



## A NEW ARRANGEMENT INEQUALITY

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we discuss the validity of the inequality

$$\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^a x_{i+1}^b \leq \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^{(1+a+b)/2} \right)^2,$$

where  $1, a, b$  are the sides of a triangle and the indices are understood modulo  $n$ . We show that, although this inequality does not hold in general, it is true when  $n \leq 4$ . For general  $n$ , we show that any given set of nonnegative real numbers can be arranged as  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  such that the inequality above is valid.

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### 1. MAIN STATEMENTS

Let  $a, b, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  be nonnegative real numbers. If  $a + b = 1$  then, by the Rearrangement inequality [1], we have

$$(1.1) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^a x_{i+1}^b \leq \sum_{i=1}^n x_i,$$

where throughout this paper, the indices are understood to be modulo  $n$ . In an attempt to generalize this inequality, we consider the following

$$(1.2) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^a x_{i+1}^b \leq \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^c \right)^2,$$

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where  $c = (a + b + 1)/2$ . It turns out that if  $a + b \neq 1$  then the inequality (1.2) is false for  $n$  large enough (cf. Prop. 2.2). However, we show that if

$$(1.3) \quad b \leq a + 1, \quad a \leq b + 1, \quad 1 \leq a + b,$$

then the inequality (1.2) is true in the case of  $n = 4$  (cf. Prop. 2.1). Moreover, under the same conditions on  $a, b$  as in (1.3), we show that one can always find a permutation  $\mu$  of  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  such that (cf. Prop. 2.4)

$$(1.4) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \sum_{i=1}^n x_{\mu(i)}^a x_{\mu(i+1)}^b \leq \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^c \right)^2.$$

The conditions in (1.3) cannot be compromised in the sense that if for all nonnegative  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  there exists a permutation  $\mu$  such that the conclusion (1.4) holds, then  $a, b$  must satisfy (1.3). To see this, let  $x_1 = x > 0$  be arbitrary and  $x_i = 1, i = 2, \dots, n$ . Then, for any permutation  $\mu$ , the inequality (1.4) reads the same as:

$$(1.5) \quad (x + n - 1)(x^a + x^b + n - 2) \leq (x^c + n - 1)^2.$$

If the above inequality is true for all  $x$  and  $n$ , by comparing the coefficients of  $n$  on both sides of the inequality (1.5), we should have  $x^a + x^b + x - 3 \leq 2x^c - 2$ . Since  $x > 0$  is arbitrary,  $1, a, b \leq c$  and conditions (1.3) follow.

The case of  $a = b = 1$  of (1.2) is particularly interesting:

$$(1.6) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \sum_{i=1}^n x_i x_{i+1} \leq \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^{3/2} \right)^2.$$

There is a counterexample to (1.6) when  $n = 9$ , e.g. take

$$(1.7) \quad \begin{aligned} x_1 = x_9 = 8.5, \quad x_2 = x_8 = 9, \quad x_3 = x_7 = 10, \\ x_4 = x_6 = 11.5, \quad x_5 = 12, \end{aligned}$$

and subsequently the inequality (1.6) is false for all  $n \geq 9$  (cf. prop. (2.2)). Proposition 2.1 shows that the inequality (1.6) is true for  $n \leq 4$ , and there seems to be a computer-based proof [2] for the cases  $n = 5, 6, 7$  which, if true, leaves us with the only remaining case  $n = 8$ .

## 2. PROOFS

Applying Jensen's inequality [1, § 3.14] to the concave function  $\log x$  gives

$$(2.1) \quad u^r v^s w^t \leq ru + sv + tw,$$

where  $u, v, w, r, s, t$  are nonnegative real numbers and  $r + s + t = 1$ . If, in addition, we have  $r, s, t > 0$  then the equality occurs iff  $u = v = w$ . However, if  $t = 0$  and  $r, s, w > 0$  then the equality occurs iff  $u = v$ . We use this inequality in the proof of the proposition below.

