Hindawi Publishing Corporation
Abstract and Applied Analysis
Volume 2013, Article ID 348326, 12 pages
http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2013/348326

Research Article

Best Possible Bounds for Neuman-Sándor Mean by the Identric, Quadratic and Contraharmonic Means

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Received 19 January 2013; Accepted 1 February 2013

Academic Editor: Khalil Ezzinbi

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We prove that the double inequalities $I^{\alpha_1}(a,b)Q^{1-\alpha_1}(a,b) < M(a,b) < I^{\beta_1}(a,b)Q^{1-\beta_1}(a,b)$, $I^{\alpha_2}(a,b)C^{1-\alpha_2}(a,b) < M(a,b) < I^{\beta_2}(a,b)C^{1-\beta_2}(a,b)$ hold for all $a,b>0$ with $a\neq b$ if and only if $\alpha_1 \geq 1/2$, $\beta_1 \leq \log[\sqrt{2}\log(1+\sqrt{2})]/(1-\log\sqrt{2})$, $\alpha_2 \geq 5/7$, and $\beta_2 \leq \log[2\log(1+\sqrt{2})]$, where $I(a,b)$, $M(a,b)$, $Q(a,b)$, and $C(a,b)$ are the identric, Neuman-Sándor, quadratic, and contraharmonic means of a and b, respectively.

1. Introduction

For $p\in\mathbb{R}$ and $a,b>0$ with $a\neq b$, the identric mean $I(a,b)$, Neuman-Sándor mean $M(a,b)$ [1], quadratic mean $Q(a,b)$, contraharmonic mean $C(a,b)$, and pth power mean $M_p(a,b)$ are defined by

$$I(a,b)=\frac{1}{e}\left(\frac{b^b}{a^a}\right)^{1/(b-a)},$$
$$M(a,b)=\frac{a-b}{2\sinh^{-1}[(a-b)/(a+b)]},$$
$$Q(a,b)=\sqrt{\frac{a^2+b^2}{2}},\quad C(a,b)=\frac{a^2+b^2}{a+b},\tag{1}$$
$$M_p(a,b)=\begin{cases}\left(\dfrac{a^p+b^p}{2}\right)^{1/p}, & p\neq 0,\\ \sqrt{ab}, & p=0,\end{cases}$$

respectively, where $\sinh^{-1}(x)=\log(x+\sqrt{1+x^2})$ is the inverse hyperbolic sine function.

Recently, the identric, Neuman-Sándor, quadratic, and contraharmonic means have attracted the interest of numerous eminent mathematicians. In particular, many remarkable inequalities for these means can be found in the literature [1–18].

Let $H(a,b)=2ab/(a+b)$, $G(a,b)=\sqrt{ab}$, $L(a,b)=(b-a)/(\log b-\log a)$, $P(a,b)=(a-b)/(4\arctan\sqrt{a/b}-\pi)$, $A(a,b)=(a+b)/2$, and $T(a,b)=(a-b)/[2\arctan((a-b)/(a+b))]$ be the harmonic, geometric, logarithmic, first Seiffert, arithmetic, and second Seiffert means of two distinct positive numbers a and b, respectively. Then it is well known that the inequalities

$$\begin{aligned}H(a,b)&=M_{-1}(a,b)<G(a,b)=M_0(a,b)<L(a,b)\\&<P(a,b)<I(a,b)<A(a,b)<M_1(a,b)\\&<M(a,b)<T(a,b)<Q(a,b)=M_2(a,b)\\&<C(a,b)\end{aligned}\tag{2}$$

hold for all $a,b>0$ with $a\neq b$.

Neuman and Sándor [1, 8] established that

$$A(a,b) < M(a,b) < \frac{A(a,b)}{\log(1+\sqrt{2})},$$
$$\frac{\pi}{4}T(a,b) < M(a,b) < T(a,b),$$
$$M(a,b) < \frac{A^2(a,b)}{P(a,b)},$$
$$\sqrt{A(a,b)T(a,b)} < M(a,b) < \sqrt{\frac{A^2(a,b)+T^2(a,b)}{2}},$$
$$M(a,b) < \frac{2A(a,b)+Q(a,b)}{3} \quad (3)$$

for all $a,b>0$ with $a\neq b$.

Let $0<a,b\leq 1/2$ with $a\neq b$, $a'=1-a$, and $b'=1-b$. Then the Ky Fan inequalities

$$\frac{G(a,b)}{G(a',b')} < \frac{L(a,b)}{L(a',b')} < \frac{P(a,b)}{P(a',b')} < \frac{A(a,b)}{A(a',b')} < \frac{M(a,b)}{M(a',b')} < \frac{T(a,b)}{T(a',b')} \quad (4)$$

were presented in [1].

Li et al. [19] found the best possible bounds for the Neuman-Sándor mean in terms of the generalized logarithmic mean $L_r(a,b)$. Neuman [20] and Zhao et al. [21] proved that the inequalities

$$\alpha Q(a,b)+(1-\alpha)A(a,b) < M(a,b) < \beta Q(a,b)+(1-\beta)A(a,b),$$
$$\lambda C(a,b)+(1-\lambda)A(a,b) < M(a,b) < \mu C(a,b)+(1-\mu)A(a,b),$$
$$\alpha_1 H(a,b)+(1-\alpha_1)Q(a,b) < M(a,b) < \beta_1 H(a,b)+(1-\beta_1)Q(a,b),$$
$$\alpha_2 C(a,b)+(1-\alpha_2)Q(a,b) < M(a,b) < \beta_2 C(a,b)+(1-\beta_2)Q(a,b) \quad (5)$$

hold for all $a,b>0$ with $a\neq b$ if and only if $\alpha\leq[1-\log(1+\sqrt{2})]/[(\sqrt{2}-1)\log(1+\sqrt{2})]$, $\beta\geq 1/3$, $\lambda\leq[1-\log(1+\sqrt{2})]/\log(1+\sqrt{2})$, $\mu\geq 1/6$, $\alpha_1\geq 2/9$, $\beta_1\leq 1-1/[\sqrt{2}\log(1+\sqrt{2})]$, $\alpha_2\geq 1/3$, and $\beta_2\leq 1-1/[\sqrt{2}\log(1+\sqrt{2})]$.

In [22], Chu and Long gave the best possible constants p,q,α, and β such that the double inequalities $M_p(a,b) < M(a,b) < M_q(a,b)$ and $\alpha I(a,b) < M(a,b) < \beta I(a,b)$ hold for all $a,b>0$ with $a\neq b$.

The ratio of identric means leads to the weighted geometric mean

$$\frac{I(a^2,b^2)}{I(a,b)} = \left(a^a b^b\right)^{1/(a+b)}, \quad (6)$$

which has been investigated in [23–25]. Alzer [26] proved that the inequalities

$$\sqrt{A(a,b)G(a,b)} < \sqrt{I(a,b)L(a,b)} < \frac{I(a,b)+L(a,b)}{2} < \frac{A(a,b)+G(a,b)}{2} \quad (7)$$

hold for all $a,b>0$ with $a\neq b$.

