

Useful Inequalities $\{x^2 \geq 0\}$

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Cauchy-Schwarz

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i\right)^2 \leq \left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2\right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^n y_i^2\right)$$

Minkowski

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i + y_i|^p\right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \leq \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^p\right)^{\frac{1}{p}} + \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |y_i|^p\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}, \quad \text{for } p \geq 1.$$

Hölder

$$\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i y_i| \leq \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|^p\right)^{1/p} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |y_i|^q\right)^{1/q}, \quad \text{for } p, q > 1, \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1.$$

Bernoulli

$(1+x)^r \geq 1 + rx$, for $x > -1$, $r \in \mathbb{R} \setminus (0, 1)$. If $r = 2n$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$), inequality holds for $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Reverse holds for $x > -1$, $r \in [0, 1]$.

$$(1+x)^r \leq 1 + \frac{rx}{1-(r-1)x}, \quad \text{for } r > 1, \quad -1 \leq x < \frac{1}{r-1}.$$

exponential

$$e^x \geq \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n \geq 1 + x, \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}, n > 0 \text{ (left), } n \geq 1 \text{ (right).}$$

If $x < 0$, then $n \geq -x$ is required for both. Outer inequality always holds.

$$e^x \geq x^e, \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad e^x \geq 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2}, \quad \text{for } x \geq 0, \text{ reverse for } x \leq 0.$$

logarithm

$$\frac{x}{x+1} \leq \log(1+x) \leq \min\{x, x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3}\}, \quad \text{for } x > -1.$$

$$\frac{2x}{2+x} \leq \log(1+x) \leq \frac{x}{\sqrt{x+1}}, \quad \text{for } x \geq 0. \text{ Reverse for } x \in (-1, 0].$$

$$\log(1+x) \geq x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{4}, \quad \text{for } x \in [0, \sim 0.45], \text{ reverse elsewhere.}$$

$$\log(1-x) \geq -x - \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{2}, \quad \text{for } x \in [0, \sim 0.43], \text{ reverse elsewhere.}$$

harmonic

$$\log(n+1) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i} \leq \log(n) + 1$$

square root

$$2\sqrt{x+1} - 2\sqrt{x} < \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} < 2\sqrt{x} - 2\sqrt{x-1}, \quad \text{for } x \geq 1.$$

binomial

$$\left(\frac{n}{k}\right)^k \leq \binom{n}{k} \leq \frac{n^k}{k!} \leq \left(\frac{en}{k}\right)^k, \quad \text{for } n \geq k > 0.$$

binomial sum

$$\sum_{i=0}^d \binom{n}{i} \leq n^d + 1, \quad \text{for } n \geq d \geq 0,$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^d \binom{n}{i} \leq \left(\frac{en}{d}\right)^d, \quad \text{for } n \geq d \geq 1.$$

middle binomial

$$\frac{2^{2n}}{2\sqrt{n}} \leq \binom{2n}{n} \leq \frac{2^{2n}}{\sqrt{2n}}$$

binomial ratio

$$\binom{n}{\alpha n} \leq [\alpha^\alpha (1-\alpha)^{(1-\alpha)}]^{-n}, \quad \text{for } \alpha \in (0, 1).$$

Stirling

$$e\left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n \leq \sqrt{2\pi n}\left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n e^{1/(12n+1)} \leq n! \leq \sqrt{2\pi n}\left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n e^{1/12n} \leq en\left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n$$

trigonometric

$$x - \frac{x^3}{2} \leq x \cos x \leq \frac{x \cos x}{1-x^2/3} \leq x \sqrt[3]{\cos x} \leq x - \frac{x^3}{6} \leq x \cos \frac{x}{\sqrt{3}} \leq \sin x \leq x \cos(0.56 x) \leq x \leq x + \frac{x^3}{3} \leq \tan x, \quad \text{and } \frac{2}{\pi}x \leq \sin x, \quad \text{for } x \in [0, \frac{\pi}{2}].$$

hyperbolic

$$\cosh(x) + \alpha \sinh(x) \leq e^{x^2/2+\alpha x}, \quad \text{where } x \in \mathbb{R}, \alpha \in [-1, 1].$$