**Proposition 2.1.** *Let  $a, b \geq 0$  such that  $a + 1 \geq b, b + 1 \geq a$  and  $a + b \geq 1$ . Then for all nonnegative real numbers  $x, y, z, t$ ,*

$$(2.2) \quad (x + y + z + t)(x^a y^b + y^a z^b + z^a t^b + t^a x^b) \leq (x^c + y^c + z^c + t^c)^2,$$

where  $c = (a + b + 1)/2$ . The equality occurs if and only if  $\{a, b\} = \{0, 1\}$  or  $x = y = z = t$ .

*Proof.* We apply the inequality (2.1) to

$$(2.3) \quad \begin{aligned} u &= (yz)^c, & v &= (xz)^c, & w &= (xy)^c, \\ r &= 1 - \frac{a}{c}, & s &= 1 - \frac{b}{c}, & t &= 1 - \frac{1}{c}, \end{aligned}$$

and obtain:

$$(2.4) \quad x^a y^b z \leq \left(1 - \frac{a}{c}\right) (yz)^c + \left(1 - \frac{b}{c}\right) (xz)^c + \left(1 - \frac{1}{c}\right) (xy)^c.$$

Notice that the assumptions on  $a, b$  in the lemma are made exactly so that  $r, s, t$  are nonnegative. Similarly, by replacing  $z$  with  $t$  in (2.4), we have:

$$(2.5) \quad x^a y^b t \leq \left(1 - \frac{a}{c}\right) (yt)^c + \left(1 - \frac{b}{c}\right) (tx)^c + \left(1 - \frac{1}{c}\right) (xy)^c.$$

Next, apply (2.1) to

$$(2.6) \quad u = x^{2c}, \quad v = (xy)^c, \quad w = 1, \quad r = 1 - \frac{b}{c}, \quad s = \frac{b}{c}, \quad t = 0,$$

and get

$$(2.7) \quad x^{a+1} y^b \leq \left(1 - \frac{b}{c}\right) x^{2c} + \frac{b}{c} (xy)^c.$$

Similarly, by interchanging  $a$  and  $b$ , one has

$$(2.8) \quad x^a y^{b+1} \leq \left(1 - \frac{a}{c}\right) x^{2c} + \frac{a}{c} (xy)^c.$$

Adding the inequalities (2.4), (2.5), (2.7) and (2.8) gives:

$$(2.9) \quad Sx^a y^b \leq \frac{1}{c} x^{2c} + \left(4 - \frac{3}{c}\right) (xy)^c + \left(1 - \frac{a}{c}\right) (yz)^c + \left(1 - \frac{b}{c}\right) (tx)^c \\ + \left(1 - \frac{a}{c}\right) (yt)^c + \left(1 - \frac{b}{c}\right) (xz)^c,$$

where  $S = x + y + z + t$ . There are three more inequalities of the form above that are obtained by replacing the pair  $(x, y)$  by  $(y, z)$ ,  $(z, t)$  and  $(t, x)$ . By adding all four inequalities (or by taking the cyclic sum of (2.9)) we have

$$(2.10) \quad ST \leq \frac{1}{c} \sum x^{2c} + \left(4 - \frac{2}{c}\right) (x^c + z^c)(y^c + t^c) + \frac{2}{c} \{(xz)^c + (yt)^c\},$$

where  $ST$  stands for the left hand side of the inequality (2.2). The right hand side of the above inequality is equal to

$$(2.11) \quad \left(\sum x^c\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{c} - 1\right) \{(x^c + z^c)^2 + (y^c + t^c)^2 - 2(x^c + z^c)(y^c + t^c)\},$$

which is less than or equal to  $(\sum x^c)^2$ , since  $c \geq 1$ . This concludes the proof of the inequality (2.2).