The following sharp bounds for I, $(IL)^{1/2}$, and $(I+L)/2$ in terms of the power mean and the convex combination of arithmetic and geometric means are given in [27] as

$$M_{2/3}(a,b) < I(a,b) < M_{\log 2}(a,b),$$
$$M_0(a,b) < \sqrt{I(a,b)L(a,b)} < M_{1/2}(a,b),$$
$$M_{\log 2/(1+\log 2)}(a,b) < \frac{I(a,b)+L(a,b)}{2} < M_{1/2}(a,b),$$
$$\frac{2}{3}A(a,b)+\frac{1}{3}G(a,b) < I(a,b) < \frac{2}{e}A(a,b)+\left(1-\frac{2}{e}\right)G(a,b) \quad (8)$$

for all $a,b>0$ with $a\neq b$.

Chu et al. [28] presented the optimal constants $\alpha_1,\beta_1,\alpha_2$, and β_2 such that the double inequalities

$$\alpha_1 Q(a,b)+(1-\alpha_1)A(a,b) < \frac{2}{\pi}\int_0^{\pi/2}\sqrt{a^2\cos^2\theta+b^2\sin^2\theta}\,d\theta < \beta_1 Q(a,b)+(1-\beta_1)A(a,b),$$
$$Q^{\alpha_2}(a,b)A^{1-\alpha_2}(a,b) < \frac{2}{\pi}\int_0^{\pi/2}\sqrt{a^2\cos^2\theta+b^2\sin^2\theta}\,d\theta < Q^{\beta_2}(a,b)A^{1-\beta_2}(a,b) \quad (9)$$

hold for all $a,b>0$ with $a\neq b$.

The aim of this paper is to find the best possible constants $\alpha_1,\beta_1,\alpha_2$ and β_2 such that the double inequalities

$$I^{\alpha_1}(a,b)Q^{1-\alpha_1}(a,b) < M(a,b) < I^{\beta_1}(a,b)Q^{1-\beta_1}(a,b),$$
$$I^{\alpha_2}(a,b)C^{1-\alpha_2}(a,b) < M(a,b) < I^{\beta_2}(a,b)C^{1-\beta_2}(a,b) \quad (10)$$

hold for all $a,b>0$ with $a\neq b$. All numerical computations are carried out using MATHEMATICA software.

2. Lemmas

In order to prove our main results, we need several lemmas, which we present in this section.

Lemma 1. *The double inequality*

$$x+\frac{x^3}{3}-\frac{2x^5}{15}<\sqrt{1+x^2}\sinh^{-1}(x)<x+\frac{x^3}{3}-\frac{2x^5}{15}+\frac{8x^7}{105} \tag{11}$$

holds for $x\in(0,1)$.

Proof. To prove Lemma 1, it suffices to prove that

$$\eta_1(x)=\sqrt{1+x^2}\sinh^{-1}(x)-\left(x+\frac{x^3}{3}-\frac{2x^5}{15}\right)>0, \tag{12}$$

$$\eta_2(x)=\sqrt{1+x^2}\sinh^{-1}(x)-\left(x+\frac{x^3}{3}-\frac{2x^5}{15}+\frac{8x^7}{105}\right)<0 \tag{13}$$

for $x\in(0,1)$.

From the expressions of $\eta_1(x)$ and $\eta_2(x)$, we get

$$\eta_1(0)=\eta_2(0)=0,$$
$$\eta_1'(x)=\frac{x\eta_1^*(x)}{\sqrt{1+x^2}},\qquad \eta_2'(x)=\frac{x\eta_2^*(x)}{\sqrt{1+x^2}}, \tag{14}$$

where

$$\eta_1^*(x)=\sinh^{-1}(x)-\left(x-\frac{2x^3}{3}\right)\sqrt{1+x^2},$$
$$\eta_2^*(x)=\sinh^{-1}(x)-\left(x-\frac{2x^3}{3}+\frac{8x^5}{15}\right)\sqrt{1+x^2}, \tag{15}$$
$$\eta_1^*(0)=\eta_2^*(0)=0,$$

$$\eta_1^{*\prime}(x)=\frac{8x^4}{3\sqrt{1+x^2}}>0, \tag{16}$$

$$\eta_2^{*\prime}(x)=-\frac{16x^6}{5\sqrt{1+x^2}}<0, \tag{17}$$

for $x\in(0,1)$.

Therefore, inequality (12) follows from (14)–(16), and inequality (13) follows from (14)–(17). □

Lemma 2. *Let*

$$L(x)=\log\left[\frac{(1+x)^{1+x}}{(1-x)^{1-x}}\right]-2x-x\log\left(1-x^2\right). \tag{18}$$

Then

$$L(x)>\frac{2x^3}{3}+\frac{2x^5}{5}+\frac{2x^7}{7} \tag{19}$$

for $x\in(0,1)$, *and*

$$L(x)<\frac{2x^3}{3}+\frac{2x^5}{5}+\frac{2x^7}{7}+x^9 \tag{20}$$

for $x\in(0,3/4)$.

Proof. To prove inequalities (19) and (20), it suffices to show that

$$\iota_1(x):=\log\left[\frac{(1+x)^{1+x}}{(1-x)^{1-x}}\right]-2x-x\log\left(1-x^2\right)-\left(\frac{2x^3}{3}+\frac{2x^5}{5}+\frac{2x^7}{7}\right)>0 \tag{21}$$

for $x\in(0,1)$, and

$$\iota_2(x):=\log\left[\frac{(1+x)^{1+x}}{(1-x)^{1-x}}\right]-2x-x\log\left(1-x^2\right)-\left(\frac{2x^3}{3}+\frac{2x^5}{5}+\frac{2x^7}{7}+x^9\right)<0 \tag{22}$$

for $x\in(0,3/4)$.

From (21) and (22), one has

$$\iota_1(0^+)=\iota_2(0^+)=0, \tag{23}$$

$$\iota_1'(x)=\frac{2x^8}{1-x^2}>0 \tag{24}$$

for $x\in(0,1)$, and

$$\iota_2'(x)=-\frac{9x^8}{1-x^2}\left(\frac{7}{9}-x^2\right)<0 \tag{25}$$

for $x\in(0,3/4)$.

Therefore, inequality (21) follows from (23) and (24), and inequality (22) follows from (23) and (25). □

Lemma 3. *Let*

$$\Phi_1(x)=\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x^2}\sinh^{-1}(x)}-\frac{1}{x(1+x^2)}. \tag{26}$$

Then the double inequality

$$\frac{2x}{3}-\frac{34x^3}{45}+\frac{x^5}{2}<\Phi_1(x)<\frac{2x}{3}-\frac{34x^3}{45}+\frac{4x^5}{5} \tag{27}$$

holds for $x\in(0,0.7)$.

