

# Algebra

Inequalities: finite sums

Problems sorted by topic

Inequalities: fractions

**SIAM 80-19.** by E. Arthurs and B. W. Stuck

(a) Show that the following inequality holds:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N G(S_i, A_i) \geq G\left(\sum_{i=1}^N S_i, \sum_{i=1}^N A_i\right),$$

where

$$0 \leq A_i < S_i, \quad S_i = 1, 2, \dots, \quad i = 1, \dots, N,$$

$$G(S, A) = AB(S, A), \quad B(S, A) = \frac{A^S/S!}{\sum_{k=0}^S A^k/k!}.$$

(b) Show that the following inequality holds:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N H(S_i, A_i) \geq H\left(\sum_{i=1}^N S_i, \sum_{i=1}^N A_i\right),$$

where

$$0 \leq A_i < S_i, \quad S_i = 1, 2, \dots, \quad i = 1, \dots, N,$$

$$H(S, A) = \frac{A}{S-A} C(S, A),$$

$$C(S, A) = \frac{A^S/(S-1)!(S-A)}{\sum_{k=0}^{S-1} A^k/k! + A^S/(S-1)!(S-A)}.$$

**AMM E2884.** by Lawrence Harris

Let  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  be distinct real numbers. Set

$$S = \sum_{k=1}^n (1 + x_k^2)^{n/2} / P(k),$$

where  $P(k) = \prod_{j \neq k} |x_k - x_j|$ . Prove  $S \geq n$ . When does  $S = n$ ?

**CRUX 992.** by Harry D. Ruderman

Let  $\alpha = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{mn})$  be a sequence of positive real numbers such that  $a_i \leq a_j$  whenever  $i < j$ , and let  $\beta = (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{mn})$  be a permutation of  $\alpha$ . Prove that

$$(a) \quad \sum_{j=1}^n \prod_{i=1}^m a_{m(j-1)+i} \geq \sum_{j=1}^n \prod_{i=1}^m b_{m(j-1)+i}$$

$$(b) \quad \prod_{j=1}^n \sum_{i=1}^m a_{m(j-1)+i} \leq \prod_{j=1}^n \sum_{i=1}^m b_{m(j-1)+i}.$$

**BALKAN 1984/1.**

Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ , ( $n \geq 2$ ) be positive numbers whose sum is 1. Prove that

$$\frac{x_1}{1+x_2+x_3+\dots+x_n} + \frac{x_2}{1+x_1+x_3+\dots+x_n} + \dots + \frac{x_n}{1+x_1+x_2+\dots+x_{n-1}} \geq \frac{n}{2n-1}.$$

**GAZ 68.G.** by H.-J. Seiffert

For integers  $m \geq 2$ , prove or disprove:

$$\sum_{k=1}^{m-1} \frac{1}{2k+1} \leq \ln \sqrt{m} \leq \sum_{k=1}^m \frac{1}{2k+1}.$$

**MSJ 520.**

by F. David Hammer

Prove that if  $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$  are real numbers such that  $a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n = 1$ , then

$$a_1^2 + a_2^2 + \dots + a_n^2 \geq \frac{1}{n}.$$

**POLAND 1984/3.**

If  $a, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) are positive real numbers, prove that

$$\frac{a^{x_1-x_2}}{x_1+x_2} + \frac{a^{x_2-x_3}}{x_2+x_3} + \dots + \frac{a^{x_n-x_1}}{x_n+x_1} \geq \frac{n^2}{2(x_1+x_2+\dots+x_n)}$$

and determine when there is equality.

**SPECT 15.9.**

by A. J. Douglas  
and G. T. Vickers

Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  be real numbers such that  $0 \leq x_i \leq 1$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Prove that

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right)^2 \leq \begin{cases} \frac{1}{4} & \text{when } n \text{ is even} \\ \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4n^2} & \text{when } n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

Discuss when equality occurs.

**PENT 324.**

by Michael W. Ecker

Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  be positive numbers whose sum is 1. What is the smallest possible value for the sum of the reciprocals

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{x_i}?$$

**SSM 3835.**

by Alan Wayne

Prove that if the sum of  $n$  positive numbers is 1, then the sum of their reciprocals is at least  $n^2$ .

**NAvW 571.**

by R. J. Stroeker

For any real numbers  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , where  $n \geq 2$ , define

$$F(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \{f(x_i - x_j) - f(x_i + x_j)\}.$$

Here  $f$  is defined by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\sin x}{x} & \text{if } x \neq 0, \\ 1 & \text{if } x = 0. \end{cases}$$

Show that  $F(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \geq 0$ . When does equality hold?

Inequalities: fractions

**CANADA 1984/5.**

Given any seven real numbers, prove that there are two of them, say  $x$  and  $y$ , such that

$$0 \leq \frac{x-y}{1+xy} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}.$$