Next, suppose the equality occurs in (2.2) and so the inequalities (2.4) – (2.8) are all equalities. If  $a = 0$  then we have  $\sum x \sum x^b = (\sum x^c)^2$  and so, by the equality case of Cauchy-Schwarz, the two vectors  $(x, y, z, t)$  and  $(x^b, y^b, z^b, t^b)$  have to be proportional. Then either  $b = c = 1$  or  $x = y = z = t$ . Thus suppose  $a, b \neq 0$ . Since  $c = a = b$  is impossible, without loss of generality suppose that  $c \neq b$ . Since the inequality (2.7) must be an equality,  $x^{2c} = x^c y^c$  (cf. the discussion on the equality case of (2.1)). Similarly  $y^{2c} = y^c z^c$ ,  $z^{2c} = z^c t^c$  and  $t^{2c} = t^c x^c$ . It is then not difficult to see that  $x = y = z = t$ .  $\square$

Let  $N(a, b)$  denote the largest integer  $n$  for which the inequality (1.2) holds for all nonnegative  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ . By the above proposition, we have  $N(a, b) \geq 4$ .

**Proposition 2.2.** *Let  $a, b \geq 0$  such that  $a + b \neq 1$ . Then  $N(a, b) < \infty$ . Moreover, if  $n \leq N(a, b)$  then the inequality (1.2) is valid for all nonnegative  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ .*

*Proof.* The proof is divided into two parts. First we show that the inequality (1.2) cannot be true for all  $n$ . Proof is by contradiction. If  $a = b = 0$  then (1.2) is false for  $n = 2$  (e.g. take  $x_1 = 1, x_2 = 2$ ). Thus, suppose  $a + b > 0$  and that the inequality (1.2) is true for all  $n$ . Let  $f$  be a non-constant positive continuous function on the interval  $I = [0, 1]$  such that  $f(0) = f(1)$ . Let

$$(2.12) \quad x_i = f\left(\frac{i-1}{n}\right), \quad y_i = (x_i^a x_{i+1}^b)^{1/(a+b)}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

Since  $y_i$  is a number between  $x_i$  and  $x_{i+1}$  (possibly equal to one of them), by the Intermediate-value theorem [3, Th 3.3], there exists  $t_i \in I_i$  such that  $f(t_i) = y_i$ . By the definition of integral we have:

$$(2.13) \quad \begin{aligned} \int_I f(x) dx \int_I f^{a+b}(x) dx &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \sum_{i=1}^n y_i^{a+b} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^a x_{i+1}^b \\ &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^c \right)^2 = \left( \int_I f^c(x) dx \right)^2, \end{aligned}$$

where we have applied the inequality (1.2) to the  $x_i$ 's. On the other hand, by the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality for integrals, we have

$$(2.14) \quad \int_I f(x) dx \int_I f^{a+b}(x) dx \geq \left( \int_I f^{\frac{1}{2}}(x) f^{\frac{a+b}{2}}(x) dx \right)^2 = \left( \int_I f^c(x) dx \right)^2,$$

with equality iff  $f$  and  $f^{a+b}$  are proportional. The statements (2.13) and (2.14) imply that the equality indeed occurs. Since  $a + b \neq 1$  and  $f$  is not a constant function, the two functions  $f$  and  $f^{a+b}$  cannot be proportional. This contradiction implies that (1.2) could not be true for all  $n$  i.e.  $N(a, b) < \infty$ .

Next, we show that (1.2) is valid for all  $n \leq N$ . It is sufficient to show that if the inequality (1.2) is true for all ordered sets of  $k + 1$  nonnegative real numbers, then it is true for all ordered sets of  $k$  nonnegative real numbers.

