



# About some symmetric inequalities in power-exponential domain

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ABSTRACT. Here we will consider several problems related to inequalities of the form  $H(x, y) \leq e$ , where  $H(x, y)$  is symmetric function and  $x, y$  are real unequal positive numbers such that  $x^y = y^x$ .

## MAIN RESULTS

### i. Parametric representation of non trivial (unequal) positive solution of equation

$$x^y = y^x.$$

Let

$$D := \{(x, y) \mid x, y \in \mathbb{R}_+, x \neq y \text{ and } x^y = y^x\}$$

(obvious that  $x \neq 1$  and  $y \neq 1$ ).

Since  $D$  is symmetrical then  $D = D_< \cup D_>$ , where

$$D_< := \{(x, y) \mid x, y \in D \text{ and } x < y\}$$

and

$$D_> := \{(x, y) \mid x, y \in D \text{ and } x > y\}.$$

Let  $f(x) := x^{\frac{1}{x}}$ ,  $x > 0$ . Since

$$f'(x) = \frac{f(x)}{x^2} (1 - \ln x)$$

then  $f(x)$  strictly increasing on  $(0, e]$  and strictly decreasing on  $[0, \infty)$  with

$$\max_{x>0} f(x) = f(e) = e^{\frac{1}{e}}.$$

<sup>9</sup>Received: 28.10.2021

2010 Mathematics Subject Classification. 26D15.

Key words and phrases. Inequality.

Therefore, noting that

$$x^y = y^x \iff x^{\frac{1}{x}} = y^{\frac{1}{y}} \iff f(x) = f(y),$$

we can conclude that

$$(x, y) \in D_< \implies x < e < y,$$

and  $(x, y) \in D_> \implies y < e < x$ . (otherwise if  $x, y$  both belong to  $(0, e)$  or  $(e, \infty)$  then, due to monotonicity  $f(x)$  equality  $f(x) = f(y)$  yields  $x = y$ , that is the contradiction. And in case  $x = e$ , since  $y \neq e$  we again obtain contradiction  $f(e) = f(y) \neq f(e)$ ).

Also note that if  $(x, y) \in D_<$  then  $x > 1$ . Indeed, since

$$x^y = y^x \iff y = x \log_x y,$$

then supposition  $x < 1$  implies  $0 < \frac{y}{x} = \log_x y < 0$ , i.e. contradiction. Hence  $(x, y) \in D_< \implies x \in (1, e)$ ,  $y \in (e, \infty)$  and then

$$(x, y) \in D \implies x, y \in (1, e) \cup (e, \infty).$$

Let  $t := \log_x y - 1$ . Then

$$\log_x y = t + 1 \iff y = x^{t+1}$$

and

$$y = x \log_x y \iff y = x(t+1).$$

Hence  $y = x^{t+1}$ , and, therefore,

$$x^{t+1} = x(t+1) \iff x^t = t+1 \iff$$

$$x = (t+1)^{\frac{1}{t}} \implies y = (t+1)^{1+\frac{1}{t}},$$

where  $t > 0$  (since  $1 < x < y$ )

Thus

$$D_< = \left\{ \left( (t+1)^{\frac{1}{t}}, (t+1)^{1+\frac{1}{t}} \right) \mid t \in (0, \infty) \right\}$$

is set of all non-trivial solution of equation  $x^y = y^x$ , satisfied  $x < y$  and, due to symmetry of  $H(x, y)$ , we have  $H(D) = H(D_<)$  ( $H(D)$  is range of  $H(x, y)$  for  $(x, y) \in D$ )

Since  $t = \log_x y - 1$  then

$$(x, y) \in D_> \implies 1 < y < e < x \implies$$

$$1 < y < x \iff \log_x 1 - 1 < \log_x y - 1 < \log_x x - 1 \iff -1 < t < 0.$$

Therefore,

$$D_> = \left\{ \left( (t+1)^{\frac{1}{t}}, (t+1)^{1+\frac{1}{t}} \right) \mid t \in (-1, 0) \right\}$$

and

$$D = \left\{ \left( (t+1)^{\frac{1}{t}}, (t+1)^{1+\frac{1}{t}} \right) \mid t \in (-1, 0) \cup (0, \infty) \right\}.$$

Note that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} x = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} (t+1)^{\frac{1}{t}} = e$$

and

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} y = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} (t+1)^{1+\frac{1}{t}} = e.$$