Napier

$$b > \frac{a+b}{2} > \frac{b-a}{\ln(b)-\ln(a)} > \sqrt{ab} > a, \quad \text{for } 0 < a < b.$$

means

$$\max\{x_i\} \geq \sqrt{\frac{\sum x_i^2}{n}} \geq \frac{\sum x_i}{n} \geq \left(\prod x_i\right)^{1/n} \geq \frac{n}{\sum x_i^{-1}} \geq \min\{x_i\}$$

power means

$$M_w^r \leq M_w^s, \quad \text{for all pairs } r \leq s, \text{ where:} \\ M_w^r(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n w_i x_i^r\right)^{1/r} \quad \text{and } \sum w_i = 1.$$

If $r = -\infty, 0, +\infty$, M_w^r tends to min, geom. mean and max, respectively.

$$\sqrt[k]{S_k} \geq \sqrt[k+1]{S_{k+1}}, \quad \text{for } 1 \leq k < n, \text{ where:}$$

$$S_k = \frac{1}{\binom{n}{k}} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_k \leq n} a_{i_1} a_{i_2} \cdots a_{i_k}, \quad \text{and } a_i > 0.$$

$$S_k^2 \geq S_{k-1} S_{k+1}, \quad \text{for } 1 \leq k < n, \text{ and } S_k \text{ as before.}$$

$$\varphi(\mathbb{E}[X]) \leq \mathbb{E}[\varphi(X)], \quad \text{where } X \text{ is a random variable, and } \varphi \text{ convex.}$$

For concave φ the reverse holds. Without probabilities:

$$\varphi(\sum_{i=1}^n p_i x_i) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n p_i \varphi(x_i), \quad \text{where } p_i \geq 0, \sum p_i = 1.$$

Chebyshev

$$\sum_{i=1}^n f(a_i)g(b_i)p_i \geq (\sum_{i=1}^n f(a_i)p_i)(\sum_{i=1}^n g(b_i)p_i) \geq \sum_{i=1}^n f(a_i)g(b_{n-i+1})p_i,$$

for $a_1 \leq \dots \leq a_n$, $b_1 \leq \dots \leq b_n$, and f, g nondecreasing, $p_i \geq 0$, $\sum p_i = 1$.

With expectations: $\mathbb{E}[f(X)g(X)] \geq \mathbb{E}[f(X)]\mathbb{E}[g(X)]$.

rearrangement

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i b_i \geq \sum_{i=1}^n a_i b_{\pi(i)} \geq \sum_{i=1}^n a_i b_{n-i+1}, \quad \text{for } a_1 \leq \dots \leq a_n,$$

$b_1 \leq \dots \leq b_n$ and π a permutation of $[n]$. More generally:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n f_i(b_i) \geq \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(b_{\pi(i)}) \geq \sum_{i=1}^n f_i(b_{n-i+1}),$$

with $(f_{i+1}(x) - f_i(x))$ nondecreasing for all $1 \leq i < n$.

Young

$$xy \leq \frac{x^p}{p} + \frac{y^q}{q}, \quad \text{for } x, y \geq 0 \text{ and } p, q > 0, \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1.$$

Chong

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{a_{\pi(i)}} \geq n, \quad \text{and } \prod_{i=1}^n a_i^{a_i} \geq \prod_{i=1}^n a_i^{a_{\pi(i)}}, \quad \text{for } a_i > 0.$$

Kantorovich

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2\right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^n y_i^2\right) \leq \left(\frac{A}{G}\right)^2 \left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i y_i\right)^2, \quad \text{for } x_i, y_i > 0,$$

$$0 < m \leq \frac{x_i}{y_i} \leq M < \infty, \quad A = (m + M)/2, \quad G = \sqrt{mM}.$$

Cauchy

$$\varphi'(a) \leq \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a} \leq \varphi'(b), \quad \text{where } a < b, \text{ and } \varphi \text{ convex.}$$

For concave φ the reverse holds.

Hadamard

$$\varphi\left(\frac{a+b}{2}\right) \leq \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b \varphi(x) dx \leq \frac{\varphi(a) + \varphi(b)}{2}, \quad \text{for } \varphi \text{ convex.}$$

Gibbs

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i \log \frac{a_i}{b_i} \geq a \log \frac{a}{b}, \quad \text{for } a_i, b_i \geq 0, \quad a := \sum a_i, \quad b := \sum b_i.$$

Woeginger

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i \varphi\left(\frac{b_i}{a_i}\right) \leq a \varphi\left(\frac{b}{a}\right), \quad \text{for } \varphi \text{ concave and variables as before.}$$

Pečarić

$$(1 + \frac{x}{p})^p \geq (1 + \frac{x}{q})^q, \quad \text{where either (i) } x > 0, p > q > 0,$$

(ii) $-p < -q < x < 0$ or (iii) $-q > -p > x > 0$. Reverse, if

(iv) $q < 0 < p$, $-q > x > 0$ or (v) $q < 0 < p$, $-p < x < 0$.