Proof. To prove inequality (27), it suffices to show that

$$\phi_1(x)=x\sqrt{1+x^2}-\sinh^{-1}(x)-x\left(1+x^2\right)\sinh^{-1}(x)\left(\frac{2x}{3}-\frac{34x^3}{45}+\frac{x^5}{2}\right)>0, \tag{28}$$

$$\phi_2(x)=x\sqrt{1+x^2}-\sinh^{-1}(x)-x\left(1+x^2\right)\sinh^{-1}(x)\left(\frac{2x}{3}-\frac{34x^3}{45}+\frac{4x^5}{5}\right)<0 \tag{29}$$

for $x\in(0,0.7)$.

First, we prove inequality (28). From the expression of $\phi_1(x)$, we have

$$\phi_1(0) = 0, \qquad \phi_1(0.7) = 0.0033\cdots, \tag{30}$$

$$\phi_1'(x) = \frac{x\phi_1^*(x)}{90\sqrt{1+x^2}}, \tag{31}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_1^*(x) = {} & 120x + 8x^3 + 23x^5 - 45x^7 \\ & - 2\left(60 - 16x^2 - 69x^4 + 180x^6\right) \\ & \times \sqrt{1+x^2}\sinh^{-1}(x).\end{aligned} \tag{32}$$

Equation (32) leads to

$$\begin{gathered}\phi_1^*(0.6) = 3.017\cdots, \qquad \phi_1^*(0.7) = -3.551\cdots, \\ \phi_1^{*\prime}(x) = -\frac{x\phi_1^{**}(x)}{1+x^2},\end{gathered} \tag{33}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_1^{**}(x) = {} & -56x - 309x^3 + 422x^5 + 675x^7 \\ & + 2\left(28 - 324x^2 + 735x^4 + 1260x^6\right) \\ & \times \sqrt{1+x^2}\sinh^{-1}(x).\end{aligned} \tag{34}$$

Note that

$$60 - 16x^2 - 69x^4 + 180x^6 > 0 \tag{35}$$

for $x \in (0, 0.6]$, and

$$28 - 324x^2 + 735x^4 + 1260x^6 > 0 \tag{36}$$

for $x \in [0.6, 0.7)$.

It follows from (32) and (34)–(36) together with Lemma 1 that

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_1^*(x) > {} & 120x + 8x^3 + 23x^5 - 45x^7 \\ & - 2\left(60 - 16x^2 - 69x^4 + 180x^6\right)\left(x + \frac{x^3}{3}\right) \\ = {} & \frac{x^5}{3}\left(515 - 1077x^2 - 360x^4\right) \\ \geq {} & \frac{x^5}{3}\left[515 - 1077 \times \frac{9}{25} - 360 \times \frac{81}{625}\right] \\ = {} & \frac{10078x^5}{375} > 0\end{aligned} \tag{37}$$

for $x \in (0, 0.6]$, and

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_1^{**}(x) > {} & -56x - 309x^3 + 422x^5 + 675x^7 \\ & + 2\left(28 - 324x^2 + 735x^4 + 1260x^6\right) \\ & \times \left(x + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{2x^5}{15}\right) = \frac{x^3}{15} \\ & \times\left(-14075 + 25028x^2 + 56571x^4 + 9660x^6 - 5040x^8\right) \\ > {} & \frac{x^3}{15}\left[-14075 + 25028 \times (0.6)^2 + 56571 \times (0.6)^4\right] \\ = {} & \frac{1416676x^3}{9375} > 0\end{aligned} \tag{38}$$

for $x \in [0.6, 0.7)$.

From (33), (37), and (38), we clearly see that there exists $x_1 \in (0.6, 0.7)$ such that $\phi_1^*(x) > 0$ for $x \in (0, x_1)$ and $\phi_1^*(x) < 0$ for $x \in (x_1, 0.7)$. Then (31) leads to the conclusion that $\phi_1(x)$ is strictly increasing on $(0, x_1]$ and strictly decreasing on $[x_1, 0.7)$.

Therefore, inequality (28) follows from (30) and the piecewise monotonicity of $\phi_1(x)$.

Next, we prove inequality (29). From the expression of $\phi_2(x)$, we get

$$\begin{gathered}\phi_2(0) = 0, \\ \phi_2'(x) = -\frac{2x\phi_2^*(x)}{45\sqrt{1+x^2}},\end{gathered} \tag{39}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_2^*(x) = {} & x\left(18x^6 + x^4 - 2x^2 - 30\right) \\ & + 2\left(15 - 4x^2 + 3x^4 + 72x^6\right) \\ & \times \sqrt{1+x^2}\sinh^{-1}(x).\end{aligned} \tag{40}$$

It follows from Lemma 1 and (40) that

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_2^*(x) > {} & x\left(18x^6 + x^4 - 2x^2 - 30\right) \\ & + 2\left(15 - 4x^2 + 3x^4 + 72x^6\right)\left(x + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{2x^5}{15}\right) \\ = {} & \frac{x^5}{15}\left(5 + 2476x^2 + 708x^4 - 288x^6\right) > 0\end{aligned} \tag{41}$$

for $x \in (0, 0.7)$.

Therefore, inequality (29) follows from (39) together with (41). □

Lemma 4. *Let*

$$\Phi_2(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x^2}\sinh^{-1}(x)} - \frac{1-x^2}{x\left(1+x^2\right)}. \tag{42}$$

Then the double inequality

$$\frac{5x}{3} - \frac{79x^3}{45} + \frac{11x^5}{10} < \Phi_2(x) < \frac{5x}{3} - \frac{79x^3}{45} + \frac{9x^5}{5} \quad (43)$$

holds for $x \in (0, 3/4)$.

Proof. To prove Lemma 4, it suffices to prove that

$$\varphi_1(x) := x\sqrt{1+x^2} - (1-x^2)\sinh^{-1}(x) - x(1+x^2)\sinh^{-1}(x)\left(\frac{5x}{3} - \frac{79x^3}{45} + \frac{11x^5}{10}\right) > 0, \quad (44)$$

$$\varphi_2(x) := x\sqrt{1+x^2} - (1-x^2)\sinh^{-1}(x) - x(1+x^2)\sinh^{-1}(x)\left(\frac{5x}{3} - \frac{79x^3}{45} + \frac{9x^5}{5}\right) < 0 \quad (45)$$

for $x \in (0, 3/4)$.

