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A SHARPENING OF DISCRETE ANALOGUES  
OF WIRTINGER'S INEQUALITY

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Discrete analogues of Wirtinger's inequality have been already studied by various authors (see e.g. [1], [2], [3], [5], [6], [7], [8]). Z. Nádeník in [4] proved the following sharpening of Wirtinger's inequality:

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $f(\varphi)$  denote a continuous function with the period  $2\pi$ , which has the symmetrical derivative  $f'(\varphi) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} [f(\varphi + \varepsilon) - f(\varphi - \varepsilon)] : (2\varepsilon)$ . Let  $f'(\varphi)$  be of bounded variation in  $\langle 0, 2\pi \rangle$ . If*

$$(0.1) \quad \int_0^{2\pi} f(\varphi) \, d\varphi = 0,$$

then

$$(0.2) \quad \int_0^{2\pi} f'^2(\varphi) \, d\varphi - \int_0^{2\pi} f^2(\varphi) \, d\varphi - \frac{\pi}{2} [f(0) + f(\pi)]^2 \geq 0$$

with the equality holding only for

$$(0.3) \quad f(\varphi) = a \cos \varphi + b \sin \varphi + c(2 - \pi|\sin \varphi|), \quad a, b, c = \text{const.}$$

In this paper we prove sharpenings of two discrete analogues of Wirtinger's inequality, which are analogous to Theorem 1 (Theorems 2, 3), using real trigonometric polynomials. Then we show a geometrical application — a sharpening of the isoperimetric inequality for some polygons (Theorem 4).

1. LIST OF THEOREMS

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $n = 2m$ , let  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  be  $n$  real numbers such that*

$$(1.1) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n x_i = 0.$$

Let us define  $x_{n+1} = x_1$ . Then

$$(1.2) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - x_{i+1})^2 \geq 4 \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 + n \sin \frac{\pi}{n} \left( \sin \frac{2\pi}{n} - \sin \frac{\pi}{n} \right) (x_m + x_{2m})^2.$$

The equality in (1.2) holds if and only if

$$(1.3) \quad x_i = A \cos \frac{2\pi i}{n} + B \sin \frac{2\pi i}{n}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n, \quad A, B = \text{const.}$$

**Theorem 3.** Let  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  be  $n$  real numbers satisfying (1.1),  $n \geq 2$ . Then

$$(1.4) \quad \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (x_i - x_{i+1})^2 \geq 4 \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{2n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 + 2n \sin \frac{\pi}{2n} \left( \sin \frac{\pi}{n} - \sin \frac{\pi}{2n} \right) (x_1 + x_n)^2.$$

The equality in (1.4) holds if and only if

$$(1.5) \quad x_i = A \cos \frac{(2i-1)\pi}{2n}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n, \quad A = \text{const.}$$

**Theorem 4.** Let  $n = 2m$ . Let  $P = A_1 \dots A_n$  denote an equilateral closed  $n$ -gon in  $E_2$  of area  $F$  and perimeter  $L$ . Let us denote by  $d_i$  the distance of the center of  $A_i A_{i+m}$  and the centroid of  $P$ ,  $d = \max \{d_1, \dots, d_m\}$ . Then

$$(1.6) \quad L^2 \geq 4n \operatorname{tg} \frac{\pi}{n} F + 2n^2 \operatorname{tg}^2 \frac{\pi}{n} \left( 2 \cos \frac{\pi}{n} - 1 \right) d^2$$

with the equality holding only for a regular  $n$ -gon.

## 2. NOTATIONS AND AUXILIARY THEOREMS

Let  $n = 2m$ . In [1] it is shown that there exist numbers  $c_k, c_k^*$ ,  $k = 0, \dots, m$ ,  $l = 1, \dots, m-1$ , such that

$$x_i = c_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{m-1} \left( c_k \cos ki \frac{2\pi}{n} + c_k^* \sin ki \frac{2\pi}{n} \right) + (-1)^i c_m, \quad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

The assumption (1.1) implies that  $c_0 = 0$ . The following identities hold:

$$(2.1) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 = \frac{n}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{m-1} (c_k^2 + c_k^{*2}) + n c_m^2,$$

$$(2.2) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - x_{i+1})^2 = 2n \sum_{k=1}^{m-1} (c_k^2 + c_k^{*2}) \sin^2 k \frac{\pi}{n} + 4n c_m^2,$$

$$(2.3) \quad (x_m + x_{2m})^2 = 4\left(\sum_{i=1}^M c_{2i}\right)^2, \quad \text{where } M = [n/4].$$

**Remark.** Recall that  $[a] = a$  for  $a$  being an integer,  $[a] = b$ , where  $b$  is the biggest integer smaller than  $a$ , otherwise.

