Inequalities: A Mathematical Olympiad Approach

By Radmila Bulajich Manfrino, José Antonio Gómez Ortega, Rogelio Valdez Delgado

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This book is intended for the Mathematical Olympiad students who wish to prepare for the study of inequalities, a topic now of frequent use at various levels of mathematical competitions. In this volume we present both classic inequalities and the more useful inequalities for confronting and solving optimization problems. An important part of this book deals with geometric inequalities and this fact makes a big difference with respect to most of the books that deal with this topic in the mathematical olympiad. The book has been organized in four chapters which have each of them a different character. Chapter 1 is dedicated to present basic inequalities. Most of them are numerical inequalities generally lacking any geometric meaning. However, where it is possible to provide a geometric interpretation, we include it as we go along. We emphasize the importance of some of these inequalities, such as the inequality between the arithmetic mean and the geometric mean, the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, the rearrangementinequality, the Jensen inequality, the Muirhead theorem, among others. For all these, besides giving the proof, we present several examples that show how to use them in mathematical olympiad problems. We also emphasize how the substitution strategy is used to deduce several inequalities.

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Review

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"The book is devoted to the proofs of inequalities. As sources for considered inequalities the authors choose mathematical Olympiad of different level. … The book is really interesting and instructive for those students which suppose to develop their research skills and to increase their intuition." (Sergei V. Rogosin, Zentralblatt MATH, Vol. 1176, 2010)

"This book presents a calculus-free introduction to inequalities and optimization problems with many interesting examples and exercises. … the authors present solutions or hints to all exercises and problems appearing in the book. … Most books on Olympiad-level competitions have sections on inequalities, but the book under review focuses on this genre of problems in a particularly attractive and effective way, providing good practice material. I recommend this softcover volume to anyone interested in mathematical competition preparation." (Henry Ricardo, The Mathematical Association of America, October, 2010)

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