

## inequalities for differences of powers

 ${\bf Canonical\ name} \quad {\bf Inequalities For Differences Of Powers}$ 

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Oftentimes, one needs to estimate differences of powers of real numbers. The following inequalities are useful for this purpose:

$$n(u-v)v^{n-1} < u^n - v^n < n(u-v)u^{n-1}$$

$$nx \le (1+x)^n - 1$$

$$(1+x)^n - 1 \le \frac{nx}{1 - (n-1)x}$$

Here n is an integer greater than 1. The first inequality holds when 0 < v < u, the second inequality holds when -1 < x, and the third inequality holds when -1 < x < 1/(n-1). Equality can only occur in the latter two inequalities when x = 0.