

Oregon ARML PoTDs - Spring 2024

PoTD Problem 39

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Notice that

$$2 \cos \left(\frac{\pi}{4} \right) = \sqrt{2} \quad (1)$$

$$\cos \left(x - \frac{\pi}{4} \right) \leq 1, \quad (2)$$

so

$$2 \cos \left(\frac{\pi}{4} \right) \cos \left(x - \frac{\pi}{4} \right) \leq \sqrt{2}. \quad (3)$$

So, by product-to-sum, we have

$$\cos x + \cos \left(x - \frac{\pi}{2} \right) \leq \sqrt{2}. \quad (4)$$

So, since $\frac{\pi}{2} > \sqrt{2}$ and $\sin x = \cos \left(x - \frac{\pi}{2} \right)$,

$$\frac{\pi}{2} > \cos x + \sin x. \quad (5)$$

So, $\sin x > \frac{\pi}{2} - \cos x$, and now take cosines, giving

$$\boxed{\cos \sin x > \sin \cos x}. \quad (6)$$