Shapiro

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{x_i}{x_{i+1} + x_{i+2}} \geq \frac{n}{2}, \quad \text{where } x_i > 0, \quad (x_{n+1}, x_{n+2}) := (x_1, x_2),$$

and $n \leq 12$ if even, $n \leq 23$ if odd.

Schur

$$x^t(x-y)(x-z) + y^t(y-z)(y-x) + z^t(z-x)(z-y) \geq 0,$$

where $x, y, z \geq 0$, $t > 0$

Weierstrass

$$\prod_{i=1}^n (1 - x_i)^{w_i} \geq 1 - \sum_{i=1}^n w_i x_i, \quad \text{where } x_i \leq 1, \text{ and}$$

either $w_i \geq 1$ (for all i) or $w_i \leq 0$ (for all i).

If $w_i \in [0, 1]$, $\sum w_i \leq 1$, and $x_i \leq 1$, the reverse holds.

Ky Fan

$$\frac{\prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{a_i}}{\prod_{i=1}^n (1 - x_i)^{a_i}} \leq \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n a_i (1 - x_i)}, \quad \text{for } x_i \in [0, \frac{1}{2}], \quad a_i \in [0, 1], \quad \sum a_i = 1.$$

Aczél

$$(a_1 b_1 - \sum_{i=2}^n a_i b_i)^2 \geq (a_1^2 - \sum_{i=2}^n a_i^2)(b_1^2 - \sum_{i=2}^n b_i^2),$$

given that $a_1^2 > \sum_{i=2}^n a_i^2$ or $b_1^2 > \sum_{i=2}^n b_i^2$.

Callebaut

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i^{1+x} b_i^{1-x}\right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i^{1-x} b_i^{1+x}\right) \geq \left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i^{1+y} b_i^{1-y}\right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i^{1-y} b_i^{1+y}\right),$$

for $1 \geq x \geq y \geq 0$.

Mahler

$$\prod_{i=1}^n (x_i + y_i)^{1/n} \geq \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{1/n} + \prod_{i=1}^n y_i^{1/n}, \quad \text{where } x_i, y_i > 0.$$

unknown

$$\sum_{j=1}^m \prod_{i=1}^n a_{ij} \geq \sum_{j=1}^m \prod_{i=1}^n a_{i\pi(j)}, \quad \text{and} \quad \prod_{j=1}^m \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} \leq \prod_{j=1}^m \sum_{i=1}^n a_{i\pi(j)},$$

for $0 \leq a_{i1} \leq \dots \leq a_{im}$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$ and π is a permutation of $[n]$.

Karamata

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \varphi(a_i) \geq \sum_{i=1}^n \varphi(b_i), \quad \text{where } a_1 \geq a_2 \geq \dots \geq a_n \text{ and } b_1 \geq \dots \geq b_n,$$

and $\{a_i\} \succeq \{b_i\}$ (majorization), i.e. $\sum_{i=1}^t a_i \geq \sum_{i=1}^t b_i$ for all $1 \leq t \leq n$, with equality for $t = n$ and φ is convex (for concave φ the reverse holds).

Muirhead

$$\frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\pi} x_{\pi(1)}^{a_1} \cdots x_{\pi(n)}^{a_n} \geq \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{\pi} x_{\pi(1)}^{b_1} \cdots x_{\pi(n)}^{b_n},$$

where $a_1 \geq a_2 \geq \dots \geq a_n$ and $b_1 \geq b_2 \geq \dots \geq b_n$ and $\{a_k\} \succeq \{b_k\}$, $x_i \geq 0$ and the sums extend over all permutations π of $[n]$.

Carleman

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \left(\prod_{i=1}^k |a_i| \right)^{1/k} \leq e \sum_{k=1}^n |a_k|$$

Milne

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^n (a_i + b_i) \right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i b_i}{a_i + b_i} \right) \leq \left(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i \right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^n b_i \right)$$

Abel

$$b_n \min_k \sum_{i=1}^k |a_i| \leq \sum_{i=1}^n |a_i b_i| \leq b_n \max_k \sum_{i=1}^k |a_i|, \quad \text{for } 0 \leq b_1 \leq \dots \leq b_n.$$

Hilbert

$$\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_m b_n}{m+n} \leq \pi \left(\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_m^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \text{for } a_m, b_n \in \mathbb{R}.$$

If we put $\max\{m, n\}$ instead of $m + n$, we have 4 instead of π .

