

Problem

Let $ABCDE$ be a convex pentagon in the plane and ABC the inscribed triangle with the max. area. How big can be the area of the pentagon?.

Generalizations.

This is a part of an old problem of mine which is unpublished until now.

The original problem is:

Let $G = A_1, A_2, \dots, A_m$, $m \geq d + 1$ be a point set in E^d and the volume of every d-simplex with vertices among the A_i is no bigger than K^d . Find the the max.volume of the convex cover of G

The same problem for $G = \text{convex body}$ in E^d .

We start the solution for the problem in the plane.

For the quadrilateral $ABCD$ we suppose that the max. inscribed triangle is ABC . It is elementary to prove that the max. area for the quadrilateral is the parallelogram $ABCD$ of area $2(ABC)$.

The problem is quite difficult for the convex pentagon $ABCDE$. We suppose that the inscribed triangle of max. area is ABC .

We first answer to the following question. Given is the triangle ABC . We try to find the points D, E so that the convex pentagon with vertices A, B, C, D, E has the max. area relative to triangle ABC .

Let $c = (o, 1)$ be the unit circle and $A_0D_0B_0C_0E_0$ the regular inscribed pentagon. The succession on the circle of the vertices is A_0, D_0, B_0, C_0, E_0 . Therefore the biggest triangle of the regular pentagon $A_0D_0B_0C_0E_0$ is $A_0B_0C_0$.

We now assume that t is the affinity so that :

$$A_0B_0C_0 = t.ABC$$

so, the asked pentagon is

$$ADBCE = t^{-1}.A_0D_0B_0C_0E_0$$

Therefore

$$\max.area(ABCDE) = area(ABC) \cdot \frac{area(A_0D_0B_0C_0E_0)}{area(A_0B_0C_0)}$$

We work similarly for the original problem. We suppose that the convex cover of G is the polytope $G_1 = A_1A_2...A_p$ $p \geq d+1$ and S_1 the d -simplex with the max.volume inscribed in G_1 . We consider the unit sphere $c = (o,1)$ and we suppose that $B = B_1B_2...B_p$ the inscribed polytope in $c = (o,1)$ with the max.volume and S_{o1} the simplex with the max.volume inscribed in B . We transform by the affinity t , so that:

$$S_{o1} = t.S_1$$

We will have:

$$\max.vol.G = \max.vol.G_1 = \frac{vol.B}{vol.S_{o1}} \cdot vol.S_1$$

We similarly investigate the case G =convex body and S the inscribed simplex with max.volume. Let again $c = (o,1)$ be the unit sphere and S_0 the inscribed regular simplex in c . By the affinity t we transform

$$S_0 = t.S$$

The max.volume of the convex body G will be:

$$\max.vol.G = \frac{vol.c}{vol.S_0} \cdot vol.S$$

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