



Math for the people, by the people.

MacLaurin's inequality

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Author	Mathprof (13753)
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Let a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n be positive real numbers , and define the sums S_k as follows :

$$S_k = \frac{\sum_{1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k \leq n} a_{i_1} a_{i_2} \cdots a_{i_k}}{\binom{n}{k}}$$

Then the following chain of inequalities is true :

$$S_1 \geq \sqrt{S_2} \geq \sqrt[3]{S_3} \geq \dots \geq \sqrt[n]{S_n}$$

Note : S_k are called the averages of the elementary symmetric sums

This inequality is in fact important because it shows that the arithmetic-geometric mean inequality is nothing but a consequence of a chain of stronger inequalities