

Theorem 4 (Jensen's Inequality 1906) Let f be a convex function on the interval I . If $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \in I$ and t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n are nonnegative real numbers such that $t_1 + t_2 + \dots + t_n = 1$, then

$$f\left(\sum_{i=1}^n t_i x_i\right) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n t_i f(x_i).$$

Proof by induction: The case for $n = 2$ is true by the definition of convex. Assume the relation holds for n , then we have

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} t_i x_i\right) &= f\left(\sum_{i=1}^n t_i x_i + t_{n+1} x_{n+1}\right) = f\left(t_{n+1} x_{n+1} + (1 - t_{n+1}) \frac{1}{1 - t_{n+1}} \sum_{i=1}^n t_i x_i\right) \\ &\leq t_{n+1} f(x_{n+1}) + (1 - t_{n+1}) f\left(\frac{1}{1 - t_{n+1}} \sum_{i=1}^n t_i x_i\right) \\ &= t_{n+1} f(x_{n+1}) + (1 - t_{n+1}) f\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{t_i}{1 - t_{n+1}} x_i\right) \\ &\leq t_{n+1} f(x_{n+1}) + (1 - t_{n+1}) \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{t_i}{1 - t_{n+1}} f(x_i) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n t_i f(x_i) + t_{n+1} f(x_{n+1}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} t_i f(x_i). \end{aligned}$$

Thus showing that the assumption implies that the relation holds for $n + 1$ and by the principle of Mathematical Induction holds for all natural numbers.