

A NEW BOUND FOR THE STEINER RATIO

BY

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ABSTRACT. Let V denote a given set of n points in the euclidean plane. A *Steiner minimal tree* for V is the shortest network (clearly, it has to be a tree) interconnecting V . Junctions of the network which are not in V are called *Steiner points* (those in V will be called *regular points*). A shortest tree interconnecting V without using any Steiner points is called a *minimal tree*. Let $\sigma(V)$ and $\mu(V)$ denote the lengths of a Steiner minimal tree and a minimal tree, respectively. Define ρ to be the greatest lower bound for the ratio $\sigma(V)/\mu(V)$ over all V . We prove $\rho > .8$.

1. Introduction. Let V denote a given set of n points in the euclidean plane. A *Steiner minimal tree* for V is the shortest network (clearly, it has to be a tree) interconnecting V . Junctions of the network which are not in V are called *Steiner points* (those in V will be called *regular points*). A shortest tree interconnecting V without using any Steiner points is called a *minimal tree*. Let $\sigma(V)$ and $\mu(V)$ denote the lengths of a Steiner minimal tree and a minimal tree, respectively. Define ρ to be the greatest lower bound for the ratio $\sigma(V)/\mu(V)$ over all V . Gilbert and Pollak [2] conjectured that $\rho = \sqrt{3}/2 \cong .866$ and proved its truth for $n = 3$. Pollak [5] proved the conjecture for the case $n = 4$. For general n , Morse (see [3]) proved that $\rho \geq .5$, Graham and Hwang [3] proved that $\rho \geq 1/\sqrt{3}$, Chung and Hwang [1] proved that $\rho \geq [2\sqrt{3} + 2 - (7 + 2\sqrt{3})]^{1/2} \cong .743$. In this paper we give an elementary proof that $\rho > .8$.

2. Some preliminary results. Let $d(u, v)$ denote the euclidean distance between two points u and v , and for a set X of line segments let L_X denote the sum of their lengths.

We first observe that in proving a lower bound for ρ we can restrict our attention to Steiner minimal trees in which all regular points have degree one. For, if we know that $\rho \geq \alpha$ for all such trees, then $\rho \geq \alpha$ will follow in general, because any Steiner tree with regular points of degree greater than one can be broken at such points to form a collection of smaller trees in which all regular points have degree exactly one.

We now prove two technical lemmas that will be applied repeatedly in proving the main theorem. The following simple lemma from [1] will be useful in proving the first of these:

LEMMA 1 [1]. *In a Steiner minimal tree S , let A be a regular point of degree 1 adjacent to a Steiner point s . Let Y be any point on a line of S other than the line $[A, s]$. Then it must be the case that $d(A, Y) \geq d(A, s)$.*

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Suppose that $d(s, r) + d(r, P) \geq d(A, s)$. Then

$$d(A, q) \leq d(A, P) = \left\{ [d(A, s) - d(r, P)]^2 + [d(A, s) - d(r, P)] \cdot [d(s, r) + d(r, P)] + [d(s, r) + d(r, P)]^2 \right\}^{1/2}.$$

Our second technical lemma takes a form that is particularly useful in induction proofs. Let S be a Steiner minimal tree for the set of regular points V . Regarding S simply as a collection of points in the plane, let S be partitioned into two sets S' and $S - S'$. Let t be a graph such that $t \cup \{S - S'\}$ is a tree interconnecting V . Suppose the lines of t can be partitioned into t^* (with vertex set $V^* \subseteq V$) and $t - t^*$ at a regular point so that t^* is nonempty and $(t - t^*) \cup (S - S')$ is a tree interconnecting $V - \{V \cap S'\}$. Define $\rho' = (L_{S'} - L_{t-t^*})/L_{t^*}$.

LEMMA 3. Suppose for some α that $\sigma(V)/\mu(V) > \alpha$ has been proved for all V with $|V| < n$. Let S be a Steiner minimal tree for a set V with $|V| = n$. Then, if there exist choices for S' , t , and t^* as above such that $\rho' > \alpha$, we must have $\sigma(V)/\mu(V) > \alpha$.

PROOF.