We first prove inequality (44). From the expression of $\varphi_1(x)$, we obtain

$$\varphi_1(0) = 0, \qquad \varphi_1\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) = 0.008457\cdots > 0, \quad (46)$$

$$\varphi_1'(x) = \frac{x\varphi_1^*(x)}{90\sqrt{1+x^2}}, \quad (47)$$

where

$$\varphi_1^*(x) = 120x + 8x^3 + 59x^5 - 99x^7 - 2 \times (60 - 16x^2 - 177x^4 + 396x^6)\sqrt{1+x^2}\sinh^{-1}(x). \quad (48)$$

Equation (48) leads to

$$\varphi_1^*(0.66) = 6.02\cdots > 0, \qquad \varphi_1^*\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) = -19.299\cdots < 0, \quad (49)$$

$$\varphi_1^{*\prime}(x) = -\frac{x\phi_1^{**}(x)}{1+x^2}, \quad (50)$$

where

$$\varphi_1^{**}(x) = -56x - 705x^3 + 836x^5 + 1485x^7 + 14(4 - 108x^2 + 213x^4 + 396x^6) \times \sqrt{1+x^2}\sinh^{-1}(x). \quad (51)$$

Note that

$$60 - 16x^2 - 177x^4 + 396x^6 > 60 - 16\times(0.66)^2 - 177\times(0.66)^4 = 19.4451 > 0 \quad (52)$$

for $x \in (0, 0.66)$, and

$$4 - 108x^2 + 213x^4 + 396x^6 > 4 - 108\times\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^2 + 213\times(0.66)^4 + 396\times(0.66)^6 = 16.3972 > 0 \quad (53)$$

for $x \in [0.66, 3/4)$.

It follows from Lemma 1, (48), and (51)–(53) that

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_1^*(x) &> 120x + 8x^3 + 59x^5 - 99x^7 - 2(60 - 16x^2 - 177x^4 + 396x^6) \times \left(x + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{2x^5}{15} + \frac{8x^7}{105}\right)\\ &= \frac{x^5}{105}\left[46165 - 82573x^2 - 32420x^4 + 7584x^6 + 6336x^6(1-x^2)\right]\\ &> \frac{x^5}{105}\left[46165 - 82573\times(0.66)^2 - 32420\times(0.66)^4\right]\\ &= \frac{x^5}{105}\times 4044.5917\cdots > 0\end{aligned} \quad (54)$$

for $x \in (0, 0.66)$, and

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_1^{**}(x) &> -56x - 705x^3 + 836x^5 + 1485x^7 + 14(4 - 108x^2 + 213x^4 + 396x^6)\left(x + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{2x^5}{15}\right)\\ &= \frac{x^3}{15}\left[-32975 + 49598x^2 + 123369x^4 + 10668x^6 + 11088x^6(1-x^2)\right]\\ &> \frac{x^3}{15}\left[-32975 + 49598\times(0.66)^2 + 123369\times(0.66)^4\right]\\ &= \frac{x^3}{15}\times 12038.83\cdots > 0\end{aligned} \quad (55)$$

for $x \in [0.66, 3/4)$.

From (50) and (55), we know that $\varphi_1^*(x)$ is strictly decreasing on $[0.66, 3/4)$, and this in conjunction with (49) and (54) leads to the conclusion that there exists $x_1 \in (0.66, 3/4)$ such that $\varphi_1^*(x) > 0$ for $x \in (0, x_1)$ and $\varphi_1^*(x) < 0$ for $x \in (x_1, 3/4)$. Then (47) implies that $\varphi_1(x)$ is strictly increasing on $(0, x_1]$ and strictly decreasing on $[x_1, 3/4)$. Therefore, inequality (44) follows from (46) and the piecewise monotonicity of $\varphi_1(x)$.

Next, we prove inequality (45). From the expression of $\varphi_2(x)$ one has

$$\varphi_2(0) = 0, \qquad \phi_2'(x) = -\frac{x\phi_2^*(x)}{45\sqrt{1+x^2}}, \tag{56}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_2^*(x) = & -60x - 4x^3 + 2x^5 + 81x^7 \\ & + 4\left(15 - 4x^2 + 3x^4 + 162x^6\right) \\ & \times \sqrt{1+x^2}\sinh^{-1}(x).\end{aligned} \tag{57}$$

It follows from Lemma 1 and (52) that

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_2^*(x) &> -60x - 4x^3 + 2x^5 + 81x^7 \\ &\quad + 4\left(15 - 4x^2 + 3x^4 + 162x^6\right)\left(x + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{2x^5}{15}\right) \\ &= \frac{x^5}{15}\left(10 + 11027x^2 + 3216x^4 - 1296x^6\right) > 0\end{aligned} \tag{58}$$

for $x \in (0, 3/4)$.

Therefore, inequality (45) follows from (56) together with (58). □

Lemma 5. *Let $L(x)$ be defined as in Lemma 2 and*

$$\Upsilon_1(x) = \frac{L(x)}{2x^2} + \frac{x}{1+x^2}. \tag{59}$$

Then the double inequality

$$\frac{4x}{3} - \frac{4x^3}{5} + \frac{4x^5}{5} < \Upsilon_1(x) < \frac{4x}{3} - \frac{4x^3}{5} + \frac{8x^5}{7} \tag{60}$$

holds for $x \in (0, 0.7)$.

Proof. From Lemma 2, one has

$$\begin{aligned}\Upsilon_1(x) - \left(\frac{4x}{3} - \frac{4x^3}{5} + \frac{4x^5}{5}\right) &> \frac{1}{2x^2}\left(\frac{2x^3}{3} + \frac{2x^5}{5} + \frac{2x^7}{7}\right) + \frac{x}{1+x^2} \\ &\quad - \left(\frac{4x}{3} - \frac{4x^3}{5} + \frac{4x^5}{5}\right) \\ &= \frac{23x^5}{35(1+x^2)}\left(\frac{12}{23} - x^2\right) > 0, \\ \Upsilon_1(x) - \left(\frac{4x}{3} - \frac{4x^3}{5} + \frac{8x^5}{7}\right) &< \frac{1}{2x^2}\left(\frac{2x^3}{3} + \frac{2x^5}{5} + \frac{2x^7}{7} + x^9\right) \\ &\quad + \frac{x}{1+x^2} - \left(\frac{4x}{3} - \frac{4x^3}{5} + \frac{8x^5}{7}\right) \\ &= -\frac{x^7(1-x^2)}{2(1+x^2)} < 0\end{aligned} \tag{61}$$

for $x \in (0, 0.7)$.

Therefore, Lemma 5 follows easily from (61). □

Lemma 6. *Let $L(x)$ be defined as in Lemma 2 and*

$$\Upsilon_2(x) = \frac{L(x)}{2x^2} + \frac{2x}{1+x^2}. \tag{62}$$

Then the double inequality

$$\frac{7x}{3} - \frac{9x^3}{5} + \frac{7x^5}{5} < \Upsilon_2(x) < \frac{7x}{3} - \frac{9x^3}{5} + \frac{15x^5}{7} \tag{63}$$

holds for $x \in (0, 3/4)$.

