

Inequalities (2) and (3) imply the required result.

In order to make this solution self-contained, the definition of majorizing and the Majorizing Inequality are explained here.

The explanations are excerpted from a nice short article by Murray S. Klamkin (1921-2004) who was one of the greatest problems composer.

M. S. Klamkin, *On a "Problem of the Month"*, Crux Mathematicorum, Volume 28, Number 2, page 86, 2002.

"If A and B are vectors $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n), (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n)$ where $a_1 \geq a_2 \geq \dots \geq a_n$, $b_1 \geq b_2 \geq \dots \geq b_n$, and $a_1 \geq b_1$, $a_1 + a_2 \geq b_1 + b_2$, $a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_{n-1} \geq b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_{n-1}$, $a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n = b_1 + b_2 + \dots + b_n$, we say that A majorizes B and write it as $A \succ B$. Then, if F is a convex function,

$$F(a_1) + F(a_2) + \dots + F(a_n) \geq F(b_1) + F(b_2) + \dots + F(b_n)."$$

Also solved by Arkady Alt, San Jose, CA; Hatem I. Arshagi, Guilford Technical Community College, Jamestown, NC; Soumava Chakraborty, Kolkata, India; Pedro Acosta De Leon, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, MA; Bruno Salgueiro Fanego, Viveiro, Spain. Ed Gray, Highland Beach, FL; Kee-Wai Lau, Hong Kong, China; Ioannis D. Sfikas, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece, and the proposers.

5473: *Proposed by José Luis Díaz-Barrero, Barcelona Tech, Barcelona, Spain*

Let x_1, \dots, x_n be positive real numbers. Prove that for $n \geq 2$, the following inequality holds:

$$\left(\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\sin x_k}{((n-1)x_k + x_{k+1})^{1/2}} \right) \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\cos x_k}{((n-1)x_k + x_{k+1})^{1/2}} \right) \leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{x_k}.$$

(Here the subscripts are taken modulo n .)

Solution 1 by Moti Levy, Rehovot, Israel

The following three facts will be used in this solution:

1)

$$\left(\sum_{k=1}^n a_k \sin x_k \right) \left(\sum_{k=1}^n a_k \cos x_k \right) \leq \frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n a_k \right)^2. \quad (4)$$

This can be shown by expanding the left hand side and using the facts that $\sin x_k \cos x_k \leq \frac{1}{2}$ and $\sin x_j \cos x_k + \cos x_j \sin x_k \leq 1$.

2)

$$\left(\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\sqrt{a_k}}{n} \right)^2 \leq \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{a_k}{n}. \quad (5)$$

This is implied from $M_{\frac{1}{2}} \leq M_1$ where M_k are power means.

3)

$$\frac{1}{px + qy} \leq \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{y} \right), \quad p, q \geq 0 \text{ and } p + q = 1. \quad (6)$$

This can be shown by Jensen's inequality.

Now let

$$a_k := \frac{1}{((n-1)x_k + x_{k+1})^{\frac{1}{2}}}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} LHS &:= \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\sin x_k}{((n-1)x_k + x_{k+1})^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right) \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\cos x_k}{((n-1)x_k + x_{k+1})^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right) \\ &= \left(\sum_{k=1}^n a_k \sin x_k \right) \left(\sum_{k=1}^n a_k \cos x_k \right) \leq \frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n a_k \right)^2. \end{aligned}$$

By (5),

$$\begin{aligned} LHS &\leq \frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n a_k \right)^2 \leq \frac{n}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n a_k = \frac{n}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(n-1)x_k + x_{k+1}} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{\frac{n-1}{n}x_k + \frac{1}{n}x_{k+1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Set $p = \frac{n-1}{n}$ and $q = \frac{1}{n}$, then by (6)

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{\frac{n-1}{n}x_k + \frac{1}{n}x_{k+1}} \leq \frac{1}{4} \sum_{k=1}^n \left(\frac{1}{x_k} + \frac{1}{x_{k+1}} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{x_k}.$$