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(V) &= L_{S'} + L_{S-S'} > \alpha L_{t^*} + L_{t-t^*} + L_{S-S'} \\ &> \alpha L_{t^*} + \sigma(V - \{V \cap S'\}) \\ &> \alpha L_{t^*} + \alpha \cdot \mu(V - \{V \cap S'\}) \geq \alpha \cdot \mu(V) \end{aligned}$$

where the first inequality follows by assumption, the second is due to the fact that $(t - t^*) \cup (S - S')$ is a tree interconnecting $V - \{V \cap S'\}$, the third follows from the “inductive” assumption of the lemma, and the last follows because the union of t^* and a minimal tree for $V - \{V \cap S'\}$ must be a tree interconnecting V and having no Steiner point. \square

We quote a result from [2].

LEMMA 4. Suppose that s_1 and s_2 are two Steiner points which are connected by a line in the Steiner minimal tree. s_1 and s_2 each have two other lines. Let the shortest of these four lines have length l . Then $d(s_1, s_2) \geq (\sqrt{3} - 1)l$.

Finally, we give a result which helps recognize a monotone increasing function. The proof makes use of the fact $(b^2 + bx + x^2)^{1/2} > x + b/2$ which is also frequently used elsewhere.

LEMMA 5. Let

$$f(x) = \frac{c + x}{a + (b^2 + bx + x^2)^{1/2}}$$

where a, b and c are constants and $b > 0$. Then $f(x)$ is monotone increasing in x if $2a + b - 2c \geq 0$.

PROOF. Let $N(df/dx)$ be the numerator of df/dx . Since we are only interested in the sign of df/dx , it suffices to check the sign of $N(df/dx)$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 N\left(\frac{df}{dx}\right) &= a + (b^2 + bx + x^2)^{1/2} - (c + x) \frac{b + 2x}{2(b^2 + bx + x^2)^{1/2}} \\
 &= \frac{2a(b^2 + bx + x^2)^{1/2} + 2(b^2 + bx + x^2) - (c + x)(b + 2x)}{2(b^2 + bx + x^2)^{1/2}} \\
 &> \frac{2a(x + b/2) + 2b^2 + bx - bc - 2cx}{2(b^2 + bx + x^2)^{1/2}} \\
 &= \frac{b(a + 2b - c) + (2a + b - 2c)x}{2(b^2 + bx + x^2)^{1/2}} > 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

3. The main result.

THEOREM. $\rho > .8$.

PROOF. Previous results [5] have shown that $\sigma(V)/\mu(V) \geq \sqrt{3}/2 > .8$ for all sets V with $|V| \leq 4$. Thus, suppose that $\sigma(V)/\mu(V) > .8$ for all sets V with $|V| < n$, and consider any set V with $|V| = n \geq 5$ and Steiner minimal tree S . Let s be a Steiner point in S adjacent to two regular points A and B and a Steiner point r that is adjacent to two other points P and Q (see Figure 2). Such a configuration must exist in S , since we can assume that $n > 4$ and that all regular points in S have degree 1.

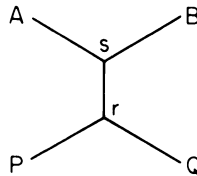


FIGURE 2. A subtree of S

Without loss of generality, assume $d(B, s) = w \geq d(A, s) = 1$. We also label $d(s, r)$ by θ , $d(r, P)$ by x and $d(r, Q)$ by y to simplify writing. We partition the proof into two parts, each having several subcases.

Part 1. $x \leq 1$. Let $[P, X]$ be parallel to $[A, s]$ and perpendicular to $[A, X]$. Let R denote the region of $AsrPX$ together with its minor image with respect to $[A, X]$. By Lemma 2 there exists a regular point C in R .