Proof. It follows from Lemma 2 that

$$\begin{aligned}\Upsilon_2(x) - \left(\frac{7x}{3} - \frac{9x^3}{5} + \frac{7x^5}{5}\right) &> \frac{1}{2x^2}\left(\frac{2x^3}{3} + \frac{2x^5}{5} + \frac{2x^7}{7}\right) \\ &\quad + \frac{2x}{1+x^2} - \left(\frac{7x}{3} - \frac{9x^3}{5} + \frac{7x^5}{5}\right) \\ &= \frac{44x^5}{35(1+x^2)}\left(\frac{13}{22} - x^2\right) > 0, \\ \Upsilon_2(x) - \left(\frac{7x}{3} - \frac{9x^3}{5} + \frac{15x^5}{7}\right) &< \frac{1}{2x^2}\left(\frac{2x^3}{3} + \frac{2x^5}{5} + \frac{2x^7}{7} + x^9\right) \\ &\quad + \frac{2x}{1+x^2} - \left(\frac{7x}{3} - \frac{9x^3}{5} + \frac{15x^5}{7}\right) \\ &= -\frac{x^7(3-x^2)}{2(1+x^2)} < 0\end{aligned} \tag{64}$$

for $x \in (0, 3/4)$.

Therefore, Lemma 6 follows from (64). □

Lemma 7. *The inequality*

$$\frac{x^3}{\sqrt{1+x^2}} > \left[\sinh^{-1}(x)\right]^3 \quad (65)$$

holds for $x \in (0,1)$.

Proof. Let

$$\zeta(x) = \frac{x^3}{\sqrt{1+x^2}} - \left[\sinh^{-1}(x)\right]^3. \quad (66)$$

Then

$$\zeta(0) = 0,$$
$$\zeta'(x) = \frac{\zeta_1(x)}{(1+x^2)^{3/2}}, \quad (67)$$

where

$$\zeta_1(x) = x^2\left(3+2x^2\right) - 3\left[\sqrt{1+x^2}\sinh^{-1}(x)\right]^2. \quad (68)$$

It follows from Lemma 1 and (68) that

$$\begin{aligned}\zeta_1(x) &> x^2\left(3+2x^2\right) - 3\left(x+\frac{x^3}{3}-\frac{2x^5}{15}+\frac{8x^7}{105}\right)^2 \\ &= x^6\left[\frac{37}{525}+\left(\frac{208}{525}+\frac{36x^2}{175}+\frac{64x^6}{3675}\right)\right. \\ &\quad \left.\times\left(1-x^2\right)+\frac{32x^6}{735}\right] > 0\end{aligned} \quad (69)$$

for $x \in (0,1)$.

Therefore, Lemma 7 follows from (67) together with (69). □

Lemma 8. *Let*

$$\mu_1(x) = \frac{1+3x^2}{(x+x^3)^2} - \frac{1}{(1+x^2)\left[\sinh^{-1}(x)\right]^2} - \frac{x}{(1+x^2)^{3/2}\sinh^{-1}(x)}. \quad (70)$$

Then $\mu_1(x) < 0.2$ *for* $x \in [0.7, 1)$.

Proof. Let

$$\omega_1(x) = \frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{\left[\sinh^{-1}(x)\right]^2},$$
$$\omega_2(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{1+x^2}} - \frac{x}{\sinh^{-1}(x)}. \quad (71)$$

Then

$$\mu_1(x) = \frac{\omega_1(x)}{1+x^2} + \frac{\omega_2(x)}{(1+x^2)^{3/2}}. \quad (72)$$

Lemma 7 and $x > \sinh^{-1}(x)$ give $\omega_1(x) < 0$ and

$$\omega_1'(x) = \frac{2}{x^3\left[\sinh^{-1}(x)\right]^3}\left[\frac{x^3}{\sqrt{1+x^2}} - \left(\sinh^{-1}(x)\right)^3\right] > 0 \quad (73)$$

for $x \in (0,1)$. This in turn implies that

$$\left[\frac{\omega_1(x)}{1+x^2}\right]' = \frac{\omega_1'(x)\left(1+x^2\right) - 2x\omega_1(x)}{(1+x^2)^2} > 0 \quad (74)$$

for $x \in (0,1)$.

On the other hand, from the expression of $\omega_2(x)$, we get

$$\omega_2(1) = 0.2796\cdots > 0,$$
$$\omega_2'(x) = -\frac{2x}{(1+x^2)^{3/2}} + \frac{\omega_2^*(x)}{\left[\sinh^{-1}(x)\right]^2}, \quad (75)$$

where

$$\omega_2^*(x) = \frac{x}{\sqrt{1+x^2}} - \sinh^{-1}(x),$$
$$\omega_2^*(0) = 0, \quad (76)$$
$$\omega_2^{*\prime}(x) = -\frac{x^2}{(1+x^2)^{3/2}} < 0$$

for $x \in (0,1)$.

From (75)–(76), we clearly see that $\omega_2'(x) < 0$ and $\omega_2(x) > 0$ for $x \in (0,1)$. This in turn implies that

$$\begin{aligned}&\left[\frac{\omega_2(x)}{(1+x^2)^{3/2}}\right]' \\ &= \frac{\omega_2'(x)\left(1+x^2\right)^{3/2} - 3x\sqrt{1+x^2}\omega_2(x)}{(1+x^2)^3} \\ &< 0\end{aligned} \quad (77)$$

for $x \in (0,1)$.

Equation (72) together with inequalities (74) and (77) lead to the conclusion that

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_1(x) &\le \frac{\omega_1(1)}{2} + \frac{\omega_2(0.7)}{\left[1+(0.7)^2\right]^{3/2}} \\ &= 0.167\cdots < 0.2\end{aligned} \quad (78)$$

for $x \in [0.7, 1)$. □

Lemma 9. *Let*

$$\mu_2(x) = \frac{1+4x^2-x^4}{(x+x^3)^2} - \frac{1}{(1+x^2)\left[\sinh^{-1}(x)\right]^2} - \frac{x}{(1+x^2)^{3/2}\sinh^{-1}(x)}. \quad (79)$$

Then $\mu_2(x) < 0.51$ *for* $x \in [0.65, 1)$.

Proof. Let

$$\tau_1(x) = \frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{\left[\sinh^{-1}(x)\right]^2} = \mu_1(x),$$
$$\tau_2(x) = \frac{3-x^2}{\sqrt{1+x^2}} - \frac{x}{\sinh^{-1}(x)}, \tag{80}$$

then

$$\mu_2(x) = \frac{\tau_1(x)}{1+x^2} + \frac{\tau_2(x)}{(1+x^2)^{3/2}}. \tag{81}$$

From (74), we clearly see that

$$\left[\frac{\tau_1(x)}{1+x^2}\right]' = \left[\frac{\omega_1(x)}{1+x^2}\right]' > 0 \tag{82}$$

for $x \in (0,1)$.

On the other hand, from the expression of $\tau_2(x)$ together with Lemma 1, we get

$$\tau_2(1) = 0.2796\cdots > 0,$$
$$\tau_2'(x) = -\frac{1}{\sinh^{-1}(x)} - \frac{x\tau_2^*(x)}{(1+x^2)^{3/2}\left[\sinh^{-1}(x)\right]^2},$$
$$\tau_2^*(x) = (5+x^2)\left[\sinh^{-1}(x)\right]^2 - (1+x^2), \tag{83}$$
$$\tau_2^*(0.65) = 0.6033\cdots,$$
$$\tau_2^{*\prime}(x) = 2x\left[\sinh^{-1}(x)\right]^2 + 2\left[\frac{5+x^2}{1+x^2}\sqrt{1+x^2}\sinh^{-1}(x) - x\right] > 0$$

for $x \in (0,1)$.

