

Two inequalities

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Let $x, y, z, t > 0$, prove that

(a) $x + y + z + 3/(1/x + 1/y + 1/z) \geq 4(xyz)^{1/3}$.

(b) $x + y + z + t + 4/(1/x + 1/y + 1/z + 1/t) \geq 5(xyzt)^{1/4}$.

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(a) Since $(x + y + z)^2 \geq 3(xy + yz + zx)$ we have

(1) $3/(1/x + 1/y + 1/z) = \frac{3xyz}{xy + yz + zx} \geq \frac{9xyz}{(x + y + z)^2}$. Thus, suffice to prove inequality

(2) $x + y + z + \frac{9xyz}{(x + y + z)^2} \geq 4(xyz)^{1/3}$.

Let $x + y + z = 1$ (due homogeneity of (2)) and let $u := (xyz)^{1/3} \leq \frac{x + y + z}{3} = \frac{1}{3}$.

Then inequality (2) becomes $1 + 9u^3 \geq 4u$ and we have

$$1 + 9u^3 - 4u = (1 - 3u)(1 - u - 3u^2) \geq (1 - 3u)\left(1 - \frac{1}{3} - 3 \cdot \frac{1}{3^2}\right) = \frac{1 - 3u}{3} \geq 0.$$

Remark.

Denoting $A := \frac{x + y + z}{3}$, $H := \left(\frac{x^{-1} + y^{-1} + z^{-1}}{3}\right)^{-1}$ and $G := (xyz)^{1/3}$ we can rewrite

inequality (a) as $3A + H \geq 4G$ and inequality (1) as $A^2H \geq G^3$.

(b) Since by Maclaurin's inequality $\frac{x + y + z + t}{4} \geq \left(\frac{xyz + xyt + xzt + yzt}{4}\right)^{1/3} \Leftrightarrow$

$(x + y + z + t)^3 \geq 16(xyz + xyt + xzt + yzt)$ we have

(3) $4/(1/x + 1/y + 1/z + 1/t) = \frac{4xyzt}{xyz + xyt + xzt + yzt} \geq \frac{64xyzt}{(x + y + z + t)^3}$.

Thus, suffice to prove inequality

(4) $x + y + z + t + \frac{64xyzt}{(x + y + z + t)^3} \geq 5(xyzt)^{1/4}$.

Let $x + y + z + t = 1$ (due homogeneity of (2)) and let $u := (xyzt)^{1/4} \leq \frac{x + y + z + t}{4} = \frac{1}{4}$.

Then inequality (4) becomes $1 + 64u^4 \geq 5u$ and we have

$$1 + 64u^4 - 5u = (1 - 4u)(1 - u - 4u^2 - 16u^3) \geq (1 - 4u)\left(1 - \frac{1}{4} - 4 \cdot \frac{1}{16} - 16 \cdot \frac{1}{64}\right) = \frac{1 - 4u}{4} \geq 0.$$

Remark.

As above, denoting arithmetic, harmonic and geometric means of x, y, z, t by A, H, G , respectively we can rewrite inequality (b) as $4A + H \geq 5G$ and inequality (3)

as $A^3H \geq G^4$.

★ Generalization:

Let $A := \frac{x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n}{n}$, $H := \frac{x_1^{-1} + x_2^{-1} + \dots + x_n^{-1}}{n}$, $G := (x_1x_2 \dots x_n)^{1/n}$,

$$S := \frac{x_1x_2 \dots x_n}{n} \left(\frac{1}{x_1} + \frac{1}{x_2} + \dots + \frac{1}{x_n}\right) = G^n H^{-1}.$$

We will prove inequality which generalize inequalities (a) and (b) that is inequality

(5) $nA + H \geq (n + 1)G$, $n \geq 3$.

Since by Maclaurin's inequality $A^{n-1} \geq S \Leftrightarrow A^{n-1} \geq G^n H^{-1} \Leftrightarrow H \geq \frac{G^n}{A^{n-1}}$

then suffice to prove inequality

$$(6) \quad nA + \frac{G^n}{A^{n-1}} \geq (n+1)G.$$

We have (6) $\Leftrightarrow nA^n + G^n - (n+1)G \geq 0$ and since $nA^n + G^n - (n+1)GA^{n-1} =$

$$nA^{n-1}(A - G) - G(A^{n-1} - G^{n-1}) = (A - G) \left(nA^{n-1} - G \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} A^{n-k} G^{k-1} \right) \geq$$

$$(A - G) \left(nA^{n-1} - A \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} A^{n-k} A^{k-1} \right) = (A - G)(nA^{n-1} - (n-1)A^{n-1}) = A^{n-1}(A - G) \geq 0$$

inequality (6) is proved.