Let us denote

$$(2.4) \quad A(n) = n \sin \frac{\pi}{n} \left( \sin \frac{2\pi}{n} - \sin \frac{\pi}{n} \right).$$

By virtue of (2.1)–(2.4) the inequality (1.2) can be written as

$$\sum_{k=1}^{m-1} (c_k^2 + c_k^{*2}) \left( \sin^2 k \frac{\pi}{n} - \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{n} \right) + 2c_m^2 \left( 1 - \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{n} \right) - \frac{2}{n} A(n) \left( \sum_{i=1}^M c_{2i} \right)^2 \geq 0.$$

The following inequalities hold:

$$(2.5) \quad \sin^2 k \frac{\pi}{n} - \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{n} \begin{cases} = 0, & k = 1, \\ > 0, & k = 2, \dots, m-1, \end{cases}$$

$$(2.6) \quad \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{n} < 1.$$

Using (2.5), (2.6) we conclude that it is sufficient to prove that

$$(2.7) \quad L = \sum_{k=1}^M c_{2k}^2 \left( \sin^2 \frac{2k\pi}{n} - \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{n} \right) - \frac{2}{n} A(n) \left( \sum_{k=1}^M c_{2k} \right)^2 \geq 0.$$

**Lemma 1.** Let us denote

$$C_1(n) = 2 \sin \frac{\pi}{n} \left( \sin \frac{2\pi}{n} + \sin \frac{\pi}{n} \right),$$

$$K_i(n) = \sin^2 \frac{2(i+1)\pi}{n} - \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{n}, \quad i = 1, \dots, M-1.$$

Then

$$(2.8) \quad C_1(n) \sum_{i=1}^r \frac{1}{K_i(n)} < 1, \quad r = 1, \dots, M-1.$$

**Proof.** Clearly it is sufficient to prove (2.8) for  $r = M-1$ . Denote

$$f(n) = C_1(n) \sum_{i=1}^{M-1} \frac{1}{K_i(n)}.$$

We have to show that  $f(n) < 1$ .

We can suppose  $n \geq 8$ . Then

$$K_i(n) = \sin \frac{2i+3}{n} \pi \sin \frac{2i+1}{n} \pi.$$

We have

$$\cotg \alpha - \cotg (\alpha + \beta) = \frac{\sin \beta}{\sin \alpha \sin (\alpha + \beta)}$$

and therefore

$$\left( \text{for } \alpha = \frac{2i+1}{n} \pi, \beta = \frac{2}{n} \pi, \text{ i.e. } \alpha + \beta = \frac{2i+3}{n} \pi \right)$$

$$\frac{1}{K_i(n)} = \frac{1}{\sin \frac{2\pi}{n}} \left( \cotg \frac{2i+1}{n} \pi - \cotg \frac{2i+3}{n} \pi \right).$$

After adding these expressions for  $i = 1, \dots, M-1$  we get

$$\sum_{i=1}^{M-1} \frac{1}{K_i(n)} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sin \frac{2\pi}{n}} \left( \cotg \frac{3\pi}{n} + \operatorname{tg} \frac{\pi}{n} \right) & \text{for } n = 4M, \\ \frac{1}{\sin \frac{2\pi}{n}} \cotg \frac{3\pi}{n} & \text{for } n = 4M + 2. \end{cases}$$

For  $n = 4M$  we conclude (by virtue of the identity  $\sin 2\alpha = 2 \sin \alpha \cos \alpha$ )

$$f(n) = \frac{\cos \frac{\pi}{2n} \cos \frac{2\pi}{n}}{\cos^2 \frac{\pi}{n} \cos \frac{3\pi}{2n}}.$$

Introducing the notation

$$x = \frac{\pi}{n}, \quad y = \cos^2 \frac{x}{2}, \quad \text{i.e. } y = \cos^2 \frac{\pi}{2n},$$

we obtain

$$n \geq 8 \Rightarrow x \in (0, \pi/8), \quad y \in I = \left\langle \cos^2 \frac{\pi}{16}, 1 \right\rangle.$$

