

A NEW CHAIN OF INEQUALITIES INVOLVING THE TOADER-QI, LOGARITHMIC AND EXPONENTIAL MEANS

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In this paper, we establish an interesting chain of sharp inequalities involving Toader-Qi mean, exponential mean, logarithmic mean, arithmetic mean and geometric mean. This greatly improves some existing results.

1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout the paper, we assume that $a, b > 0$ with $a \neq b$. The classical logarithmic mean, exponential mean and power mean of order p are defined by

$$L \equiv L(a, b) = \frac{a - b}{\ln a - \ln b}, \quad E \equiv E(a, b) = e^{-1} \left(\frac{b^b}{a^a} \right)^{1/(b-a)},$$

$$A_q \equiv A_q(a, b) = \left(\frac{a^q + b^q}{2} \right)^{1/q} \quad \text{if } q \neq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad A_0 \equiv A_0(a, b) = \sqrt{ab},$$

respectively. As usual, $A \equiv A(a, b) = A_1(a, b)$ and $G \equiv G(a, b) = A_0(a, b)$ denote the arithmetic and geometric means, respectively (see [5]). A new mean, Toader-Qi mean $TQ \equiv TQ(a, b)$, given by

$$TQ(a, b) = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi/2} a^{\cos^2 \theta} b^{\sin^2 \theta} d\theta = \sqrt{ab} I_0 \left(\ln \sqrt{\frac{a}{b}} \right)$$

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appeared in [12, 18], where

$$(1) \quad I_v(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(x/2)^{2n+v}}{n! \Gamma(v+n+1)}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad v \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1, -2, \dots\},$$

is the modified Bessel function of the first kind of order v ([4, 9, 19, 44]), $\Gamma(x)$ is the gamma function (see [17, 40]).

There are many interesting inequalities for these means, see for example, [3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 20, 22, 25, 26, 29].

Here we mention several chains of inequalities for these means. The first of which is:

$$(2) \quad G < L < A_{1/3} < \frac{A+2G}{3} < A_{1/2} < \frac{2A+G}{3} < A_{2/3} < E < A_{\ln 2}$$

(see [7, 11, 16, 23, 24]), where every inequality is sharp. The second is:

$$(3) \quad \sqrt{AG} < \sqrt{LE} < \frac{L+E}{2} < \frac{A+G}{2},$$

which appeared in [2]. The third was proven in [12]:

$$(4) \quad L < TQ < \frac{A+G}{2} < \frac{2A+G}{3} < E.$$

The fourth was established in [30, Theorem 3.4], [42, Equation (20)],

$$(5) \quad L^{3/4} A^{1/4} < TQ < \sqrt{LA_{2/3}} < \frac{3}{4}L + \frac{1}{4}A.$$

The fifth states that

$$(6) \quad \sqrt{\frac{e}{\pi}} \sqrt{LE} < \frac{2^{4/3}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \sqrt{LA_{2/3}} < TQ < \sqrt{LA_{2/3}} < \sqrt{LE},$$

which was shown in [32], [42, Remark 4], where every inequality is sharp.

Inspired these chains of inequalities, the purpose of this paper is to further establish a new chain of inequalities involving those means mentioned above, that is,

$$(7) \quad \theta_2 A_{2/3} < \theta_1 \Phi_{r_0} < \frac{TQ^2}{L} < \Phi_{r_0} < A_{2/3} < \Psi_{p_0} < E < \Psi_{p_0^*} < \lambda_{p_0} \Psi_{p_0},$$

with the best constants

$$r_0 = \frac{1198}{901} = 1.329\dots, \quad p_0 = \frac{22}{63} = 0.349\dots, \quad p_0^* = \frac{1}{90e^{-1} - 30} = 0.321\dots, \\ \theta_2 = \frac{\sqrt{8}}{\pi} = 0.900\dots, \quad \theta_1 = \frac{2640}{901\pi} = 0.932\dots, \quad \lambda_{p_0} = \frac{660}{241e} = 1.007\dots,$$

where

$$(8) \quad \Phi_r \equiv \Phi_r(a, b) = \frac{1}{3} \frac{157A^2 + 157rAG + (83r - 37)G^2}{(78 - r)A + (81r - 38)G}, \quad r \in \left(-\frac{1}{2}, 78\right),$$

$$(9) \quad \Psi_p \equiv \Psi_p(a, b) = \frac{(30p + 1)A^2 + (28 - 15p)AG + (16 - 15p)G^2}{45(pA + (1 - p)G)}, \quad p \in (0, \infty).$$

Those new inequalities in the chain of inequalities (7) are contained in the following three theorems.

