

Thm: Let $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n > 0$. Then,

$$\frac{n}{\frac{1}{a_1} + \frac{1}{a_2} + \dots + \frac{1}{a_n}} \leq \sqrt[n]{a_1 a_2 \dots a_n} \leq \frac{a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n}{n}$$

Harmonic Mean Geometric Mean Arithmetic Mean

with equality in both cases iff $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_n = a$.

Pf (Induction): Let $P(n)$ be the statement that " $\sqrt[n]{a_1 a_2 \dots a_n} \leq \frac{a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n}{n}$ ". Notice that $P(1)$ is true.

Lemma 1: $P(2)$ is true.

Pf: Notice that

$$(a_1 - a_2)^2 = a_1^2 - 2a_1 a_2 + a_2^2 > 0$$

$+ 4a_1 a_2$ $+ 4a_1 a_2$

$$\Leftrightarrow a_1^2 + 2a_1 a_2 + a_2^2 > 4a_1 a_2$$

\parallel

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{(a_1 + a_2)^2}{4} > 4a_1 a_2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{a_1 + a_2}{2} > \sqrt{a_1 a_2}$$

$\Leftrightarrow P(2)$ is true. ▲

$P(2)$:

$$\left(\frac{a_1 + a_2}{2}\right)^2 \geq a_1 a_2$$

$P(n)$:

$$\left(\frac{a_1 + \dots + a_n}{n}\right)^n \geq a_1 \dots a_n$$

Lemma 2: $P(2) \& P(n) \Rightarrow P(2n)$

Pf: Consider

$$a_1 a_2 \dots a_{2n} = \prod_{i=1}^{2n} a_i = \left(\prod_{i=1}^n a_i \right) \left(\prod_{i=n+1}^{2n} a_i \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(By } P(n) \text{ we have)} & \leq \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{n} \right)^n \left(\sum_{i=n+1}^{2n} \frac{a_i}{n} \right)^n \\ & = \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{n} \right) \left(\sum_{i=n+1}^{2n} \frac{a_i}{n} \right) \right]^n = [A_1 A_2]^n \leq \left[\frac{A_1 + A_2}{2} \right]^{2n} \quad \text{(By } P(2) \text{).} \end{aligned}$$

▲

$$= \left[\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n a_i + \sum_{i=n+1}^{2n} a_i}{2n} \right]^{2n} = \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{2n} a_i}{2n} \right)^{2n}$$

Thus $P(2n)$ is true

Lemma 3: $P(n) \Rightarrow P(n-1)$

Pf: Consider the product of n positives

$$\left(\prod_{i=1}^{n-1} a_i \right) A \stackrel{P(n)}{\leq} \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} a_i + A}{n} \right)^n$$

Now let $A = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{a_k}{n-1}$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\prod_{i=1}^{n-1} a_i \right) A &\leq \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} a_i + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{a_k}{n-1}}{n} \right)^n \\ &= \left[\frac{(n-1) \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{a_i}{n-1} + \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{a_k}{n-1}}{n} \right]^n \\ &= \left[\frac{(n-1)A + A}{n} \right]^n, \quad A = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{a_i}{n-1} \\ &= A^{n-1} \Rightarrow \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} a_i \leq \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{a_i}{n-1} \right)^{n-1} \Rightarrow P(n-1) \text{ is true.} \end{aligned}$$