From (83), we clearly see that $\tau_2'(x) < 0$ and $\tau_2(x) > 0$ for $x \in [0.65, 1)$. This in turn implies that

$$\left[\frac{\tau_2(x)}{(1+x^2)^{3/2}}\right]' = \frac{\tau_2'(x)(1+x^2)^{3/2} - 3x\sqrt{1+x^2}\tau_2(x)}{(1+x^2)^3} < 0 \tag{84}$$

for $x \in [0.65, 1)$.

Equation (81) together with inequalities (82) and (84) lead to the conclusion that

$$\mu_2(x) \le \frac{\tau_1(1)}{2} + \frac{\tau_2(0.65)}{\left[1+(0.65)^2\right]^{3/2}} = 0.503\cdots < 0.51 \tag{85}$$

for $x \in [0.65, 1)$. □

Lemma 10. *Let $L(x)$ be defined as in Lemma 2 and*

$$\nu_1(x) = \frac{2(1+x^4)}{(1-x^2)(1+x^2)^2} - \frac{L(x)}{x^3}. \tag{86}$$

Then $\nu_1(x) > 1.2$ for $x \in [0.7, 1)$.

Proof. Differentiating $\nu_1(x)$ yields

$$\nu_1'(x) = \frac{3L(x)}{x^4} - \frac{2+8x^2-20x^4-6x^8}{x(1-x^2)^2(1+x^2)^3}. \tag{87}$$

It follows from (19) and (87) that

$$\begin{aligned}\nu_1'(x) &> \frac{1}{x}\left[3\left(\frac{2}{3}+\frac{2x^2}{5}+\frac{2x^4}{7}\right) - \frac{2+8x^2-20x^4-6x^8}{(1-x^2)^2(1+x^2)^3}\right] \\ &= \frac{2x\left(-84+316x^2-97x^4+68x^6+26x^8+36x^{10}+15x^{12}\right)}{35(1-x^2)^2(1+x^2)^3} \\ &> \frac{2x}{35(1-x^2)^2(1+x^2)^3}\left[-84+316\times(0.7)^2-\frac{349}{5} +68x^4\left(x^2-\frac{2}{5}\right)\right] \\ &> \frac{2x}{35(1-x^2)^2(1+x^2)^3} > 0\end{aligned} \tag{88}$$

for $x \in [0.7, 1)$.

Therefore, $\nu_1(x) \ge \nu_1(0.7) = 1.214\cdots > 1.2$ for $x \in [0.7, 1)$ follows from (88). □

Lemma 11. *Let $L(x)$ be defined as in Lemma 2 and*

$$\nu_2(x) = \frac{3-2x^2+3x^4}{(1-x^2)(1+x^2)^2} - \frac{L(x)}{x^3}. \tag{89}$$

Then $\nu_2(x) > 1.38$ for $x \in [0.65, 1)$.

Proof. Differentiating $\nu_2(x)$ yields

$$\nu_2'(x) = \frac{3L(x)}{x^4} - \frac{2(1+7x^2-17x^4+5x^6-4x^8)}{x(1-x^2)^2(1+x^2)^3}. \tag{90}$$

It follows from (19) and (90) together with the monotonicity of the function $561x^2 - 272x^4$ on $[0.65, 1)$ that

$$\begin{aligned}\nu_2'(x) &> \frac{1}{x}\left[3\left(\frac{2}{3}+\frac{2x^2}{5}+\frac{2x^4}{7}\right) - \frac{2(1+7x^2-17x^4+5x^6-4x^8)}{(1-x^2)^2(1+x^2)^3}\right] \\ &= \frac{2x\left(-189+561x^2-272x^4+103x^6+26x^8+36x^{10}+15x^{12}\right)}{35(1-x^2)^2(1+x^2)^3} \\ &> \frac{2x\left[-189+561\times(0.65)^2-272\times(0.65)^4+103\times(0.65)^6\right]}{35(1-x^2)^2(1+x^2)^3} \\ &= \frac{2x\times 7.23\cdots}{35(1-x^2)^2(1+x^2)^3} > 0\end{aligned} \tag{91}$$

for $x \in [0.65, 1)$.

Equation (91) leads to the conclusion that $\nu_2(x) \ge \nu_2(0.65) = 1.389\cdots > 1.38$ for $x \in [0.65, 1)$. □

Lemma 12. *Let $\Phi_1(x)$ and $\Upsilon_1(x)$ be defined, respectively, as in Lemmas 3 and 5, and $\Theta_1(x;p) = \Phi_1(x) - p\Upsilon_1(x)$. Then $\Theta_1(x;p)$ is strictly decreasing on $[0.7, 1)$ if $p > 1/6$.*

Proof. Differentiating $\Theta_1(x;p)$ with respect to x and making use of Lemmas 8 and 10, we get

$$\frac{d\Theta_1(x;p)}{dx} = \Phi_1'(x) - p\Upsilon_1'(x) = \mu_1(x) - p\nu_1(x) < 0.2 - \frac{1}{6} \times 1.2 = 0 \tag{92}$$

for $x \in [0.7, 1)$ and $p > 1/6$. This in turn implies that $\Theta_1(x;p)$ is strictly decreasing on $[0.7, 1)$ if $p > 1/6$. □

Lemma 13. *Let $\Phi_2(x)$ and $\Upsilon_2(x)$ be defined, respectively, as in Lemmas 4 and 6, and $\Theta_2(x;q) = \Phi_2(x) - q\Upsilon_2(x)$. Then $\Theta_2(x;q)$ is strictly decreasing on $[0.65, 1)$ if $q > 2/5$.*

Proof. Differentiating $\Theta_2(x;q)$ with respect to x and making use of Lemmas 9 and 11, we have

$$\frac{d\Theta_1(x;q)}{dx} = \Phi_2'(x) - q\Upsilon_2'(x) = \mu_2(x) - q\nu_2(x) < 0.51 - \frac{2}{5} \times 1.38 = -0.042 < 0 \tag{93}$$

for $x \in [0.65, 1)$ and $q > 2/5$. This in turn implies that $\Theta_2(x;q)$ is strictly decreasing on $[0.65, 1)$ if $q > 2/5$. □

3. Main Results

Theorem 14. *The double inequality*

$$I^{\alpha_1}(a,b)\,Q^{1-\alpha_1}(a,b) < M(a,b) < I^{\beta_1}(a,b)\,Q^{1-\beta_1}(a,b) \tag{94}$$

holds for all $a, b > 0$ with $a \neq b$ if and only if $\beta_1 \leq \log[\sqrt{2}\log(1+\sqrt{2})]/(1-\log\sqrt{2}) = 0.337\cdots$ and $\alpha_1 \geq 1/2$.

