

If $0 < a \leq b$ then:

$$e^{ab} + e^{\left(\frac{2ab}{a+b}\right)^2} \leq e^{\left(\frac{2ab}{a+b}\right)^2} + e^{\left(\sqrt{ab} + \frac{a+b}{2} - \frac{2ab}{a+b}\right)^2}$$

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Solution 1 by Albert Stadler, Herrliberg, Switzerland.

We divide both sides by $e^{\left(\frac{2ab}{a+b}\right)^2} > 0$ and get the equivalent inequality

$$e^{\frac{ab(a-b)^2}{(a+b)^2}} + e^{\frac{(a-b)^2(a^2+6ab+b^2)}{4(a+b)^2}} \leq 1 + e^{\frac{(a-b)^2(a+4\sqrt{ab}+b)}{4(a+b)}}.$$

Let x be real. The Taylor expansion of the exponential function is

$$e^x = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!}.$$

It is therefore sufficient to prove that

$$\left(\frac{ab(a-b)^2}{(a+b)^2}\right)^k + \left(\frac{(a-b)^2(a^2+6ab+b^2)}{4(a+b)^2}\right)^k \leq \left(\frac{(a-b)^2(a+4\sqrt{ab}+b)}{4(a+b)}\right)^k$$

for all $k \geq 1$. This inequality is equivalent to

$$(4ab)^k + (a^2 + 6ab + b^2)^k \leq \left((a + 4\sqrt{ab} + b)(a + b)\right)^k, \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

which is true, since

$$(a + 4\sqrt{ab} + b)(a + b) = (a + b)^2 + 4\sqrt{ab}(a + b) \geq (a + b)^2 + 4\sqrt{ab} \cdot 2\sqrt{ab} = a^2 + 10ab + b^2$$

and given $x, y > 0$ we have $x^k + y^k \leq (x + y)^k$ for $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ $\square$

Solution 2 by Michel Bataille, Rouen, France.

If $a = b$ equality holds, so we suppose that $a < b$ in what follows. Let

$h = 2ab/(a + b), g = \sqrt{ab}, m = (a + b)/2$. We have $h < g < m$ (inequalities of means). The proposed inequality writes as

$$(1) \quad \phi(g) - \phi(h) \leq \phi(g + m - h) - \phi(m)$$

where $\phi(x) = e^{x^2}$. Note that $h < g < m < g + m - h$. The Mean Value Theorem show that $\phi(g) - \phi(h) = (g - h)\phi'(u)$ and $\phi(g + m - h) - \phi(m) = (g - h)\phi'(v)$ for some $u \in (h, g), v \in (m, g + m - h)$. An easy calculation gives $\phi''(x) = (4x^2 + 2)e^{x^2} > 0$, hence ϕ' is an increasing function. Consequently $\phi'(u) < \phi'(v)$ and since $g - h > 0$, (1) follows. $\square$

Solution 3 by Perfetti Paolo, dipartimento di matematica.

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Set

$$\sqrt{ab} =: G, \quad \frac{a+b}{2} =: M, \quad \frac{2ab}{a+b} =: H.$$

We know $M \geq G \geq H$. This inequality in question is equivalent to

$$e^{G^2} - e^{H^2} \leq e^{(G+M-H)^2} - e^{M^2}.$$

We observe that $(G+M-H)^2 - M^2 = (G-H)(G+2M-H) \geq 0$. Clearly

$$H^2 \leq G^2 \leq M^2 \leq (G+M-H)^2$$

Lagrange's theorem yields

$$e^{G^2} - e^{H^2} - e^\xi(G^2 - H^2) \leq e^{(G+M-H)^2} - e^{M^2} = e^\eta((G+M-H)^2 - M^2)$$

where $G^2 < \xi < H^2 \leq M^2 < \eta < (G+M-H)^2$. Because of $(e^x)^\eta = e^x > 0$ we have

$$e^\eta((G+M-H)^2 - M^2) \geq e^\xi((G+M-H)^2 - M^2)$$

thus it suffices to show that

$$e^\xi(G^2 - H^2) \leq e^\xi((G+M-H)^2 - M^2) \Leftrightarrow G^2 - H^2 \leq (G+M-H)^2 - M^2$$

or

$$GH + MH \leq H^2 + GM \Leftrightarrow H(M-H) \leq G(M-H)$$

and this concludes the proof. $\square$

Solution 4 by proposer.

