

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

If $a, b > 0$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq 2$ then :

$$\sqrt[n]{\frac{a}{b}} + \sqrt[n]{\frac{b}{a}} \leq \sqrt[n]{2^{n-2}(a+b)\left(\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b}\right)}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } \frac{a}{b} = t \text{ and then : } \sqrt[n]{\frac{a}{b}} + \sqrt[n]{\frac{b}{a}} &\stackrel{?}{\leq} \sqrt[n]{2^{n-2}(a+b)\left(\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b}\right)} \\ \Leftrightarrow \sqrt[n]{t} + \frac{1}{\sqrt[n]{t}} &\stackrel{?}{\leq} \sqrt[n]{2^{n-2} \cdot \left(2 + t + \frac{1}{t}\right)} \Leftrightarrow 1 + t^{\frac{2}{n}} \stackrel{?}{\leq} \sqrt[n]{2^{n-2} \cdot (2t + t^2 + 1)} \\ = 2^{\frac{n-2}{n}} \cdot (t+1)^{\frac{2}{n}} &\Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{1}{t+1}\right)^{\frac{2}{n}} + \left(\frac{t}{t+1}\right)^{\frac{2}{n}} \stackrel{?}{\leq} 2^{\frac{n-2}{n}} \Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{1}{t+1}\right)^{\frac{2}{n}} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{t+1}\right)^{\frac{2}{n}} \stackrel{?}{\leq} 2^{\frac{n-2}{n}} \\ \Leftrightarrow u^{\frac{2}{n}} + (1-u)^{\frac{2}{n}} &\stackrel{?}{\leq} 2^{\frac{n-2}{n}} \quad \left(u = \frac{1}{t+1}; 0 < u < 1 : t > 0\right) \end{aligned}$$

Let $F(u) = u^{\frac{2}{n}} + (1-u)^{\frac{2}{n}} - 2^{\frac{n-2}{n}} \forall u \in (0, 1)$ and $\forall n \in (\mathbb{N}^* - \{1\}); n \rightarrow \text{fixed}$

and then : $F'(u) = \frac{2}{n} \left(u^{\frac{2}{n}-1} - (1-u)^{\frac{2}{n}-1} \right)$

$$\Rightarrow F'(u) \stackrel{(*)}{=} \frac{2}{n} \cdot (1-u)^{\frac{2}{n}-1} \cdot \left(\left(\frac{u}{1-u} \right)^{\frac{2}{n}-1} - 1 \right)$$

Case 1 $0 < u \leq \frac{1}{2}$ and then : $2u \leq 1 \Rightarrow u \leq 1-u \Rightarrow \frac{u}{1-u} \leq 1$

$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{2}{n} - 1 \right) \cdot \ln \frac{u}{1-u} \geq 0 \quad \left(\because \frac{2}{n} - 1 \leq 0 \right) \Rightarrow \ln \left(\left(\frac{u}{1-u} \right)^{\frac{2}{n}-1} \right) \geq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2}{n} \cdot (1-u)^{\frac{2}{n}-1} \cdot \left(\left(\frac{u}{1-u} \right)^{\frac{2}{n}-1} - 1 \right) \geq 0 \quad \left(\because 0 < u \leq \frac{1}{2} < 1 \Rightarrow 1-u > 0 \right) \Rightarrow \text{via } (*)$$

$$F'(u) \geq 0 \Rightarrow F(u) \text{ is } \uparrow \text{ on } \left(0, \frac{1}{2} \right] \Rightarrow F(u) \leq F\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 2 \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^{\frac{2}{n}} - 2^{\frac{n-2}{n}} = 0 \quad \forall u \in \left(0, \frac{1}{2} \right]$$

Case 2 $\frac{1}{2} \leq u < 1$ and then : $2u \geq 1 \Rightarrow u \geq 1-u \Rightarrow \frac{u}{1-u} \geq 1$

$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{2}{n} - 1 \right) \cdot \ln \frac{u}{1-u} \leq 0 \quad \left(\because \frac{2}{n} - 1 \leq 0 \right) \Rightarrow \ln \left(\left(\frac{u}{1-u} \right)^{\frac{2}{n}-1} \right) \leq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2}{n} \cdot (1-u)^{\frac{2}{n}-1} \cdot \left(\left(\frac{u}{1-u} \right)^{\frac{2}{n}-1} - 1 \right) \leq 0 \quad \left(\because 0 < u \leq \frac{1}{2} < 1 \Rightarrow 1-u > 0 \right) \Rightarrow \text{via } (*)$$

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$F'(u) \leq 0 \Rightarrow F(u) \text{ is } \downarrow \text{ on } \left[\frac{1}{2}, 1\right) \Rightarrow F(u) \leq F\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 2\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{\frac{2}{n}} - 2^{\frac{n-2}{n}} = 0 \forall u \in \left[\frac{1}{2}, 1\right)$
 $\therefore$ combining cases 1 and 2, $F(u) \leq 0 \forall u \in (0, 1)$ and $\forall n \in (\mathbb{N}^* - \{1\})$; $n \rightarrow$ fixed
 $\Rightarrow (*)$ is true $\forall u \in (0, 1)$ and $\forall n \in (\mathbb{N}^* - \{1\})$

$$\therefore \sqrt[n]{\frac{a}{b}} + \sqrt[n]{\frac{b}{a}} \leq \sqrt[n]{2^{n-2}(a+b)\left(\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b}\right)} \quad \forall a, b > 0 \wedge n \in \mathbb{N} \mid n \geq 2,$$

" = " iff $a = b$ (QED)