Since  $x < e < y$  then  $x$  and  $y$  approaches to  $e$  from left and right respectively.  
We also have

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (t+1)^{\frac{1}{t}} = 1$$

and

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (t+1)^{1+\frac{1}{t}} = \infty.$$

**Remark 1.** Correspondence

$$t \mapsto x(t) = (t+1)^{\frac{1}{t}} : (0, \infty) \longrightarrow (1, e)$$

is one-to-one correspondence, moreover  $x(t)$  is strictly decreasing on  $(0, \infty)$ . Indeed, since

$$\frac{t}{t+1} < \ln(1+t)$$

for any  $t > 0$

$$\left( \frac{t}{t+1} - \ln(1+t) \right)' = \frac{1}{(t+1)^2} - \frac{1}{1+t} = \frac{-t}{(t+1)^2} < 0,$$

$t > 0$  implies

$$\frac{t}{t+1} - \ln(1+t) < \frac{0}{0+1} - \ln(1+0) = 0$$

then

$$(\ln x(t))' = \frac{1}{t(t+1)} - \frac{\ln(1+t)}{t^2} = \frac{1}{t^2} \left( \frac{t}{t+1} - \ln(1+t) \right) < 0, t > 0.$$

Thus for any  $x \in (1, e)$  equation  $x = (t+1)^{\frac{1}{t}}$  always have unique solution  $t(x) \in (0, \infty)$  and then

$$y(x) := (t(x) + 1)^{1+\frac{1}{t(x)}}$$

is function of  $x$ , such that

$$D_< = \{(x, y(x)) \mid x \in (1, e)\}$$

**Remark 2.** Parametrization of  $D$  which we obtain above isn't symmetric as would be expected given that  $D$  is symmetrical. But denoting

$$s := \frac{\ln y + \ln x}{\ln y - \ln x} = \frac{t+2}{t}$$

we obtain  $t = \frac{2}{s-1}$  and then

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 < t \\ -1 < t < 0 \end{bmatrix} \iff \begin{bmatrix} s > 1 \\ -1 < \frac{2}{s-1} < 0 \end{bmatrix} \iff \begin{bmatrix} s > 1 \\ s < -1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$x = \left( \frac{s+1}{s-1} \right)^{\frac{s-1}{2}}, y = \left( \frac{s+1}{s-1} \right)^{\frac{s+1}{2}}.$$

Thus,

$$D = \left\{ \left( \left( \frac{s+1}{s-1} \right)^{\frac{s-1}{2}}, \left( \frac{s+1}{s-1} \right)^{\frac{s+1}{2}} \right) \mid |s| > 1 \right\}$$

and we also have

$$x(-s) = y(s), y(-s) = x(s)$$

for any  $|s| > 1$ .

Since

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow 1^+} x(s) = \left( \frac{s+1}{s-1} \right)^{\frac{s-1}{2}} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (t+1)^{\frac{1}{t}} = 1$$

and

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow 1^+} y(s) = \lim_{s \rightarrow 1^+} \left( \frac{s+1}{s-1} \right)^{\frac{s+1}{2}} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (t+1)^{\frac{1}{t}+1} = \infty$$

then  $x = 1$  is vertical asymptote for  $y(x)$ ;

Since

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{s \rightarrow (-1)^-} x(s) &= \lim_{s \rightarrow (-1)^-} y(-s) = \lim_{s \rightarrow 1^+} y(s) = \lim_{s \rightarrow 1^+} \left( \frac{s+1}{s-1} \right)^{\frac{s+1}{2}} = \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (t+1)^{\frac{1}{t}+1} = \infty \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{s \rightarrow -1} y(s) &= \lim_{s \rightarrow 1^+} y(-s) = \lim_{s \rightarrow 1^+} x(s) = \lim_{s \rightarrow 1^+} \left( \frac{s+1}{s-1} \right)^{\frac{s+1}{2}} = \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} x(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (t+1)^{\frac{1}{t}} = 1 \end{aligned}$$

then  $y = 1$  is horizontal asymptote for  $y(x)$ .

## ii. Problems. Problem 1.

a). Find  $\inf_{(x,y) \in D} \sqrt{xy}$ .

b). Find  $\inf_{(x,y) \in D} \frac{x+y}{2}$ .

c). Find  $\inf_{(x,y) \in D} (x+1)(y+1)$ .