Let  $y_1, \dots, y_k$  be nonnegative real numbers and set

$$(2.15) \quad S = \sum_{i=1}^k y_i, \quad A = \sum_{i=1}^k y_i^a y_{i+1}^b, \quad P = \sum_{i=1}^k y_i^c.$$

Without loss of generality we can assume  $P = 1$ . For each  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , define an ordered set of  $k + 1$  nonnegative real numbers by setting:

$$x_j = \begin{cases} y_j & 1 \leq j \leq i + 1 \\ y_{j-1} & i + 2 \leq j \leq k + 1 \end{cases}$$

Applying the inequality (1.2) to  $x_1, \dots, x_{k+1}$  gives

$$(2.16) \quad (S + y_i)(A + y_i^{a+b}) \leq (P + y_i^c)^2 = 1 + y_i^{2c} + 2y_i^c.$$

Adding these inequalities for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , yields:

$$(2.17) \quad kSA + S \sum_i y_i^{a+b} + AS \leq k + 2.$$

On the other hand, by the Rearrangement inequality [1] we have

$$(2.18) \quad \sum_{i=1}^k y_i^a y_{i+1}^b \leq \sum_{i=1}^k y_i^{a+b},$$

and the lemma follows by putting together the inequalities (2.17) and (2.18). □

The inequality (1.1) translates to  $N(a, b) = \infty$  when  $a + b = 1$ . We expect that  $N(a, b) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $a + b \rightarrow 1$ . The following proposition supports this conjecture. We define

$$(2.19) \quad A_n(a, b) = \sup \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^a x_{i+1}^b - \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^c \right)^2 \mid \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} x_i = 1 \right\}.$$

This number roughly measures the validity of the inequality (1.2). Also let

$$(2.20) \quad \sigma_t = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^t.$$

By the Hölder inequality [1], if  $\alpha, \beta > 0$  and  $\alpha + \beta = 1$  then for any  $s, t > 0$  we have:

$$(2.21) \quad \sigma_s^\alpha \sigma_t^\beta \geq \sigma_{\alpha s + \beta t}.$$

**Proposition 2.3.**  *$N(u, u)$  is a non-increasing function of  $u \geq 1/2$ . Moreover, for all  $n$  and  $a, b \geq 0$*

$$(2.22) \quad \lim_{a+b \rightarrow 1} A_n(a, b) = 0.$$

*Proof.* Suppose  $u > v > 1/2$ . We show that  $N(u, u) \leq N(v, v)$ . Without loss of generality we can assume:

$$(2.23) \quad u - v < \frac{1}{4}.$$

By the definition of  $N = N(v, v)$ , there must exist  $N + 1$  nonnegative integers  $x_1, \dots, x_{N+1}$  such that the inequality (1.2) is false and so

$$(2.24) \quad \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} x_i \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} x_i^v x_{i+1}^v > \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} x_i^{v+1/2} \right)^2.$$

We show that the nonnegative numbers  $y_i = x_i^{u/v}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, N + 1$  give a counterexample to (1.2) when  $a = b = u$ . In light of (2.24), one just needs to show

$$(2.25) \quad \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} x_i^{u+1/2v} \right)^2 / \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} x_i^{u/v} \geq \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} x_i^{u+1/2} \right)^2 / \sum_{i=1}^{N+1} x_i.$$

To prove this, first let

$$(2.26) \quad \alpha = \frac{u + 1/(2v) - u/v}{u + 1/(2v) - 1}, \quad \beta = \frac{u/v - 1}{u + 1/(2v) - 1},$$

$$s = 1, \quad t = u + \frac{1}{2v}.$$

The numbers above are simply chosen such that  $\alpha + \beta = 1$  and  $\alpha s + \beta t = u/v$ . We briefly check that  $\alpha, \beta > 0$ . The denominator of fractions above is positive, since  $u + 1/(2v) \geq (v + 1/v)/2 \geq 1$ . This implies  $\beta > 0$ . Now the positivity of  $\alpha > 0$  is equivalent to  $u(1 - v) < 1/2$ . If  $v \geq 1$  then  $u(1 - v) \leq 0 < 1/2$ . So suppose  $v \leq 1$ . By using (2.23), we have:

$$(2.27) \quad u(1 - v) \leq \left(v + \frac{1}{4}\right)(1 - v) = -v^2 + \frac{3}{4}v + \frac{1}{4} < \frac{1}{2},$$