Case (i). $\theta \geq 1$. Set $S' = [A, s] \cup [B, s] \cup [s, r]$, $t - t^* = \emptyset$ and $t^* = [A, B] \cup [A, C]$. By the Corollary of Lemma 2,

$$d[A, C] \leq 1 + \theta.$$

Hence

$$\rho' \geq \frac{1 + w + \theta}{(1 + w + w^2)^{1/2} + 1 + \theta} = g_1(w, \theta)$$

which is monotone increasing in w by Lemma 5 and is also easily verified to be monotone increasing in θ . Therefore

$$\rho' \geq g_1(1, 1) = \frac{3}{3^{1/2} + 2} > .8.$$

Case (ii). $\theta \leq 1$ and $x \leq 1 - \theta$. By the Corollary of Lemma 2,

$$d(A, C) \leq d(A, r) = (1 + \theta + \theta^2)^{1/2}.$$

If $(1 + \theta + \theta^2)^{1/2} < 1.25$, set $S' = [A, s]$, $t - t^* = \emptyset$ and $t^* = [A, C]$. Then

$$\rho' > \frac{1}{1.25} = .8.$$

If $(1 + \theta + \theta^2)^{1/2} \geq 1.25$, set $S' = [A, s] \cup [B, s] \cup [s, r]$, $t - t^* = \emptyset$ and $t^* = [A, B] \cup [A, C]$. Then

$$\rho' \geq \frac{1 + w + \theta}{(1 + w + w^2)^{1/2} + (1 + \theta + \theta^2)^{1/2}} = g_2(w, \theta)$$

which is monotone increasing in θ by Lemma 5 and is also easily seen to be monotone increasing in w . Let $\theta^* = (13^{1/2} - 2)/4 (> .4)$ be the unique positive solution of the equation $(1 + \theta + \theta^2)^{1/2} = 1.25$. Then

$$\rho' \geq g_2(1, \theta^*) = \frac{2 + \theta^*}{3^{1/2} + (1 + \theta^* + (\theta^*)^{1/2})} > .8.$$

Case (iii). $\theta \leq 1$, $1 - \theta \leq x \leq 1$ and $1 - \theta \leq y$. Let $S' = [A, s] \cup [B, s] \cup [s, r] \cup [r, P] \cup [r, Q]$, $t - t^* = [P, Q]$ and $t^* = [A, B] \cup [A, C]$. Then

$$\rho' \geq \frac{1 + w + \theta + x + y - (x^2 + xy + y^2)^{1/2}}{(1 + w + w^2)^{1/2} + 1 + \theta}$$

which is easily verified to be monotone increasing in x and in y . Hence, setting $x = 1 - \theta$ and $y = 1 - \theta$, we obtain

$$x + y - (x^2 + xy + y^2)^{1/2} \geq (2 - 3^{1/2})(1 - \theta).$$

It follows

$$\rho' \geq \frac{3 - 3^{1/2} + w + (3^{1/2} - 1)\theta}{(1 + w + w^2)^{1/2} + 1 + \theta} = g_3(w, \theta)$$

which is monotone increasing in w by Lemma 5. Hence

$$\rho' \geq g_3(1, \theta) = \frac{4 - 3^{1/2} + (3^{1/2} - 1)\theta}{3^{1/2} + 1 + \theta}$$

which is easily verified to be monotone decreasing in θ . Therefore,

$$\rho' \geq g_3(1, 1) = \frac{3}{3^{1/2} + 2} > .8.$$

Case (iv). $\theta \leq 1$, $1 - \theta \leq x \leq 1$ and $y \leq 1 - \theta$. Let R' be the region similarly defined as R except it lies on the right side of $[s, r]$. Since $y \leq w$, there exists a regular point C' in R' . Let $S' = [A, s] + [B, s] + [s, r]$, $t - t^* = \emptyset$ and $t^* = [A, C] \cup [B, C']$. By the Corollary of Lemma 2,

$$d[A, C] \leq 1 + \theta, \quad d[B, C'] \leq (w^2 + w\theta + \theta^2)^{1/2}.$$

Hence

$$\rho' \geq \frac{1 + w + \theta}{1 + \theta + (w^2 + w\theta + \theta^2)^{1/2}} = g_4(w, \theta)$$

which is monotone increasing in w by Lemma 5. Therefore,

$$\rho \geq g_4(1, \theta) = \frac{2 + \theta}{1 + \theta + (1 + \theta + \theta^2)^{1/2}}$$

which is easily verified to be monotone decreasing in θ . It follows

$$\rho \geq g_4(1, 1) = \frac{3}{2 + 3^{1/2}} \geq .8.$$

Part 2. $x \geq 1$. Let P^* denote the point on $[r, P]$ such that $d[r, P^*] = 1$. Let T denote the Steiner minimal tree on the three points A , P^* and Q . Let ΔWAP^* be an equilateral triangle such that W and r lie on opposite sides of $[A, P^*]$. Then the length of T equals $d(W, Q)$ by Melzak's construction (see Figure 3).