**Problem 2.** Find  $\sup_{(x,y) \in D} \left( \frac{x^{-1} + y^{-1}}{2} \right)^{-1}$ .

**Problem 3.** Find  $\inf_{(x,y) \in D} \left( \frac{x^p + y^p}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}, p > 0$ .

**Problem 4\*.** Find  $\inf_{(x,y) \in D} (x-1)(y-1)$ .

**Problem 5.** Let  $0 < \alpha \leq \beta$ . Find  $\inf_{(x,y) \in D_<} x^\alpha y^\beta$ .

### Solutions.

**Problem 1a.** For  $(x,y) \in D_<$  we have

$$xy = x^2(t+1) = (t+1)^{1+\frac{2}{t}}$$

then

$$\begin{aligned} (\ln xy)' &= \left( \left( 1 + \frac{2}{t} \right) \ln(t+1) \right)' = \left( -\frac{2}{t^2} \right) \ln(t+1) + \left( 1 + \frac{2}{t} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{t+1} = \\ &= \frac{1}{t^2} \left( \frac{t(t+2)}{t+1} - 2 \ln(t+1) \right). \end{aligned}$$

We will prove that

$$\frac{t(t+2)}{t+1} - 2 \ln(t+1) > 0$$

for any  $t > 0$ . Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \frac{t(t+2)}{t+1} - 2 \ln(t+1) \right)' &= \left( t+1 - \frac{1}{t+1} - 2 \ln(t+1) \right)' = \\ &= 1 + \frac{1}{(t+1)^2} - \frac{2}{t+1} = \frac{t^2 + 2t + 2 - 2t - 2}{(t+1)^2} = \frac{t^2}{(t+1)^2} > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $(\ln xy)' > 0$  and, therefore,  $\ln xy$  is increasing on  $(0, \infty)$ .

Since  $xy$  is increasing on  $(0, \infty)$  then

$$\begin{aligned}\inf_{(x,y) \in D} \sqrt{xy} &= \inf_{(x,y) \in D_<} \sqrt{xy} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \sqrt{xy} = \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} (t+1)^{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{t}} = e.\end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\sqrt{xy} > e$ , where  $x, y > 0, x \neq y$  and  $x^y = y^x$ .

**Remark.** Sequence variant of correspondent inequality is

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n+\frac{1}{2}} > e, n \in \mathbb{N}. \text{ For } t = \frac{1}{n} \text{ we have}$$

$$\sqrt{xy} = \sqrt{x^2(t+1)} = x\sqrt{(t+1)} = \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n+\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Of course inequality  $\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n+\frac{1}{2}} > e$  is immediate consequence from inequality  $\sqrt{xy} > e$  but can be proved directly.

Since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n+\frac{1}{2}}$  then suffice to prove that  $\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{2n+1}$  is decreasing in  $\mathbb{N}$  i.e. to prove inequality

$$\begin{aligned}\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{2n+1} &> \left(1 + \frac{1}{n+1}\right)^{2n+3} \iff \\ &\iff \left(\frac{n+1}{n}\right)^{2n+1} > \left(\frac{n+2}{n+1}\right)^{2n+3} \iff \\ &\iff \left(\frac{2n+2}{2n}\right)^{2n+1} > \left(\frac{2n+4}{2n+2}\right)^{2n+3} \iff \\ &\iff \left(\frac{m+1}{m-1}\right)^m > \left(\frac{m+3}{m+1}\right)^{m+2},\end{aligned}$$

where  $m := 2n + 1$ .

Using Extended Bernoulli Inequality:

$$(1+x)^n \geq 1 + nx + \frac{n(n-1)}{2}x^2, n \in \mathbb{N}, x > 0$$

we will prove that for any  $m \geq 2$  holds inequality

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left( \frac{m+1}{m-1} \right)^m > \left( \frac{m+2}{m} \right)^{m+1} \iff \\
& \iff \left( \frac{m+1}{m-1} \right)^m \cdot \left( \frac{m}{m+2} \right)^m > \frac{m+2}{m} \iff \\
& \iff \left( \frac{m^2+m}{m^2+m-2} \right)^m > \frac{m+2}{m} \iff \left( 1 + \frac{2}{m^2+m-2} \right)^m > 1 + \frac{2}{m}. \quad (1)
\end{aligned}$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left( 1 + \frac{2}{m^2+m-2} \right)^m > \\
& > 1 + \frac{2m}{(m-1)(m+2)} + \frac{4}{(m-1)^2(m+2)^2} \cdot \frac{m(m-1)}{2} = \\
& = 1 + \frac{2m}{(m-1)(m+2)} + \frac{2m}{(m-1)(m+2)^2}
\end{aligned}$$

