

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

Let $\text{AMGM}(n)$ be the statement

"For every n -tuple of positive real numbers, (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) ,

$$\sqrt[n]{\prod_{i=1}^n x_i} \leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i,$$

with equality iff $x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_n$."

Theorem 1 $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\text{AMGM}(n)$.

Lemma 2 $\text{AMGM}(2)$.

Proof Let $D = \sqrt{x_1} - \sqrt{x_2}$. Then $D^2 \geq 0$ with equality iff $x_1 = x_2$.

$$\Rightarrow 0 \leq D^2 = (\sqrt{x_1} - \sqrt{x_2})^2 = x_1 - 2\sqrt{x_1 x_2} + x_2$$

with equality iff $x_1 = x_2$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt{x_1 x_2} \leq \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2} \quad \text{with equality iff } x_1 = x_2. \quad \square$$

Lemma 3 If $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\text{AMGM}(n)$ and $\text{AMGM}(2)$, then $\text{AMGM}(2n)$.

Proof

$$\sqrt[2n]{\prod_{i=1}^n x_i \prod_{i=1}^n y_i} = \sqrt[n]{\prod_{i=1}^n x_i} \sqrt[n]{\prod_{i=1}^n y_i}$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{2} \left(\sqrt[n]{\prod_{i=1}^n x_i} + \sqrt[n]{\prod_{i=1}^n y_i} \right)$$

with equality iff $\sqrt[n]{\prod_{i=1}^n x_i} = \sqrt[n]{\prod_{i=1}^n y_i}$, by $\text{AMGM}(2)$.

$$\leq \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i \right)$$

with equality iff $\sqrt[n]{\prod_{i=1}^n x_i} = \sqrt[n]{\prod_{i=1}^n y_i}$ and $x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_n$
and $y_1 = y_2 = \dots = y_n$,
by AMGM (n) twice

$$= \frac{1}{2n} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i + \sum_{i=1}^n y_i \right) \quad (\text{ie AM})$$

and $\sqrt[n]{\prod_{i=1}^n x_i} = \sqrt[n]{\prod_{i=1}^n y_i}$ and $x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_n$ and $y_1 = y_2 = \dots = y_n$

$$\Leftrightarrow x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_n = y_1 = y_2 = \dots = y_n. \quad \square$$

Lemma 4 If $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $n \geq 3$ and AMGM(n) then AMGM(n-1).

Proof Suppose $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{n-1})$ is a sequence of $n-1$ positive reals, and

let $x_n = \frac{x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_{n-1}}{n-1}$. Then

$$\sqrt[n]{x_1 x_2 \dots x_{n-1} x_n} \leq \frac{x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_{n-1} + x_n}{n}$$

with equality iff $x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_{n-1} = x_n$ by AMGM(n)

$$= \frac{(x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_{n-1}) \left(1 + \frac{1}{n-1}\right)}{n}$$

$$\frac{1 + \frac{1}{n-1}}{n} = \frac{1}{n(n-1)}$$

$$= \frac{x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_{n-1}}{n-1} = x_n$$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt[n]{x_1 x_2 \dots x_{n-1} x_n} \leq x_n \quad \text{now divide both sides by } \sqrt[n]{x_n}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt[n]{x_1 x_2 \dots x_{n-1}} \leq x_n^{\frac{n-1}{n}} \quad \text{raise to power } \frac{n}{n-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt[n-1]{x_1 x_2 \dots x_{n-1}} \leq x_n = \frac{x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_{n-1}}{n-1}$$

with equality $\iff x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_{n-1}$.

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