Theorem 1. *Let $\Phi_r(a, b)$ be defined by (8). The double inequality*

$$(10) \quad \beta_1 \Phi_{r_0}(a, b) < \frac{TQ^2(a, b)}{L(a, b)} < \Phi_{r_0}(a, b)$$

holds with the best constants $r_0 = 1198/901$, $\beta_1 = 2640/(901\pi) = 0.932\dots$

Theorem 2. *Let $\Phi_r(a, b)$ be defined by (8). The double inequality*

$$(11) \quad \beta_2 A_{2/3}(a, b) < \Phi_{r_0}(a, b) < A_{2/3}(a, b)$$

holds with the best constants $2/3$ and $\beta_2 = 901\sqrt{2}/1320 = 0.965\dots$

Theorem 3. *Let $\Psi_p(a, b)$ be defined by (9). The inequalities*

$$(12) \quad A_{2/3}(a, b) < \Psi_{p_0}(a, b) < E(a, b) < \Psi_{p_0^*}(a, b) < \lambda_{p_0} \Psi_{p_0}(a, b)$$

holds with the best constants $2/3$, $p_0 = 22/63$, $p_0^ = 1/(90e^{-1} - 30)$ and $\lambda_{p_0} = 660/(241e)$.*

To prove the above three theorems, we need hyperbolic functions representations of those means (see [27, Lemma 3]). Without loss of generality, we assume that $b > a > 0$ and let $t = \ln \sqrt{b/a}$. Then

$$(13) \quad \frac{L(a, b)}{\sqrt{ab}} = \frac{\sinh t}{t}, \quad \frac{E(a, b)}{\sqrt{ab}} = \exp\left(\frac{t}{\tanh t} - 1\right),$$

$$(14) \quad \frac{TQ(a, b)}{\sqrt{ab}} = I_0(t), \quad \frac{A_q(a, b)}{\sqrt{ab}} = \cosh^{1/q}(qt) \quad \text{for } q \neq 0,$$

$$(15) \quad \frac{\Phi_r(a, b)}{\sqrt{ab}} = \frac{1}{3} \frac{157 \cosh^2 t + 157r \cosh t + 83r - 37}{(78 - r) \cosh t + 81r - 38} = \Phi_r(t),$$

$$(16) \quad \frac{\Psi_p(a, b)}{\sqrt{ab}} = \frac{1}{45} \frac{(30p + 1) \cosh^2 t + (28 - 15p) \cosh t + (16 - 15p)}{p \cosh t + (1 - p)} = \Psi_p(t),$$

where $r \in (-1/2, 78)$ and $p \in (0, \infty)$.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In the next section, some useful lemmas are collected. The proofs of Theorems 1–3 are given in Sections 3–5. In the last section, several remarks are presented.

2. LEMMAS AND A TOOL

2.1 Four lemmas

The following four lemmas are needed to prove Theorem 1.

Lemma 1 ([30, Lemma 2.8]). *The formula*

$$(17) \quad I_0^2(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2n)!}{2^{2n}n!^4} t^{2n}$$

holds for $t > 0$.

Lemma 2. *The sequence*

$$(18) \quad s_n = \frac{(2n)!(2n+1)!}{2^{4n}n!^4}$$

is strictly decreasing for $n \geq 0$ with $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = 2/\pi$. Moreover, the double inequality

$$(19) \quad \frac{15}{\pi} \frac{2n+1}{15n+4} < s_n < \frac{1225}{256} \frac{2n+1}{15n+4}$$

holds for $n \geq 3$.

