

For arbitrary real numbers x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{99} such that $0 < x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_{99}$, determine the minimum value of positive real number c such that the following inequality always holds.

$$\underline{3\sqrt{x_1} + 4(\sqrt{x_2 - x_1} + \sqrt{x_3 - x_2} + \dots + \sqrt{x_{99} - x_{98}})} \leq c(\sqrt{x_2} + \sqrt{x_3} + \dots + \sqrt{x_{98}}) + \underline{5\sqrt{x_{99}}}$$

$$(a^2 + b^2)(x^2 + y^2) \geq (ax + by)^2$$

$$(3^2 + 4^2)(x_1 + x_2 - x_1) \geq (3\sqrt{x_1} + 4\sqrt{x_2 - x_1})^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} 3\sqrt{x_1} + 4\sqrt{x_2 - x_1} &\leq 5\sqrt{x_2} & a : x = b : y \\ 3\sqrt{x_2} + 4\sqrt{x_3 - x_2} &\leq 5\sqrt{x_3} \\ &\vdots \\ 3\sqrt{x_{98}} + 4\sqrt{x_{99} - x_{98}} &\leq 5\sqrt{x_{99}} \end{aligned}$$

(2)

$$\begin{aligned} 3(\sqrt{x_1} + \dots + \sqrt{x_{98}}) + 4(\sqrt{x_2 - x_1} + \dots + \sqrt{x_{99} - x_{98}}) &\leq 5(\sqrt{x_1} + \dots + \sqrt{x_{99}}) \\ 3\sqrt{x_1} + 4(\sqrt{x_2 - x_1} + \dots + \sqrt{x_{99} - x_{98}}) &\leq 2(\sqrt{x_2} + \dots + \sqrt{x_{98}}) + 5\sqrt{x_{99}} \end{aligned}$$

\therefore It suffices to show that $c \geq 2$.

(\Rightarrow)

Inequalities above are strict.

$$(a^2 + b^2)(x^2 + y^2) \geq (ax + by)^2$$

$$a^2y^2 + b^2x^2 \geq 2abxy$$

$$(ay - bx)^2 \geq 0$$