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Author(s)	Zhao, CJ; Cheung, WS
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# AN EQUIVALENCE FORM OF THE BRUNN-MINKOWSKI INEQUALITY FOR VOLUME DIFFERENCES

CHANG-JIAN ZHAO\* AND WING-SUM CHEUNG\*\*

ABSTRACT. In this paper, we establish an equivalence form of the Brunn-Minkowski inequality for volume differences. As an application, we obtain a general and strengthened form of the dual Kneser-Süss inequality.

#### 1. Introduction

If K and L are convex bodies in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then there is convex body K + L such that

$$S(K + L, \cdot) = S(K, \cdot) + S(K, \cdot),$$

where  $S(K, \cdot)$  denotes the surface area measure of K. This is a Minkowski's existence theorem; see [3] or [9]. The operation + is called *Blaschke addition*.

**Theorem A** (The Kneser-Süss inequality [9]). If K and L are convex bodies in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then

(1) 
$$V(K + L)^{(n-1)/n} \ge V(K)^{(n-1)/n} + V(L)^{(n-1)/n},$$

with equality if and only if K and L are homothetic.

The volume differences function of convex bodies K and L was defined by Leng [5]:

$$Dv(K,D) = V(K) - V(D), \ D \subset K.$$

In [5], Leng established the following Brunn-Minkowski inequality for volume differences.

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**Theorem B.** If K, L, and D are convex bodies in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $D \subset K$ , and  $D' \subset L$  is a homothetic copy of D, then

(2) 
$$Dv(K+L, D+D')^{1/n} \ge Dv(K, D)^{1/n} + Dv(L, D')^{1/n}$$

with equality if and only if K and L are homothetic and  $(V(K), V(D)) = \mu(V(L), V(D'))$ , where  $\mu$  is a constant.

If  $p \ge 1$  and K and L contain the origin in their interiors, a convex body  $K +_p L$  can be defined by

$$h(K +_p L, u)^p = h(K, u)^p + h(L, u)^p$$

for  $u \in S^{n-1}$ . The operation  $+_p$  is called the *p*-Minkowski addition. Firey [2] proved the following inequality.

**Theorem C**<sub>1</sub>. If K and L are convex bodies in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  containing the origin in their interiors,  $p \ge 1$ , and  $0 \le i < n$ , then

(3) 
$$W_i(K+_p L)^{p/(n-i)} \ge W_i(K)^{p/(n-i)} + W_i(L)^{p/(n-i)}.$$

Furthermore, when p > 1, the equality holds if and only if K and L are dilates of each other.

Firey's ideas were transformed into a remarkable extension of the Brunn-Minkowski theory, called the *Brunn-Minkowski-Firey theory*, by Lutwak [6], [7]. Lutwak found the appropriate *p*-analog  $S_p(K, \cdot)$ ,  $p \ge 1$ , of the surface area measure of a convex body K in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  containing the origin in its interior. In [6], Lutwak generalized Firey's inequality (3). He also generalized Minkowski's existence theorem, deduced the existence of a convex body  $K +_p L$  for which

$$S_p(K+_pL,\cdot) = S_p(K,\cdot) + S_p(K,\cdot)$$

(when K and L are origin-symmetric convex bodies), and proved the following result.

**Theorem C**<sub>2</sub> (Lutwak's *p*-surface area measure inequality). If K and L are origin-symmetric convex bodies in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , and  $n \neq p \geq 1$ , then

(4) 
$$V(K \dot{+}_p L)^{(n-p)/n} \ge V(K)^{(n-p)/n} + V(L)^{(n-p)/n}$$

Furthermore, when p > 1, the equality holds if and only if K and L are dilates of each other.

In [8], Lutwak established the following dual Brunn-Minkowsi inequality.

**Theorem D.** If K, L are star bodies in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then

(5) 
$$V(K + L)^{1/n} \le V(K)^{1/n} + V(L)^{1/n}.$$

with equality if and only if K and L are dilates of each other.

