

Solution to Problem 167.

For $x, y, z > 0$, find the minimum of $\frac{x^3 + y^3 + z^3}{(y+z)(z+x)(x+y)}$.

Without loss of generality, let's assume $x \geq y \geq z$. Then $x+y \geq x+z \geq y+z$ and $\frac{1}{x} \leq \frac{1}{y} \leq \frac{1}{z}$. By the principle of rearrangement inequality, we have the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x+y}{z} + \frac{x+z}{y} + \frac{y+z}{x} &\geq \frac{x+y}{x} + \frac{x+z}{z} + \frac{y+z}{y} \\ \frac{x+y}{z} + \frac{x+z}{y} + \frac{y+z}{x} &\geq \frac{x+y}{y} + \frac{x+z}{x} + \frac{y+z}{z}, \end{aligned}$$

with equality only if $x = y = z$. Adding the above two inequalities to get

$$\frac{x+y}{z} + \frac{x+z}{y} + \frac{y+z}{x} \geq 6$$

or

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x+y}{z} + \frac{x+z}{y} + \frac{y+z}{x} + 2 &\geq 8 \\ \frac{(x+y)(x+z)(y+z)}{xyz} &\geq 8 \\ \frac{xyz}{(x+y)(x+z)(y+z)} &\leq \frac{1}{8}, \end{aligned}$$

again, with equality only if $x = y = z$.

We can also use the principle of rearrangement inequality to obtain

$$\frac{x}{y+z} + \frac{y}{x+z} + \frac{z}{x+y} \geq \frac{3}{2}.$$

Now for the original problem,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x^3 + y^3 + z^3}{(y+z)(z+x)(x+y)} &= \frac{x}{y+z} + \frac{y}{x+z} + \frac{z}{x+y} - 1 - \frac{xyz}{(x+y)(x+z)(y+z)} \\ &\geq \frac{3}{2} - 1 - \frac{1}{8} \\ &= \frac{3}{8} \end{aligned}$$

with equality only if $x = y = z$.