Proof. The monotonicity of s_n was proven in [30, Lemma 2.5]. To prove (19), we set

$$s_n^* = \frac{15n+4}{2n+1} s_n = (15n+4) \frac{(2n)!^2}{2^{4n}n!^4}.$$

Since

$$\frac{s_{n+1}^*}{s_n^*} - 1 = -\frac{1}{4} \frac{n-3}{(15n+4)(n+1)^2} \leq 0$$

for $n \geq 3$, the sequence $\{s_n^*\}_{n \geq 3}$ is decreasing, and therefore,

$$\frac{1225}{256} = s_3^* > s_n^* > \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n^* = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{15n+4}{2n+1} s_n \right) = \frac{15}{2} \frac{2}{\pi} = \frac{15}{\pi},$$

which implies (19). □

Lemma 3. *We have*

$$(20) \quad \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{2^{2k}}{(2k+1)!(2n-2k)!} = \frac{3^{2n+1} + 1}{4(2n+1)!}.$$

Proof. By binomial theorem we have

$$\begin{aligned}(x+1)^{2n+1} &= \sum_{\ell=0}^{2n+1} \binom{2n+1}{\ell} x^\ell = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{2k} x^{2k} + \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{2k+1} x^{2k+1}, \\(x-1)^{2n+1} &= \sum_{\ell=0}^{2n+1} \binom{2n+1}{\ell} (-1)^{2n+1-\ell} x^\ell \\&= -\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{2k} x^{2k} + \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{2k+1} x^{2k+1}.\end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\frac{(x+1)^{2n+1} + (x-1)^{2n+1}}{2} = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{2k+1} x^{2k+1} = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(2n+1)! x^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)! (2n-2k)!},$$

which, by putting $x = 2$, proves the desired identity. \square

Lemma 4. *Let*

$$(21) \quad a_n^* = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(2k)!}{2^{2k} k!^4 (2n-2k)!}.$$

Then the following inequalities hold:

$$(22) \quad a_n^* < \frac{1}{6} \frac{3^{2n+1} + 1}{(2n+1)!} + \frac{643}{16\,588\,800} \frac{1}{(2n-8)!} \text{ for } n \geq 5,$$

$$(23) \quad a_n^* > \frac{15}{4\pi} \frac{3^{2n+1} + 1}{(15n+4)(2n)!} \text{ for } n \geq 3.$$

Proof. (i) By Lemma 2 we see that, for $5 \leq k \leq n$,

$$(24) \quad s_k = \frac{(2k)! (2k+1)!}{2^{4k} k!^4} \leq s_5 = \frac{43\,659}{65\,536} = 0.666\,18\dots < \frac{2}{3}.$$

Due to

$$\frac{(2k)!}{2^{2k} k!^4 (2n-2k)!} = \frac{s_k \times 2^{2k}}{(2k+1)! (2n-2k)!} < \frac{2}{3} \frac{2^{2k}}{(2k+1)! (2n-2k)!}$$

and identity (20), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_n^* &= \sum_{k=5}^n (\cdot) + \sum_{k=0}^4 (\cdot) \\
 &< \frac{2}{3} \sum_{k=5}^n \frac{2^{2k}}{(2k+1)!(2n-2k)!} + \sum_{k=0}^4 \frac{s_k \times 2^{2k}}{(2k+1)!(2n-2k)!} \\
 &= \frac{2}{3} \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{2^{2k}}{(2k+1)!(2n-2k)!} - \frac{2}{3} \sum_{k=0}^4 \frac{2^{2k}}{(2k+1)!(2n-2k)!} \\
 &\quad + \sum_{k=0}^4 \frac{s_k \times 2^{2k}}{(2k+1)!(2n-2k)!} = \frac{1}{6} \frac{3^{2n+1} + 1}{(2n+1)!} + \sum_{k=0}^4 \frac{(s_k - 2/3) 2^{2k}}{(2k+1)!(2n-2k)!}.
 \end{aligned}$$

If we prove

$$\tau := \sum_{k=0}^4 \frac{(s_k - 2/3) 2^{2k}}{(2k+1)!(2n-2k)!} < \frac{643}{16\,588\,800} \frac{1}{(2n-8)!},$$

then the first inequality (22) follows. In fact,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tau &= \frac{1}{(2n-8)!} \sum_{k=0}^4 \frac{(s_k - 2/3) 2^{2k}}{(2k+1)!} \frac{(2n-8)!}{(2n-2k)!} \\
 &< \frac{1}{(2n-8)!} \sum_{k=0}^4 \frac{(s_k - 2/3) 2^{2k}}{(2k+1)!} \frac{(2 \times 5 - 8)!}{(2 \times 5 - 2k)!} = \frac{643}{16\,588\,800} \frac{1}{(2n-8)!},
 \end{aligned}$$

which proves (22).