for all  $v \geq 0$ . Now we can safely plug  $\alpha, \beta, s, t$  in (2.21) and get

$$(2.28) \quad \sigma_1^\alpha \sigma_{u+1/2v}^\beta \geq \sigma_{u/v}.$$

Next, let  $\alpha' = (1 - \alpha)/2$  and  $\beta' = 1 - \beta/2$ . Since  $\alpha' + \beta' = 1$  and  $\alpha', \beta' > 0$ , we can use Hölder's inequality (2.21) with  $\alpha', \beta'$  instead of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  (and the same  $s, t$  as before) and get (this time  $\alpha's + \beta't = u + 1/2$ ):

$$(2.29) \quad \sigma_1^{(1-\alpha)/2} \sigma_{1+1/2v}^{1-\beta/2} \leq \sigma_{u+1/2}.$$

Now we square the above inequality and multiply it with (2.28) to obtain:

$$(2.30) \quad \sigma_1 \sigma_{1+1/2v}^2 \leq \sigma_{u/v} \sigma_{u+1/2}^2,$$

which is equivalent to the inequality (2.25). So far we have shown the existence of a counterexample to (1.2) for  $a = b = u$  when  $n = N + 1$ . Then Prop. 2.2 gives  $N(u, u) \leq N = N(v, v)$  and this concludes the proof of the monotonicity of  $N$ .

It remains to prove that  $A_n(a, b)$  converges to 0 as  $a + b \rightarrow 1$ . To the contrary, assume there exists  $\epsilon > 0$  and a sequence  $(a_j, b_j)$  such that  $A_n(a_j, b_j) > \epsilon$  and  $a_j + b_j \rightarrow 1$ . Then by definition, for each  $j$ , there exists an  $n$ -tuple  $X_j = (x_{1j}, \dots, x_{nj})$  such that  $\max x_{ij} = 1$  and

$$(2.31) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij} \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij}^{a_j} x_{i+1j}^{b_j} - \left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij}^{c_j}\right)^2 \geq \frac{\epsilon}{2},$$

where  $c_j = (a_j + b_j + 1)/2$ . Since  $X_j$  is a bounded sequence, it follows that, along a subsequence  $j_k$ , the  $X_{j_k}$ 's converge to some  $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ . On the other hand, along a subsequence of  $j_k$  (denoted again by  $j_k$ ),  $a_{j_k} \rightarrow a$  and  $b_{j_k} \rightarrow b$  for some  $a, b \geq 0$ . Since  $a_j + b_j \rightarrow 1$ , we have  $a + b = 1$ . By taking the limits of the inequality (2.31) along this subsequence, we should have

$$(2.32) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^a x_{i+1}^b - \left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right)^2 \geq \frac{\epsilon}{2} > 0,$$

which contradicts the inequality (1.1). This contradiction establishes the equation (2.22).  $\square$

The next proposition shows that the inequality (1.2) holds if one mixes up the order of the  $x_i$ 's. The proof is simple and makes use of the monotonicity of  $(\sigma_t)^{1/t}$  where  $\sigma_t$  is defined by the equation (2.20). It is well-known that  $(\sigma_t)^{1/t}$  is a non-decreasing function of  $t$  [1, Th. 16].

**Proposition 2.4.** *Let  $a, b, c$  be as in Proposition 2.1. Then for any given set of  $n$  nonnegative real numbers there exists an arrangement of them as  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  such that the inequality (1.2) holds.*

*Proof.* Equivalently, we show that if  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  are nonnegative then there exists a permutation  $\mu$  of the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  such that the inequality (1.4) holds. Let

$$(2.33) \quad S = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i, \quad T = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j \neq i} x_i^a x_j^b.$$

