

Problem 12229

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Proposed by M. Omarjee (France).

Let $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function that has a continuous second derivative and that satisfies $f(0) = f(1)$ and $\int_0^1 f(x) dx = 0$. Prove

$$30240 \left(\int_0^1 x f(x) dx \right)^2 \leq \int_0^1 (f''(x))^2 dx.$$

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

Solution. By integrating by parts twice, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} 12 \int_0^1 x f(x) dx &= 12 \int_0^1 x f(x) dx - 6 \int_0^1 f(x) dx = \int_0^1 (12x - 6) f(x) dx = \int_0^1 f(x) d(6x^2 - 6x + 1) \\ &= [(6x^2 - 6x + 1)f(x)]_0^1 - \int_0^1 (6x^2 - 6x + 1)f'(x) dx \\ &= (f(1) - f(0)) - \int_0^1 (6x^2 - 6x + 1)f'(x) dx \\ &= - \int_0^1 f'(x) d((2x^3 - 3x^2 + x)) \\ &= - [(2x^3 - 3x^2 + x)f'(x)]_0^1 + \int_0^1 (2x^3 - 3x^2 + x)f''(x) dx \\ &= \int_0^1 (2x^3 - 3x^2 + x)f''(x) dx. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by Cauchy-Schwarz inequality,

$$\left(12 \int_0^1 x f(x) dx \right)^2 \leq \int_0^1 (2x^3 - 3x^2 + x)^2 dx \cdot \int_0^1 (f''(x))^2 dx.$$

Finally, since $\int_0^1 (2x^3 - 3x^2 + x)^2 dx = \frac{1}{210}$, and $12^2 \cdot 210 = 30240$, it follows that

$$30240 \left(\int_0^1 x f(x) dx \right)^2 \leq \int_0^1 (f''(x))^2 dx.$$

□