

Inequalities (Discussion)

Worksheet 4: Limits, Sandwiching, Combinatorics, and Convexity

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MATH 74: Transition to Upper-Division Mathematics

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Write: clearly. Supply your reasoning in words and/or symbols. Show calculations and relevant pictures.

1. (Sequence Starters) Consider $\sqrt{3}$, $\sqrt[3]{3}$, $\sqrt[4]{3}$, $\sqrt[5]{3}$, $\sqrt[6]{3}$, $\sqrt[7]{3}$, $\sqrt[8]{3}$, and $\sqrt[9]{3}$.

(a) Calculate the answers correct to 4 decimal places. What are these numbers approaching? \downarrow

(b) Explain why $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[r]{3} = 1$. Can you prove it? How about $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[r]{3} = 1$?

2. (Comparing Power Means) You received the scores $x_1 = 75$, $x_2 = 60$, and $x_3 = 90$ on your exams. Find the following power means of these numbers, rounding to 4 decimal places. (Write also the formulas for these power means that you used!)

(a) $P_{-\infty}$, P_{-2} , P_{-1} , $P_{-1/2}$, P_0 , P_1 , P_2 , P_100 , P_{∞} . How do they compare with each other? Explain.

(b) $P_{-0.1}$, $P_{-0.01}$, $P_{-0.001}$, $P_{0.1}$, $P_{0.01}$, $P_{0.001}$. Do they approach something? Explain.

(c) P_{10} , P_{100} , P_{200} ; P_{-10} , P_{-100} , P_{-200} . Do they approach something? Explain.

3. (Sandwiching Power Means) For the three exam scores above, prove that

(a) $\frac{90}{\sqrt[3]{3}} < P_3 < 90$ and, in general, $\frac{90}{\sqrt[r]{3}} < P_r < 90$ for any $r > 0$.

(b) Show that, as $r \rightarrow \infty$, the power means P_r approach 90. (Hint: Use #1.)

How does this explain the definition $P_{\infty} = \max\{75, 60, 90\}$?

(c) Prove that $\lim_{r \rightarrow -\infty} P_r = 60$. Explain why $P_{-\infty} = \min\{75, 60, 90\}$.

4. (Combinatorics Recall) In Problem 2, imagine that you have multiplied out all the factors in the LHS and then in the RHS, and written the results as long summations.

(a) When $n = 4$, how many summands of the form $a_i a_j$ for $i \neq j$ are there? Of the form $a_i a_j a_k$?

(b) Repeat part (a) for any natural number n .

(c) What is $(1+g)^n$ equal to? $(1+g)^n$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$? Where can we find all coefficients in RHS?

(d) Do Problem 2 for $n = 4$ numbers. (Hint: Use (a), (c), combinations, + a bunch of AM-GM's.)

(e) Do Problem 2 for any n positive numbers a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n .

5. (Adding Convex Functions) Draw the graphs of $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ below for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Explain why they are convex by using the geometric definition of convexity. Then draw the graph of their sum $f(x) + g(x)$ and again explain why it is also convex.

(a) $f(x) = x^2$, $g(x) = 2x$; (b) $f(x) = x^2$, $g(x) = -2x + 5$.

(c) Prove that the sum of two convex functions is a convex function.

6. (Trapezoidal Reasoning) Do Exercise 19 on p. 224 for $\lambda = \frac{1}{2}$, $\lambda = \frac{1}{3}$, and then for general $\lambda \in (0, 1)$.

How does this exercise explain why the geometric and algebraic definitions of convexity are equivalent?

$$1) \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[r]{3} = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} 3^{1/r} = 3^0 = 1$$

$$P_r = \sqrt[r]{\frac{x_1^r + x_2^r + \dots + x_n^r}{n}} = \left(\frac{x_1^r + x_2^r + \dots + x_n^r}{n} \right)^{1/r}$$

$$P_1 = \left(\frac{x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n}{n} \right)^1 = \frac{x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n}{n} = A.M.$$

$$P_{-\infty} = \max\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}, P_{-\infty} = \min\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$$

$$P_0 = \sqrt[n]{x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot \dots \cdot x_n} = G.M.$$

Expect

$$P_{-\infty} \leq P_{-1} \leq P_{-1/2} \leq P_0 \leq P_{1/2} \leq P_1 \leq P_{100} \leq P_{\infty}$$

3. Prove that $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} P_r = P_{\infty}$

$$x_1 = 75 \quad x_2 = 60 \quad x_3 = 90$$

$$P_r = \left(\frac{75^r + 60^r + 90^r}{3} \right)^{1/r} \geq \left(\frac{90^r}{3} \right)^{1/r} = \frac{90}{3^{1/r}} = \frac{90}{3^{1/r}}$$

Want to take $r \rightarrow \infty$, so assume $r > 0$. Then $75^r \leq 90^r$ and $60^r \leq 90^r$ so $\left(\frac{75^r + 60^r + 90^r}{3} \right)^{1/r} \leq \left(\frac{90^r + 90^r + 90^r}{3} \right)^{1/r} = (90^r)^{1/r} = 90$

