

ONE REFINEMENT OF JENSEN'S DISCRETE INEQUALITY AND APPLICATIONS

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*Dedicated to Professor Josip Pečarić
on the occasion of his 60th birthday*

Abstract. Jensen's inequality induces different forms of functionals which enables refinements for many classic inequalities ([5]). Several refinements of Jensen's inequalities were given in [4]. In this paper we refine Jensen's inequality by separating a discrete domain of it. At the end, we give some applications.

1. Introduction

Jensen's inequality plays the crucial role in the Theory of Inequalities. In this paper, C is a convex subset of the linear space X and f is a convex function on C . If $p_1, \dots, p_n \in (0, 1)^n$, $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 1$, and $x_1, \dots, x_n \in C$ is a sequence of vectors, then

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

In [5] the authors have investigated the differences $J(f, I, p, x) = \sum_{i \in I} p_i f(x_i) - P_I f\left(\frac{1}{P_I} \sum_{i \in I} p_i x_i\right)$ as a functional depending on a function f , a set of indices I , vectors $x = \{x_i\}_{i \in I}$ and weights $p = \{p_i\}_{i \in I}$ with a constraint $P_I = \sum_{i \in I} p_i \neq 0$. The next refinement of (1) was proven in [5] as a consequence of its Theorem 2.1, part (ii).

COROLLARY 1. *Let $f : C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a convex function on a convex subset C of a real linear space X , $p_i > 0$, and $x_i \in C$. If $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 1$, then*

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i) - f\left(\sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i\right) &\geq \max_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \left\{ p_i f(x_i) + p_j f(x_j) - (p_i + p_j) f\left(\frac{p_i x_i + p_j x_j}{p_i + p_j}\right) \right\} \\ &\geq 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

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In [4] the authors obtained a refinement for a convex function in a particular case of its domain.

THEOREM 1. *Let C be a convex subset of a linear space X and $0 \in C$. Suppose $f : C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a convex function on C , $x_j \in C$, $p_i \in (0, 1), i \in I_n = \{1, \dots, n\}, n \geq 2$ and $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 1$.*

If $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i = 0$, then $\frac{p_k}{p_k - 1} x_k \in C$ for all $k \in I_n$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i) &\geq \max_{k \in I_n} \left[p_k f(x_k) + (1 - p_k) f\left(\frac{p_k}{p_k - 1} \cdot x_k\right) \right] \\ &\geq \min_{k \in I_n} \left[p_k f(x_k) + (1 - p_k) f\left(\frac{p_k}{p_k - 1} \cdot x_k\right) \right] \geq f(0). \end{aligned}$$

In [3] the author refined Jensen’s inequality representing the consequence of extracting the single element from $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ together with its weight.

THEOREM 2. *Let $f : C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a convex function defined on the convex subset C of the linear space X , $x_i \in C$, $p_i > 0, i \in I_n = \{1, \dots, n\}, n \geq 2$ with $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 1$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i\right) &\leq \min_{k \in I_n} \left[(1 - p_k) f\left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i - p_k x_k}{1 - p_k}\right) + p_k f(x_k) \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{n} \left[\sum_{k=1}^n (1 - p_k) f\left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i - p_k x_k}{1 - p_k}\right) + \sum_{k=1}^n p_k f(x_k) \right] \\ &\leq \max_{k \in I_n} \left[(1 - p_k) f\left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i - p_k x_k}{1 - p_k}\right) + p_k f(x_k) \right] \\ &\leq \sum_{j=1}^n p_j f(x_j). \end{aligned}$$

In particular, for $p_k = \frac{1}{n}, k = 1, \dots, n$, we have the following inequalities:

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right) &\leq \frac{1}{n} \min_{k \in I_n} \left[(n - 1) \cdot f\left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i - x_k}{n - 1}\right) + f(x_k) \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{n^2} \left[(n - 1) \sum_{k=1}^n f\left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i - x_k}{n - 1}\right) + \sum_{j=1}^n f(x_j) \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{n} \max_{k \in I_n} \left[(n - 1) \cdot f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} x_i}{n - 1}\right) + f(x_k) \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i). \end{aligned}$$

The result given in Theorem 2 can be interpreted as an extension of that from Theorem 1 for the case $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i \neq 0$. In this paper we give some generalizations of the results given above and as a consequence, (2) is generalized considering it in the manner

$$f\left(\sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i\right) \leq \max_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \left\{ (p_i + p_j) f\left(\frac{p_i x_i + p_j x_j}{p_i + p_j}\right) + \sum_{k \neq i, j} p_k f(x_k) \right\} \leq \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i).$$

2. General Result

The refinement in Theorem 2 is due to the separation $I_n = (I_n \setminus \{x_i\}) \cup \{x_i\}$. This separation can be generalized in many different ways. Next refinements are consequences of such generalizations. The main result is given below.

