

Kyiv 2019 Generalization

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Let a_1, \dots, a_n be positive real numbers with average at least 1. Define $P_m = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k^{m+n-k}$ for each non-negative integer m . Prove that P_0, P_1, P_2, \dots is a nondecreasing sequence.

Let $c > 0$. Write

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^n a_k^{c+1+n-k} &= \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(c+n-k)a_k^{c+1+n-k} + 1}{c+n-k} - \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{c+n-k} \\ &\geq \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(c+1+n-k)a_k^{c+n-k}}{c+n-k} - \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{c+n-k} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n a_k^{c+n-k} a_k + \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{a_k^{c+n-k} + c-1+n-k}{c+n-k} - \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{c-1+n-k}{c+n-k} - \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{c+n-k} \\ &\geq \sum_{k=1}^n a_k^{c+n-k} + \sum_{k=1}^n a_k - n \\ &\geq \sum_{k=1}^n a_k^{c+n-k} \end{aligned}$$

so $P_{c+1} \geq P_c$. And for $c = 0$, we can take limits as $P_{c+1} - P_c$ is continuous. Thus P_0, P_1, P_2, \dots is nondecreasing. ■