

Lecture 2.

Proposition 1.

Assume $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ and $a, b > 0$. Then

$$a^\alpha b^{1-\alpha} \leq \alpha a + (1 - \alpha)b \quad (1)$$

and the equality is achieved if and only if $a = b$.

Proposition 2. Young's inequality

If $p > 1$, p' is such that

$$\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{p'} = 1$$

(that is, $p' = p/(p - 1)$), and a and b are positive real numbers, then

$$ab \leq \frac{a^p}{p} + \frac{b^{p'}}{p'}, \quad (2)$$

where equality achieved if and only if $a^p = b^{p'}$.

Hölder's Inequality

If $p > 1$ and p' is such that $1/p + 1/p' = 1$ (that is, $p' = p/(p - 1)$), and a_1, \dots, a_N and b_1, \dots, b_N are positive real numbers, then

$$\sum_{n=1}^N a_n b_n \leq \left(\sum_{n=1}^N a_n^p \right)^{1/p} \left(\sum_{n=1}^N b_n^{p'} \right)^{1/p'}. \quad (3)$$

There is strict inequality unless (a_n^p) and $(b_n^{p'})$ are proportional, that is unless $a_n^p/b_n^{p'}$ is independent of n .

Cauchy-Schwartz inequality

If $p = p' = 2$, Hölder's inequality becomes Cauchy-Schwartz inequality

$$\left(\sum_{n=1}^N a_n b_n \right)^2 \leq \left(\sum_{n=1}^N a_n^2 \right) \left(\sum_{n=1}^N b_n^2 \right).$$