THEOREM 2.1. *Let $f : C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a convex function on the convex subset C of the linear space X , $x_i \in C$, $p_i > 0, i \in I_n = \{1, \dots, n\}, n \geq 3$ with $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 1$.*

If $\mathcal{I} = \{I \subset I_n, I \neq I_n, |I| \geq 2\}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i\right) &\leq \min_{\mathcal{I}} \left[P_I f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} p_i x_i}{P_I}\right) + \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I} p_i f(x_i) \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2^n - n - 2} \left[\sum_{I \subset I_n} P_I f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} p_i x_i}{P_I}\right) + (2^{n-1} - n) \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i) \right] \\ &\leq \max_{\mathcal{I}} \left[P_I f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} p_i x_i}{P_I}\right) + \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I} p_i f(x_i) \right] \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i). \end{aligned}$$

In particular,

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right) &\leq \frac{1}{n} \min_{\mathcal{I}} \left[|I| f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} x_i}{|I|}\right) + \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I} f(x_i) \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{n} \cdot \frac{1}{2^n - n - 2} \left[\sum_{I \subset I_n} |I| f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} x_i}{|I|}\right) + (2^{n-1} - n) \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i) \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{n} \max_{\mathcal{I}} \left[|I| f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} x_i}{|I|}\right) + \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I} f(x_i) \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Take a separation $I_n = I \cup (I_n \setminus I)$, name $J = I_n \setminus I$ and note that $P_I + P_J = 1$. Do the further estimation using Jensen’s inequality (1) twice, by observing $\sum_{i \in J} \frac{p_i}{P_J} = 1$:

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i\right) &= f\left(P_I \cdot \frac{\sum_{i \in I} p_i x_i}{P_I} + P_J \cdot \frac{\sum_{i \in J} p_i x_i}{P_J}\right) \\ &\leq P_I f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} p_i x_i}{P_I}\right) + P_J \cdot f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in J} p_i x_i}{P_J}\right) \\ &\leq P_I f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} p_i x_i}{P_I}\right) + \sum_{i \in J} p_i f(x_i) \\ &\leq \sum_{i \in I} p_i f(x_i) + \sum_{i \in J} p_i f(x_i) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i). \end{aligned}$$

For further estimation we extract the following inequality which holds for every $I \subseteq I_n$:

$$f\left(\sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i\right) \leq P_I f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} p_i x_i}{P_I}\right) + \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I} p_i f(x_i) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i). \tag{3}$$

The statement in the Theorem follows from taking the min and max of the

$$A_I = P_I f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} p_i x_i}{P_I}\right) + \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I} p_i f(x_i),$$

over the every $I \subset I_n$ such that $|I| \geq 2$. We use the fact

$$\min_{I \subset I_n} A_I \leq \frac{1}{N} \sum_{I \subset I_n} A_I \leq \max_{I \subset I_n} A_I, \tag{4}$$

where $N = 2^n - n - 2$ represents the number of subsets from I_n except \emptyset , the base set I_n and the subsets of the kind $|I| = 1$. Taking any of these subsets, the refinement is shutting down.

Note that $\sum_{I \subset I_n} \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I} p_i f(x_i) = (2^{n-1} - (n-1) - 1) \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i)$, because every $p_i f(x_i)$ appears as many times as there is a subset $I \subset I_n, |I| \geq 2$, that doesn’t contain the index i . \square

In the next theorem, subsets of equivalent cardinality are observed.

THEOREM 2.2. *Let $f : C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a convex function on the convex subset C of the linear space X , $x_i \in C$, $p_i > 0, i \in I_n = \{1, \dots, n\}, n \geq 3$ with $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 1$. For every*

subset $I \subset I_n$ such that $|I| = s \geq 2$, we can state the following:

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i\right) &\leq \min_{|I|=s} \left[P_I f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} p_i x_i}{P_I}\right) + \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I} p_i f(x_i) \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\binom{n}{s}} \left[\sum_{|I|=s} P_I f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} p_i x_i}{P_I}\right) + \binom{n-1}{s} \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i) \right] \\ &\leq \max_{|I|=s} \left[P_I f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} p_i x_i}{P_I}\right) + \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I} p_i f(x_i) \right] \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i). \end{aligned}$$

In particular:

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right) &\leq \frac{1}{n} \min_{|I|=s} \left[s \cdot f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} x_i}{s}\right) + \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I} f(x_i) \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\binom{n}{s}} \left[\frac{s}{n} \sum_{|I|=s} f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} x_i}{s}\right) + \binom{n-1}{s} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i) \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{n} \max_{|I|=s} \left[s \cdot f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} x_i}{s}\right) + \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I} f(x_i) \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. The statement in the Theorem follows from taking the min and max of the middle side of (3), after choosing every subset $I \subset I_n$, such that $|I| = s, 2 \leq s < n$.

