BEST POSSIBLE RESULTS IN A CLASS OF INEQUALITIES

PETER DEXTER JOHNSON, JR. AND R. N. MOHAPATRA
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In this paper we shall prove the following theorem.

**Theorem.** Suppose $1 < p \leq \infty$, and $rp > 1$ if $p < \infty$, $r > 0$ if $p = \infty$. Suppose the matrix $A = (a_{nk})$ with $a_{nk} = n^{-r}$ $(k \leq n), a_{nk} = 0$ $(k > n)$. Suppose $\mathcal{W}$ be the subset of $\mathcal{W}$ consisting of nonnegative, monotone sequences. Then $\{n^{r-1}\}$ is maximum, with respect to $<$, in $\mathcal{I}$ where

$$
\mathcal{I} = \{b \in \mathcal{W} : \text{for some } K > 0, \|A \| bx \|_p \leq K \|x\|_p
$$

for all $x \in l_p$.

1. Let $\mathcal{W}$ be the space of all real or complex sequences. For $x = \{x_n\} \in \mathcal{W}, y = \{y_n\} \in \mathcal{W}, xy$ is the sequence $\{x_n y_n\}$, and $|x| = \{|x_n|\}$. Let $A = (a_{nk})$ $(n, k = 1, 2, \cdots)$ be a lower triangular matrix with nonnegative entries. $Ax$, the $A$ transform of a sequence $x \in \mathcal{W}$, is given by

$$(Ax)_n = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_{nk} x_k .$$

The $\ell_p$ space will have its usual meaning and $\| \cdot \|_p$ will denote the usual norm, if $1 \leq p \leq \infty$, or quasinorm, if $0 < p < 1$.

Let $C = (c_{nk})$ be the Cesàro matrix that is $c_{nk} = \frac{1}{n} (k = 1, 2, \cdots, n)$ and $c_{nk} = 0$ $(k > n)$. Hardy [2, Theorem 215] proved the following inequality:

**Theorem A.** If $p > 1, x_n \geq 0 (n = 1, 2, \cdots)$, then

$$
\|Cx\|_p \leq \left( \frac{p}{p-1} \right) \|x\|_p .
$$

Subsequently Petersen [4] and Davies and Petersen [1] generalized Theorem A by replacing the Cesàro matrix $C$ by a lower triangular matrix $A$ satisfying certain conditions. Their results were of the form

$$
\|Ax\|_p \leq C(p) \|dx\|_p
$$

where $d = \{d_n\}$ is a suitable sequence and $C(p)$ is a positive constant which depends upon $p$.

In [3] we had tried to systematize and unify inequality results of the following form:

There exists $K > 0$ such that for all $x \in \mu$,
where \((\lambda, \| \cdot \|_\lambda), (\mu, \| \cdot \|_\mu)\) are normal, normally quasinormed \(FK\) spaces, \(b\) is a sequence in \(\lambda\), and \(A\) is a lower triangular matrix with non-negative entries.

In [3] we ordered the sequences in \(w\) by defining that for \(b, c \in w\), \(b < c\) (\(b\) is less than \(c\)) if and only if, for some \(M > 0\), 
\[
|b_n| \leq M|c_n| \text{ for all } n.
\]

Now one can observe that an inequality of the form (2) is better the smaller the \(K\), or the larger the sequence \(b\) with the notion of largeness of sequences defined above.

It is useful to note that (see [3], Proposition 3.1) if a set \(S\) of sequences is closed under addition, and has the property that \(x \in S\) implies \(|x| \in S\) (which is satisfied if every sequence in \(S\) is non-negative), then a sequence \(b \in S\) is maximal in \(S\) with respect to \(<\) (meaning that \(x \in S\) and \(b < x\) imply that \(x < b\)) if and only if \(b\) is maximum in \(S\) (meaning \(x < b\) for every \(x \in S\)).

