

Problem 11840

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Proposed by G. Stoica (Canada).

Let z_1, \dots, z_n be complex numbers. Prove that

$$\left(\sum_{k=1}^n |z_k| \right)^2 - \left| \sum_{k=1}^n z_k \right|^2 \geq \left(\sum_{k=1}^n |\operatorname{Re}(z_k)| - \left| \sum_{k=1}^n \operatorname{Re}(z_k) \right| \right)^2.$$

Solution proposed by Roberto Tauraso, Dipartimento di Matematica, Università di Roma "Tor Vergata", via della Ricerca Scientifica, 00133 Roma, Italy.

Let $z_k = x_k + iy_k$ for $k = 1, \dots, n$, then, by Cauchy-Schwarz inequality,

$$|z_j||z_k| = \sqrt{|x_j|^2 + |y_j|^2} \cdot \sqrt{|x_k|^2 + |y_k|^2} \geq |x_j||x_k| + |y_j||y_k| \geq |x_j||x_k| + y_j y_k.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n |z_k| \right)^2 - \left| \sum_{k=1}^n z_k \right|^2 &= 2 \sum_{1 \leq j < k \leq n} |z_j||z_k| - 2 \sum_{1 \leq j < k \leq n} \operatorname{Re}(\bar{z}_j z_k) \\ &= 2 \sum_{1 \leq j < k \leq n} (|z_j||z_k| - (x_j x_k + y_j y_k)) \\ &\geq 2 \sum_{1 \leq j < k \leq n} (|x_j||x_k| - x_j x_k) \\ &= \left(\sum_{k=1}^n |x_k| \right)^2 - \left| \sum_{k=1}^n x_k \right|^2 \\ &= \left(\sum_{k=1}^n |x_k| + \left| \sum_{k=1}^n x_k \right| \right) \left(\sum_{k=1}^n |x_k| - \left| \sum_{k=1}^n x_k \right| \right) \\ &\geq \left(\sum_{k=1}^n |x_k| - \left| \sum_{k=1}^n x_k \right| \right)^2 = \left(\sum_{k=1}^n |\operatorname{Re}(z_k)| - \left| \sum_{k=1}^n \operatorname{Re}(z_k) \right| \right)^2, \end{aligned}$$

where we also applied the inequality $\sum_{k=1}^n |x_k| \geq \left| \sum_{k=1}^n x_k \right|$. □