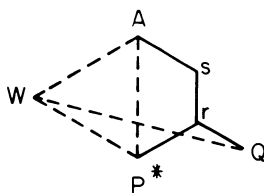


FIGURE 3. Melzak's construction for T

LEMMA 6. The length of T is $[(\theta + y)^2 + 3(\theta + y) + 3]^{1/2}$.

PROOF. Let a denote the angle $\angle rP^*Q$. Then

$$\sin a = \frac{y \sin 120^\circ}{d(P^*, Q)} = \frac{3^{1/2}y}{2(1 + y + y^2)^{1/2}}.$$

It follows

$$\cos a = \frac{y + 2}{2(1 + y + y^2)^{1/2}}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} d[W, Q] &= [d(W, P^*)^2 + d(P^*, Q)^2 - 2 \cos(120^\circ + a) d(W, P^*) d(P^*, Q)]^{1/2} \\ &= [(1 + \theta)^2 + 1 + y + y^2 + 2 \cos(60^\circ - a)(1 + \theta)(1 + y + y^2)^{1/2}]^{1/2} \\ &= [(1 + \theta)^2 + 1 + y + y^2 \\ &\quad + 2(\cos 60^\circ \cos a + \sin 60^\circ \sin a)(1 + \theta)(1 + y + y^2)^{1/2}]^{1/2} \\ &= [(1 + \theta)^2 + 1 + y + y^2 \\ &\quad + (2y + 1)(1 + y + y^2)^{-1/2}(1 + \theta)(1 + y + y^2)^{1/2}]^{1/2} \\ &= [(\theta + y)^2 + 3(\theta + y) + 3]^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

For all subcases of Part 2, S' is set to be $[A, s] \cup [B, s] \cup [s, r] \cup [r, P^*] \cup [r, Q]$.

Case (i). $y > 1$. By Lemma 4, $\theta \geq 3^{1/2} - 1$. Let Q^* denote the point on $[r, Q]$ such that $d[r, Q^*] = 1$. Let T^* denote the Steiner minimal tree on the three points A , P^* and Q^* . By Lemma 6, the length of T^* is

$$[(\theta + 1)^2 + 3(\theta + 1) + 3]^{1/2} = (\theta^2 + 5\theta + 7)^{1/2}.$$

Set $t - t^* = T^*$ and $t^* = [A, B]$. Then

$$\rho' = \frac{3 + w + \theta - (\theta^2 + 5\theta + 7)^{1/2}}{(1 + w + w^2)^{1/2}} = f_1(w, \theta)$$

which is monotone increasing in w by Lemma 6 and is also easily verified to be monotone increasing in θ . Therefore

$$\rho' \geq f_1(1, 3^{1/2} - 1) = \frac{3 + 3^{1/2} - (6 + 3 \cdot 3^{1/2})^{1/2}}{3^{1/2}} > .8.$$

We assume $y \leq 1$ in all other cases. Furthermore, there exists a regular point C' in the region R' . We also define $u = \theta + y$. By Lemma 4, $u \geq 3^{1/2}y$.

Case (ii). $u \leq .95$ or $.95 \leq u \leq 1$ and $w \geq 1.11$. Set $t - t^* = T$ and $t^* = [B, C']$. Then

$$d(B, C') \leq [w^2 + (u - y)w + (u - y)^2]^{1/2}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \rho' &\geq \frac{2 + w + u - (u^2 + 3u + 3)^{1/2}}{[w^2 + (u - y)w + (u - y)^2]^{1/2}} \\ &\geq \frac{2 + w + u - (u^2 + 3u + 3)^{1/2}}{(u^2 + wu + w^2)^{1/2}} = f_2(u, w); \end{aligned}$$

$$N\left(\frac{\partial f_2}{\partial u}\right) = (w^2 + wu + u^2)^{1/2} \left[1 - \frac{2u + 3}{2(u^2 + 3u + 3)^{1/2}} \right] \\ - \left[2 + w + u - (u^2 + 3u + 3)^{1/2} \right] \frac{2u + w}{2(u^2 + wu + w^2)^{1/2}}.$$

