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On the average volume of sections of convex bodies.

The average section functional $\text{as}(K)$ of a centered convex body in \mathbb{R}^n is the average volume of the central hyperplane sections of K :

$$\text{as}(K) = \int_{S^{n-1}} |K \cap \xi^\perp| d\sigma(\xi).$$

We study the question if there exists an absolute constant $C > 0$ such that for every n , for every centered convex body K in \mathbb{R}^n and for every $1 \leq k \leq n - 1$,

$$\text{as}(K) \leq C^k |K|^{\frac{k}{n}} \max_{E \in \text{Gr}_{n-k}} \text{as}(K \cap E).$$

We observe that the case $k = 1$ is equivalent to the hyperplane conjecture. We show that this inequality holds true in full generality if one replaces C by CL_K or $Cd_{\text{ovr}}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n)$, where L_K is the isotropic constant of K and $d_{\text{ovr}}(K, \mathcal{BP}_k^n)$ is the outer volume ratio distance from K to the class \mathcal{BP}_k^n of generalized k -intersection bodies. We also compare $\text{as}(K)$ to the average of $\text{as}(K \cap E)$ over all k -codimensional sections of K . We examine separately the dependence of the constants on the dimension in the case where K is in some of the classical positions as well as the natural lower dimensional analogue of the average section functional. (Received September 06, 2016)