The aim of this paper is to extend Kneser-Süss inequality (Theorem A) to the context of volume differences, which is in turn proved to be equivalent to Leng's result (Theorem B). We then extend Lutwak's *p*-surface area measure inequality (Theorem  $C_2$ ) to the context of volume differences. Finally, a general

dual Brunn-Minkowski inequality which strengthens Lutwak's result (Theorem D) is also given.

### 2. Definitions and preliminaries

The setting of this paper is *n*-dimensional Euclidean space  $\mathbb{R}^n (n > 2)$ . Let  $\mathcal{C}^n$  denote the set of non-empty convex figures (compact, convex subsets) and  $\mathcal{K}^n$  denote the subset of  $\mathcal{C}^n$  consisting of all convex bodies (compact, convex subsets with non-empty interiors) in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . We reserve the letter u for unit vectors and the letter B for the unit ball centered at the origin. The surface of B is  $S^{n-1}$ . We denote by V(K) the *n*-dimensional volume of a convex body K. Let  $h_K : S^{n-1} \to \mathbb{R}$  denote the support function of  $K \in \mathcal{K}^n$ , i.e.,  $h_K(u) = Max\{u \cdot x : x \in K\}, u \in S^{n-1}$ , where  $u \cdot x$  denotes the usual inner product of u and x in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

Associated with a compact subset K of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , which is star-shaped with respect to the origin, is its radial function  $\rho(K, \cdot) : S^{n-1} \to \mathbb{R}$ , defined for  $u \in S^{n-1}$ , by  $\rho(K, u) = \text{Max}\{\lambda \ge 0 : \lambda u \in K\}$ . If  $\rho(K, \cdot)$  is positive and continuous, Kwill be called a star body. Let  $\varphi^n$  denote the set of star bodies in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

Let  $\delta$  denote the Hausdorff metric on  $\mathcal{K}^n$ ; i.e., for  $K, L \in \mathcal{K}^n$ ,  $\delta(K, L) = |h_K - h_L|_{\infty}$ , where  $|\cdot|_{\infty}$  denotes the sup-norm on the space of continuous functions  $C(S^{n-1})$  on  $S^{n-1}$ .

# 2.1. Mixed volume and dual mixed volume

If  $K_i \in \mathcal{K}^n$  (i = 1, 2, ..., r) and  $\lambda_i$  (i = 1, 2, ..., r) are nonnegative real numbers, then of fundamental importance is the fact that the volume of  $\sum_{i=1}^r \lambda_i K_i$  is a homogeneous polynomial in  $\lambda_i$  given by

(6) 
$$V(\sum_{i=1}^{\prime} \lambda_i K_i) = \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_n} \lambda_{i_1} \cdots \lambda_{i_n} V(K_{i_1 \cdots i_n}),$$

where the sum is taken over all *n*-tuples  $(i_1, \ldots, i_n)$  of positive integers not exceeding *r*. The coefficient  $V(K_{i_1\dots i_n})$ , which is called the *mixed volume* of  $K_i, \ldots, K_{i_n}$ , depends only on the bodies  $K_{i_1}, \ldots, K_{i_n}$ , and is uniquely determined by (6). If  $K_1 = \cdots = K_{n-i} = K$  and  $K_{n-i+1} = \cdots = K_n = L$ , then the mixed volume  $V(K_1 \cdots K_n)$  is usually written as  $V_i(K, L)$ .

From (6), we easily get: If  $K, L, M \in \mathcal{K}^n$  and  $\alpha, \mu \ge 0$ , then

(7) 
$$V_1(M, \alpha K + \mu L) = \alpha V_1(M, K) + \mu V_1(M, L).$$

Further, from (6) it follows immediately that

(8) 
$$\lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \frac{V(K + \varepsilon L) - V(K)}{\varepsilon} = nV_1(K, L).$$

If  $K_1, \ldots, K_n \in \varphi^n$ , then the dual mixed volume of  $K_1, \ldots, K_n$  is written as  $\tilde{V}(K_1, \ldots, K_n)$ . If  $K_1 = \cdots = K_{n-i} = K$ , and  $K_{n-i+1} = \cdots = K_n = L$ , then  $\tilde{V}(K_1, \ldots, K_n)$  is written as  $\tilde{V}_i(K, L)$ . If L = B, the dual mixed volume  $\tilde{V}(K,B)$  is written as  $\tilde{W}_i(K)$  and is called the *i*-th dual Quermassintegral of K.