Multiplying through by $2(u^2 + 3u + 3)^{1/2}(u^2 + wu + w^2)^{1/2}$, then the right side becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & [2(u^2 + wu + w^2) - (2 + w + u)(2u + w)](u^2 + 3u + 3)^{1/2} \\ & + (u^2 + 3u + 3)(2u + w) - (u^2 + wu + w^2)(2u + 3) \\ & = -[(4 + w)u + w(2 - w)](u^2 + 3u + 3)^{1/2} \\ & + (3 - w)u^2 + 2(3 - w^2)u + 3w(1 - w) \\ & < -[(4 + w)u + 2w](u + 1.5) + 7^{1/2}w^2 \\ & + (3 - w)u^2 + 2(3 - w^2)u + 3w(1 - w) \\ & = -[(1 + 2w)u^2 + (3.5 + 2w)wu + 3 - 7^{1/2}w^2] < 0. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, it suffices to prove

$$f_2(.95, w) > .8 \quad \text{for } u \leq .95 \text{ and } w \geq 1$$

and

$$f_2(1, w) > .8 \quad \text{for } .95 \leq u \leq 1 \text{ and } w \geq 1.11.$$

It is easily verified by Lemma 5 that $f_2(.95, w)$ and $f_2(1, w)$ are both monotone increasing in w . It follows, for $u \leq .95$ and $w \geq 1$,

$$\rho' \geq f_2(.95, 1) = \frac{3.95 - 6.7525^{1/2}}{2.8525^{1/2}} > \frac{3.95 - 2.598}{1.69} > .8.$$

For $.95 \leq u \leq 1$ and $w \geq 1.11$,

$$\rho' \geq f_2(1, 1.11) = \frac{4.11 - 7^{1/2}}{3.3421^{1/2}} > \frac{4.11 - 2.65}{1.829} > .8.$$

Case (iii). $u \geq 1$ and $w \geq 1.11$. Set $t - t^* = T$ and $t^* = [A, B]$. Then

$$\rho' = \frac{2 + w + u - (u^2 + 3u + 3)^{1/2}}{(1 + w + w^2)^{1/2}} = f_3(u, w)$$

which is monotone increasing in w by Lemma 5 and is also easily verified to be monotone increasing in u . Therefore

$$\rho' \geq f_3(1, 1.11) = f_2(1, 1.11) > .8.$$

Case (iv). $.95 \leq u$ and $w \leq 1.11$. Set $t - t^* = [P^*, Q]$ and $t^* = [A, B] \cup [B, C']$.

Subcase (a). $u \leq w$. Then

$$d[B, C'] \leq [w^2 + (u - y)w + (u - y)^2]^{1/2}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \rho' &\geq \frac{2 + w + u - (1 + y + y^2)^{1/2}}{(1 + w + w^2)^{1/2} + [w^2 + (u - y)w + (u - y)^2]^{1/2}} = f_4(u, w, y); \\
 N\left(\frac{\partial f_4}{\partial w}\right) &= (1 + w + w^2)^{1/2} + [w^2 + (u - y)w + (u - y)^2]^{1/2} \\
 &\quad - [2 + w + u - (1 + y + y^2)^{1/2}] \\
 &\quad \cdot \left[\frac{1 + 2w}{2(1 + w + w^2)^{1/2}} + \frac{2w + u - y}{2[w^2 + (u - y)w + (u - y)^2]^{1/2}} \right] \\
 &< (1 + w + w^2)^{1/2} + [w^2 + (u - y)w + (u - y)^2]^{1/2} - (1 + w + u - y) \\
 &\quad \cdot \left[\frac{1 + 2w}{2(1 + w + w^2)^{1/2}} + \frac{2w + u - y}{2[w^2 + (u - y)w + (u - y)^2]^{1/2}} \right] \\
 &< 0
 \end{aligned}$$