In [3, remarks at the end of §8] we have proved the following:

**THEOREM B.** Suppose \(1 < p \leq \infty\), and \(rp > 1\).

\[
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{rp}} \left| \sum_{k=1}^{n} k^{-r} x_k \right|^p \leq K(r, p) \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |x_k|^p,
\]

where \(K(r, p)\) is a positive constant which depends upon \(r\) and \(p\).

If we write \(A = (a_{nk})\) with \(a_{nk} = n^{-r} (k = 1, \ldots, n)\) and \(a_{nk} = 0 (k > n)\), and \(\lambda = \mu = \ell_p\), then we find that Theorem B is a result of the form (2). It was shown in [3, Theorem 9.3] that the inequality (2) with \(b = \{n^{-1}\}\) is not best possible, and that, indeed, there is no best possible inequality (2) for this triple \(A, \lambda, \mu\). (It is interesting to note that if \(p = 1, r > 1\), the inequality (2) with \(b = \{n^{-1}\}\) holds and is best possible (by [3, Corollary 4.9]).) However, this result was a little unsatisfying because, in the special case \(r = 1\), the only sequences \(b\) satisfying (2) and strictly greater than \(e = \{1, 1, \ldots\}\), which we could actually find were far from monotone. They were like \(e\) with a subsequence tending to infinity thrown in, sparsely.

In [3, Problem 9.4], we had wondered if \(\{n^{-r}\}_n\) is maximal (equivalently, maximum) among the monotone nonnegative sequences satisfying (2). The object of this note is to show that the answer to this question is in fact in the affirmative. Thus, in particular, Hardy's inequality is the best in its class of inequalities.

We shall precisely prove the following:

**THEOREM.** Suppose \(1 < p \leq \infty\), and \(rp > 1\) if \(p < \infty\), \(r > 0\) if
p = ∞. Suppose the matrix \( A = (a_{nk}) \) with \( a_{nk} = n^{-r} (k \leq n), a_{nk} = 0 \) \((k > n)\). Suppose \( \hat{w} \) be the subset of \( w \) consisting of nonnegative, monotone sequences. Then \( \{n^{-r}\} \) is maximum, with respect to \( \langle, \rangle \), in \( I \) where

\[
I = \{ b \in \hat{w}: \text{for some } K > 0, \| A b_x \|_p \leq K \| x \|_p \}
\]

for all \( x \in \zeta_p \).

**Proof.** It has been mentioned earlier that \( \{n^{-r}\} \in I \) (see [3], §8).

Suppose \( b \in I \), and \( b \not\in \{n^{-r}\} \). Then \( \{n^{−r}b\} \) is unbounded. We shall first show that

\[
(4) \quad \left\{ n^{-r} \sum_{k=1}^n b_k \right\} \not\in \zeta_p \ldots .
\]

If \( b \) is nonincreasing, then

\[
n^{-r} \sum_{k=1}^n b_k \geq n^{1-r} b_n ,
\]

and if \( b \) is nondecreasing, then

\[
(2n)^{-r} \sum_{k=1}^n b_k \geq (2n)^{-r} \sum_{k=n}^n b_k \geq 2^{-r} n^{1-r} b_n ,
\]

and we see the truth of (4).

Now, let

\[
x^{(m)} = \sum_{k=1}^m e_k ,
\]

where \( e_k \) is the usual coordinate sequence with 1 at the \( k \)th entry and zero elsewhere. The theorem will be proved if we only show that the sequence

\[
\{ \| x^{(m)} \|_p^{-1} \| A b x^{(m)} \|_p \}_{m=1}^\infty
\]

is unbounded.

Let \( p = \infty \) we see that

\[
\| x^{(m)} \|_p^{-1} \| A b x^{(m)} \|_p \geq m^{-r} \sum_{k=1}^m b_k .
\]

The theorem follows by (4).