We use the fact mentioned in (4), where $N = \binom{n}{s}$ represents the number of sub-

sets $I \subset I_n, |I| = s$. Note that $\sum_{I \subset I_n, |I|=s} \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I} p_i f(x_i) = \left[\binom{n}{s} - \binom{n-1}{s-1} \right] \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i)$,

because every $p_i f(x_i)$ in the double sum appears as many times as there are subsets $I \subset I_n, |I| = s \geq 2$ such that $i \notin I$. The subset $I \subset I_n$, with $|I| = s$ and $i \in I$ is constructed by adding $s - 1$ elements from the $n - 1$ available once. Algebraically,

$$\left[\binom{n}{s} - \binom{n-1}{s-1} \right] \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i) = \binom{n-1}{s} \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i). \quad \square$$

The result from [3] is here obtained for $s = n - 1$. Actually,

$$\min_{I \subset I_n, |I|=n-1} A_I = \min_{k \in I_n} A_k, \quad \max_{I \subset I_n, |I|=n-1} A_I = \max_{k \in I_n} A_k$$

and $\sum_{I \subset I_n, |I|=n-1} A_I = \sum_{k=1}^n A_k$, where $A_k = (1 - p_k) f\left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i - p_k x_k}{(1 - p_k)}\right) + p_k f(x_k)$.

The inequalities from Theorem 2.2 can be rewritten as those in Theorem 2.

Every partition of $I_n = \{1, \dots, n\}$ gives the statement obtained in the next Theorem.

THEOREM 2.3. *Let $f : C \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a convex function on the convex subset C of the linear space X , $x_i \in C$, $p_i \in (0, 1)$, $i \in I_n = \{1, \dots, n\}$, $n \geq 4$ and $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 1$. For every integer k , $4 \leq 2k \leq n$ there is a partition $I_1 \cup \dots \cup I_k = I_n$ with $2 \leq |I_j| < n$ for $j = 1, \dots, k$.*

Then

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i\right) &\leq \min_{j=1, \dots, k} \left[P_{I_j} f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I_j} p_i x_i}{P_{I_j}}\right) + \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I_j} p_i f(x_i) \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{k} \left[\sum_{j=1}^k P_{I_j} f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I_j} p_i x_i}{P_{I_j}}\right) + (k-1) \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i) \right] \\ &\leq \max_{j=1, \dots, k} \left[P_{I_j} f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I_j} p_i x_i}{P_{I_j}}\right) + \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I_j} p_i f(x_i) \right] \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i) \end{aligned}$$

holds.

Proof. Every subset $I_j \subset I_n$ induced its complement $I_n \setminus I_j$ and (3) is valid with the substitutions: $I \rightarrow I_j$. For $A_{I_j} = P_{I_j} f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I_j} p_i x_i}{P_{I_j}}\right) + \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I_j} p_i f(x_i)$ we take the min and max over $j = 1, \dots, k$ and use the fact that

$$\min_{j=1, \dots, k} A_{I_j} \leq \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k A_{I_j} \leq \max_{j=1, \dots, k} A_{I_j}.$$

Note: $\sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I_j} p_i f(x_i) = (k-1) \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i)$. \square

Theorem 2.1 ensures the next refinement of (2).

COROLLARY 2.1. *Under the conditions of Theorem 2.1, we obtain*

$$\sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i) - f\left(\sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i\right) \geq \max_I \left[\sum_{i \in I} p_i f(x_i) - P_I f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} p_i x_i}{P_I}\right) \right] \geq 0.$$

In particular, for $p_i = \frac{1}{n}$, $i \in I_n$:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i) - n \cdot f\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right) \geq \max_I \left[\sum_{i \in I} f(x_i) - |I| \cdot f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} x_i}{|I|}\right) \right].$$

Proof. Subtracting $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i)$ from every side of (3), we obtain that for every choice of $I \subseteq I_n = \{1, \dots, n\}$ there is a statement:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i) - f\left(\sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i\right) \geq \sum_{i \in I} p_i f(x_i) - P_I f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in I} p_i x_i}{P_I}\right) \geq 0. \tag{5}$$

Taking the max of the right side in (5) for $I \subset I_n, |I| \geq 2$, the proof is making through. Similarly, taking $p_i = \frac{1}{n}$, we obtain the second inequality. \square

The main result from [4] given in Theorem 1 is generalized and refined as a consequence of Theorem 2.1.

