

The Brunn–Minkowski inequality

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Let J be a bounded subset of \mathbb{R} . If $\lambda^*(J) = \lambda_*(J)$, then we call J **measurable**. We call $\lambda(J) = \lambda^*(J) = \lambda_*(J)$ the **length** of J .

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Suppose that the sides of A are equal to $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d$ and the sides of B are equal to β_1, \dots, β_d . Then the sides of $A + B$ are equal to $\alpha_1 + \beta_1, \dots, \alpha_d + \beta_d$.

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$$\left(\prod (\alpha_i + \beta_i) \right)^{1/d} \geq \left(\prod \alpha_i \right)^{1/d} + \left(\prod \beta_i \right)^{1/d}.$$

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This inequality is your homework.

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- Next, we prove the Brunn–Minkowskii inequality for **brick sets**, where a brick set is a finite set of boxes in \mathbb{R}^d .

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- We are going to use induction on the total number of boxes in A and B . Denote the number of boxes in A and B by n_a and n_b , respectively.

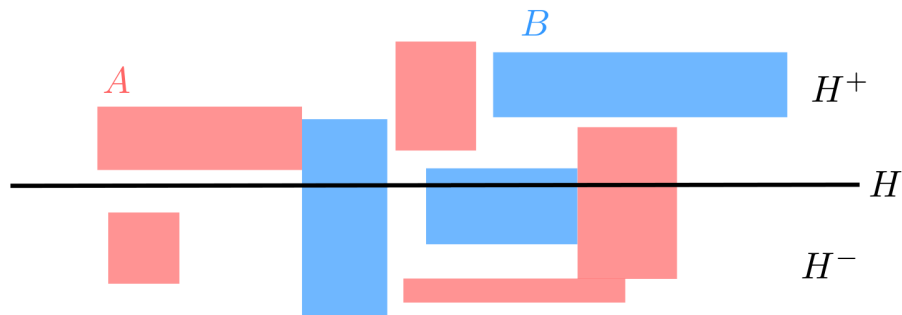
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- The base of induction ($n_a + n_b = 2$) is proved.
- Now, suppose that $n_a + n_b = k > 2$ and for smaller number of boxes the inequality is proved. Without loss of generality $n_a \geq 2$.
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- Consider a hyperplane H separating some two boxes in A and choose properly a translate of B . W.l.o.g. H passes through the origin. W.l.o.g. the translation vector is \mathbf{o} .

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- Let $A_{\pm} = H^{\pm} \cap A$ and $B_{\pm} = H^{\pm} \cap B$.
- Suppose that

$$\frac{\text{vol } A_+}{\text{vol } A_-} = \frac{\text{vol } B_+}{\text{vol } B_-} = \frac{\lambda}{1 - \lambda}.$$

- Since the total number of boxes in H^+ is less than $k = n_a + n_b$, we may apply the induction hypothesis for A_+ and B_+ , that is,

$$\text{vol}^{1/d}(A_+ + B_+) \geq \text{vol}^{1/d} A_+ + \text{vol}^{1/d} B_+ = \lambda^{1/d}(\text{vol}^{1/d} A + \text{vol}^{1/d} B).$$

Hence

$$\text{vol}(A_+ + B_+) \geq \lambda(\text{vol}^{1/d} A + \text{vol}^{1/d} B)^d.$$

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- Remark that $A_{\pm} + B_{\pm} \subseteq H_{\pm}$. Therefore,

$$\text{vol}(A + B) \geq \text{vol}(A_+ + B_+) + \text{vol}(A_- + B_-) \geq (\text{vol}^{1/d} A + \text{vol}^{1/d} B)^d.$$

Brunn–Minkowskii in general case

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- Therefore,

$$|\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}| \geq |\mathcal{A}| + |\mathcal{B}|.$$

It implies that $|A + B| \geq |A| + |B|$.