

AN EQUIVALENCE FORM OF THE BRUNN-MINKOWSKI INEQUALITY FOR VOLUME DIFFERENCES

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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 $K\dot{+}L$ such that

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

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

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

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

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]:

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

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*

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

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

If $p \geq 1$ 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 C₁. *If K and L are convex bodies in \mathbb{R}^n containing the origin in their interiors, $p \geq 1$, and $0 \leq i < n$, then*

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

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 $S_p(K, \cdot)$, $p \geq 1$, 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

$$S_p(K +_p L, \cdot) = S_p(K, \cdot) + S_p(L, \cdot),$$

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

Theorem C₂ (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*

$$(4) \quad V(K +_p L)^{(n-p)/n} \geq V(K)^{(n-p)/n} + V(L)^{(n-p)/n}.$$

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-Minkowski inequality.

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

$$(5) \quad V(K \check{+} L)^{1/n} \leq V(K)^{1/n} + V(L)^{1/n},$$

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 C₂) 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 $h_K : S^{n-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ denote the support function of $K \in \mathcal{K}^n$, i.e., $h_K(u) = \text{Max}\{u \cdot x : x \in K\}, u \in S^{n-1}$, 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 $\rho(K, \cdot) : S^{n-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, defined for $u \in S^{n-1}$, by $\rho(K, u) = \text{Max}\{\lambda \geq 0 : \lambda u \in K\}$. If $\rho(K, \cdot)$ is positive and continuous, K will be called a star body. Let φ^n denote the set of star bodies in \mathbb{R}^n .

Let δ 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 $K_i \in \mathcal{K}^n (i = 1, 2, \dots, r)$ and $\lambda_i (i = 1, 2, \dots, r)$ 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 λ_i given by

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

where the sum is taken over all n -tuples (i_1, \dots, 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_1}, \dots, K_{i_n} , depends only on the bodies K_{i_1}, \dots, K_{i_n} , and is uniquely determined by (6). If $K_1 = \dots = K_{n-i} = K$ and $K_{n-i+1} = \dots = K_n = L$, 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 $\alpha, \mu \geq 0$, then

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

Further, from (6) it follows immediately that

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

If $K_1, \dots, K_n \in \varphi^n$, then the dual mixed volume of K_1, \dots, K_n is written as $\tilde{V}(K_1, \dots, K_n)$. If $K_1 = \dots = K_{n-i} = K$, and $K_{n-i+1} = \dots = K_n = L$, then $\tilde{V}(K_1, \dots, K_n)$ 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 $\alpha, \mu \geq 0$, then

$$(9) \quad V_1(\alpha K \dot{+} \mu L, M) = \alpha V_1(K, M) + \mu V_1(L, M).$$

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

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

See Goikkman [4].

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

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

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 $a = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$ and $b = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ 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*

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

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

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

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

with equality if and only if f_j are effectively proportional.

This inequality is reversed if $0 < p < 1$ or $p < 0$.

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*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

From (15) and (16), we obtain

$$(17) \quad \begin{aligned} Dv(K \dot{+} L, D \dot{+} D') &\geq [V(K)^{(n-1)/n} + V(L)^{(n-1)/n}]^{n/(n-1)} \\ &\quad - [V(D)^{(n-1)/n} + V(D')^{(n-1)/n}]^{n/(n-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

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

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

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

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

$$(18) \quad \begin{aligned} Dv(K \dot{+} L, D \dot{+} D')^{(n-1)/n} &\geq Dv(K, D)^{(n-1)/n} + Dv(L, D')^{(n-1)/n} \\ &\Leftrightarrow Dv(K + L, D + D')^{1/n} \geq Dv(K, D)^{1/n} + Dv(L, D')^{1/n}, \end{aligned}$$

where the conditions of equality are also equivalent.

Proof. (\Rightarrow) Suppose that

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

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

From (10), we obtain

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

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

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

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

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

$$\begin{aligned}
 & V_1(M, K + L) - V_1(N, D + D') \\
 (21) \quad &= (V_1(M, K) - V_1(N, D)) + (V_1(M, L) - V_1(N, D')) \\
 &\geq (Dv(K, D)^{1/n} + Dv(L, D')^{1/n}) Dv(M, N)^{(n-1)/n}.
 \end{aligned}$$

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

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

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

(\Leftarrow) Suppose that

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

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

From (8), we have

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

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

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

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

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

$$\begin{aligned}
 & V_1(K \dot{+} L, M) - V_1(D \dot{+} D', N) \\
 (24) \quad & = (V_1(K, M) - V_1(D, N)) + (V_1(L, M) - V_1(D', N)) \\
 & \geq (Dv(K, D)^{(n-1)/n} + Dv(L, D')^{(n-1)/n}) Dv(M, N)^{1/n}.
 \end{aligned}$$

If we take $M = K \dot{+} L$ and $N = D \dot{+} D'$ in (24), and in view of $V(K, \dots, K) = V(K)$, 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 Knneser-Süss inequality is equivalent to the Bunn-Minkowski inequality, namely, for $K, L \in \mathcal{K}^n$,*

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

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 $n \neq p \geq 1$,*

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

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 μ is a constant.

Remark 3. Note that the Knneser-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 Knneser-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 $i < 1$,*

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \tilde{W}_i(K \check{+} L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} \\
 (26) \quad & \leq \tilde{W}_i(\alpha K \check{+} (1 - \alpha)L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} + \tilde{W}_i((1 - \alpha)K \check{+} \alpha L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} \\
 & \leq \tilde{W}_i(K)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} + \tilde{W}_i(L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)},
 \end{aligned}$$

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 $i < 1$,

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

On the other hand, for $i < 1$,

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

Similarly, we get

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

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} & \tilde{W}_i(\alpha \cdot K \check{+} (1-\alpha) \cdot L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} + \tilde{W}_i((1-\alpha) \cdot K \check{+} \alpha \cdot L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} \\ & \leq W_i(K)^{(n-1)/(n-i)} + W_i(L)^{(n-1)/(n-i)}, \end{aligned}$$

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. \square

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*

$$(27) \quad \begin{aligned} V(K \check{+} L)^{(n-1)/n} &\leq V(\alpha K \check{+} (1 - \alpha)L)^{(n-1)/n} + V((1 - \alpha)K \check{+} \alpha L)^{(n-1)/n} \\ &\leq V(K)^{(n-1)/n} + V(L)^{(n-1)/n}, \end{aligned}$$

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

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