Solution to 2 by Kee-Wai Lau, Hong Kong, China

Since $2ab \leq a^2 + b^2$ for any real numbers a and b , so by the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &2 \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\sin x_k}{((n-1)x_k + x_{k+1})^{1/2}} \right) \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\cos x_k}{((n-1)x_k + x_{k+1})^{1/2}} \right) \\ &\leq \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\sin x_k}{((n-1)x_k + x_{k+1})^{1/2}} \right)^2 + \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\cos x_k}{((n-1)x_k + x_{k+1})^{1/2}} \right)^2 \\ &\leq \left(n \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\sin^2 x_k}{(n-1)x_k + x_{k+1}} + \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\cos^2 x_k}{(n-1)x_k + x_{k+1}} \right) \\ &= n \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(n-1)x_k + x_{k+1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Applying Jensen's inequality to the convex function $\frac{1}{x}$ for $x > 0$, we have

$$\frac{n-1}{x_k} + \frac{1}{x_{k+1}} \geq n \left(\frac{1}{\frac{(n-1)x_k + x_{k+1}}{n}} \right) = \frac{n^2}{(n-1)x_k + x_{k+1}}.$$

It follows that $n \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(n-1)x_k + x_{k+1}} \leq \frac{1}{n} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{n-1}{x_k} + \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{x_{k+1}} \right) = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{x}$.

Thus the inequality of the problem holds.

Solution 3 by Arkady Alt , San Jose, CA

By Cauchy Inequality $\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\sin x_k}{((n-1)x_k + x_{k+1})^{1/2}} \leq \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(n-1)x_k + x_{k+1}}} \cdot \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^n \sin^2 x_k}$

and $\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\cos x_k}{((n-1)x_k + x_{k+1})^{1/2}} \leq \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(n-1)x_k + x_{k+1}}} \cdot \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^n \cos^2 x_k}$.

Also by AM-GM inequality

$$\sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^n \sin^2 x_k} \cdot \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^n \cos^2 x_k} \leq \frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \sin^2 x_k + \sum_{k=1}^n \cos^2 x_k \right) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n (\sin^2 x_k + \cos^2 x_k) = \frac{n}{2}.$$

Thus, $\left(\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\sin x_k}{((n-1)x_k + x_{k+1})^{1/2}} \right) \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\cos x_k}{((n-1)x_k + x_{k+1})^{1/2}} \right) \leq \frac{n}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(n-1)x_k + x_{k+1}}$

and it remains to prove the inequality

$$\frac{n}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(n-1)x_k + x_{k+1}} \leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{x_k} \iff \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(n-1)x_k + x_{k+1}} \leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{x_k}.$$

By the Cauchy Inequality

$$((n-1)x_k + x_{k+1}) \left(\frac{n-1}{x_k} + \frac{1}{x_{k+1}} \right) \geq n^2 \iff \frac{1}{(n-1)x_k + x_{k+1}} \leq \frac{1}{n^2} \left(\frac{n-1}{x_k} + \frac{1}{x_{k+1}} \right)$$

$$\text{then } \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(n-1)x_k + x_{k+1}} \leq \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{k=1}^n \left(\frac{n-1}{x_k} + \frac{1}{x_{k+1}} \right) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{x_k}.$$

Also solved by Ed Gray, Highland Beach, FL; Ioannis D. Sfikas, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece; Albert Stadler, Herrliberg, Switzerland, and the proposer.

5474: Proposed by Ovidiu Furdui, Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Let $a, b \in \mathfrak{R}, b \neq 0$. Calculate

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\begin{array}{cc} 1 - \frac{a}{n^2} & \frac{b}{n} \\ \frac{b}{n} & 1 + \frac{a}{n^2} \end{array} \right)^n.$$

Solution 1 by Bruno Salgueiro Fanego, Viveiro, Spain