## 2.2. The Blaschke addition and the radial Blaschke addition

If K, L and  $\alpha, \mu \geq 0$ , then the Theorem of Fenchel-Jessen-Alexandrov tells that there exists a convex body, unique up to translation, which we denote by  $\alpha \cdot K \dot{+} \mu \cdot L$ , such that

$$S(\alpha \cdot K \dot{+} \mu \cdot L, \cdot) = \alpha S(K, \cdot) + \mu S(L, \cdot).$$

This addition is called *Blaschke addition*.

The following result will be used later: If  $K, L, M \in \mathcal{K}^n$  and  $\alpha, \mu \ge 0$ , then

(9) 
$$V_1(\alpha K + \mu L, M) = \alpha V_1(K, M) + \mu V_1(L, M).$$

As an aside, we note that corresponding to (8) one has for  $K, L \in \mathcal{K}^n$ ,

(10) 
$$\lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \frac{V(L + \varepsilon K) - V(L)}{\varepsilon} = \frac{n}{n-1} V_1(K, L)$$

See Goikkman [4].

If  $K, L \in \varphi^n$  and  $\alpha, \mu \ge 0$ , then the radial Blaschke linear combination,  $\alpha \cdot K + \mu \cdot L$ , is the star body whose radial function is given by

(11) 
$$\rho(\alpha \cdot K + \mu \cdot L, \cdot)^{n-1} = \alpha \rho(K, \cdot)^{n-1} + \mu \rho(L, \cdot)^{n-1}.$$

We shall call the addition radial Blaschke addition.

#### 3. Lemmas

The following well-known results will be required to prove our main Theorems.

**Lemma 1** (Bellman's inequality). Let  $a = \{a_1, \ldots, a_n\}$  and  $b = \{b_1, \ldots, b_n\}$  be two sequences of positive real numbers and p > 1 such that  $a_1^p - \sum_{i=2}^n a_i^p > 0$ and  $b_1^p - \sum_{i=2}^n b_i^p > 0$ , then

(12) 
$$\left(a_1^p - \sum_{i=2}^n a_i^p\right)^{1/p} + \left(b_1^p - \sum_{i=2}^n b_i^p\right)^{1/p} \le \left((a_1 + b_1)^p - \sum_{i=2}^n (a_i + b_i)^p\right)^{1/p}$$

with equality if and only if a = vb where v is a constant.

**Lemma 2** (Minkowski's inequality for integrals). If  $f_j \ge 0 (j = 1, ..., m)$ , p > 1, then

(13) 
$$\left(\int_{S^{n-1}} \left(\sum_{j=1}^m f_j(u)\right)^p dS(u)\right)^{1/p} \le \sum_{j=1}^m \left(\int_{S^{n-1}} f_j^p(u) dS(u)\right)^{1/p},$$

with equality if and only if  $f_j$  are effectively proportional. This inequality is reversed if 0 or <math>p < 0.

**Lemma 3.** If K, L, and D are convex bodies in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $D \subset K$ , and  $D' \subset L$  is a homothetic copy of D, then

(14) 
$$Dv(K + L, D + D')^{(n-1)/n} \ge Dv(K, D)^{(n-1)/n} + Dv(L, D')^{(n-1)/n}$$

with equality if and only if K and L are homothetic and  $(V(K), V(D)) = \mu(V(L), V(D'))$ , where  $\mu$  is a constant.

*Proof.* We will prove the lemma using the method of Leng [5].