suffice to prove

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{2m}{(m-1)(m+2)} + \frac{2m}{(m-1)(m+2)^2} > \frac{2}{m} \iff \\
& \iff \frac{1}{m+2} + \frac{1}{(m+2)^2} > \frac{m-1}{m^2} \iff \\
& \frac{m+3}{(m+2)^2} > \frac{m-1}{m^2} \iff (m+3)m^2 > (m+2)^2(m-1).
\end{aligned}$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned}
& (m+3)m^2 - (m+2)^2(m-1) = \\
& = m^3 + 3m^2 - m^3 - 4m^2 - 4m + m^2 + 4m + 4 = 4.
\end{aligned}$$

Using (1) twice we obtain

$$\left( \frac{m+1}{m-1} \right)^m > \left( \frac{m+2}{m} \right)^{m+1} > \left( \frac{m+3}{m+1} \right)^{m+2}.$$

Thus,

$$\left(\frac{m+1}{m-1}\right)^m > \left(\frac{m+3}{m+1}\right)^{m+2}.$$

**Problem 1b.** Since  $\frac{x+y}{2} \geq \sqrt{xy}$  and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{x+y}{2} = e$  then, due to previous problem,

$$\inf_{(x,y) \in D} \frac{x+y}{2} = e.$$

Thus,  $\frac{x+y}{2} > e$ , where  $x, y > 0, x \neq y$  and  $x^y = y^x$ .

**Remark.** Sequence variant of correspondent inequality is

$$e < \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n \left(1 + \frac{1}{2n}\right), n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

For  $t = \frac{1}{n}$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x+y}{2} &= \frac{x(t+2)}{2} = (1+t)^{\frac{1}{t}} \left(1 + \frac{t}{2}\right) = \\ &= \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n \left(1 + \frac{1}{2n}\right) > e. \end{aligned}$$

**Direct proof.** Since

$$\begin{aligned} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n \left(1 + \frac{1}{2n}\right) &> \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \iff 1 + \frac{1}{2n} \geq \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \iff \\ 1 + \frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{4n^2} &> 1 + \frac{1}{n}. \end{aligned}$$

**Problem 1c.** Suffice note that

$$(x+1)(y+1) \geq (\sqrt{xy} + 1)^2$$

and apply inequality  $\sqrt{xy} > e$ .

**Problem 2.** Let

$$H(x, y) := \left(\frac{x^{-1} + y^{-1}}{2}\right)^{-1}.$$

For  $(x, y) \in D_<$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} H(x, y) &= \frac{2xy}{x+y} = \frac{2xy}{(t+2)x} = \frac{2y}{t+2} = \\ &= \frac{2(t+1)^{1+\frac{1}{t}}}{t+2} = e^{h(t)}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$h(t) := \ln \frac{2(t+1)^{1+\frac{1}{t}}}{t+2} = \ln \frac{2t+2}{t+2} + \frac{\ln(t+1)}{t}, t \in (0, \infty).$$

Then

$$\sup_{(x,y) \in D} H(x, y) = \sup_{(x,y) \in D_<} H(x, y) = \sup_{t \in (0, \infty)} e^{h(t)}$$

Note that

$$h'(t) = -\frac{1}{t^2} \ln(t+1) + \frac{2}{t(t+2)} = \frac{1}{t^2} \left( \frac{2t}{t+2} - \ln(t+1) \right) < 0.$$

Indeed, since

$$\left( \frac{2t}{t+2} - \ln(t+1) \right)' = \frac{4}{(t+2)^2} - \frac{1}{t+1} = -\frac{t^2}{(t+2)^2}$$

then

$$\frac{2t}{t+2} - \ln(t+1)$$

is decreasing on  $(0, \infty)$  and, therefore,

$$\frac{2t}{t+2} - \ln(t+1) < \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{2t}{t+2} - \ln(t+1) \right) = 0.$$

Hence,  $h(t)$  is decreasing on  $(0, \infty)$  and, therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} h(t) &< \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} h(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left( \ln \frac{2t+2}{t+2} + \frac{\ln(t+1)}{t} \right) = \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \ln \frac{2t+2}{t+2} + \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln(t+1)}{t} = 0 + 1 = 1 \end{aligned}$$

yields  $\sup_{t>0} h(t) = 1$ .

