

A note on the proofs of generalized Radon inequality

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we introduce and prove several generalizations of the Radon inequality. The proofs in the current paper unify and also are simpler than those in early published work. Meanwhile, we find and show the mathematical equivalences among the Bernoulli inequality, the weighted AM-GM inequality, the Hölder inequality, the weighted power mean inequality and the Minkowski inequality. Finally, some applications involving the results proposed in this work are shown.

1. INTRODUCTION

The well-known Bergström inequality (see e.g. [1–3]) says that if x_k, y_k are real numbers and $y_k > 0$ for $1 \leq k \leq n$, then

$$(1) \quad \frac{x_1^2}{y_1} + \frac{x_2^2}{y_2} + \cdots + \frac{x_n^2}{y_n} \geq \frac{(x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n)^2}{y_1 + y_2 + \cdots + y_n}$$

and the equality holds if and only if $\frac{x_1}{y_1} = \frac{x_2}{y_2} = \cdots = \frac{x_n}{y_n}$.

Some generalizations of the inequality (1) can be found in [4, 5]. Actually, the following Radon inequality (2) is just a direct consequence: If b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n are positive real numbers and a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, m are nonnegative real numbers, then

$$(2) \quad \frac{a_1^{m+1}}{b_1^m} + \frac{a_2^{m+1}}{b_2^m} + \cdots + \frac{a_n^{m+1}}{b_n^m} \geq \frac{(a_1 + a_2 + \cdots + a_n)^{m+1}}{(b_1 + b_2 + \cdots + b_n)^m}.$$

When $m = 1$, (2) reduces to (1). For more details on the Radon inequality (2), the readers can refer to [6, pp. 1351] and [7, 8, 10]. In fact, it is not hard to prove that (1) is equivalent to the Cauchy-Buniakovski-Schwarz inequality (see [9, pp. 34-35, Theorem 1.6.1]) stated as follows: if $a_1, \dots, a_n, b_1, \dots, b_n$

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary: 26D15.

Key words and phrases. The Bergström inequality, the Radon inequality, the weighted power mean inequality, equivalence, the Hölder inequality.

Full paper. Received 9 July 2018, revised 3 August 2018, accepted 5 September 2018, available online 15 December 2018.

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are nonnegative real numbers, then

$$\sum_{k=1}^n a_k \sum_{k=1}^n b_k \geq \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \sqrt{a_k b_k} \right)^2.$$

In [14, Theorem 1], Yang has given a generalization of the Radon inequality as follows: if a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n are nonnegative real numbers and b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n are positive real numbers, then for $r \geq 0, s \geq 0$ and $r \geq s + 1$,

$$(3) \quad \frac{a_1^r}{b_1^s} + \frac{a_2^r}{b_2^s} + \dots + \frac{a_n^r}{b_n^s} \geq \frac{(a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n)^r}{n^{r-s-1} (b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n)^s}.$$

The weighted power mean inequality (refer to [12, pp. 111-112, Theorem 10.5], [7, pp. 12-15] and [13] for details) is defined as follows: if x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n are nonnegative real numbers and p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n are positive real numbers, then for $r \geq s > 0$, we have

$$(4) \quad \left(\frac{p_1 x_1^r + p_2 x_2^r + \dots + p_n x_n^r}{p_1 + p_2 + \dots + p_n} \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \geq \left(\frac{p_1 x_1^s + p_2 x_2^s + \dots + p_n x_n^s}{p_1 + p_2 + \dots + p_n} \right)^{\frac{1}{s}}.$$

In the present paper, we give three concise proofs and some applications of the generalized Radon inequality (3), and then present equivalence relations between the weighted power mean inequality and the Radon inequality. Furthermore, we summarize the equivalences among the weighted AM-GM inequality, the Hölder inequality, the weighted power mean inequality and the Minkovski inequality.

2. MAIN RESULTS

In this section, we first give three different and concise methods for proving the generalized Radon inequality (3). To read for convenience, the result obtained by Yang [14] can be cited as the following theorem.

