

Problem 1. Show that for all positive sequences $\{x_i\}$ and all integers $n > 0$,

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^j x_i \leq 2 \sum_{k=1}^n \left(\sum_{j=1}^k x_j \right)^2 x_k^{-1}.$$

Solution. Interchanging the order of summation gives

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^j x_i = \sum_{j=1}^n (n-j+1) \sum_{i=1}^j x_i = \sum_{i=1}^n \binom{n-i+2}{2} x_i \geq \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2} (n-i+1)^2 x_i.$$

This observation, together with the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, yields

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^j x_i &= \sum_{j=1}^n (n-j+1) \sum_{i=1}^j x_i \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n (n-j+1) x_j^{1/2} \left(\sum_{i=1}^j x_i \right) x_j^{-1/2} \\ &\leq \left(\sum_{j=1}^n (n-j+1)^2 x_j \right)^{1/2} \left(\sum_{j=1}^n \left(\sum_{i=1}^j x_i \right)^2 x_j^{-1} \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq \left(2 \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^j x_i \right)^{1/2} \left(\sum_{j=1}^n \left(\sum_{i=1}^j x_i \right)^2 x_j^{-1} \right)^{1/2} \end{aligned}$$

Square both sides and divide by $\sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{i=1}^j x_i$ to get the inequality.

Problem 2. Does the above inequality remain true without the factor 2?