COROLLARY 2.2. *Conditions are taken from Theorem 2.1. Suppose $0 \in C$. For $J \subset I_n$ note $P_J = \sum_{i \in J} p_i$. If*

$$\sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i = 0, \tag{6}$$

then

$$\sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i) \geq \max_{0 < |J| < n-1} \left[\sum_{i \in J} p_i f(x_i) + (1 - P_J) f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in J} p_i x_i}{P_J - 1}\right) \right] \geq f(0).$$

In particular, for $p_i = \frac{1}{n}$, there are

$$\sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i) \geq \max_{0 < |J| < n-1} \left[\sum_{i \in J} f(x_i) + (n - |J|) f\left(\frac{\sum_{i \in J} x_i}{|J| - n}\right) \right] \geq n f(0),$$

Proof. We substitute condition (6) in (3), observing it for $J = I_n \setminus I$.

$$f(0) \leq (1 - P_{I_n \setminus I}) f\left(\frac{-\sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I} p_i x_i}{1 - P_{I_n \setminus I}}\right) + \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I} p_i f(x_i) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n p_i f(x_i),$$

and take the max for $1 \leq |I_n \setminus I| \leq n - 2$. \square

3. Applications

Some convex functions admit consequences of the results that have been obtained above.

APPLICATION 1. *If $(X, \|\cdot\|)$ is a normed linear space, then the function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $f(x) = \|x\|^p$ is a convex function for $p \geq 1$.*

Taking $x_i \in X$, $p_i > 0$, $i \in I_n = \{1, \dots, n\}$, $n > 2$ with $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 1$, we get the next chain of inequalities for $I \subset I_n$ such that $|I| \geq 2$.

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i \right\|^p &\leq \min_I \left[P_I^{1-p} \left\| \sum_{i \in I} p_i x_i \right\|^p + \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I} p_i \|x_i\|^p \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2^n - n - 2} \left[\sum_I P_I^{1-p} \left\| \sum_{i \in I} p_i x_i \right\|^p + (2^{n-1} - n) \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \|x_i\|^p \right] \\ &\leq \max_I \left[P_I^{1-p} \left\| \sum_{i \in I} p_i x_i \right\|^p + \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I} p_i \|x_i\|^p \right] \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \|x_i\|^p. \end{aligned}$$

In particular, the un-weighted refinement is given as

$$\begin{aligned} n^{1-p} \left\| \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right\|^p &\leq \min_I \left[|I|^{1-p} \left\| \sum_{i \in I} x_i \right\|^p + \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I} \|x_i\|^p \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2^n - n - 2} \cdot \left[\sum_I |I|^{1-p} \left\| \sum_{i \in I} x_i \right\|^p + (2^{n-1} - n) \sum_{i=1}^n \|x_i\|^p \right] \\ &\leq \max_I \left[|I|^{1-p} \left\| \sum_{i \in I} x_i \right\|^p + \sum_{i \in I_n \setminus I} \|x_i\|^p \right] \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^n \|x_i\|^p. \end{aligned}$$

The arithmetic mean-geometric mean inequality is well known in the literature. If $x_i, p_i > 0$, $i \in I_n = \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 1$, then

$$\sum_{j=1}^n p_j x_j \geq \prod_{j=1}^n x_j^{p_j}.$$

The equality holds in the case $x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_n$.

APPLICATION 2. Let $x_i, p_i > 0, i \in I_n = \{1, \dots, n\}, n \geq 3$, with $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 1$. Applying the concave function $f : (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, defined as $f(x) = \ln x$, we are obtaining the next chain of inequalities. If $I \subset I_n$ and $|I| \geq 2$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i &\geq \max_I \left[\left(\sum_{i \in I} \frac{p_i x_i}{P_I} \right)^{P_I} \cdot \prod_{i \in I_n \setminus I} x_i^{p_i} \right] \\ &\geq \left[\prod_I \left(\sum_{i \in I} \frac{p_i x_i}{P_I} \right)^{P_I} \cdot \left(\prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{p_i} \right)^{2^{n-1}-n} \right]^{\frac{1}{2^{n-1}-n-2}} \\ &\geq \min_I \left[\left(\sum_{i \in I} \frac{p_i x_i}{P_I} \right)^{P_I} \cdot \prod_{i \in I_n \setminus I} x_i^{p_i} \right] \\ &\geq \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{p_i} \end{aligned}$$

In particular, for the un-weighted case:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i &\geq \max_I \left[\left(\frac{1}{|I|} \sum_{i \in I} x_i \right)^{|I|} \cdot \prod_{i \in I_n \setminus I} x_i \right]^{\frac{1}{n}} \\ &\geq \left[\prod_I \left(\frac{1}{|I|} \sum_{i \in I} x_i \right)^{|I|} \cdot \left(\prod_{i=1}^n x_i \right)^{2^{n-1}-n} \right]^{\frac{1}{n(2^{n-1}-n-2)}} \\ &\geq \min_I \left[\left(\frac{1}{|I|} \sum_{i \in I} x_i \right)^{|I|} \cdot \prod_{i \in I_n \setminus I} x_i \right]^{\frac{1}{n}} \\ &\geq \left(\prod_{i=1}^n x_i \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} \end{aligned}$$

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