Then  $ST = n\sigma_1(n^2\sigma_a\sigma_b - n\sigma_{a+b}) = n^3\sigma_1\sigma_a\sigma_b - n^2\sigma_1\sigma_{a+b}$ . Now by the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality [4],  $\sigma_c^2 \leq \sigma_1\sigma_{a+b}$ . On the other hand by the monotonicity of  $\sigma_t^{1/t}$ , we have  $\sigma_1 \leq \sigma_c^{1/c}$ ,  $\sigma_a \leq \sigma_c^{a/c}$ ,  $\sigma_b \leq \sigma_c^{b/c}$ , and so  $\sigma_1\sigma_a\sigma_b \leq \sigma_c^2$ . It follows from these inequalities that

$$(2.34) \quad ST \leq n^2(n-1)\sigma_c^2.$$

Now for a permutation  $\mu$  of  $1, 2, \dots, n$ , let:

$$(2.35) \quad A_\mu = \sum_{i=1}^n x_{\mu(i)}^a x_{\mu(i+1)}^b.$$

We would like to show that  $SA_\mu \leq (n\sigma_c)^2$  for some permutation  $\mu$ . It is sufficient to show that the average of  $SA_\mu$  over all permutations  $\mu$  is less than or equal to  $(n\sigma_c)^2$ . To show this, observe that the average of  $SA_\mu$  is equal to  $ST/(n-1)$  and so the claim follows from the inequality (2.34).  $\square$

The symmetric group  $S_n$  acts on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  in the usual way, namely for  $\mu \in S_n$  and  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$  let

$$(2.36) \quad \mu \cdot (x_1, \dots, x_n) = (x_{\mu(1)}, \dots, x_{\mu(n)}).$$

Let  $R$  be a region in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  that is invariant under the action of permutations (i.e.  $\mu \cdot R \subseteq R$  for all  $\mu$ ). define:

$$(2.37) \quad \lambda(R) = \left\{ (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in R \mid \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^a x_{i+1}^b \leq \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^c \right)^2 \right\}.$$

By Proposition 2.4:

$$(2.38) \quad R \subseteq \bigcup_{\mu \in S_n} \mu \cdot \lambda(R).$$

In particular, by taking the Lebesgue measure of the sides of the inclusion above, we get

$$(2.39) \quad \text{vol } \lambda(R) \geq \frac{\text{vol } R}{n!}.$$

We prove a better lower bound for  $\text{vol } \lambda(R)$  when  $n$  is a prime number (similar but weaker results can be proved in general).

**Proposition 2.5.** *Let  $a, b$  be as in Proposition 2.1 and  $n$  be a prime number. Let  $R \subseteq \mathbb{R}_+^n$  be a Lebesgue-measurable bounded set that is invariant under the action of permutations. Let  $\lambda(R)$  denote the set of all  $(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in R$  for which the inequality (1.2) holds. Then*

$$(2.40) \quad \text{vol } \lambda(R) \geq \frac{\text{vol } R}{n-1}.$$

*Proof.* For  $m \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$  let  $\mu_m \in S_n$  and denote the permutation

$$(2.41) \quad \mu_m(i) = mi,$$

where all the numbers are understood to be modulo  $n$  (in particular  $\mu_m(n) = n$  for all  $m$ ). Now recall the definition of  $A_\mu$  from the equation (2.35) and observe that:

$$(2.42) \quad \begin{aligned} \sum_{m=1}^{n-1} A_{\mu_m} &= \sum_{m=1}^{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n x_{mi}^a x_{mi+m}^b = \sum_{m=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=1}^n x_j^a x_{j+m}^b \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n x_j^a \sum_{m=1}^{n-1} x_{j+m}^b = \sum_{j=1}^n x_j^a \sum_{i \neq j} x_i^b. \end{aligned}$$

Then, the same argument in the proof of Prop. 2.4 implies that, for some  $m \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ , we have  $A_{\mu_m} \leq (n\sigma_c)^2$ . We conclude that

$$(2.43) \quad R \subseteq \bigcup_{m=1}^{n-1} \mu_m \cdot \lambda(R),$$

which in turn implies the inequality (2.40).  $\square$

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