# ON A BRUNN-MINKOWSKI THEOREM FOR A GEOMETRIC DOMAIN FUNCTIONAL CONSIDERED BY AVHADIEV

#### G. KEADY

School of Mathematics and Statistics University of Western Australia

6009, Australia

EMail: keady@maths.uwa.edu.au

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Abstract: Suppose two bounded subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  are given. Parametrise the Minkowski com-

bination of these sets by t. The Classical Brunn-Minkowski Theorem asserts that the 1/n-th power of the volume of the convex combination is a concave function of t. A Brunn-Minkowski-style theorem is established for another geometric

domain functional.



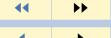
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#### 1. Introduction

Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Define

(1.1) 
$$I(k, \partial \Omega) = \int_{\Omega} \operatorname{dist}(z, \partial \Omega)^k d\mu_z \quad \text{for } k > 0.$$

Here  $\operatorname{dist}(z,\Omega)$  denotes the distance of the point  $z\in\Omega$  to the boundary  $\partial\Omega$  of  $\Omega$ . The integration uses the ordinary measure in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and is over all  $z\in\Omega$ . When n=2 and k=1 this functional was introduced, in [1], in bounds of the torsional rigidity  $P(\Omega)$  of plane domains  $\Omega$ . See also [10] where the inequalities

(1.2) 
$$\frac{I(2,\partial\Omega)}{I(2,\partial B_1)} \le \frac{P(\Omega)}{P(B_1)} \le \frac{128}{3} \frac{I(2,\partial\Omega)}{I(2,\partial B_1)}$$

are presented. Here  $B_1$  is the unit disk and

$$I(2,\partial B_1) = \frac{\pi}{6} = \frac{|B_1|^2}{6\pi}.$$

This inequality is one of many relating domain functionals such as these: see [9, 2, 7]. As an example, proved in [9], we instance

$$(\dot{r}(\Omega))^4 \le \frac{P(\Omega)}{P(B_1)} \le \left(\frac{|\Omega|}{|B_1|}\right)^2 \le \left(\frac{|\partial\Omega|}{|\partial B_1|}\right)^4$$

giving bounds for the torsional rigidity in terms of the inner-mapping radius  $\dot{r}$ , the area  $|\Omega|$  and the perimeter  $|\partial\Omega|$ .

We next define the Minkowski sum of domains by

$$\Omega_0 + \Omega_1 := \{ z_0 + z_1 | z_0 \in \Omega_0, z_1 \in \Omega_1 \},$$



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and

$$\Omega(t) := \{ (1-t)z_0 + tz_1 | z_0 \in \Omega_0, z_1 \in \Omega_1 \}, \quad 0 \le t \le 1.$$

The classical Brunn-Minkowski Theorem in the plane is that  $\sqrt{|\Omega(t)|}$  is a concave function of t for  $0 \le t \le 1$ , and it also happens that  $|\partial\Omega(t)|$  is, for convex  $\Omega$ , a linear, hence concave, function of t. Given a nonnegative quasiconcave function f(t) for which, with  $\alpha>0$ ,  $f(t)^{\alpha}$  is concave, we say that f is  $\alpha$ -concave. In [3] it was shown that, for convex domains  $\Omega$ , the torsional rigidity satisfies a Brunn-Minkowski style theorem: specifically  $P(\Omega(t))$  is 1/4-concave. Thus inequalities (1.3) show that the 1/4-concave function  $P(\Omega(t))$  is sandwiched between the 1/4-concave functions  $|\Omega(t)|^2$  and  $|\partial\Omega(t)|^4$ . In [6] it is shown that the polar moment of inertia  $I_c(\Omega(t))$  about the centroid of  $\Omega$ , for which

(1.4) 
$$\left(\frac{|\Omega|}{|B_1|}\right)^2 \le \frac{I_c(\Omega)}{I_c(B_1)} \le \left(\frac{|\partial\Omega|}{|\partial B_1|}\right)^4,$$

holds, is also 1/4-concave. (The 1/4-concavity of  $\dot{r}(\Omega(t))^4$  has also been established by Borell.) In this paper we show that the same 1/4-concavity of the domain functions holds for the quantities in inequalities (1.2). Our main result will be the following.

**Theorem 1.1.** Let K denote the set of convex domains in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . For  $\Omega_0$ ,  $\Omega_1 \in K$ ,  $I(k, \partial \Omega(t))$  is 1/(n+k)-concave in t.

Our proof is an application of the Prekopa-Leindler inequality, Theorem 2.2 below.



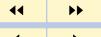
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#### 2. Proofs

The proof will use two little lemmas, Theorems 2.1 and 2.3, and one major theorem, the Prekopa-Leindler Theorem 2.2. None of these three results is new: the new item in this paper is their use.

