

An inequality

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Let $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n \in (0, \sqrt{2})$. Show that:

$$\sqrt{2} \sqrt[n]{\prod_{k=1}^n (1 + a_k \sqrt{2 - a_k^2})} \geq \sqrt[n]{\prod_{k=1}^n a_k} + \sqrt[n]{\prod_{k=1}^n (2 - a_k^2)}.$$

Solution by Arkady Alt, San Jose, California, USA.

Let $\alpha_k := \arccos(a_k/\sqrt{2}) \in (0, \pi/2)$, because $a_k/\sqrt{2} \in (0, 1), k = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

Then

$$a_k = \sqrt{2} \cos \alpha_k, \quad 1 + a_k \sqrt{2 - a_k^2} = 1 + \sqrt{2} \cos \alpha_k \cdot \sqrt{2} \sin \alpha_k = (\cos \alpha_k + \sin \alpha_k)^2, k = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

and the inequality becomes

$$\sqrt{2} \left(\prod_{k=1}^n (\cos \alpha_k + \sin \alpha_k)^2 \right)^{1/2n} \geq \left(\prod_{k=1}^n \sqrt{2} \cos \alpha_k \right)^{1/n} + \left(\prod_{k=1}^n 2 \sin^2 \alpha_k \right)^{1/2n} \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\sqrt{2} \left(\prod_{k=1}^n (\cos \alpha_k + \sin \alpha_k) \right)^{1/n} \geq \sqrt{2} \left(\prod_{k=1}^n \cos \alpha_k \right)^{1/n} + \sqrt{2} \left(\prod_{k=1}^n \sin \alpha_k \right)^{1/n} \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\prod_{k=1}^n (\cos \alpha_k + \sin \alpha_k) \geq \left(\left(\prod_{k=1}^n \cos \alpha_k \right)^{1/n} + \left(\prod_{k=1}^n \sin \alpha_k \right)^{1/n} \right)^n \Leftrightarrow \prod_{k=1}^n (1 + \tan \alpha_k) \geq \left(1 + \left(\prod_{k=1}^n \tan \alpha_k \right)^{1/n} \right)^n$$

We can complete the proof, noting that latter inequality is application of Huygens Inequality

$$\prod_{k=1}^n (1 + x_k) \geq \left(1 + \left(\prod_{k=1}^n x_k \right)^{1/n} \right)^n \text{ for } x_k = \tan \alpha_k, k = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$