since

$$\frac{2(1 + w + w^2) - (1 + w + u - y)(1 + 2w)}{2(1 + w + w^2)^{1/2}} < 0$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\frac{2[w^2 + (u - y)w + (u - y)^2] - (1 + w + u - y)(2w + u - y)}{2[w^2 + (u - y)w + (u - y)^2]^{1/2}} \\
 &= \frac{-2w - (1 + w)(u - y) + (u - y)^2}{2[w^2 + (u - y)w + (u - y)^2]^{1/2}} < 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned}
 N\left(\frac{\partial f_4}{\partial u}\right) &= (1 + w + w^2)^{1/2} + [w^2 + (u - y)w + (u - y)^2]^{1/2} \\
 &\quad - [2 + w + u - (1 + y + y^2)^{1/2}] \frac{w + 2(u - y)}{2[w^2 + (u - y)w + (u - y)^2]^{1/2}} \\
 &> (1 + w + w^2)^{1/2} + [w^2 + (u - y)w + (u - y)^2]^{1/2} \\
 &\quad - [2 + w + u - (1 + y + y^2)^{1/2}] \\
 &> 1 + w/2 + w + (u - y)/2 - (2 + w + u) + 1 + y/2 \\
 &= (w - u)/2 \geq 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Since $u \geq \max\{.95, 3^{1/2}y\}$, it suffices to show

$$f_4(.95, 1.11, y) > .8 \quad \text{for } 3^{1/2}y \leq .95$$

and

$$f_4(3^{1/2}y, 1.11, y) > .8 \quad \text{for } .95 \leq 3^{1/2}y \leq w.$$

We first show that for $y \leq .95/3^{1/2} < .55$,

$$f_4(.95, 1.11, y) = \frac{4.05 - (1 + y + y^2)^{1/2}}{3.3421^{1/2} + (y^2 - 3.01y + 3.1891)^{1/2}} > .8.$$

Note that the numerator and the denominator are both monotone decreasing in y for $0 \leq y \leq 1$. If for $\underline{y} \leq y \leq \bar{y}$ we set $y = \bar{y}$ in the numerator and set $y = \underline{y}$ in the denominator and the ratio is still greater than .8, then $f_4(.95, 1.11, y) > .8$ for $\underline{y} \leq y \leq \bar{y}$. For $0 \leq y \leq .2$,

$$f_4(.95, 1.11, y) > \frac{4.05 - 1.24^{1/2}}{1.83 + 3.1891^{1/2}} > \frac{4.05 - 1.12}{1.83 + 1.79} > .8.$$

For $.2 \leq y \leq .4$,

$$f_4(.95, 1.11, y) > \frac{4.05 - 1.56^{1/2}}{1.83 + 2.6271^{1/2}} > \frac{4.05 - 1.25}{1.83 + 1.63} > .8.$$

For $.4 \leq y \leq .55$,

$$f_4(.95, 1.11, y) > \frac{4.05 - 1.8525^{1/2}}{1.83 + 2.1451^{1/2}} > \frac{4.05 - 1.33}{1.83 + 1.47} > .8.$$

Next we show that for $.54 < .95/3^{1/2} \leq y \leq 1.11/3^{1/2} < .641$,

$$f_4(3^{1/2}y, 1.11, y) = \frac{3.11 + 3^{1/2}y - (1 + y + y^2)^{1/2}}{3.3421^{1/2} + [(4 - 2 \cdot 3^{1/2})y^2 + 1.11(3^{1/2} - 1)y + 1.2321]^{1/2}} > .8.$$

Now the numerator and the denominator are both monotone increasing in y . Substituting y by .54 in the numerator and by .641 in the denominator, we have

$$f_4(3^{1/2}y, 1.11, y) > \frac{3.11 + .93528 - 1.8316^{1/2}}{1.83 + 1.98^{1/2}} > \frac{3.11 + .93 - 1.35}{1.83 + 1.41} > .8.$$

