

CMJ 894. Proposed by Juan-Bosco Romero Márquez, Universidad de Valladolid, Valladolid, Spain.

Consider $\triangle ABC$ such that $A \leq 90^\circ$. Let p , a , r , R , and h_a denote the semiperimeter, length of side \overline{BC} , inradius, circumradius, and altitude from A to \overline{BC} , respectively. Prove that

$$r(r + a) \leq pr \leq h_a R$$

with equality if and only if $A = 90^\circ$.

Solution by the Armstrong Problem Solvers, Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah, GA.

Let D , E , and F be the points of tangency of the incircle with \overline{BC} , \overline{AC} , and \overline{AB} , respectively, and let $b = AC$, $c = AB$, and $r' = AF$. Since the incenter I is the intersection of the angle bisectors of $\triangle ABC$, then $AE = AF = r'$, $BD = BF = c - r'$, $CD = CE = b - r'$, and $a = c - r' + b - r' = b + c - 2r'$. Since $m(\angle A) \leq 90^\circ$, $m(\angle IAF) \leq 45^\circ \leq m(\angle AIF)$, and $r \leq r'$, with equality if and only if $m(\angle A) = 90^\circ$. Thus, $2r + 2a \leq 2r' + 2a = a + b + c = 2p$, and $r(r + a) \leq rp$.

Since \overline{ID} , \overline{IE} , and \overline{IF} are perpendicular to the sides of $\triangle ABC$, the area of $\triangle ABC$ is given by $rr' + r(c - r') + r(b - r') = r(b + c - r') = r(a + r') = rp$. Since \overline{BC} is a chord of the circumcircle of $\triangle ABC$, $a \leq 2R$, with equality if and only if \overline{BC} is a diameter of the circumcircle, which happens if and only if $\angle BAC$ is a right angle. Thus, the area of $\triangle ABC$ is given by

$$rp = \frac{1}{2}h_a a \leq \frac{1}{2}h_a 2R = h_a R.$$

In each case, equality occurs if and only if $\angle BAC$ is a right angle.

Armstrong Problem Solvers
Armstrong Atlantic State University
Department of Mathematics
11935 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31419-1997
e-mail: James.Brawner@armstrong.edu