**Theorem 2.1 (Knothe).** Let 0 < t < 1 and  $\Omega_0, \ \Omega_1 \in \mathcal{K}$ . With

$$z_t = (1 - t)z_0 + tz_1,$$

we have

(2.1) 
$$\operatorname{dist}(z_t, \partial \Omega(t)) \ge (1 - t) \operatorname{dist}(z_0, \partial \Omega_0) + t \operatorname{dist}(z_1, \partial \Omega_1).$$

*Proof.* Let  $z_t \in \Omega(t)$  be as above. Denote the usual Euclidean norm with  $|\cdot|$ . Let  $w_t \in \partial \Omega(t)$  be a point such that

$$|z_t - w_t| = \operatorname{dist}(z_t, \partial \Omega(t)).$$

Define the direction u by

$$u = \frac{z_t - w_t}{|z_t - w_t|}.$$

Define  $v_0 \in \Omega_0$ , and  $v_1 \in \Omega_1$  as the points on these boundaries which are on the rays, in direction u, from  $z_0$  and  $z_1$  respectively. Thus

$$v_0 = z_0 + |z_0 - v_0|u,$$
  $v_1 = z_1 + |z_1 - v_1|u.$ 

Now let p be any unit vector perpendicular to u. The preceding definitions give that

$$\langle w_t - ((1-t)v_0 + tv_1), p \rangle = 0,$$



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from which, on defining

$$v_t = (1 - t)v_0 + tv_1$$
 we have  $w_t = v_t + \eta u$ .

for some number  $\eta$ . Now, we do not know (or care) if  $v_t$  is on the boundary of  $\Omega(t)$ , but we do know that  $v_t$  is in the closed set  $\overline{\Omega(t)}$ . Using the convexity of D(t) we have that  $v_t$  is on the ray joining  $z_t$  with  $w_t$ , and between  $z_t$  and  $w_t$ . From this,

$$dist(z_{t}, \partial\Omega(t)) = |z_{t} - w_{t}| \ge |z_{t} - v_{t}|,$$
  

$$= (1 - t)|z_{0} - v_{0}| + t|z_{1} - v_{1}|,$$
  

$$\ge (1 - t) \operatorname{dist}(z_{0}, \partial\Omega_{0}) + t \operatorname{dist}(z_{1}, \partial\Omega_{1}),$$

as required.

**Theorem 2.2 (Prekopa-Leindler).** Let 0 < t < 1 and let  $f_0$ ,  $f_1$ , and h be nonnegative integrable functions on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  satisfying

(2.2) 
$$h((1-t)x + ty) \ge f_0(x)^{1-t} f_1(y)^t,$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Then

(2.3) 
$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} h(x) dx \ge \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f_0(x) dx \right)^{1-t} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f_1(x) dx \right)^t.$$

For references to proofs, see [5].

**Theorem 2.3 (Homogeneity Lemma).** *If* F *is positive and homogeneous of degree* I,

$$F(s\Omega) = sF(\Omega) \quad \forall s > 0, \Omega$$

and quasiconcave

$$(2.4) F(\Omega(t)) \ge \min(F(\Omega(0)), F(\Omega(1))) \forall 0 \le t \le 1, \ \forall \Omega_0, \Omega_1 \in \mathcal{K},$$



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then it is concave:

$$F(\Omega(t)) \ge (1-t)F(\Omega(0)) + tF(\Omega(1)) \quad \forall 0 \le t \le 1$$
.

*Proof.* See [5]. Replace  $\Omega_0$  by  $\Omega_0/F(\Omega_0)$ ,  $\Omega_1$  by  $\Omega_1/F(\Omega_1)$ . Using the homogeneity of degree 1, and applying (2.4), we have

$$F\left((1-t)\frac{\Omega_0}{F(\Omega_0)} + t\frac{\Omega_1}{F(\Omega_1)}\right) \ge 1$$
.

With

$$t = rac{F(\Omega_1)}{F(\Omega_0) + F(\Omega_1)}$$
, so  $(1 - t) = rac{F(\Omega_0)}{F(\Omega_0) + F(\Omega_1)}$ ,

the last inequality on F becomes

$$F\left(\frac{\Omega_0 + \Omega_1}{F(\Omega_0) + F(\Omega_1)}\right) \ge 1$$
.

Finally, using the homogeneity we have

$$F(\Omega_0 + \Omega_1) \ge F(\Omega_0) + F(\Omega_1) ,$$

and using homogeneity again,

$$F((1-t)\Omega_0 + t\Omega_1) \ge (1-t)F(\Omega_0) + tF(\Omega_1),$$

as required.

*Proof of the Main Theorem 1.1.* Knothe's Lemma 2.1 and the AGM inequality give

(2.5) 
$$\operatorname{dist}(z_t, \partial \Omega(t)) \ge \operatorname{dist}(z_0, \partial \Omega_0)^{(1-t)} \operatorname{dist}(z_1, \partial \Omega_1)^t,$$



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and similarly for any positive k-th power of the distance. Denote the characteristic function of  $\Omega$  by  $\chi_{\Omega}$ . A standard argument, as given in [5] for example, establishes that

$$\chi_{\Omega(t)}((1-t)z_0+tz_1) \ge \chi_{\Omega_0}(z_0)^{1-t}\chi_{\Omega_1}(z_1)^t.$$

So, with

$$h(z) = \operatorname{dist}(z, \partial \Omega(t)) \chi_{\Omega(t)}(z),$$
  

$$f_0(z) = \operatorname{dist}(z, \partial \Omega_0) \chi_{\Omega_0}(z),$$
  

$$f_1(z) = \operatorname{dist}(z, \partial \Omega_1) \chi_{\Omega_1}(z),$$

the conditions of the Prekopa-Leindler Theorem are satisfied. This gives that  $I(k,\partial\Omega(t))$  is log-concave in t. Now define  $F(\Omega(t)):=I(k,\partial\Omega(t))^{1/(n+k)}$ . The function F is quasiconcave in t (as it inherits the stronger property of logconcavity in t from  $I(k,\partial\Omega(t))$ ). Since  $I(k,\partial\Omega(t))$  is homogeneous of degree n+k, F is homogeneous of degree 1. The Homogeneity Lemma applied to F yields that  $I(k,\partial\Omega(t))$  is 1/(n+k)-concave.



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