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{90}{3^{1/r}} \leq \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} P_r \leq \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} 90 = 90 \Rightarrow 90 \leq \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} P_r \leq 90 \Rightarrow \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} P_r = 90 = P_{\infty}$$

$$\frac{90}{3^{1/r}} \rightarrow 90$$

$$g = \sqrt[4]{a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4}, a_i \geq 0$$

$$4. (1+a_1)(1+a_2)(1+a_3)(1+a_4) \geq (1+g)^4 = \binom{4}{0} + \binom{4}{1}g + \binom{4}{2}g^2 + \binom{4}{3}g^3 + \binom{4}{4}g^4$$

# of as	LHS	# terms
S_0	1	$1 = \binom{4}{0}$
S_1	$a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4$	$4 = \binom{4}{1}$
S_2	$\underline{a_1 a_2} + \underline{a_1 a_3} + \underline{a_1 a_4} + \underline{a_2 a_3} + \underline{a_2 a_4} + \underline{a_3 a_4}$	$6 = \binom{4}{2}$
S_3	$\underline{a_1 a_2 a_3} + \underline{a_1 a_2 a_4} + \underline{a_1 a_3 a_4} + \underline{a_2 a_3 a_4}$	$4 = \binom{4}{3}$
S_4	$a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4$	$1 = \binom{4}{4}$

Idea: $S_0 \geq \binom{4}{0}$ ✓
 $S_1 \geq \binom{4}{1}g$ ✓
 $S_2 \geq \binom{4}{2}g^2$ ✓
 $S_3 \geq \binom{4}{3}g^3$ ✓
 $S_4 \geq \binom{4}{4}g^4$ ✓
 $\Rightarrow S_0 + \dots + S_4 = (1+a_1) \cdot \dots \cdot (1+a_4) \geq (1+g)^4 \quad \square$

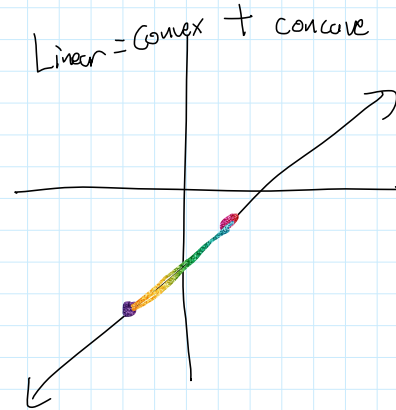
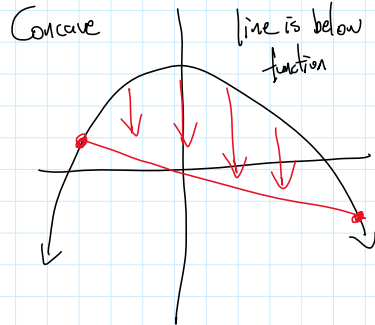
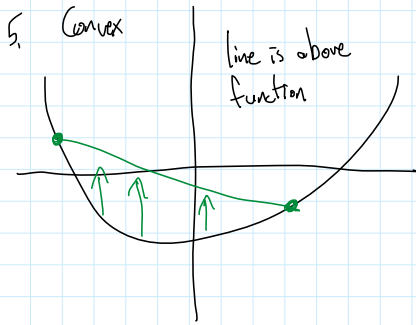
$$S_0 = 1 \geq \binom{4}{0} = 1 \quad \checkmark$$

$$AM-GM \Rightarrow \frac{a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4}{4} \geq \sqrt[4]{a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4} \Rightarrow S_1 \geq 4g \checkmark$$

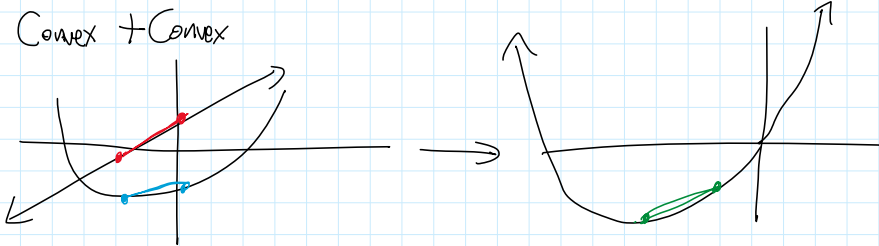
$$AM-GM \Rightarrow \frac{a_1 a_2 + a_1 a_3 + \dots + a_3 a_4}{\binom{4}{2}} \geq \sqrt[6]{a_1^3 a_2^3 a_3^3 a_4^3} = \left(\sqrt[4]{a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4} \right)^2 = g^2 \Rightarrow S_2 \geq \binom{4}{2} g^2 \checkmark$$

$$AM-GM \Rightarrow \frac{a_1 a_2 a_3 + \dots + a_2 a_3 a_4}{4} \geq \sqrt[4]{a_1^3 a_2^3 a_3^3 a_4^3} = g^3 \Rightarrow S_3 \geq 4g^3 \checkmark$$

$$S_4 = a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4 = g^4 \checkmark$$



Algebraically: For $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$ and x_1, x_2

$$\lambda f(x_1) + (1-\lambda)f(x_2) \geq f(\lambda x_1 + (1-\lambda)x_2)$$


Idea: Green line = Red + Blue \geq orig line + orig parabola
= new parabola