

Extreme Problem 10 Solutions

Since $f(r) > f(r+1)$, then $f(k^{n+1}-1) > f(k^{n+1})$, which implies the following is true:

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(k^n) &> f(k^{n+1}) \\
 f(k^n + 1) &> f(k^{n+1}) \\
 f(k^n + 2) &> f(k^{n+1}) \\
 &\vdots \\
 f(k^{n+1} - 3) &> f(k^{n+1}) \\
 f(k^{n+1} - 2) &> f(k^{n+1}) \\
 f(k^{n+1} - 1) &> f(k^{n+1})
 \end{aligned}$$

As such, $f(k^n) + f(k^n + 1) + f(k^n + 2) + \dots + f(k^{n+1} - 3) + f(k^{n+1} - 2) + f(k^{n+1} - 1)$

$$= \sum_{r=k^n}^{k^{n+1}-1} f(r) > \underbrace{f(k^{n+1}) + f(k^{n+1}) + f(k^{n+1}) + \dots + f(k^{n+1})}_{k^{n+1} - k^n = k^n(k-1) \text{ terms}}$$

$$k^{n+1} - k^n = k^n(k-1) \text{ terms}$$

Hence, $\sum_{r=k^n}^{k^{n+1}-1} f(r) > k^n(k-1)f(k^{n+1}) \text{-----(1)}$

Also,

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(k^n) &= f(k^n) \\
 f(k^n + 1) &< f(k^n) \\
 f(k^n + 2) &< f(k^n) \\
 &\vdots \\
 f(k^{n+1} - 1) &< f(k^n) \\
 f(k^{n+1} - 2) &< f(k^n) \\
 f(k^{n+1} - 1) &< f(k^n)
 \end{aligned}$$

As such, $f(k^n) + f(k^n + 1) + f(k^n + 2) + \dots + f(k^{n+1} - 3) + f(k^{n+1} - 2) + f(k^{n+1} - 1)$
 $= \sum_{r=k^n}^{k^{n+1}-1} f(r) < \underbrace{f(k^n) + f(k^n) + f(k^n) + \dots + f(k^n)}_{k^{n+1} - k^n = k^n(k-1) \text{ terms}}$

Hence, $\sum_{r=k^n}^{k^{n+1}-1} f(r) < k^n(k-1)f(k^n) \dots \dots \dots (2)$

Reconciling (1) and (2) therefore gives $k^n(n-1)f(k^{n+1}) < \sum_{r=k^n}^{k^{n+1}-1} f(r) < k^n(n-1)f(k^n)$ (shown)