Proof. Since $I(a,b)$, $M(a,b)$, and $Q(a,b)$ are symmetric and homogeneous of degree one, then without loss of generality, we assume that $a > b$. Let $p \in (0,1)$, $x = (a-b)/(a+b)$, and $\lambda_1 = \log[\sqrt{2}\log(1+\sqrt{2})]/(1-\log\sqrt{2})$. Then $x \in (0,1)$, and

$$\frac{I(a,b)}{A(a,b)} = \frac{1}{e}\left[\frac{(1+x)^{1+x}}{(1-x)^{1-x}}\right]^{1/2x}, \qquad \frac{M(a,b)}{A(a,b)} = \frac{x}{\sinh^{-1}(x)}, \qquad \frac{Q(a,b)}{A(a,b)} = \sqrt{1+x^2}, \tag{95}$$

$$\frac{\log[Q(a,b)] - \log[M(a,b)]}{\log[Q(a,b)] - \log[I(a,b)]} = \frac{\log\sqrt{1+x^2} - \log x + \log\left[\sinh^{-1}(x)\right]}{\log\sqrt{1+x^2} - \log\left[(1+x)^{1+x}/(1-x)^{1-x}\right]/(2x) + 1}, \tag{96}$$

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+}\frac{\log\sqrt{1+x^2} - \log x + \log\left[\sinh^{-1}(x)\right]}{\log\sqrt{1+x^2} - \log\left[(1+x)^{1+x}/(1-x)^{1-x}\right]/(2x) + 1} = \frac{1}{2}, \tag{97}$$

$$\lim_{x\to 1^-}\frac{\log\sqrt{1+x^2} - \log x + \log\left[\sinh^{-1}(x)\right]}{\log\sqrt{1+x^2} - \log\left[(1+x)^{1+x}/(1-x)^{1-x}\right]/(2x) + 1} = \lambda_1. \tag{98}$$

The difference between the convex combination of $\log[I(a,b)]$, $\log[Q(a,b)]$ and $\log[M(a,b)]$ is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} &p\log[I(a,b)] + (1-p)\log[Q(a,b)] - \log[M(a,b)] \\ &= \frac{p}{2x}\log\left[\frac{(1+x)^{1+x}}{(1-x)^{1-x}}\right] - p + (1-p)\log\sqrt{1+x^2} - \log\left[\frac{x}{\sinh^{-1}(x)}\right] := D_p(x). \end{aligned} \tag{99}$$

Equation (99) leads to

$$\begin{aligned} &D_p(0^+) = 0, \\ &D_p(1^-) = \log\left[\sqrt{2}\log\left(1+\sqrt{2}\right)\right] - p\left(1 - \log\sqrt{2}\right), \\ &D_{\lambda_1}(1^-) = 0, \end{aligned} \tag{100}$$

$$\begin{aligned} D_p'(x) &= -\frac{1+px^2}{x+x^3} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x^2}\sinh^{-1}(x)} - \frac{L(x)}{2x^2} \\ &= \Phi_1(x) - p\Upsilon_1(x) = \Theta_1(x;p), \end{aligned} \tag{101}$$

where $L(x)$, $\Phi_1(x)$, $\Upsilon_1(x)$, and $\Theta_1(x;p)$ are defined as in Lemmas 2, 3, 5, and 12, respectively.

It follows from (101) together with Lemmas 3 and 5 that

$$D'_{1/2}(x) < \frac{2x}{3} - \frac{34x^3}{45} + \frac{4x^5}{5} - \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{4x}{3} - \frac{4x^3}{5} + \frac{4x^5}{5}\right) = -\frac{2x^2}{5}\left(\frac{8}{9} - x^2\right) < 0 \quad (102)$$

for $x \in (0, 0.7)$. Moreover, we see clearly, from Lemma 12, that $D'_{1/2}(x)$ is strictly decreasing on $[0.7, 1)$ and so $D'_{1/2}(x) < D'_{1/2}(0.7) = -0.109\cdots < 0$ for $x \in [0.7, 1)$. This in conjunction with (100) and (102) implies that

$$D_{1/2}(x) < 0 \quad (103)$$

for $x \in (0, 1)$.

On the other hand, (101) and Lemmas 3 and 5 together with the monotonicity of the function $-2(17 - 18\lambda_1)x^2/45 + (7 - 16\lambda_1)x^4/14$ on $(0, 0.7)$ lead to

$$\begin{aligned} D'_{\lambda_1}(x) &> \frac{2x}{3} - \frac{34x^3}{45} + \frac{x^5}{2} - \lambda_1\left(\frac{4x}{3} - \frac{4x^3}{5} + \frac{8x^5}{7}\right) \\ &= x\left[\frac{2(1-2\lambda_1)}{3} - \frac{2(17-18\lambda_1)}{45}x^2 + \frac{7-16\lambda_1}{14}x^4\right] \\ &> x\left[\frac{2(1-2\lambda_1)}{3} - \frac{2(17-18\lambda_1)}{45} \times (0.7)^2 + \frac{7-16\lambda_1}{14} \times (0.7)^4\right] \\ &= \frac{(74969 - 218832\lambda_1)x}{180000} > 0 \end{aligned} \quad (104)$$

for $x \in (0, 0.7)$.

It follows from Lemma 12 that $D'_{\lambda_1}(x)$ is strictly decreasing on $[0.7, 1)$. Note that

$$D'_{\lambda_1}(0.7) = 0.0229\cdots > 0, \qquad D'_{\lambda_1}(1^-) = -\infty. \quad (105)$$

From (104) and (105) together with the monotonicity of $D'_{\lambda_1}(x)$ on $[0.7, 1)$, we clearly see that there exists $c_1 \in (0.7, 1)$ such that $D_{\lambda_1}(x)$ is strictly increasing on $(0, c_1]$ and strictly decreasing on $[c_1, 1)$. This in conjunction with (100) implies that

$$D_{\lambda_1}(x) > 0 \quad (106)$$

for $x \in (0, 1)$.

Equation (99) together with inequalities (103) and (106) gives rise to

$$\begin{aligned} M(a,b) &> I^{1/2}(a,b)\,Q^{1/2}(a,b), \\ M(a,b) &< I^{\lambda_1}(a,b)\,Q^{1-\lambda_1}(a,b). \end{aligned} \quad (107)$$

Therefore, Theorem 14 follows from (107) together with the following statements.

(i) If $\alpha_1 < 1/2$, then (96) and (97) imply that there exists $\delta_1 \in (0, 1)$ such that $M(a,b) < I^{\alpha_1}(a,b)Q^{1-\alpha_1}(a,b)$ for all $a, b > 0$ with $(a-b)/(a+b) \in (0, \delta_1)$.

(ii) If $\beta_1 > \lambda_1$, then (96) and (98) imply that there exists $\delta_2 \in (0, 1)$ such that $M(a,b) > I^{\beta_1}(a,b)Q^{1-\beta_1}(a,b)$ for all $a, b > 0$ with $(a-b)/(a+b) \in (1-\delta_2, 1)$.

