

Find the minimum of a real number  $M$  that satisfies the following inequality for positive real numbers  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{99}$  where  $a_{100} = a_1$  and  $a_{101} = a_2$ .

$$\sum_{k=1}^{99} \frac{a_{k+1}}{a_k + a_{k+1} + a_{k+2}} < M$$

$$\frac{a_1}{a_1 + a_2 + a_3} + \frac{a_2}{a_2 + a_3 + a_4} < \frac{a_1}{a_1 + a_2} + \frac{a_2}{a_1 + a_2} = 1$$

Lemma  $\exists k$  such that  $\frac{a_1}{a_1 + a_2 + a_3} + \frac{a_2}{a_2 + a_3 + a_4} + \frac{a_3}{a_3 + a_4 + a_5} \leq 1$

Proof  $\frac{\textcircled{1}}{\textcircled{2} + \textcircled{1} + \textcircled{2}} + \frac{\textcircled{2}}{\textcircled{1} + \textcircled{1} + \textcircled{3}} + \frac{\textcircled{3}}{\textcircled{2} + \textcircled{3} + \textcircled{4}} \leq \frac{\textcircled{1}}{\textcircled{1} + \textcircled{1} + \textcircled{2}} + \frac{\textcircled{2}}{\textcircled{1} + \textcircled{1} + \textcircled{2}} + \frac{\textcircled{3}}{\textcircled{1} + \textcircled{1} + \textcircled{3}}$

$$\textcircled{2} \geq \textcircled{3} \quad \wedge \quad \textcircled{4} \geq \textcircled{1}$$

$$a_k \geq a_{k+3} \quad \wedge \quad a_{k+4} \geq a_{k+1}$$

FTSOL,  $a_k < a_{k+3} \quad \wedge \quad a_{k+4} < a_{k+1} \quad \forall k \in \{1, \dots, 99\}$

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &< a_4 \\ a_2 &< a_5 \\ a_3 &< a_6 \\ &\vdots \\ a_{99} &< a_1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a_5 &< a_2 \\ a_6 &< a_3 \\ a_7 &< a_4 \\ &\vdots \\ a_2 &< a_{98} \end{aligned}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{99} \frac{\textcircled{1}}{\textcircled{1} + \textcircled{1} + \textcircled{2}} < 99$$

$$a_1 = a_3 = \dots = a_{99} = 1$$

$$a_2 = a_4 = \dots = a_{98} = 0$$

$$\left( \frac{0}{1+0+1} + \frac{1}{0+1+0} \right) + \dots + \frac{0}{1+0+1} + \frac{1}{0+1+1} + \frac{1}{1+1+0}$$

$$= 48 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 49$$

$$a_1 = a_3 = \dots = a_{2k} = 1$$

$$a_2 = a_4 = \dots = a_{2k+1} = 2$$

$$S = \left( \frac{n}{l+n+1} + \frac{l}{n+1+l} \right) + \dots + \frac{n}{l+n+1} + \frac{l}{n+1+l} + \frac{1}{1+l+n}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S = 49$$

$$M = 49$$

$$49 \leq M \leq 49$$

$$\therefore M = 49$$

□