 4} \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{2x_1 + x_2 + x_3} + \frac{1}{x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3} + \frac{1}{x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3} \right) \end{aligned}$$

By the *AM – GM* inequality, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2x_1 + x_2 + x_3} &= \frac{1}{(x_1 + x_2) + (x_1 + x_3)} \leq \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{1}{x_1 + x_2} + \frac{1}{x_1 + x_3} \right) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{16} \left( \frac{2}{x_1} + \frac{1}{x_2} + \frac{1}{x_3} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Similarly

$$\frac{1}{x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3} \leq \frac{1}{16} \left( \frac{1}{x_1} + \frac{2}{x_2} + \frac{1}{x_3} \right), \quad \frac{1}{x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3} \leq \frac{1}{16} \left( \frac{1}{x_1} + \frac{1}{x_2} + \frac{2}{x_3} \right)$$

As such

$$\frac{1}{2x_1 + x_2 + x_3} + \frac{1}{x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3} + \frac{1}{x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3} \leq \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{1}{x_1} + \frac{1}{x_2} + \frac{1}{x_3} \right)$$

Thus

$$\frac{1}{2x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 4} + \frac{1}{x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 4} + \frac{1}{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 2x_3^2 + 4} \leq \frac{1}{8} \left( \frac{1}{x_1} + \frac{1}{x_2} + \frac{1}{x_3} \right)$$

*Problem 3:* Let  $x_1, x_2, x_3$  be positive real numbers and satisfy  $\frac{1}{x_1} + \frac{1}{x_2} + \frac{1}{x_3} = 3$ .

Prove that

$$\frac{1}{2x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 4} + \frac{1}{x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 4} + \frac{1}{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 2x_3^2 + 4} \leq \frac{3}{8}.$$

*Solution:*

We have

$$2x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 4 = 2 \left( x_1^2 + 1 + \frac{x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 2}{2} \right) \geq 2(2x_1 + x_2 + x_3)$$

$$x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 4 = 2 \left( x_2^2 + 1 + \frac{x_3^2 + x_1^2 + 2}{2} \right) \geq 2(x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3)$$

$$x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 2x_3^2 + 4 = 2 \left( x_3^2 + 1 + \frac{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 2}{2} \right) \geq 2(x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3)$$

As such

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 4} + \frac{1}{x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 4} + \frac{1}{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 2x_3^2 + 4} \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{2x_1 + x_2 + x_3} + \frac{1}{x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3} + \frac{1}{x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3} \right) \end{aligned}$$

By the *AM – GM* inequality, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2x_1 + x_2 + x_3} &= \frac{1}{(x_1 + x_2) + (x_1 + x_3)} \leq \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{1}{x_1 + x_2} + \frac{1}{x_1 + x_3} \right) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{16} \left( \frac{2}{x_1} + \frac{1}{x_2} + \frac{1}{x_3} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Similarly

$$\frac{1}{x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3} \leq \frac{1}{16} \left( \frac{1}{x_1} + \frac{2}{x_2} + \frac{1}{x_3} \right), \quad \frac{1}{x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3} \leq \frac{1}{16} \left( \frac{1}{x_1} + \frac{1}{x_2} + \frac{2}{x_3} \right)$$

As such

$$\frac{1}{2x_1 + x_2 + x_3} + \frac{1}{x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3} + \frac{1}{x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3} \leq \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{1}{x_1} + \frac{1}{x_2} + \frac{1}{x_3} \right)$$

Thus

$$\frac{1}{2x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 4} + \frac{1}{x_1^2 + 2x_2^2 + x_3^2 + 4} + \frac{1}{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + 2x_3^2 + 4} \leq \frac{3}{8}$$

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