Subcase (b). $u \geq w$. Then

$$d(B, C') \leq [u^2 + (w - y)u + (w - y)^2]^{1/2}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \rho' &\geq \frac{2 + w + u - (1 + y + y^2)^{1/2}}{(1 + w + w^2)^{1/2} + [u^2 + (w - y)u + (w - y)^2]^{1/2}} = f_5(u, w, y); \\
 N\left(\frac{\partial f_5}{\partial w}\right) &= (1 + w + w^2)^{1/2} + [u^2 + (w - y)u + (w - y)^2]^{1/2} \\
 &\quad - [2 + w + u - (1 + y + y^2)^{1/2}] \\
 &\quad \cdot \left[\frac{1 + 2w}{2(1 + w + w^2)^{1/2}} + \frac{u + 2(w - y)}{2[u^2 + (w - y)u + (w - y)^2]^{1/2}} \right] \\
 &< (1 + w + w^2)^{1/2} + [u^2 + (w - y)u + (w - y)^2]^{1/2} - (1 + w + u - y) \\
 &\quad \cdot \left[\frac{1 + 2w}{2(1 + w + w^2)^{1/2}} + \frac{u + 2(w - y)}{2[u^2 + (w - y)u + (w - y)^2]^{1/2}} \right] < 0
 \end{aligned}$$

since

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\frac{2(1 + w + w^2) - (1 + w + u - y)(1 + 2w)}{2(1 + w + w^2)^{1/2}} \\
 &\leq -\frac{(u - y)(1 + 2w)}{2(1 + w + w^2)^{1/2}} < -\frac{u - y}{2} \leq -\frac{u - 1}{2}
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\frac{2[u^2 + (w - y)u + (w - y)^2] - (1 + w + u - y)(u + 2w - 2y)}{2[u^2 + (w - y)u + (w - y)^2]^{1/2}} \\
 &\leq \frac{u^2 - u}{2[u^2 + (w - y)u + (w - y)^2]^{1/2}} \leq \frac{u - 1}{2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned}
 N\left(\frac{\partial f_5}{\partial u}\right) &= (1 + w + w^2)^{1/2} + [u^2 + (w - y)u + (w - y)^2]^{1/2} \\
 &\quad - [2 + w + u - (1 + y + y^2)^{1/2}] \frac{2u + w - y}{2[u^2 + (w - y)u + (w - y)^2]^{1/2}} \\
 &\geq (1 + w + w^2)^{1/2} + [u^2 + (w - y)u + (w - y)^2]^{1/2} \\
 &\quad - [2 + w + u - (1 + y + y^2)^{1/2}] \\
 &> 1 + w/2 + u + (w - y)/2 - (2 + w + u) + 1 + y/2 = 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Since $u \geq \max\{w, 3^{1/2}y\}$, it suffices to show

$$f_5(1.11, 1.11, y) > .8 \quad \text{for } 3^{1/2}y \leq 1.11$$

and

$$f_5(3^{1/2}y, 1.11, y) > .8 \quad \text{for } 1.11 \leq 3^{1/2}y \leq 3^{1/2}.$$

But $f_5 = f_4$ for $u = w$, hence

$$f_5(1.11, 1.11, y) = f_4(1.11, 1.11, y) > .8.$$

Therefore we need only prove, for $.64 < 1.11/3^{1/2} \leq y \leq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} f_5(3^{1/2}y, 1.11, y) &= \frac{3.11 + 3^{1/2}y - (1 + y + y^2)^{1/2}}{3.3421^{1/2} + [(4 - 3^{1/2})y^2 - 1.11(2 \cdot 3^{1/2})y + 1.2321]^{1/2}} \\ &> .8. \end{aligned}$$

Again, the numerator and the denominator are both monotone increasing in y . Hence for $\underline{y} \leq y \leq \bar{y}$, we will substitute \underline{y} for y in the numerator, and \bar{y} for y in the denominator. For $.75 \leq y \leq 1$,

$$f_5(3^{1/2}y, 1.11, y) > \frac{3.11 + 1.299 - 2.2125^{1/2}}{1.83 + 3.2027^{1/2}} > \frac{3.11 + 1.299 - 1.49}{1.83 + 1.79} > .8.$$

For $.64 \leq y \leq .75$,

$$f_5(3^{1/2}y, 1.11, y) > \frac{3.11 + 1.1084 - 2.0496^{1/2}}{1.83 + 2.2848^{1/2}} > \frac{3.11 + 1.10 - 1.44}{1.83 + 1.52} > .8.$$

Thus we have shown in all cases that $\sigma(V)/\mu(V) > .8$ and the Theorem follows by induction.

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Note added in proof. Recently Chung and Graham announced that $\rho > .8241$ by using computer-assisted computations.

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