

Landau Problem

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- In 1913, E. Landau (Proc. London Math. Soc. 13 (1913), no.2, 43-49) initiated the following extremum problem for twice differentiable functions.

Landau Extremum Problem: The sharp inequality between the supremum-norms of derivatives of twice differentiable functions f such that: $\|f'\|^2 \leq 4\|f\|\|f''\|$ holds with norm referring to the space $C[0, \infty]$.

If f is a real-valued function defined on $R = (-\infty, \infty)$, $\|f\| = \sup\{f(x): x \in R\}$ and f is twice differentiable and both f and f'' are bounded, J. Hadamard (Comptes Rendus Acad. Sci. Paris 41 (1914), 68-72) achieved the best possible constant 2 in this case. For $C(-\infty, \infty)$, A. N. Kolmogorov (Ucen. Zap. Moskov. Gos. Unive., Mat. 30, (1939), 3-16; Amer. Math. Soc. Transl. 4, New York, (1949), 233-243) established the above inequality with the same constant 2 and generalized this inequality to derivatives of order higher than 2. Besides, R. R. Kallman & G. C. Rota ("Inequalities, II" (O. Shisha, Ed.), Academic Press, New York, (1970), 187-192) demonstrated that the constant 4, is true also for a semigroup of linear contractions. Moreover, H. Kraljevic & S. Kurepa (Glas. Mat. 5 (1970), 109-117) established the constant 4/3 for a strongly continuous cosine function of linear contractions with an infinitesimal generator. In addition, Z. Ditzian (Aequat. Math. 12 (1975), 145-151) achieved the constant 2 for a group of linear isometries. For a real-valued function f defined on $(0, \infty)$,

define $\|f\| = \left(\int_0^\infty f^2(x)dx\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$. If f is twice differentiable and both f and f'' are bounded, G. H. Hardy; J. E. Littlewood; and G. Polya (Proc. London Math. Soc. 25 (1926), no. 2, 265-282; "Inequalities", (1934) Cambridge, Univ. Press, England) showed the above inequality with 2 the best possible constant. Moreover, these three authors (1934) showed that the general inequality $\|f^{(k)}\|^n \leq \|f\|^{n-k} \|f^{(n)}\|^k$, $0 < k < n$ holds with 1 the best possible constant, if f is a real-valued function on $(-\infty, \infty)$ and $\|f\| = \left(\int_{-\infty}^\infty f^2(x)dx\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ as well as f is n -differentiable and both f and $f^{(n)}$ are bounded. This extremum problem is interesting in operator theory and approximation theory, as well.