Hardy

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n}{n} \right)^p \leq \left(\frac{p}{p-1} \right)^p \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^p, \quad \text{for } a_n \geq 0, p > 1.$$

Carlson

$$\left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \right)^4 \leq \pi^2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^2 a_n^2, \quad \text{for } a_n \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Mathieu

$$\frac{1}{c^2 + 1/2} < \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2n}{(n^2 + c^2)^2} < \frac{1}{c^2}, \quad \text{for } c \neq 0.$$

Copson

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{k \geq n} \frac{a_k}{k} \right)^p \leq p^p \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^p, \quad \text{for } a_n \geq 0, p > 1, \text{ reverse if } p \in (0, 1).$$

Bonferroni	$\Pr\left[\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right] \leq \sum_{j=1}^k (-1)^{j-1} S_j, \quad \text{for } 1 \leq k \leq n, k \text{ odd},$ $\Pr\left[\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right] \geq \sum_{j=1}^k (-1)^{j-1} S_j, \quad \text{for } 2 \leq k \leq n, k \text{ even}.$ $S_k = \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_k \leq n} \Pr[A_{i_1} \cap \dots \cap A_{i_k}], \quad \text{where } A_i \text{ are events.}$	Doob $\Pr\left[\max_{1 \leq k \leq n} X_k \geq \varepsilon\right] \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[X_n]}{\varepsilon}, \quad \text{for martingale } (X_k) \text{ and } \varepsilon > 0.$
Markov	$\Pr[X \geq a] \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[X]}{a}, \quad \text{where } X \text{ is a random variable, } a > 0.$ $\Pr[X \leq c] \leq \frac{1 - \mathbb{E}[X]}{1 - c}, \quad \text{for } X \in [0, 1] \text{ and } c \in [0, \mathbb{E}[X]].$ Without probabilities: $c \leq \frac{n\mu}{a}, \quad \text{where } c \text{ is the number of elements } \geq a, \text{ among } n \text{ nonnegative numbers with mean } \mu.$	Bernstein $\Pr[X \geq (1 + \delta)\mu] \leq \left(\frac{e^\delta}{(1 + \delta)^{(1+\delta)}}\right)^\mu \leq \exp\left(\frac{-\mu\delta^2}{\min\{2 + \delta, 3\}}\right),$ where X_i independently drawn from $\{0,1\}$, $X = \sum X_i$, $\mu = \mathbb{E}[X]$, $\delta \geq 0$. $\Pr[X \leq (1 - \delta)\mu] \leq \left(\frac{e^{-\delta}}{(1 - \delta)^{(1-\delta)}}\right)^\mu \leq \exp\left(\frac{-\mu\delta^2}{2}\right), \quad \text{for } \delta \in [0, 1).$ Simpler (weaker) form: $\Pr[X \geq R] \leq 2^{-R}, \quad \text{for } R \geq 2e\mu (\approx 5.44\mu).$
Chebyshev	$\Pr[X - \mathbb{E}[X] \geq t] \leq \frac{\text{Var}[X]}{t^2},$ $\Pr[X - \mathbb{E}[X] \geq t] \leq \frac{\text{Var}[X]}{\text{Var}[X] + t^2}, \quad \text{where } t > 0 \text{ (for both).}$	Hoeffding $\Pr[X - \mathbb{E}[X] \geq \delta] \leq 2 \exp\left(\frac{-2\delta^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (b_i - a_i)^2}\right), \quad \text{for } X_i \text{ indep.}$ $X_i \in [a_i, b_i] \text{ (w. prob. 1), } X = \sum X_i, \quad \delta \geq 0.$ A related lemma, assuming $\mathbb{E}[X] = 0$, $X \in [a, b]$ (w. prob. 1) and $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$: $\mathbb{E}[e^{\lambda X}] \leq \exp\left(\frac{\lambda^2(b - a)^2}{8}\right)$