Thus,  $\sup_{(x,y) \in D} H(x, y) = e$  or, in form of inequality

$$\left( \frac{x^{-1} + y^{-1}}{2} \right)^{-1} < e, \quad \text{where } x, y > 0, x \neq y \text{ and } x^y = y^x.$$

**Remark.** Sequence variant of correspondent inequality is

$$\left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^{n+1} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2n} \right)^{-1} < e.$$

For  $t = \frac{1}{n}$  we have

$$H(x, y) = \frac{2 \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^{n+1} \cdot n}{2n + 1} = \frac{2(n+1)^{n+1}}{n^n (2n+1)} < e \iff \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^{n+1} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2n} \right)^{-1} < e.$$

**Problem 3.** Since  $\left( \frac{x^p + y^p}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \geq \sqrt{xy}$  and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{x^p + y^p}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} = e$  then (see

Problem 1)  $\inf_{(x,y) \in D} \left( \frac{x^p + y^p}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} = e$ , that is  $\left( \frac{x^p + y^p}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} > e$ .  
Sequence variant is:

$$\left( \frac{\left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^{pn} + \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^{p(n+1)}}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} = \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^n \left( \frac{\left( 1 + \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^p \right)}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} > e.$$

**Problem 4\*.** For  $(x, y) \in D_<$  we have

$$(x - 1)(y - 1) = (x - 1)(x(t + 1) - 1) =$$

$$= x(x - 1)(t + 1) - x + 1,$$

where  $x = (1 + t)^{\frac{1}{t}}$ . Let

$$H(t) := x(x - 1)(t + 1) - x + 1.$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 H'(t) &= (2x - 1)x'(t+1) + x^2 - x - x' = \\
 &= x'((2x - 1)(t+1) - 1) + x^2 - x = \\
 &= x'(2x(t+1) - (t+2)) + x^2 - x = \\
 &= x(2x(t+1) - (t+2))(\ln x)' + x^2 - x = \\
 &= x\left((2x(t+1) - (t+2))\left(\frac{\ln(1+t)}{t}\right)' + x - 1\right) = \\
 &= x\left((2x(t+1) - (t+2))\left(\frac{1}{t(1+t)} - \frac{\ln(1+t)}{t^2}\right) + x - 1\right) > 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Indeed, since  $\ln(1+t) < t$  and, by Bernoulli Inequality,

$$(1+t)^{1+\frac{1}{t}} > 1 + \left(1 + \frac{1}{t}\right)t = 2 + t,$$

then we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\left(\frac{1}{t(1+t)} - \frac{\ln(1+t)}{t^2}\right) + (t+1)^{\frac{1}{t}} - 1 > \\
 &> \left(\frac{1}{t(1+t)} - \frac{t}{t^2}\right) + (1+t)^{\frac{1}{t}} - 1 = \left(\frac{1}{t(1+t)} - \frac{1}{t}\right) + (t+1)^{\frac{1}{t}} - 1 =
 \end{aligned}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{1+t} + (1+t)^{\frac{1}{t}} - 1 = (1+t)^{\frac{1}{t}} - \frac{t+2}{1+t} = \frac{(1+t)^{1+\frac{1}{t}} - (t+2)}{1+t} > 0$$

and

$$2x(t+1) - (t+2) = 2(1+t)^{1+\frac{1}{t}} - (t+2) > 4 + 2t - t - 2 = t + 2 > 0.$$

Since,  $H(t)$  increasing on  $(0, \infty)$  then

$$\inf_{(x,y) \in D} (x-1)(y-1) = \inf_{(x,y) \in D_<} (x-1)(y-1) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} H(t) = e^2 - 1.$$

Thus,  $(x-1)(y-1) > e^2 - 1$ , where  $x, y > 0, x \neq y$  and  $x^y = y^x$ .