Applying the Knesser-Süss inequality (1), we obtain

(15) 
$$V(K \dot{+} L)^{(n-1)/n} \ge V(K)^{(n-1)/n} + V(L)^{(n-1)/n}$$

with equality if and only if K and L are homothetic, and

(16) 
$$V(D \dot{+} D')^{(n-1)/n} = V(D)^{(n-1)/n} + V(D')^{(n-1)/n}.$$

From (15) and (16), we obtain

(17) 
$$Dv(K \dot{+} L, D \dot{+} D') \ge [V(K)^{(n-1)/n} + V(L)^{(n-1)/n}]^{n/(n-1)} - [V(D)^{(n-1)/n} + V(D')^{(n-1)/n}]^{n/(n-1)}.$$

From (17) and applying inequality (12), we have

$$Dv(K + L, D + D')^{(n-1)/n} \ge (V(K) - V(D))^{(n-1)/n} + (V(L) - V(D'))^{(n-1)/n},$$
  
with equality if and only if K and L are homothetic and  $(V(K), V(D)) = \mu(V(L), V(D')),$  where  $\mu$  is a constant.

Remark 1. In the special case where D and D' are single points, inequality (14) becomes the classical Kneser-Süss Inequality.

# 4. Main results

We next observe that Lemma 3 is actually equivalent to Leng's result (Theorem B).

**Theorem 1.** If K, L, and D are convex bodies in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $D \subset K$ , and  $D' \subset L$  is a homothetic copy of D, then

(18) 
$$Dv(K \dot{+} L, D \dot{+} D')^{(n-1)/n} \ge Dv(K, D)^{(n-1)/n} + Dv(L, D')^{(n-1)/n} \Leftrightarrow Dv(K + L, D + D')^{1/n} \ge Dv(K, D)^{1/n} + Dv(L, D')^{1/n},$$

where the conditions of equality are also equivalent.

*Proof.*  $(\Rightarrow)$  Suppose that

$$Dv(K + L, D + D')^{(n-1)/n} \ge Dv(K, D)^{(n-1)/n} + Dv(L, D')^{(n-1)/n},$$

with equality if and only if K and L are homothetic and  $(V(K), V(D)) = \mu(V(L), V(D'))$ , where  $\mu$  is a constant.

From (10), we obtain

$$(19) \quad \begin{aligned} &\frac{n}{n-1}(V_1(K,L) - V_1(D,D')) \\ &= \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \frac{Dv(L \dot{+}\varepsilon K, D' \dot{+}\varepsilon D) + Dv(D',L)}{\varepsilon} \\ &\geq \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \frac{(Dv(L,D')^{(n-1)/n} + \varepsilon Dv(K,D)^{(n-1)/n})^{n/(n-1)} + Dv(D',L)}{\varepsilon} \end{aligned}$$

with equality if and only if K and L are homothetic and  $(V(K), V(D)) = \mu(V(L), V(D'))$ , where  $\mu$  is a constant.

On the other hand, from (19) and in view of L'Hôpital's rule, we have

$$V_1(K,L) - V_1(D,D')$$

$$(20) \geq \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} (Dv(L,D')^{(n-1)/n} + \varepsilon Dv(K,D)^{(n-1)/n})^{1/(n-1)} Dv(K,D)^{(n-1)/n}$$

$$= Dv(L,D')^{1/n} Dv(K,D)^{(n-1)/n}.$$

Suppose that  $M, N \in \mathcal{K}^n$  and  $N \subset M$ , from (7) and (20), it follows that

(21)  

$$V_1(M, K + L) - V_1(N, D + D')$$

$$= (V_1(M, K) - V_1(N, D)) + (V_1(M, L) - V_1(N, D'))$$

$$\ge (Dv(K, D)^{1/n} + Dv(L, D')^{1/n})Dv(M, N)^{(n-1)/n}.$$

If we take M = K + L and N = D + D' in (21), in view of  $V(K, \ldots, K) = V(K)$ , we have

$$Dv(K+L, D+D')^{1/n} \ge Dv(K, D)^{1/n} + Dv(K, D)^{1/n}$$

with equality if and only if K and L are homothetic and  $(V(K), V(D)) = \mu(V(L), V(D'))$ , where  $\mu$  is a constant.