(ii) Using the monotonicity of s_k and inequality (19) gives

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_n^* &= \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{s_k \times 2^{2k}}{(2k+1)!(2n-2k)!} > \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{s_n \times 2^{2k}}{(2k+1)!(2n-2k)!} \\
 &> \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{n+1/2}{n+4/15} \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{2^{2k}}{(2k+1)!(2n-2k)!} = \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{n+1/2}{n+4/15} \frac{3^{2n+1} + 1}{4(2n+1)!},
 \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality holds due to (20). This proves (23), and the proof of this lemma is done. \square

2.2 NP and PN-type polynomials

To prove Theorem 3, we recall the NP or PN-type polynomials (see [41]). A polynomial

$$P_n(x) = - \sum_{k=0}^m a_k x^k + \sum_{k=m+1}^n a_k x^k$$

is called an NP-type polynomial if $a_k \geq 0$ for $0 \leq k \leq n$ and $a_m, a_n > 0$. Correspondingly, $-P_n(x)$ is called a PN-type polynomial. For such polynomials, we have a simple but efficient signs rule (see [33, 35, 38]).

Proposition 1. *Let $P_n(x)$ be an NP-type polynomial. There is an $x_0 > 0$ such that $P_n(x) < 0$ for all $x \in (0, x_0)$ and $P(x_0) > 0$ for $x \in (x_0, \infty)$.*

Remark 1. For an NP-type polynomial, it follows from Proposition 1 that if there is an $x_1 > 0$ such that $P_n(x_1) < 0$, then $P_n(x) < 0$ for all $x \in (0, x_1)$; if $P_n(x_1) > 0$, then $P_n(x) > 0$ for all $x \in (x_1, \infty)$.

Remark 2. More general, $P_\infty(x)$ and $-P_\infty(x)$ are called NP and PN-type power series, respectively. Such type power series appear frequently in certain special functions. A similar signs rule was proven in [36, 39] and plays a key role in the study of means and special functions, see for example, [21, 28, 31, 34, 37, 43].

3. PROOF OF THEOREM 1

Proof of Theorem 1. Substituting $r_0 = 1198/901$ into (15) we have

$$(25) \quad \Phi_{r_0}(t) = \frac{1}{120} \frac{901 \cosh^2 t + 1198 \cosh t + 421}{11 \cosh t + 10}.$$

Using hyperbolic functions representations of $L(a, b)$, $TQ(a, b)$ and $\Phi_r(a, b)$ given in (13), (14) and (25), the double inequality (10) is equivalent to

$$(26) \quad \beta_1 \Phi_{r_0}(t) < \frac{t \times I_0(t)^2}{\sinh t} < \Phi_{r_0}(t)$$

holds for $t > 0$, which is in turn equivalent to

$$\beta_1 f_2(t) < f_1(t) < f_2(t),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(t) &= \left(\frac{11}{21} \cosh t + \frac{10}{21} \right) I_0(t)^2, \\ f_2(t) &= \frac{\sinh t}{t} \left(\frac{901}{2520} \cosh^2 t + \frac{1198}{2520} \cosh t + \frac{421}{2520} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Using the representation (17), Cauchy product formula and “product into sum” formulas for the hyperbolic functions, $f_1(t)$ and $f_2(t)$ can be expressed in power series:

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(t) &= \frac{11}{21} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2n)!}{2^{2n} n!^4} t^{2n} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^{2n}}{(2n)!} + \frac{10}{21} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2n)!}{2^{2n} n!^4} t^{2n} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{11}{21} \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(2k)!}{2^{2k} k!^4 (2n-2k)!} + \frac{10}{21} \frac{(2n)!}{2^{2n} n!^4} \right) t^{2n} := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n t^{2n}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$(27) \quad a_n = \frac{11}{21} a_n^* + \frac{10}{21} \frac{(2n)!}{2^{2n} n!^4} \quad \text{with} \quad a_n^* = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(2k)!}{2^{2k} k!^4 (2n-2k)!};$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_2(t) &= \frac{901 \sinh 3t + 2396 \sinh 2t + 2585 \sinh t}{10080t} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{901 \times 3^{2n+1} + 599 \times 2^{2n+3} + 2585}{10080 (2n+1)!} t^{2n} := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n t^{2n}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$(28) \quad b_n = \frac{1}{10080} \frac{901 \times 3^{2n+1} + 599 \times 2^{2n+3} + 2585}{(2n+1)!}.$$

If we prove $c_n = a_n - b_n \leq 0$ and $d_n = a_n - \beta_1 b_n > 0$ for all $n \geq 0$, then the desired inequalities follow.

(i) We now prove $c_n = a_n - b_n \leq 0$ for all $n \geq 0$. A direct verification gives $c_n = 0$ for $0 \leq n \leq 3$ and

$$\begin{aligned} c_4 &= -\frac{241}{18063360}, & c_5 &= -\frac{14137}{4470681600}, \\ c_6 &= -\frac{3569057}{11158821273600}, & c_7 &= -\frac{22652689}{1171676233728000}. \end{aligned}$$

For $n \geq 8$, since $s_n < 2/3$, we have

$$\frac{(2n)!}{2^{2n} n!^4} = s_n \frac{2^{2n}}{(2n+1)!} < \frac{2}{3} \frac{2^{2n}}{(2n+1)!}.$$

This in combination with the inequality (22) yields

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= \frac{11}{21} a_n^* + \frac{10}{21} \frac{(2n)!}{2^{2n} n!^4} \\ &< \frac{11}{21} \frac{1}{6} \frac{3^{2n+1} + 1}{(2n+1)!} + \frac{11}{21} \frac{643}{16588800} \frac{1}{(2n-8)!} + \frac{10}{21} \frac{2}{3} \frac{2^{2n}}{(2n+1)!} \\ &= \frac{1}{126} \frac{40 \times 2^{2n} + 33 \times 3^{2n} + 11}{(2n+1)!} + \frac{7073}{348364800} \frac{1}{(2n-8)!}. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} c_n &= a_n - b_n < \frac{1}{126} \frac{40 \times 2^{2n} + 33 \times 3^{2n} + 11}{(2n+1)!} + \frac{7073}{348364800} \frac{1}{(2n-8)!} \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{10080} \frac{901 \times 3^{2n+1} + 599 \times 2^{2n+3} + 2585}{(2n+1)!} = -\frac{c'_n}{10080 (2n+1)!}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$c'_n = 1592 \times 2^{2n} + 63 \times 3^{2n} + 1705 - \frac{7073}{34560} \frac{(2n+1)!}{(2n-8)!}.$$

It is easy to check that c'_n satisfies the recurrence relation

$$(29) \quad c'_{n+1} - \frac{(2n+3)(2n+2)}{(2n-6)(2n-7)} c'_n = \frac{6c''_n}{(n-1)(n-3)(2n-7)},$$

where

$$c''_n = 21 \frac{8n^2 - 61n + 93}{n-1} \times 3^{2n} + 796 \frac{2n^2 - 19n + 27}{n-1} \times 2^{2n} - 5115.$$

Since the coefficients of 3^{2n} and 2^{2n} are both increasing in n for $n \geq 8$, so is c''_n , and therefore, we obtain

$$c''_n \geq c''_8 = \frac{105\,922\,257\,660}{7} > 0 \text{ for } n \geq 8.$$

This together with the relation (29) and $c'_8 = 1010859825 > 0$ yields $c'_n > 0$ for $n \geq 8$, which implies $c_n < 0$ for $n \geq 8$. This proves $c_n = a_n - b_n \leq 0$ for all $n \geq 0$.