Lemma:

If $a, b, x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}; a \leq x \leq y \leq z \leq b; y+z \leq b+x; f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}; f$ convexe; then:

$$(1) \quad f(y) + f(z) \leq f(x) + f(y+z-x)$$

Proof.

$$x \leq z \Rightarrow 0 \leq z-x \Rightarrow y \leq y+z-x$$

$$x \leq y \Rightarrow 0 \leq y-x \Rightarrow z \leq y+z-x$$

$$y \in [x; y+z-x] \Rightarrow (\exists)\alpha \in [0, 1]$$

$$(2) \quad y = \alpha x + (1-\alpha)(y+z-x)$$

$$z \in [x; y+z-x] \Rightarrow (\exists)\beta \in [0, 1]$$

$$(3) \quad z = \beta x + (1-\beta)(y+z-x)$$

By adding (2); (3):

$$(4) \quad y+z = (\alpha+\beta)x + (y+z-x)(2-\alpha-\beta)$$

$$y+z = x + (y+z-x)$$

Replacing $y+z$ in (4):

$$x + (y+z-x) = (\alpha+\beta)x + (y+z-x)(2-\alpha-\beta)$$

$$(\alpha+\beta-1)x + (y+z-x)(1-\alpha-\beta) = 0$$

$$(\alpha+\beta-1)(x-y-z+x) = 0$$

$$(\alpha+\beta-1)(2x-y-z) = 0$$

$$(5) \quad \text{Case I: } 2x-y-z=0 \Rightarrow y+z=2x$$

$$(6) \quad \text{But } x \leq y; x \leq z \Rightarrow 2x \leq y+z$$

By (5); (6) $\Rightarrow x = y = z$

Inequality (1) becomes:

$$f(x) + f(x) \leq f(x) + f(x + x - x) \text{ (true)}$$

$$\text{Case II: } \alpha + \beta - 1 = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha + \beta = 1 \Rightarrow 2 - \alpha - \beta = 1$$

$$f \text{ convexe ; } y, z \in [x, y + z - x] \Rightarrow$$

$$\Rightarrow (\exists) \alpha, \beta \in [0, 1] \text{ such that:}$$

$$(7) \quad f(y) \leq \alpha f(x) + (1 - \alpha)f(y + z - x)$$

$$(8) \quad f(z) \leq \beta f(x) + (1 - \beta)f(y + z - x)$$

By adding (7); (8):

$$f(y) + f(z) \leq (\alpha + \beta)f(x) + (2 - \alpha - \beta)f(y + z - x)$$

$$f(y) + f(z) \leq f(x) + f(y + z - x)$$

□

Back to main problem:

We take in (1) : $f : (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$;

$$f(x) = e^{x^2}; f'(x) = 2xe^{x^2};$$

$$f''(x) = 2e^{x^2}(1 + 2x^2) > 0; f \text{ convexe.}$$

$$f(y) + f(z) \leq f(x) + f(y + z - x)$$

$$(9) \quad e^{y^2} + e^{z^2} \leq e^{x^2} + e^{(y+z-x)^2}$$

We take in (9):

$$x = \frac{2ab}{a+b}; y = \sqrt{ab}; z = \frac{a+b}{2}$$

$$e^{(\sqrt{ab})^2} + e^{(\frac{a+b}{2})^2} \leq e^{(\frac{2ab}{a+b})^2} + e^{(\sqrt{ab} + \frac{a+b}{2} - \frac{2ab}{a+b})^2}$$

$$e^{ab} + e^{(\frac{a+b}{2})^2} \leq e^{(\frac{2ab}{a+b})^2} + e^{(\sqrt{ab} + \frac{a+b}{2} - \frac{2ab}{a+b})^2}$$

Equality holds for $a = b$.

□

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