

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

Find all values $\alpha \in [-2024, 2024]$ such that:

$$\int_{\alpha}^{2024} (|2025x| - x^2 + 2026x) dx \leq \alpha^2 + 2025 \quad (1)$$

Nguyen Van Canh-Vietnam

Solution by Khanh Hung Vu-Vietnam

Put $m = 2024$ for easy demonstration. We consider 2 cases:

Case 1. $-m \leq \alpha < 0$

We have $\alpha < 0 < m$, so we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\alpha}^m (|(m+1)x| - x^2 + (m+2)x) dx &= \int_0^m ((2m+3)x - x^2) dx + \int_{\alpha}^0 (x - x^2) dx \\ &\rightarrow \int_{\alpha}^m (|(m+1)x| - x^2 + (m+2)x) dx = \frac{m^2}{6}(4m+9) + \frac{1}{6}\alpha^2(2\alpha-3) \end{aligned}$$

So we can rewrite the inequality (1) as:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{m^2}{6}(4m+9) + \frac{1}{6}\alpha^2(2\alpha-3) &\leq \alpha^2 + m + 1 \\ \rightarrow \frac{\alpha^3}{3} - \frac{3\alpha^2}{2} + \frac{2m^3}{3} + \frac{3m^2}{2} - m - 1 &\geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Consider the function $f(\alpha) = \frac{\alpha^3}{3} - \frac{3\alpha^2}{2} + \frac{2m^3}{3} + \frac{3m^2}{2} - m - 1$ in range $[-m, 0)$

We have $f'(\alpha) = \alpha^2 - 3\alpha = \alpha(\alpha - 3) > 0$. So the function $f(\alpha)$ is an increasing function in range $[-m, 0) \rightarrow f(\alpha) \geq f(-m) \rightarrow f(\alpha) \geq \frac{m^3}{3} - m - 1 > 0$. So for all $-m \leq \alpha < 0$, the inequality (1) is satisfied.

Case 2. $0 \leq \alpha \leq m$

We have $0 \leq \alpha \leq m$, so we have:

$$\int_{\alpha}^m (|(m+1)x| - x^2 + (m+2)x) dx = \int_{\alpha}^m (x - x^2) dx = \frac{\alpha^3}{3} - \frac{\alpha^2}{2} + \frac{m^2}{2} - \frac{m^3}{3}$$

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

So we can rewrite the inequality (1) as:

$$\frac{\alpha^3}{3} - \frac{\alpha^2}{2} + \frac{m^2}{2} - \frac{m^3}{3} \leq \alpha^2 + m + 1$$
$$\rightarrow \frac{\alpha^3}{3} - \frac{3\alpha^2}{2} - \frac{m^3}{3} + \frac{m^2}{2} - m - 1 \leq 0$$

Consider the function $g(\alpha) = \frac{\alpha^3}{3} - \frac{3\alpha^2}{2} - \frac{m^3}{3} + \frac{m^2}{2} - m - 1$ in range $[0, m]$

We have $g'(\alpha) = \alpha^2 - 3\alpha = \alpha(\alpha - 3)$. So $g'(\alpha) = 0 \rightarrow \alpha = 3$

We have:

$$\begin{cases} g(0) = -\frac{m^3}{3} + \frac{m^2}{2} - m - 1 < 0 \\ g(3) = -\frac{m^3}{3} + \frac{m^2}{2} - m < 0 \\ g(m) = -m^2 - m - 1 < 0 \end{cases}$$

$\rightarrow g(\alpha) \leq 0 \forall \alpha \in [0, m]$. So for all $0 \leq \alpha \leq m$, the inequality (1) is satisfied.

In conclusion, all real numbers $\alpha \in [-2024, 2024]$ satisfy the inequality (1).