 $(\Leftarrow)$  Suppose that

$$Dv(K+L, D+D')^{1/n} \ge Dv(K, D)^{1/n} + Dv(L, D')^{1/n},$$

with equality if and only if K and L are homothetic and  $(V(K), V(D)) = \mu(V(L), V(D'))$ , where  $\mu$  is a constant.

From (8), we have

(22)  

$$n(V_{1}(K,L) - V_{1}(D,D')) = \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \frac{Dv(K + \varepsilon L, D + \varepsilon D') + Dv(D,K)}{\varepsilon} \\ \geq \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \frac{(Dv(K,D)^{1/n} + \varepsilon Dv(L,D')^{1/n})^{n} + Dv(D,K)}{\varepsilon},$$

with equality if and only if K and L are homothetic and  $(V(K), V(D)) = \mu(V(L), V(D'))$ , where  $\mu$  is a constant.

On the other hand, from (22) and in view of L'Hôpital's rule, we have

(23)  

$$V_{1}(K,L) - V_{1}(D,D')$$

$$\geq \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} (Dv(K,D)^{1/n} + \varepsilon Dv(L,D')^{1/n})^{n-1} Dv(L,D')^{1/n}$$

$$= Dv(K,D)^{(n-1)/n} Dv(L,D')^{1/n}.$$

From (9) and (23), for any  $M, N \in \mathcal{K}^n$  and  $N \subset M$ , we have

$$V_1(K \dot{+} L, M) - V_1(D \dot{+} D', N)$$

(24) 
$$= (V_1(K,M) - V_1(D,N)) + (V_1(L,M) - V_1(D',N))$$
$$\geq (Dv(K,D)^{(n-1)/n} + Dv(L,D')^{(n-1)/n})Dv(M,N)^{1/n}$$

If we take M = K + L and N = D + D' in (24), and in view of  $V(K, \ldots, K) = V(K)$ , we obtain inequality (14).

*Remark 2.* In the special case where D and D' are single points, Theorem 1 gives the following important result.

**Corollary 1.** The Knesser-Süss inequality is equivalent to the Bunn-Minkowski inequality, namely, for  $K, L \in \mathcal{K}^n$ ,

$$\begin{split} &V(K\ddot{+}L)^{(n-1)/n} \geq V(K)^{(n-1)/n} + V(L)^{(n-1)/n} \\ \Leftrightarrow \quad V(K+L)^{1/n} \geq V(K)^{1/n} + V(L)^{1/n}, \end{split}$$

with equality if and only if K and L are homothetic.

Similarly, from the Lutwak's p-surface area measure inequality (4) and the Bellman's inequality, we can get the following result which is a general form of (4).

**Theorem 2.** If K, L, and D are origin-symmetric convex bodies in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $D \subset K$ , and  $D' \subset L$  is a homothetic copy of D, then for  $n \neq p \geq 1$ ,

(25) 
$$Dv(K \dot{+}_p L, D \dot{+}_p D')^{(n-p)/n} \ge Dv(K, D)^{(n-p)/n} + Dv(L, D')^{(n-p)/n}$$

Furthermore, when p > 1, the equality holds if and only if K and L are dilates of each other and  $(V(K), V(D)) = \mu(V(L), V(D'))$ , where  $\mu$  is a constant.

*Remark 3.* Note that the Knesser-Süss inequality (14) for volume differences corresponds to the case p = 1 in (25). On the other hand, if D and D' are single points, (25) reduces to the classical Knesser-Süss inequality.

Finally, the following is a general and strengthened form of Lutwak's dual Brunn-Minkowski inequality.

**Theorem 3.** If  $K, L \in \varphi^n$ ,  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ , then for i < 1,  $\tilde{W}_i(K + L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)}$ 

(26) 
$$\leq \tilde{W}_{i}(\alpha K + (1-\alpha)L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} + \tilde{W}_{i}((1-\alpha)K + \alpha L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)}$$
$$\leq \tilde{W}_{i}(K)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} + \tilde{W}_{i}(L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)},$$

with equality if and only if K and L are dilates of each other. These inequalities are reversed for i > n or 1 < i < n.

