

## Inequality

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Let  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  be positive real numbers. Prove that

$$\prod_{k=1}^n \ln(1 + a_k) \leq \left( \ln \left( 1 + \sqrt[n]{\prod_{k=1}^n a_k} \right) \right)^n$$

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

Let  $f(x) := \ln(\ln(1 + e^x))$ . Since  $1 + e^x > 1$  for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  then  $Dom(f) = \mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $f'(x) = \frac{e^x(\ln(e^x + 1) - e^x)}{(\ln^2(e^x + 1))(e^x + 1)^2} < 0$  for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  then  $f(x)$  is concave down in  $\mathbb{R}$

and, therefore, for any real  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  by Jensen's Inequality

$$(1) \quad \sum_{k=1}^n \ln(\ln(1 + e^{x_k})) \leq n \ln \left( \ln \left( 1 + e^{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n x_k} \right) \right).$$

By replacing  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  in (1) with  $(\ln a_1, \ln a_2, \dots, \ln a_n)$  we obtain

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \ln(\ln(1 + a_k)) \leq n \ln \left( \ln \left( 1 + \sqrt[n]{\prod_{k=1}^n a_k} \right) \right) \Leftrightarrow \prod_{k=1}^n \ln(1 + a_k) \leq \left( \ln \left( 1 + \sqrt[n]{\prod_{k=1}^n a_k} \right) \right)^n.$$