

Alternative solution to problem **A1**

From the inequality between the quadratic mean and the arithmetic mean (or CBS) we have

$$\sqrt{\frac{a^2 + b^2 + 1^2 + 1^2}{4}} \geq \frac{a + b + 1 + 1}{4}.$$

We obtain that $\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + 2} \geq \frac{a + b + 2}{2}$ and two other similar inequalities.

Adding them together, we obtain that

$$\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + 2} + \sqrt{b^2 + c^2 + 2} + \sqrt{c^2 + a^2 + 2} \geq a + b + c + 3.$$

Using the AM-GM inequality and the condition $a + b + c + ab + ac + bc + abc = 7$ we obtain

$$(a + 1) + (b + 1) + (c + 1) \geq 3\sqrt{(a + 1)(b + 1)(c + 1)} = 6.$$

Alternative solution to problem **A4**

Write the given inequality as $(x + y + z)(xy + yz + zx) - 9xyz \geq 2(x + y + z)$, or $x(y - z)^2 + y(z - x)^2 + z(x - y)^2 \geq 2(x + y + z)$.

Because of the simmetry of the inequality, we may assume $x < y < z$ and consider $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $y = x + a$, $z = y + b$. The last inequality becomes

$$xb^2 + (x + a)(a + b)^2 + (x + a + b)a^2 \geq 2(3x + 2a + b). \quad (*)$$

Except when $a = 1$, when have $x(b^2 + a^2 + (a + b)^2) \geq 6x$, $a(a + b)^2 \geq 4a$ and $a^2(a + b) \geq 2b$. Adding these three inequalities proves (*).

In case $a = 1$, (*) becomes $xb^2 + (x + 1)(1 + b)^2 \geq 5x + 3 + b$. This follows from $x(2b^2 + 2b + 1) \geq 5x$ and $b^2 + 2b + 1 \geq b + 3$.

Equality holds when $a = b = 1$.