Substituting  $x = \pi/n$  in  $f(n)$  we get the function

$$f_1(x) = \frac{\cos \frac{x}{2} \cos 2x}{\cos^2 x \cos \frac{3x}{2}},$$

which is defined in  $I$ . Using the identities

$$\begin{aligned}\cos x &= 2y - 1, \\ \cos 2x &= 2(2y - 1)^2 - 1, \\ \cos \frac{3x}{2} &= \cos \frac{x}{2} (4y - 3),\end{aligned}$$

we get the function

$$g(y) = \frac{8y^2 - 8y + 1}{(2y - 1)^2 (4y - 3)}.$$

It is easy to show that  $g(y) < 1$  in  $I$  and therefore  $f(n) < 1$  for  $n = 4M$ ,  $n \geq 8$ .

Analogously, when considering  $n = 4M + 2$ ,  $n \geq 10$ , we can show that

$$f(n) = \frac{\cos \frac{\pi}{2n} \cos \frac{3\pi}{n}}{\cos \frac{\pi}{n} \cos \frac{3\pi}{2n}}$$

and with  $x = \pi/n$ ,  $y = \cos^2(x/2)$  we get the function

$$h(y) = \frac{16y^2 - 16y + 1}{4y - 3},$$

$$y \in J = \left\langle \cos^2 \frac{\pi}{2n}, 1 \right\rangle.$$

Using the inequality  $h(y) < 1$ ,  $y \in J$ , we conclude that  $f(n) < 1$  for  $n = 4M + 2$ ,  $n \geq 10$ .

So, Lemma 1 holds.

**Lemma 2.** *Using the notation from Lemma 1, define*

$$C_{r+1}(n) = \frac{C_1(n)}{1 - C_1(n) \sum_{i=1}^r \frac{1}{K_i(n)}}, \quad r = 1, \dots, M - 1.$$

Then

$$(2.9) \quad K_r(n) - C_r(n) > 0, \quad r = 1, \dots, M - 1.$$

*Proof.* It is easy to show that (2.9) holds for  $r = 1$ . Let  $r \geq 2$ . It can be shown that

$$K_r(n) - C_r(n) = \frac{K_r(n) \left[ 1 - C_1(n) \sum_{i=1}^r \frac{1}{K_i(n)} \right]}{1 - C_1(n) \sum_{i=1}^{r-1} \frac{1}{K_i(n)}}.$$

Now, (2.8) implies (2.9) for arbitrary  $r = 1, \dots, M - 1$ .

**Lemma 3.** For  $r = 1, \dots, M$ , we have

$$(2.10) \quad L = \sum_{k=1}^r [c_{2k} D(k, n) - 2B(k, n) \sum_{l=k+1}^M c_{2l}]^2 + \\ + \sum_{k=r+1}^M \left( \sin^2 \frac{2k\pi}{n} - \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{n} \right) c_{2k}^2 - C(r, n) \left( \sum_{k=r+1}^M c_{2k} \right)^2,$$

where

$$(2.11) \quad C(1, n) = 2 \sin \frac{\pi}{n} \left( \sin \frac{2\pi}{n} + \sin \frac{\pi}{n} \right) [= C_1(n)],$$

$$B(1, n) = \sin \frac{\pi}{n},$$

$$D(1, n) = \sin \frac{2\pi}{n} - \sin \frac{\pi}{n},$$

$$D^2(k+1, n) = \sin^2 \frac{2(k+1)\pi}{n} - \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{n} - C(k, n),$$

$$B(k+1, n) = \frac{C(k, n)}{2D(k+1, n)},$$

$$C(k+1, n) = C(k, n) + 4B^2(k+1, n),$$

$$k = 1, \dots, M-1.$$

**Remark.** We have to verify that the definition of the numbers  $D(k, n)$ ,  $B(k, n)$ ,  $C(k, n)$  in (2.11) is correct, i.e. that

$$K_k(n) - C(k, n) > 0, \quad k = 1, \dots, M-1.$$

We shall show that  $C(k, n) = C_k(n)$ ,  $C_k(n)$  being the numbers defined in Lemma 2. It is true for  $r = 1$  [see (2.11)]. Let  $C(k, n) = C_k(n)$  for an integer  $k$ ,  $1 \leq k < M-1$ . Then  $D^2(k+1, n) = K_k(n) - C_k(n) > 0$  and therefore  $C(k+1, n)$  is defined in (2.11). It is easy to show that

$$C(k+1, n) = \frac{C_1(n)}{1 - C_1(n) \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{K_i(n)}} = C_{k+1}(n).$$

The inequality  $K_k(n) - C(k, n) > 0$  is now a consequence of Lemma 2.