Theorem 2.1. *If a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n are nonnegative real numbers and b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n are positive real numbers, then for $s \geq 0$ and $r \geq s + 1$,*

$$(5) \quad \frac{a_1^r}{b_1^s} + \frac{a_2^r}{b_2^s} + \dots + \frac{a_n^r}{b_n^s} \geq \frac{(a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n)^r}{n^{r-s-1} (b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n)^s}.$$

Proof 1. By using the Radon inequality (2), we have

$$(6) \quad \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{a_k^r}{b_k^s} = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\left(a_k^{\frac{r}{s+1}} \right)^{s+1}}{b_k^s} \geq \frac{\left(a_1^{\frac{r}{s+1}} + a_2^{\frac{r}{s+1}} + \dots + a_n^{\frac{r}{s+1}} \right)^{s+1}}{(b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n)^s}.$$

Note that $r \geq s + 1 \geq 1$, then $\frac{r}{s+1} - 1 \geq 0$. Using the Radon inequality again, it follows that

$$(7) \quad \sum_{k=1}^n a_k^{\frac{r}{s+1}} = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{a_k^{\frac{r}{s+1}}}{1^{\frac{r}{s+1}-1}} \geq \frac{(a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n)^{\frac{r}{s+1}}}{(1 + 1 + \dots + 1)^{\frac{r}{s+1}-1}}.$$

According to inequalities (6) and (7), we clearly have

$$\frac{a_1^r}{b_1^s} + \frac{a_2^r}{b_2^s} + \cdots + \frac{a_n^r}{b_n^s} \geq \frac{(a_1 + a_2 + \cdots + a_n)^r}{n^{r-s-1} (b_1 + b_2 + \cdots + b_n)^s}.$$

Therefore, the desired result (5) is obtained. \square

Proof 2. Let the concave function $f: (0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be $f(x) = \ln x$. We observe that the weighted Jensen inequality: for $q_1, q_2, q_3 \in [0, 1]$ with $q_1 + q_2 + q_3 = 1$ and positive real numbers x_1, x_2, x_3 , then we have

$$q_1 f(x_1) + q_2 f(x_2) + q_3 f(x_3) \leq f(q_1 x_1 + q_2 x_2 + q_3 x_3),$$

and the equality holds if and only if $x_1 = x_2 = x_3$. We denote

$$U_n(a) = \left(\frac{a_1^r}{b_1^s} + \frac{a_2^r}{b_2^s} + \cdots + \frac{a_n^r}{b_n^s} \right)^{-1}$$

and

$$H_n(b) = (b_1 + b_2 + \cdots + b_n)^{-1}.$$

Consider $x_1 = \frac{a_k^r}{b_k^s} U_n(a)$, $x_2 = b_k H_n(b)$, $x_3 = \frac{1}{n}$ and $q_1 = \frac{1}{r}$, $q_2 = \frac{s}{r}$, $q_3 = \frac{r-s-1}{r}$ (observe that $q_3 \geq 0$ from $r \geq s+1$). Thus we have

$$\begin{aligned} & a_k (U_n(a))^{\frac{1}{r}} \cdot (H_n(b))^{\frac{s}{r}} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{n} \right)^{\frac{r-s-1}{r}} \\ & \leq \frac{1}{r} \cdot \frac{a_k^r}{b_k^s} U_n(a) + \frac{s}{r} \cdot b_k H_n(b) + \frac{r-s-1}{r} \cdot \frac{1}{n}. \end{aligned}$$

Summing up over k ($k = 1, 2, \dots, n$), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=1}^n a_k (U_n(a))^{\frac{1}{r}} \cdot (H_n(b))^{\frac{s}{r}} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{n} \right)^{\frac{r-s-1}{r}} \\ & \leq \sum_{k=1}^n \left(\frac{1}{r} \cdot \frac{a_k^r}{b_k^s} U_n(a) + \frac{s}{r} \cdot b_k H_n(b) + \frac{r-s-1}{r} \cdot \frac{1}{n} \right) = 1. \end{aligned}$$

The required inequality (5) follows. \square

For many numerical inequalities, the induction is sometimes a useful method used to establish a given statement for all natural numbers. We now give the third proof of Theorem 2.1 by mathematical induction. To state this proof clearly, let us start with the following lemma.

Lemma 2.1. *If $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n$ are nonnegative real numbers and $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$ are nonnegative real numbers such that $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \cdots + \lambda_n = 1$, then*

$$(8) \quad \prod_{k=1}^n a_k^{\lambda_k} + \prod_{k=1}^n b_k^{\lambda_k} \leq \prod_{k=1}^n (a_k + b_k)^{\lambda_k}.$$

Proof of Lemma 2.1. According to the weighted AM-GM inequality, we have

$$\prod_{k=1}^n \left(\frac{a_k}{a_k + b_k} \right)^{\lambda_k} \leq \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k \left(\frac{a_k}{a_k + b_k} \right).$$

Similarly, we get

$$\prod_{k=1}^n \left(\frac{b_k}{a_k + b_k} \right)^{\lambda_k} \leq \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k \left(\frac{b_k}{a_k + b_k} \right).$$

