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Chapter 10. L^p Spaces

Question 10-1. If $1 < p < \infty$ and $a \geq 0, b \geq 0$, prove that

$$ab \leq \frac{a^p}{p} + \frac{b^q}{q}, \quad (1)$$

with equality if and only if $a^p = b^q$.

Proof. Let b be fixed and define a function

$$f(a) = ab - \frac{a^p}{p} \quad (2)$$

and maximize the function using elementary calculus.

$$\begin{aligned} f'(a) &= b - a^{p-1} = 0 \\ a &= b^{1/(p-1)} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the function is maximized when $a = b^{1/(p-1)}$. Plugging in,

$$\begin{aligned} f(b^{1/(p-1)}) &= b^{p/(p-1)} - \frac{b^{p/(1-p)}}{p} \\ &= \frac{p-1}{p} b^{\frac{p}{p-1}} \end{aligned}$$

is the maximum value. Therefore, we can conclude that

$$ab - \frac{a^p}{p} \leq \frac{b^q}{q} \quad (3)$$

by defining $q = p/(p-1)$. □

Question 10-2. Assume $1 < p_k < \infty$ for $k = 1, \dots, N$, and $\sum_{k=1}^N 1/p_k = 1$. Prove that

$$\left| \int_X f_1 f_2 \cdots f_N d\mu \right| \leq \|f_1\|_{p_1} \|f_2\|_{p_2} \cdots \|f_N\|_{p_N}. \quad (4)$$

Proof. If $N = 2$, the problem is reduced to the classical Hölder's inequality. Therefore, we will assume 4 holds for some $N > 2$ and then show that it also holds for $N + 1$. First, let us define

$$q^{N+1} = \frac{p_{N+1}}{p_{N+1} - 1}$$

and for $i = 1, \dots, N$, define

$$r_i = p_i \cdot \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_{N+1}}\right).$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{p_{N+1}} + \frac{1}{q_{N+1}} &= 1 \\ \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{r_i} &= 1 \\ q_{N+1} \cdot r_i &= p_i. \end{aligned}$$

Applying Hölder's inequality to $f = \prod_{i=1}^N f_i$ and $g = f_{N+1}$, we find:

$$\int_X \left| \prod_{i=1}^{N+1} f_i \right| d\mu \leq \|f_{N+1}\|_{p_{N+1}} \cdot \left\| \prod_{i=1}^N f_i \right\|_{q_n} \quad (5)$$

$$= \|f_n\|_{p_n} \cdots \left(\int_X \prod_{i=1}^N |f_i^{q_{N+1}}| d\mu \right)^{1/q_{N+1}} \quad (6)$$

$$\leq \|f_{N+1}\|_{p_{N+1}} \cdot \left(\prod_{i=1}^N \|f_i^{q_{N+1}}\|_{r_i} \right)^{1/q_{N+1}} \quad (7)$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^{N+1} \|f_i\|_{p_i} \quad (8)$$

□

Question 10-3. Assume in Hölder's inequality $f \geq 0$, $g \leq 0$, and

$$\int_X f g d\mu = \|f\|_p \|g\|_q.$$

Prove that $f(x)^p = g(x)^q$ μ -a.e., to within a multiplicative constant.

Proof. If is true, then it also indicates

$$\int_X \bar{f} \bar{g} d\mu = 1$$

where $\bar{f} = \frac{f}{\|f\|_p}$ and $\bar{g} = \frac{g}{\|g\|_q}$. It also translates to

$$\int_X \bar{f} \bar{g} d\mu = \frac{1}{p} \int_X \bar{f}^p d\mu + \frac{1}{q} \int_X \bar{g}^q d\mu.$$

Therefore, $\bar{f} \bar{g} = \bar{f}^p/p + \bar{g}^q/q$ μ -a.e. Since this is a case of *Young's inequality*, the equality holds if and only if $\bar{f}^p = \bar{g}^q$ μ -a.e. □

Question 10-7. Suppose $1 \leq p < r < q < \infty$. Prove that $L^p \cap L^q \subset L^r$.