Let \( p < \infty \). Then

\[
\| x^{(m)} \|_p^{-1} \| A b x^{(m)} \|_p \geq \left( m^{-1} \sum_{n=m}^\infty n^{-r \phi} \left( \sum_{k=1}^m b_k \right)^p \right)^{1/p}
\]

\[
= \left( n^{-1} \left( \sum_{k=1}^m b_k \right)^p \left( \sum_{n=m}^\infty n^{-r \phi} \right)^{1/p} \right).
\]
\[ \geq M \left[ m^{-\frac{1}{p}} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{m} b_k \right)^p \right]^{1/p} \\
= M m^{-r} \sum_{k=1}^{m} b_k \]

where \( M \) is a positive constant independent of \( m \). The proof is complete by appealing to (4).

REFERENCES


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Alberto Alesina and Leonede De Michele, A dichotomy for a class of positive definite functions .......................................................... 251
Kahtan Alzubaidy, Rank \( p \)-groups, \( p > 3 \), and Chern classes .......................................................... 259
James Arney and Edward A. Bender, Random mappings with constraints on coalescence and number of origins .......................................................... 269
Bruce C. Berndt, An arithmetic Poisson formula .......................................................... 295
Julius Rubin Blum and J. I. Reich, Pointwise ergodic theorems in l.c.a. groups .......................................................... 301
Jonathan Borwein, A note on \( \varepsilon \)-subgradients and maximal monotonicity .......................................................... 307
Andrew Michael Brunner, Edward James Mayland, Jr. and Jonathan Simon, Knot groups in \( S^4 \) with nontrivial homology .......................................................... 315
Luis A. Caffarelli, Avner Friedman and Alessandro Torelli, The two-obstacle problem for the biharmonic operator .......................................................... 325
Aleksander Calka, On local isometries of finitely compact metric spaces .......................................................... 337
William S. Cohn, Carleson measures for functions orthogonal to invariant subspaces .......................................................... 347
Roger Fenn and Denis Karmen Sjerve, Duality and cohomology for one-relator groups .......................................................... 365
Gen Hua Shi, On the least number of fixed points for infinite complexes .......................................................... 377
George Golightly, Shadow and inverse-shadow inner products for a class of linear transformations .......................................................... 389
Joachim Georg Hartung, An extension of Sion’s minimax theorem with an application to a method for constrained games .......................................................... 401
Vikram Jha and Michael Joseph Kallaher, On the Lorimer-Rahilly and Johnson-Walker translation planes .......................................................... 409
Kenneth Richard Johnson, Unitary analogs of generalized Ramanujan sums .......................................................... 429
Peter Dexter Johnson, Jr. and R. N. Mohapatra, Best possible results in a class of inequalities .......................................................... 433
Dieter Jungnickel and Sharad S. Sane, On extensions of nets .......................................................... 437
Johan Henricus Bernardus Kemperman and Morris Skibinsky, On the characterization of an interesting property of the arcsin distribution .......................................................... 457
Karl Andrew Kosler, On hereditary rings and Noetherian \( V \)-rings .......................................................... 467
William A. Lampe, Congruence lattices of algebras of fixed similarity type. II .......................................................... 475
M. N. Mishra, N. N. Nayak and Swadeenamanda Pattanayak, Strong result for real zeros of random polynomials .......................................................... 509
Sidney Allen Morris and Peter Robert Nickolas, Locally invariant topologies on free groups .......................................................... 523
Richard Cole Penney, A Fourier transform theorem on nilmanifolds and nil-theta functions .......................................................... 539
Andrei Shkalikov, Estimates of meromorphic functions and summability theorems .......................................................... 569
László Székelyhidi, Note on exponential polynomials .......................................................... 583
William Thomas Watkins, Homeomorphic classification of certain inverse limit spaces with open bonding maps .......................................................... 589
David G. Wright, Countable decompositions of \( E^n \) .......................................................... 603
Takayuki Kawada, Correction to: “Sample functions of Pólya processes” .......................................................... 611
Z. A. Chanturia, Errata: “On the absolute convergence of Fourier series of the classes \( H^\omega \cap V[v] \)” .......................................................... 611