Summing up these two inequalities, it holds

$$\prod_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(a_k + b_k)^{\lambda_k}} \left[\prod_{k=1}^n a_k^{\lambda_k} + \prod_{k=1}^n b_k^{\lambda_k} \right] \leq \sum_{k=1}^n \lambda_k = 1,$$

which leads to the desired result (8). \square

Remark 2.1. A particular case $b_1 = b_2 = \dots = b_n = 1, \lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \dots = \lambda_n = \frac{1}{n}$ in (8) yields

$$(1 + a_1)(1 + a_2) \cdots (1 + a_n) \geq \left[1 + (a_1 a_2 \cdots a_n)^{\frac{1}{n}} \right]^n,$$

which is a famous inequality, called the Chrystal inequality (refer to [7, pp. 61]), so Lemma 2.1 can be regarded as a generalization of the Chrystal inequality.

Proof 3. Use the induction on $n \in \mathbb{N}^+$. When $n = 1$, the result is obviously obtained. Assume that (5) is true for $n = m$, that is

$$\frac{a_1^r}{b_1^s} + \frac{a_2^r}{b_2^s} + \cdots + \frac{a_m^r}{b_m^s} \geq \frac{(a_1 + a_2 + \cdots + a_m)^r}{m^{r-s-1} (b_1 + b_2 + \cdots + b_m)^s}.$$

When $n = m + 1$, we need to prove the following inequality:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^{m+1} \frac{a_k^r}{b_k^s} &= \sum_{k=1}^m \frac{a_k^r}{b_k^s} + \frac{a_{m+1}^r}{b_{m+1}^s} \\ &\geq \frac{(a_1 + a_2 + \cdots + a_m)^r}{m^{r-s-1} (b_1 + b_2 + \cdots + b_m)^s} + \frac{a_{m+1}^r}{b_{m+1}^s} \quad (\text{by induction assumption}) \\ &= \frac{\left[\left(R_m(a) + \frac{a_{m+1}^r}{b_{m+1}^s} \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} (S_m(b) + b_{m+1})^{\frac{s}{r}} (m+1)^{\frac{r-s-1}{r}} \right]^r}{(m+1)^{r-s-1} (S_m(b) + b_{m+1})^s} \\ &\geq \frac{\left[(R_m(a))^{\frac{1}{r}} (S_m(b))^{\frac{s}{r}} m^{\frac{r-s-1}{r}} + \left(\frac{a_{m+1}^r}{b_{m+1}^s} \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} b_{m+1}^{\frac{s}{r}} 1^{\frac{r-s-1}{r}} \right]^r}{(m+1)^{r-s-1} (b_1 + \cdots + b_m + b_{m+1})^s} \\ &\quad (\text{by a special case } n = 3 \text{ in (8)}) \\ &= \frac{(a_1 + \cdots + a_m + a_{m+1})^r}{(m+1)^{r-s-1} (b_1 + \cdots + b_m + b_{m+1})^s}, \end{aligned}$$

where $R_m(a) = \frac{(a_1 + \dots + a_m)^r}{m^{r-s-1}(b_1 + \dots + b_m)^s}$ and $S_m(b) = b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_m$. Thus, the inequality (5) holds for $n = m + 1$, so the proof of the induction step is completed. \square

In the next theorem, we will prove the equivalence relations between the weighted power mean inequality and the Radon inequality, which is partly motivated by a slight observation of the inequality (7).

Theorem 2.2. *The Radon inequality (2) is equivalent to the weighted power mean inequality (4).*

Proof. \Rightarrow By the Radon inequality (2) and $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n \in [0, +\infty)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} p_1 y_1^{\frac{r}{s}} + p_2 y_2^{\frac{r}{s}} + \dots + p_n y_n^{\frac{r}{s}} &= \frac{(p_1 y_1)^{\frac{r}{s}}}{p_1^{\frac{r}{s}-1}} + \frac{(p_2 y_2)^{\frac{r}{s}}}{p_2^{\frac{r}{s}-1}} + \dots + \frac{(p_n y_n)^{\frac{r}{s}}}{p_n^{\frac{r}{s}-1}} \\ &\geq \frac{(p_1 y_1 + p_2 y_2 + \dots + p_n y_n)^{\frac{r}{s}}}{(p_1 + p_2 + \dots + p_n)^{\frac{r}{s}-1}}, \end{aligned}$$

which means that

$$(9) \quad \frac{p_1 y_1^{\frac{r}{s}} + p_2 y_2^{\frac{r}{s}} + \dots + p_n y_n^{\frac{r}{s}}}{p_1 + p_2 + \dots + p_n} \geq \left(\frac{p_1 y_1 + p_2 y_2 + \dots + p_n y_n}{p_1 + p_2 + \dots + p_n} \right)^{\frac{r}{s}}.$$