Proof. Since $\frac{1}{q} < \frac{1}{r} < \frac{1}{p}$, there exists a unique θ such that

$$\frac{1}{r} = \frac{\theta}{p} + \frac{1-\theta}{q}.$$

The number θ satisfies $0 < \theta < 1$ and equals

$$\theta = \frac{\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{q}}{\frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{q}}, \quad 1 - \theta = \frac{\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{p}}{\frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{p}}.$$

It follows that $1 = \frac{r\theta}{p} + \frac{r(1-\theta)}{q}$ which indicates that $p/(r\theta)$ and $q/(r(1-\theta))$ are conjugate exponents. Thus by Hölder's inequality,

$$\|f\|_r = \|f^\theta f^{1-\theta}\|_r \quad (9)$$

$$= \|f^{r\theta} f^{r(1-\theta)}\|_1^{1/r} \quad (10)$$

$$\leq \left(\|f^{r\theta}\|_{\frac{p}{r\theta}} \|f^{r(1-\theta)}\|_{\frac{q}{r(1-\theta)}} \right)^{1/r} \quad (11)$$

$$= \left(\|f\|_p^{r\theta} \|f\|_q^{r(1-\theta)} \right)^{1/r} \quad (12)$$

$$= \|f\|_p^\theta \|f\|_q^{1-\theta} < \infty. \quad (13)$$

Therefore, L^r norm is also finite for all $f \in L^p \cap L^q$. □

For the journal

We have similar environments for Theorems, Exercises, and Challenge Problems.

Theorem 1.32. You should restate the theorem here.

Proof. Insert your proof here. □

Exercise 1.22.

Proof. □

Challenge Problem 1.14.

Proof. □

Writing in math mode

When you want to write something in “math mode”, you should enclose it in dollar signs: $x + y = a^2 + b^2$. If it’s an important equation and you want to set it off, you can do it like this:

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

If you have a chain of deductions, you can line them up like this. (The ampersand & tells it where to line up—usually you will want it right before the equals sign. You should have an ampersand in each line. The double-backslash `\` tells it to move to the next line.)

$$\begin{aligned} 2x &= 2y - 10 \\ x &= y - 5 \\ z + x &= y - 5 + z \end{aligned}$$

If you want to include justifications, one way is like this:

$$\begin{aligned} 2x &= 2y - 10 & (A5) \\ x &= y - 5 & (A4) \\ z + x &= y - 5 + z & (W) \end{aligned}$$

You can also include words:

$$\begin{aligned} 2x &= 2y - 10 & \text{by commutativity} \\ x &= y - 5 & \text{since } y \text{ is the GCD} \\ z + x &= y - 5 + z & \text{because 2 is prime} \end{aligned}$$

Here are some symbols that might come up in the homeworks and journals (but remember you can view the source of the scripts and homeworks on the course webpage).

Let $x \in \mathbb{Z}[i]$ and $y \in \mathbb{Q}[i]$. Then $x^2 + y^2 \in \mathbb{Q}[i]$. If you have two numbers $n_1 \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $n_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$, then you should be satisfied. Many students don’t have it so good. You can ask whether $n_1 < n_2$, or even if $n_1 \leq n_2$. I wonder if $a|b$? Greek letters: $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \pi, \Gamma, \Delta$.

Maybe you want to talk about the set $S = \{x \in \mathbb{Z} | x^2 = 2\}$, or maybe the set $T = \{x \in \mathbb{Z} | x^2 \text{ is even}\}$. Did you notice that $S \subseteq T$? It’s also true that $S \neq T$.

You might need to write fractions like $\frac{p}{q}$, or even $\frac{a}{a^2+b^2}$. If this fractions are too small, you can display them like this (see how I made those big parentheses?):

$$\left(\frac{p}{q}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{t}{u}\right) = \frac{a}{a^2 + b^2}$$

If you can’t figure out a symbol, you should google “Detexify”. All you have to do is draw the symbol using your mouse, and it tells you the latex command.