**Proof.** Let us denote by  $L_r$  the representation of  $L$  in (2.10) for  $r = i$ . We have to show

$$L_r = L, \quad r = 1, \dots, M.$$

We use the induction over  $r$ . Let  $r = 1$ . To prove that  $P = L_1 - L = 0$  we write [see (2.11)]

$$P = \left[ c_2 \left( \sin \frac{2\pi}{n} - \sin \frac{\pi}{n} \right) - 2 \sin \frac{\pi}{n} \sum_{l=2}^M c_{2l} \right]^2 - C_1(n) \left( \sum_{k=2}^M c_{2k} \right)^2 - c_2^2 \left( \sin^2 \frac{2\pi}{n} - \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{n} \right) + \frac{2}{n} A(n) \left( \sum_{k=1}^M c_{2k} \right)^2.$$

Adding and subtracting  $(2/n) A(n) \left( \sum_{k=2}^M c_{2k} \right)^2$  we get

$$P = 2c_2^2 \left( \frac{A(n)}{n} + 2 \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{n} - \sin \frac{2\pi}{n} \sin \frac{\pi}{n} \right) + 4c_2 \left( \sum_{k=2}^M c_{2k} \right) \left[ \frac{A(n)}{n} - \sin \frac{\pi}{n} \left( \sin \frac{2\pi}{n} - \sin \frac{\pi}{n} \right) \right] + \left( \sum_{k=2}^M c_{2k} \right)^2 \left[ 4 \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{n} - C_1(n) + \frac{2}{n} A(n) \right].$$

From (2.11) it follows that  $P > 0$ .

Let  $L_r = L$  for an integer  $r$ ,  $1 = r < M$ . We show that  $L_{r+1} = L$ , i.e.  $R = L_{r+1} - L = 0$ . Analogously to the case  $r = 1$  we get

$$R = c_{2(r+1)}^2 \left[ D^2(r+1, n) - \sin^2 \frac{2(r+1)\pi}{n} + \sin^2 \frac{\pi}{n} + C(r, n) \right] + \left( \sum_{k=r+2}^M c_{2k} \right)^2 [C(r, n) - C(r+1, n) + 4B^2(r+1, n)] + c_{2(r+1)} \left( \sum_{k=r+2}^M c_{2k} \right) [-4B(r+1, n) D(r+1, n) + 2C(r, n)].$$

Using (2.11) we conclude  $R = 0$ .

So, (2.10) holds.

### 3. PROOFS OF THEOREMS

**Theorem 2.** The inequality (2.7) [and so (1.2) as well] is a consequence of Lemma 3. Choose  $r = M$ . Then

$$(3.1) \quad L = \sum_{k=1}^{M-1} [c_{2k} D(k, n) - 2B(k, n) \sum_{l=k+1}^M c_{2l}]^2 + D^2(M, n) c_{2M}^2.$$

According to (2.11) and (2.9) we conclude that

$$(3.2) \quad L \geq 0.$$



Conditions for the equality follow from (2.5), (2.6) and (3.1).

Theorem 3. If we use Theorem 2 for real numbers  $y_1, \dots, y_{2n}$  defined as follows

$$y_k = \begin{cases} x_k, & k = 1, \dots, n, \\ x_{2n-k+1}, & k = n + 1, \dots, 2n, \end{cases}$$

we get the required inequality. (See the proof of Theorem 4 in [6].)

Theorem 4. In [6], Section 4, the following is proved:

$$8 \operatorname{tg} \frac{\pi}{n} F = \sum_{i=1}^n \left( 1 - \operatorname{tg}^2 \frac{\pi}{n} \right) [(x_i - x_{i+1})^2 + (y_i - y_{i+1})^2] + \\ + 4 \operatorname{tg}^2 \frac{\pi}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i^2 + y_i^2),$$

where  $A_i = [x_i, y_i]$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , in the coordinate system  $S = \{O, x, y\}$  in  $E_2$  with  $O$  being the centroid of  $P$ . In the system  $S$  the assumptions of Theorem 2 for  $\{x_i\}$ ,  $\{y_i\}$  are satisfied. Hence Theorem 4 follows from Theorem 2.

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