□

Theorem 15. *The double inequality*

$$I^{\alpha_2}(a,b)\,C^{1-\alpha_2}(a,b) < M(a,b) < I^{\beta_2}(a,b)\,C^{1-\beta_2}(a,b) \quad (108)$$

holds for all $a, b > 0$ with $a \neq b$ if and only if $\alpha_2 \geq 5/7$ and $\beta_2 \leq \log[2\log(1+\sqrt{2})] = 0.566\cdots$.

Proof. We will follow the same idea in the proof of Theorem 14. Since $I(a,b)$, $M(a,b)$, and $C(a,b)$ are symmetric and homogeneous of degree one. Without loss of generality, we assume that $a > b$. Let $q \in (0, 1)$, $\lambda_2 = \log[2\log(1+\sqrt{2})]$, and $x = (a-b)/(a+b)$. Then $x \in (0, 1)$.

Making use of (95) together with $C(a,b)/A(a,b) = 1 + x^2$ gives

$$\frac{\log[C(a,b)] - \log[M(a,b)]}{\log[C(a,b)] - \log[I(a,b)]} = \frac{\log(1+x^2) - \log x + \log[\sinh^{-1}(x)]}{\log(1+x^2) - \log\left[(1+x)^{1+x}/(1-x)^{1-x}\right]/(2x) + 1}, \quad (109)$$

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{\log(1+x^2) - \log x + \log[\sinh^{-1}(x)]}{\log(1+x^2) - \log\left[(1+x)^{1+x}/(1-x)^{1-x}\right]/(2x) + 1} = \frac{5}{7}, \quad (110)$$

$$\lim_{x\to 1^-} \frac{\log(1+x^2) - \log x + \log[\sinh^{-1}(x)]}{\log(1+x^2) - \log\left[(1+x)^{1+x}/(1-x)^{1-x}\right]/(2x) + 1} = \lambda_2. \quad (111)$$

The difference between the convex combination of $\log[I(a,b)]$, $\log[C(a,b)]$ and $\log[M(a,b)]$ is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} &q\log[I(a,b)] + (1-q)\log[C(a,b)] - \log[M(a,b)] \\ &= \frac{q}{2x}\log\left[\frac{(1+x)^{1+x}}{(1-x)^{1-x}}\right] - q + (1-q)\log(1+x^2) \\ &\quad - \log\left[\frac{x}{\sinh^{-1}(x)}\right] := E_q(x). \end{aligned} \quad (112)$$

Equation (112) leads to

$$E_q(0^+) = 0, \quad E_q(1^-) = \log\left[2\log\left(1+\sqrt{2}\right)\right] - q, \qquad E_{\lambda_2}(1^-) = 0, \tag{113}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E_q'(x) &= -\frac{1-x^2+2qx^2}{x+x^3} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x^2}\sinh^{-1}(x)} - \frac{L(x)}{2x^2} \\ &= \Phi_2(x) - q\Upsilon_2(x) = \Theta_2(x;q), \end{aligned} \tag{114}$$

where $L(x), \Phi_2(x), \Upsilon_2(x)$, and $\Theta_2(x;q)$ are defined as in Lemmas 2, 4, 6, and 13, respectively.

It follows from Lemmas 4, 6, and 13 together with (114) that

$$\begin{aligned} E_{5/7}'(x) &< \left(\frac{5x}{3} - \frac{79x^3}{45} + \frac{9x^5}{5}\right) - \frac{5}{7}\left(\frac{7x}{3} - \frac{9x^3}{5} + \frac{7x^5}{5}\right) \\ &= -\frac{4x^2}{5}\left(\frac{37}{63} - x^2\right) < 0 \end{aligned} \tag{115}$$

for $x \in (0, 0.65)$ and $E_{5/7}'(x)$ is strictly decreasing on $[0.65, 1)$. Thus, we have $E_{5/7}'(x) < E_{5/7}'(0.65) = -0.117\cdots$ for $x \in [0.65, 1)$. This in conjunction with (113) and (115) implies that

$$E_{5/7}(x) < 0 \tag{116}$$

for $x \in (0, 1)$.

On the other hand, Lemmas 4, 6, and 13 together with (114) lead to

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\lambda_2}'(x) &> \left(\frac{5x}{3} - \frac{79x^3}{45} + \frac{11x^5}{10}\right) - \lambda_2\left(\frac{7x}{3} - \frac{9x^3}{5} + \frac{15x^5}{7}\right) \\ &= x\left[\frac{5-7\lambda_2}{3} - \frac{79-81\lambda_2}{45}x^2 - \frac{150\lambda_2-77}{70}x^4\right] \\ &> x\left[\frac{5-7\lambda_2}{3} - \frac{79-81\lambda_2}{45}\times(0.65)^2 - \frac{150\lambda_2-77}{70}\times(0.65)^4\right] \\ &= \frac{113027173-197098950\lambda_2}{100800000}x > 0 \end{aligned} \tag{117}$$

for $x \in (0, 0.65)$ and $E_{\lambda_2}'(x)$ is strictly decreasing on $[0.65, 1)$. Note that

$$E_{\lambda_2}'(0.65) = 0.0609\cdots, \qquad E_{\lambda_2}'(1^-) = -\infty. \tag{118}$$

From (117) and (118) together with the monotonicity of $E_{\lambda_2}'(x)$ on $[0.65, 1)$, we clearly see that there exists $c_2 \in (0.65, 1)$ such that $E_{\lambda_2}(x)$ is strictly increasing on $(0, c_2]$ and strictly decreasing on $[c_2, 1)$. This in conjunction with (113) implies that

$$E_{\lambda_2}(x) > 0 \tag{119}$$

for $x \in (0, 1)$.

Equation (112) together with inequalities (116) and (119) lead to the conclusion that

$$\begin{aligned} M(a,b) &> I^{5/7}(a,b)\,C^{2/7}(a,b), \\ M(a,b) &< I^{\lambda_2}(a,b)\,C^{1-\lambda_2}(a,b). \end{aligned} \tag{120}$$

Therefore, Theorem 15 follows from (120) together with the following statements.

(i) If $\alpha_2 < 5/7$, then (109) and (110) imply that there exists $\delta_3 \in (0, 1)$ such that $M(a,b) < I^{\alpha_2}(a,b)C^{1-\alpha_2}(a,b)$ for all $a, b > 0$ with $(a-b)/(a+b) \in (0, \delta_3)$.

(ii) If $\beta_2 > \lambda_2$, then (109) and (111) imply that there exists $\delta_4 \in (0, 1)$ such that $M(a,b) > I^{\beta_2}(a,b)C^{1-\beta_2}(a,b)$ for all $a, b > 0$ with $(a-b)/(a+b) \in (1-\delta_4, 1)$.

□

Acknowledgments

This research was supported by the Natural Science Foundation of China under Grants 11171307, 61174076, and 61173123 and the Natural Science Foundation of Zhejiang Province under Grants Z1110551 and LY12F02012.

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