Let $y_k = x_k^s$ for all $x_k \geq 0$ ($k = 1, 2, \dots, n$) in (9). Thus, we can obtain the following weighted power mean inequality (4)

$$\left(\frac{p_1 x_1^r + p_2 x_2^r + \dots + p_n x_n^r}{p_1 + p_2 + \dots + p_n} \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \geq \left(\frac{p_1 x_1^s + p_2 x_2^s + \dots + p_n x_n^s}{p_1 + p_2 + \dots + p_n} \right)^{\frac{1}{s}}.$$

\Leftarrow Let $p_k = b_k$, $x_k = \frac{a_k}{b_k}$ and $r = m + 1$ ($m \geq 0$), $s = 1$ in (4). Then, we have

$$\left[\frac{1}{b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n} \left(\frac{a_1^{m+1}}{b_1^m} + \frac{a_2^{m+1}}{b_2^m} + \dots + \frac{a_n^{m+1}}{b_n^m} \right) \right]^{\frac{1}{m+1}} \geq \frac{a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n}{b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n},$$

which implies that the Radon inequality (2) is achieved. \square

Theorem 2.3. *The following inequalities are mutually equivalent:*

- (i) *The Bernoulli inequality;*
- (ii) *The weighted AM-GM inequality;*
- (iii) *The Hölder inequality;*
- (iv) *The weighted power mean inequality;*
- (v) *The Minkovski inequality;*
- (vi) *The Radon inequality.*

Proof. The equivalence between (iv) and (vi) is given in Theorem 2.2, the equivalence among (i), (iii) and (vi), one can find in [11] as well as (ii), (iii) and (iv) in [15], the equivalence between (iii) and (v) is shown in [16]. \square

Corollary 2.1. *If $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n$ are positive real numbers, then for $m \leq -1$, the following inequality holds*

$$(10) \quad \frac{a_1^{m+1}}{b_1^m} + \frac{a_2^{m+1}}{b_2^m} + \dots + \frac{a_n^{m+1}}{b_n^m} \geq \frac{(a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n)^{m+1}}{(b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n)^m}.$$

Proof. Since $m \leq -1$, thus by the inequality (2), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{a_1^{m+1}}{b_1^m} + \frac{a_2^{m+1}}{b_2^m} + \dots + \frac{a_n^{m+1}}{b_n^m} &= \frac{b_1^{-m}}{a_1^{-m-1}} + \frac{b_2^{-m}}{a_2^{-m-1}} + \dots + \frac{b_n^{-m}}{a_n^{-m-1}} \\ &\geq \frac{(b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n)^{-m}}{(a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n)^{-m-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the inequality (10) holds. \square

Corollary 2.2. *If $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n$ are positive real numbers, then for nonpositive real numbers r, s such that $r \geq s + 1$, we have*

$$(11) \quad \frac{a_1^r}{b_1^s} + \frac{a_2^r}{b_2^s} + \dots + \frac{a_n^r}{b_n^s} \geq \frac{(a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n)^r}{n^{r-s-1} (b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n)^s}.$$

Proof. For $r \leq 0$ and $s \leq 0$, the inequalities $-s \geq -r + 1, -r \geq 0, -s \geq 0$ hold. By the inequality (5), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{a_1^r}{b_1^s} + \frac{a_2^r}{b_2^s} + \dots + \frac{a_n^r}{b_n^s} &= \frac{b_1^{-s}}{a_1^{-r}} + \frac{b_2^{-s}}{a_2^{-r}} + \dots + \frac{b_n^{-s}}{a_n^{-r}} \\ &\geq \frac{(b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n)^{-s}}{n^{-s-(-r)-1} (a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n)^{-r}} \\ &= \frac{(a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n)^r}{n^{r-s-1} (b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n)^s}. \end{aligned}$$

So, the inequality (11) holds. \square

Corollary 2.3. *If $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n$ are positive real numbers, and m is real numbers such that $m > 0$ or $m \leq -1$, then*

$$(12) \quad \frac{a_1}{c_1} + \frac{a_2}{c_2} + \dots + \frac{a_n}{c_n} \geq \frac{(a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n)^{m+1}}{\left(a_1 c_1^{\frac{1}{m}} + a_2 c_2^{\frac{1}{m}} + \dots + a_n c_n^{\frac{1}{m}} \right)^m}.$$

Proof. Consider $b_k = a_k c_k^{\frac{1}{m}}$ for all $1 \leq k \leq n$ in the inequality (2) and (10). Thus, we obtain the inequality (12). \square

