

Hermite–Hadamard inequality

In mathematics, the **Hermite–Hadamard inequality**, named after Charles Hermite and Jacques Hadamard and sometimes also called **Hadamard's inequality**, states that if a function $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ is convex, then the following chain of inequalities hold:

$$f\left(\frac{a+b}{2}\right) \leq \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(x) \, dx \leq \frac{f(a) + f(b)}{2}.$$

The inequality has been generalized to higher dimensions: if $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is a bounded, convex domain and $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a positive convex function, then

$$\frac{1}{|\Omega|} \int_{\Omega} f(x) \, dx \leq \frac{c_n}{|\partial\Omega|} \int_{\partial\Omega} f(y) \, d\sigma(y)$$

where c_n is a constant depending only on the dimension.

A corollary on Vandermonde-type integrals

Suppose that $-\infty < a < b < \infty$, and choose n distinct values $\{x_j\}_{j=1}^n$ from (a, b) . Let $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be convex, and let I denote the "integral starting at a " operator; that is,

$$(If)(x) = \int_a^x f(t) \, dt.$$

Then

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(I^{n-1}F)(x_i)}{\prod_{j \neq i} (x_i - x_j)} \leq \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i)$$

Equality holds for all $\{x_j\}_{j=1}^n$ iff f is linear, and for all f iff $\{x_j\}_{j=1}^n$ is constant, in the sense that

$$\lim_{\{x_j\}_j \rightarrow \alpha} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(I^{n-1}F)(x_i)}{\prod_{j \neq i} (x_i - x_j)} = \frac{f(\alpha)}{(n-1)!}$$

The result follows from induction on n .

References

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