**Remark 1.** For  $t = \frac{1}{n}$  we have

$$(x-1)(y-1) = \left( \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^n - 1 \right) \left( \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^{n+1} - 1 \right)$$

then sequence variant of correspondent inequality is

$$\left( \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^n - 1 \right) \left( \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^{n+1} - 1 \right) > (e-1)^2.$$

Since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^n - 1 \right) \left( \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^{n+1} - 1 \right) = (e-1)^2$$

and

$$\left( \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^n - 1 \right) \left( \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^{n+1} - 1 \right) \downarrow \mathbb{N},$$

then

$$\left( \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^n - 1 \right) \left( \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^{n+1} - 1 \right) > (e-1)^2$$

or

$$\left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^n \left( \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^{n+1} - 2 \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2n} \right) \right) > e^2 - 2e.$$

**Remark 2.** Since

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{1}{t(1+t)} - \frac{\ln(1+t)}{t^2} \right) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{t - (1+t)\ln(1+t)}{t^2(1+t)} \right) =$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{t - (1+t) \left( t - \frac{t^2}{2} + o(t^2) \right)}{t^2} \right) = \\
&= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{t - t + \frac{t^2}{2} - t^2 + \frac{t^3}{2}}{t^2} \right) = -\frac{1}{2}
\end{aligned}$$

then

$$\begin{aligned}
&\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} H'(t) = \\
&= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} x \left( (2x(t+1) - (t+2)) \left( \frac{1}{t(1+t)} - \frac{\ln(1+t)}{t^2} \right) + x - 1 \right) = \\
&= e \left( (2e-2) \cdot \left( -\frac{1}{2} \right) + e - 1 \right) = 0.
\end{aligned}$$

**Remark 3.** Let  $x \in (1, e)$  then obtained inequality can be rewritten as

$$(x-1)(y(x)-1) > (e-1)^2 \iff y(x) > \frac{(e-1)^2}{x-1} + 1.$$

Let  $g(x) := \frac{(e-1)^2}{x-1} + 1$ . Since

$$g(x) = \frac{(e-1)^2}{x-1} + 1 > \frac{(e-1)^2}{e-1} + 1 = e$$

then  $y(x) > g(x) > e$  yields

$$y(x)^{\frac{1}{y(x)}} < g(x)^{\frac{1}{g(x)}}.$$

From the other hand we have

$$y(x)^x = x^{y(x)} \iff y(x)^{\frac{1}{y(x)}} = x^{\frac{1}{x}}.$$

Hence

$$x^{\frac{1}{x}} < g(x)^{\frac{1}{g(x)}} \iff x^{g(x)} < g(x)^x \iff$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\iff x^{\frac{(e-1)^2}{x-1}+1} < \left( \frac{(e-1)^2}{x-1} + 1 \right)^x \iff \\ &\iff \left( \frac{(e-1)^2}{x-1} + 1 \right) \ln x < x \left( \frac{(e-1)^2}{x-1} + 1 \right). \end{aligned}$$

**Problem 5.** Since for  $(x, y) \in D_<$  we have  $x = (1+t)^{\frac{1}{t}}$  and  $y = (1+t)^{1+\frac{1}{t}}$  then

$$x^\alpha y^\beta = (1+t)^{\frac{\alpha}{t}} (1+t)^{\beta + \frac{\beta}{t}} = (1+t)^{\frac{\alpha+\beta}{t} + \beta} = \left( (1+t)^{\frac{1}{t} + \frac{\beta}{\alpha+\beta}} \right)^{\alpha+\beta}.$$

Since  $\alpha \leq \beta$  then

$$\frac{\beta}{\alpha+\beta} \geq \frac{\beta}{\beta+\beta} = \frac{1}{2}$$

and, therefore,

$$x^\alpha y^\beta \geq \left( (1+t)^{\frac{1}{t} + \frac{1}{2}} \right)^{\alpha+\beta} > e^{\alpha+\beta}$$

(because  $(1+t)^{\frac{1}{t} + \frac{1}{2}}$  is increasing on  $(0, \infty)$  (see solution to Problem 1) and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} (1+t)^{\frac{1}{t} + \frac{1}{2}} = e$ ). Also we have

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} x^\alpha y^\beta = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} (1+t)^{\frac{\alpha+\beta}{t} + \beta} = e^{\alpha+\beta}.$$

Thus,

$$\inf_{(x,y) \in D_<} x^\alpha y^\beta = e^{\alpha+\beta}.$$

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