

1. Let $f(x) = x^3 + ax^2 + bx - 8 = (x-x_1)(x-x_2)(x-x_3)$. Then $x_i > 0$ and

$x_1 x_2 x_3 = 8$. Since $2 + x_i \geq 2\sqrt{2x_i}$, $\forall i = 1, 2, 3$, we have

$$4a - 2b - 16 = f(-2) = (-2 - x_1)(-2 - x_2)(-2 - x_3) \leq -8\sqrt{(2x_1)(2x_2)(2x_3)} = -64$$

It follows that $b - 2a \geq 24$. The minimum of $b - 2a$ can be attained by the example $f(x) = (x-2)^3 = x^3 - 6x^2 + 12x - 8$.

2. 證明：

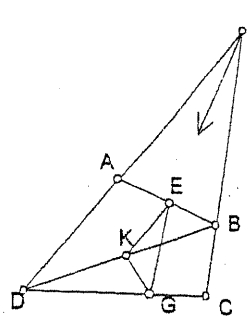
1°. 設 \overline{DA} , \overline{BC} 交于 I ,

在 \overline{DB} 上取 K , 使 $\overline{EK} \parallel \overline{AD}$

聯 \overline{GK} , 則 $\overline{GK} \parallel \overline{BC}$

$$\left(\because \frac{DG}{GC} = \frac{AE}{EB} = \frac{DK}{KB} \right)$$

$$\text{且 } \frac{EK}{AD} = \frac{BE}{AB}, \frac{GK}{BC} = \frac{DG}{CD}$$



$$EK = \frac{BE}{AE + BE} \cdot AD = \frac{1}{\frac{AE}{BE} + 1} \cdot AD = \frac{1}{\frac{AD}{BC} + 1} \cdot AD = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{BC} + \frac{1}{AD}}$$

$$GK = \frac{DG}{DG + GC} \cdot BC = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{GC}{DG}} \cdot BC = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{AC}{AD}} \cdot BC = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{BC} + \frac{1}{AD}}$$

$$\therefore EK = GK$$

作 $\overline{IX} \parallel \overline{GE}$ 則 $\angle KEG = \angle AIX$

$$\angle KGE = \angle XIB$$

$\Rightarrow \overline{IX}$ 為 $\angle AIB$ 之平分線

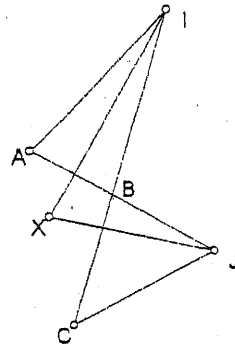
$\therefore \overline{GE} \parallel \angle AIB$ 之平分線

同理 $\therefore \overline{FH} \parallel \angle AB$ 為 \overline{CD} 交角之平分線

2°. 如右圖 \overline{IX} 平分 $\angle AIB$

\overline{JX} 平分 $\angle BJC$

$$\Rightarrow \angle IXJ = \frac{1}{2} \angle A + \angle C$$



3°. 由 2° \overline{AB} 與 \overline{CD} 交角之平分線 \perp \overline{AD} 與 \overline{BC} 交角之平分線

(即 $\angle AIB$)

(即 $\angle BJC$)

($\because A, B, C, D$ 共圓, $\therefore \angle IAB$ 與 $\angle BJC$ 互補)

由 1° $\therefore \overline{GE} \perp \overline{FH}$

3. Without loss of generality, we let $x_1 \leq x_2 \leq \dots \leq x_n$.

(a) Since

$$(x_1 + x_2) + (x_1 + x_3) + (x_2 + x_3) = 2(x_1 + x_2 + x_3) > 0,$$

at least one of $(x_1 + x_2), (x_1 + x_3), (x_2 + x_3)$ is positive.

(b) Assume that $f(5) \leq 2$. Since $b_{35} = x_3 + x_5$ and $b_{45} = x_4 + x_5$ are the

biggest two terms, we have $x_2 + x_5 < 0, x_3 + x_4 < 0$. This implies

$x_1 > 0$, by the inequality $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5 > 0$. On the other

hand, $x_1 \leq \frac{1}{2}(x_2 + x_5) < 0$. A contradiction! Hence, $f(5) \geq 3$.

(c) The minimum of $f(1997)$ is 1996. First, using the data

$x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_{n-1} = -1, x_n = n$, we have $f(n) = n - 1$. We next

show by mathematical induction that

$$f(n) \geq n - 1, \text{ for any odd integer } n \geq 7$$

Assume that $f(7) \leq 5$. Then $b_{17} < 0$, since $b_{17} \leq b_{27} \leq \dots \leq b_{67}$.

Similarly, $b_{36} < 0, b_{45} < 0$. This implies that $x_2 > 0$, since

$x_2 + b_{17} + b_{36} + b_{45} > 0$. But this leads to a contradiction with

$b_{36} = x_3 + x_6 \geq 2x_2 > 0$. Hence, $f(7) \geq 6$. Now, suppose that

$f(n) \geq n - 1$, we need to prove $f(n + 2) \geq n + 1$.

Case (i) : If $b_{1(n+2)} > 0$, then the terms $b_{i(n+2)} > 0, \forall i = 1, 2, \dots, n + 1$.

Thus, $f(n + 2) \geq n + 1$.

Case (ii) : If $b_{1(n+2)} < 0$, then $x_2 + x_3 + \dots + x_{n+1} > 0$. By induction,

there are at least $n - 1$ positive sums among x_2, x_3, \dots, x_{n+1} . This

yields the sums $b_{n(n+2)}, b_{(n+1)(n+2)}$ are also positive. It follows that

$$f(n + 2) \geq n + 1.$$