Bhatia-Davis	$\text{Var}[X] \leq (M - \mathbb{E}[X])(\mathbb{E}[X] - m), \quad \text{where } X \in [m, M].$	Azuma $\Pr[X_n - X_0 \geq \delta] \leq 2 \exp\left(\frac{-\delta^2}{2 \sum_{i=1}^n c_i^2}\right), \quad \text{for martingale } (X_k) \text{ s.t.}$ $ X_i - X_{i-1} < c_i \text{ (w. probability 1), for } i = 1, \dots, n, \quad \delta \geq 0.$
Samuelson	$\mu - \sigma\sqrt{n-1} \leq x_i \leq \mu + \sigma\sqrt{n-1}, \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, n.$ Where $\mu = \sum x_i/n$, $\sigma^2 = \sum (x_i - \mu)^2/n$.	Efron-Stein $\text{Var}[Z] \leq \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n (Z - Z^{(i)})^2\right], \quad \text{for } X_i, X_i' \in \mathcal{X} \text{ independent,}$ $f : \mathcal{X}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad Z = f(X_1, \dots, X_n), \quad Z^{(i)} = f(X_1, \dots, X'_i, \dots, X_n).$
Vysochanskij-Petunin-Gauss	$\Pr[X - \mathbb{E}[X] \geq \lambda\sigma] \leq \frac{4}{9\lambda^2}, \quad \text{if } \lambda \geq \sqrt{\frac{8}{3}},$ $\Pr[X - m \geq \varepsilon] \leq \frac{4\tau^2}{9\varepsilon^2}, \quad \text{if } \varepsilon \geq \frac{2\tau}{\sqrt{3}},$ $\Pr[X - m \geq \varepsilon] \leq 1 - \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{3}\tau}, \quad \text{if } \varepsilon \leq \frac{2\tau}{\sqrt{3}}.$ Where X is a unimodal random variable with mode m , $\sigma^2 = \text{Var}[X] < \infty$, $\tau^2 = \text{Var}[X] + (\mathbb{E}[X] - m)^2 = \mathbb{E}[(X - m)^2]$.	McDiarmid $\Pr[Z - \mathbb{E}[Z] \geq \delta] \leq 2 \exp\left(\frac{-2\delta^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n c_i^2}\right), \quad \text{for } X_i, X_i' \in \mathcal{X} \text{ indep.,}$ $Z, Z^{(i)}$ as before, s.t. $ Z - Z^{(i)} \leq c_i$ for all i , and $\delta \geq 0$.
Kolmogorov	$\Pr[\max_k S_k \geq \varepsilon] \leq \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \text{Var}[S_n] = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \sum_i \text{Var}[X_i],$ where X_1, \dots, X_n are independent random variables, $\mathbb{E}[X_i] = 0$, $\text{Var}[X_i] < \infty$ for all i , $S_k = \sum_{i=1}^k X_i$ and $\varepsilon > 0$.	Janson $M \leq \Pr[\text{no } B_i \text{ occurs}] \leq M \exp\left(\frac{\Delta}{2 - 2\varepsilon}\right), \quad \text{where } \varepsilon \geq \Pr[B_i] \text{ for all } i,$ $M = \prod (1 - \Pr[B_i]), \quad \Delta = \sum_{i \neq j} \Pr[B_i \wedge B_j], \quad \text{for } B_i \text{ and } B_j \text{ dependent.}$
Etemadi	$\Pr[\max_{1 \leq k \leq n} S_k \geq 3\alpha] \leq 3 \max_{1 \leq k \leq n} (\Pr[S_k \geq \alpha]),$ where X_i are independent random variables, $S_k = \sum_{i=1}^k X_i$, $\alpha \geq 0$.	Erdős $\sum_{1 \leq j < k \leq n} \frac{1}{x_k - x_j} \geq \frac{1}{8} n^2 \log n, \quad \text{where } -1 \leq x_1 \leq \dots \leq x_n \leq 1.$
Bennett	$\Pr\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i \geq \varepsilon\right] \leq \exp\left(-\frac{n\sigma^2}{M^2} \theta\left(\frac{M\varepsilon}{n\sigma^2}\right)\right), \quad \text{where } X_i \text{ independent,}$ $\mathbb{E}[X_i] = 0, \quad \sigma^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum \text{Var}[X_i], \quad X_i \leq M \text{ (w. probab. 1), } \varepsilon \geq 0,$ $\theta(u) = (1 + u) \log(1 + u) - u.$	Kraft $\sum_{i=1}^N 2^{-c(i)} \leq 1, \quad \text{where } N \text{ is the number of leaves in a binary tree,}$ and $c(i)$ is the depth of a leaf i .