Corollary 2.4. *If $a, b \in \mathbb{R}, a < b, m \geq 0$ or $m \leq -1, f, g : [a, b] \rightarrow (0, +\infty)$ are integrable functions on $[a, b]$ for all $x \in [a, b]$, then*

$$(13) \quad \int_a^b \frac{(f(x))^{m+1}}{(g(x))^m} dx \geq \frac{\left(\int_a^b f(x) dx \right)^{m+1}}{\left(\int_a^b g(x) dx \right)^m}.$$

Proof. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}_+$, $x_k = a + k\frac{b-a}{n}$, $k \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ and $\xi_k \in [x_{k-1}, x_k]$. By using the inequalities (2) and (10), it follows

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(f(\xi_k))^{m+1}}{(g(\xi_k))^m} \geq \frac{\left(\sum_{k=1}^n f(\xi_k)\right)^{m+1}}{\left(\sum_{k=1}^n g(\xi_k)\right)^m}.$$

It holds that

$$\sigma\left(\frac{(f(x))^{m+1}}{(g(x))^m}, \Delta_n, \xi_k\right) \geq \frac{[\sigma(f(x), \Delta_n, \xi_k)]^{m+1}}{[\sigma(g(x), \Delta_n, \xi_k)]^m},$$

where $\sigma(f(x), \Delta_n, \xi_k)$ is the corresponding Riemann sum of $f(x)$, of $\Delta_n = (x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n)$ division and the intermediate ξ_k points. By passing to limit in inequality above, when n tends to infinity, the inequality(13) follows. \square

Corollary 2.5. *If $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, $a < b$, $rs \geq 0$, $r \geq s + 1$, $f, g : [a, b] \rightarrow (0, +\infty)$ are integrable functions on $[a, b]$ for any $x \in [a, b]$, then*

$$\int_a^b \frac{(f(x))^r}{(g(x))^s} dx \geq \frac{\left(\int_a^b f(x) dx\right)^r}{(b-a)^{r-s-1} \left(\int_a^b g(x) dx\right)^s}.$$

Proof. Since the conclusion can be obtained via using the same method of Corollary 2.4, we omit the details here. \square

Proposition 2.1. *If a, b, c are the lengths of the sides of a triangle and $2S = a + b + c$, then*

$$(14) \quad \frac{a^n}{b+c} + \frac{b^n}{c+a} + \frac{c^n}{a+b} \geq \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{n-2} S^{n-1}, \quad n \geq 1.$$

Proof. When $n = 1$, the result (14) equals to the Nesbitt inequality (see [9, p. 16, Example 1.4.8] or [12, p. 2, Exercise 1.3]). For $n \geq 2$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{a^n}{b+c} + \frac{b^n}{c+a} + \frac{c^n}{a+b} &\geq \frac{(a+b+c)^n}{3^{n-1-1}(b+c+c+a+a+b)} \\ &= \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{n-2} S^{n-1}, \end{aligned}$$

by using the inequality (5). \square

Proposition 2.2. *Let a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n be positive real numbers such that $a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n = s$ and $p \geq q + 1 \geq 1$. Then*

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{a_k^p}{(s-a_k)^q} \geq \frac{s^{p-q}}{(n-1)^q n^{p-q-1}}.$$

Proof. By the inequality (5), the inequality above is easily obtained. \square

Proposition 2.3. *Let x, y , and z be positive numbers with $xyz = 1$. Then*

$$\frac{x^3}{(1+y)(1+z)} + \frac{y^3}{(1+z)(1+x)} + \frac{z^3}{(1+x)(1+y)} \geq \frac{3}{4}.$$

Proof. By using the generalized Radon inequality (5), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{x^3}{(1+y)(1+z)} + \frac{y^3}{(1+z)(1+x)} + \frac{z^3}{(1+x)(1+y)} \\ & \geq \frac{(x+y+z)^3}{3((1+y)(1+z) + (1+z)(1+x) + (1+x)(1+y))} \\ & = \frac{(x+y+z)^3}{9+6(x+y+z) + 3(xy+yz+zx)} \\ & \quad (\text{by a general inequality } 3(xy+yz+zx) \leq (x+y+z)^2) \\ & \geq \frac{(x+y+z)^3}{9+6(x+y+z) + (x+y+z)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $x+y+z \geq 3\sqrt[3]{xyz} = 3$, it is not hard to prove that $\frac{(x+y+z)^3}{9+6(x+y+z)+(x+y+z)^2} \geq \frac{3}{4}$. By the way, another proof can be found in [9, pp. 139-140]. \square

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