*Proof.* Noting that  $\tilde{W}_i(K) = \int_{S^{n-1}} \rho(K)^{n-i} dS(u)$ , and from (11), (13), we have for i < 1,

$$\begin{split} \tilde{W}_{i}(K + L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{n} \int_{S^{n-1}} \rho(K + L, u)^{n-i} dS(u)\right)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{n} \int_{S^{n-1}} \left(\rho(K, u)^{n-1} + \rho(L, u)^{n-1}\right)^{(n-i)/(n-1)} dS(u)\right)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} \\ &\leq \left(\frac{1}{n} \int_{S^{n-1}} \left(\alpha \rho(K, u)^{n-1} + (1-\alpha)\rho(L, u)^{n-1}\right)^{(n-i)/(n-1)} dS(u)\right)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} \\ &+ \left(\frac{1}{n} \int_{S^{n-1}} \left((1-\alpha)\rho(K, u)^{n-1} + \alpha \rho(L, u)^{n-1}\right)^{(n-i)/(n-1)} dS(u)\right)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{n} \int_{S^{n-1}} \left(\rho(\alpha \cdot K + (1-\alpha) \cdot L, u)\right)^{n-i} dS(u)\right)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} \\ &+ \left(\frac{1}{n} \int_{S^{n-1}} \left(\rho((1-\alpha) \cdot K + \alpha \cdot L, u)\right)^{n-i} dS(u)\right)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} \\ &= \tilde{W}_{i}(\alpha \cdot K + (1-\alpha) \cdot L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} + \tilde{W}_{i}((1-\alpha) \cdot K + \alpha \cdot L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)}. \end{split}$$

On the other hand, for i < 1,

$$\begin{split} \tilde{W}_{i}(\alpha \cdot K + (1-\alpha) \cdot L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{n} \int_{S^{n-1}} \rho(\alpha \cdot K + (1-\alpha)L)^{n-i} dS(u)\right)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} \\ &\leq \alpha \left(\frac{1}{n} \int_{S^{n-1}} \rho(K, u)^{n-i} dS(u)\right)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} \\ &+ (1-\alpha) \left(\frac{1}{n} \int_{S^{n-1}} \rho(L, u)^{n-i} dS(u)\right)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} \\ &= \alpha \tilde{W}_{i}(K)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} + (1-\alpha) \tilde{W}_{i}(L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)}. \end{split}$$

Similarly, we get

 $\tilde{W}_{i}((1-\alpha)\cdot K + \alpha \cdot L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} \leq (1-\alpha)\tilde{W}_{i}(K)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} + \alpha \tilde{W}_{i}(L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)}.$  Hence,

$$\tilde{W}_{i}(\alpha \cdot K + (1-\alpha) \cdot L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} + \tilde{W}_{i}((1-\alpha) \cdot K + \alpha \cdot L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} \\
\leq W_{i}(K)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} + W_{i}(L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)},$$

with equality if and only if K and L are dilates of each other.

The cases of i > n and 1 < i < n are obtained analogously.

Remark 4. Taking i = 0, inequality (26) becomes the following strengthened form of the dual Knesser-Süss inequality.

**Corollary 2.** If  $K, L \in \varphi^n, \alpha \in [0, 1]$ , then (27)

$$V(K + L)^{(n-1)/n} \le V(\alpha K + (1-\alpha)L)^{(n-1)/n} + V((1-\alpha)K + \alpha L)^{(n-1)/n}$$
  
$$\le V(K)^{(n-1)/n} + V(L)^{(n-1)/n},$$

with equality if and only if K and L are dilates of each other.

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Chang-Jian Zhao

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND MATHEMATICS SCIENCES COLLEGE OF SCIENCE CHINA JILIANG UNIVERSITY HANGZHOU 310018, P. R. CHINA *E-mail address*: chjzhao3150yahoo.com.cn chjzhao@163.com chjzhao@cjlu.edu.cn

WING-SUM CHEUNG DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG POKFULAM ROAD, HONG KONG *E-mail address:* wscheung@hku.hk