(ii) Second, we show $d_n = a_n - \beta_1 b_n > 0$ for all $n \geq 0$. An easy check gives

$$d_0 = 1 - \frac{2640}{901\pi} > 0, \quad d_1 = \frac{16}{21} - \frac{14080}{6307\pi} > 0, \quad d_2 = \frac{71}{288} - \frac{3905}{5406\pi} > 0.$$

For $n \geq 3$, using the inequality (19) we have

$$\frac{(2n)!}{2^{2n}n!^4} = s_n \frac{2^{2n}}{(2n+1)!} > \frac{15}{\pi} \frac{2n+1}{15n+4} \frac{2^{2n}}{(2n+1)!} = \frac{15}{\pi} \frac{2^{2n}}{(15n+4)(2n)!}.$$

This fact together with the inequality (23) gives

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= \frac{11}{21} a_n^* + \frac{10}{21} \frac{(2n)!}{2^{2n}n!^4} \\ &> \frac{11}{21} \frac{15}{4\pi} \frac{3^{2n+1} + 1}{(15n+4)(2n)!} + \frac{10}{21} \frac{15}{\pi} \frac{2^{2n}}{(15n+4)(2n)!} \\ &= \frac{5}{28\pi} \frac{33 \times 3^{2n} + 40 \times 2^{2n} + 11}{(2n)!(15n+4)}. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} d_n &= a_n - \beta_1 b_n > \frac{5}{28\pi} \frac{33 \times 3^{2n} + 40 \times 2^{2n} + 11}{(2n)!(15n+4)} \\ &\quad - \frac{2640}{901\pi} \frac{901 \times 3^{2n+1} + 599 \times 2^{2n+3} + 2585}{10080(2n+1)!} \\ &= \frac{1}{75\,684\pi} \frac{d'_n}{(15n+4)(2n+1)!}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$d'_n = 69\,377 \times 3^{2n+1} - (62\,520n - 14\,863) \times 2^{2n+3} - 55(10\,104n + 1433).$$

It is readily checked that d'_n has the recurrence relation

$$d'_{n+1} - 9d'_n = 10(62\,520n - 64\,879) \times 2^{2n+2} + 880(5052n + 85) > 0$$

for $n \geq 3$. This in conjunction with $d'_3 = 61\,560\,660 > 0$ yields $d'_n > 0$ for $n \geq 3$, and therefore, so is d_n . Then $d_n = a_n - \beta_1 b_n > 0$ for all $n \geq 0$.

Since

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f_1(t)}{f_2(t)} &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{t \times I_0(t)^2}{\Phi_{r_0}(t) \sinh t} = 1, \\ \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f_1(t)}{f_2(t)} &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{t \times I_0(t)^2}{\Phi_{r_0}(t) \sinh t} = \frac{2640}{901\pi}, \end{aligned}$$

where the second limit is valid due to the asymptotic formula

$$I_0(t) \sim \frac{e^t}{\sqrt{2\pi t}} \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow \infty$$

(see [1]). Consequently, the inequalities proven are sharp, thereby completing the proof. \square

4. PROOF OF THEOREM 2

Proof of Theorem 2. Using hyperbolic functions representations of $E(a, b)$ and $\Phi_r(a, b)$ given in (13) and (25), the double inequality (11) is equivalent to

$$\beta_2 \cosh^{3/2} \left(\frac{2t}{3} \right) < \Phi_{r_0}(t) < \cosh^{3/2} \left(\frac{2t}{3} \right)$$

holds for $t > 0$. Let

$$\begin{aligned} g(t) &= \ln \Phi_{r_0}(t) - \frac{3}{2} \ln \left(\cosh \frac{2t}{3} \right) = \ln \frac{901 \cosh^2 t + 1198 \cosh t + 421}{120} \\ &\quad - \ln(11 \cosh t + 10) - \frac{3}{2} \ln \left(\cosh \frac{2t}{3} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Differentiation yields

$$g'(t) = \frac{2(901 \cosh t + 599) \sinh t}{901 \cosh^2 t + 1198 \cosh t + 421} - \frac{11 \sinh t}{11 \cosh t + 10} - \frac{\sinh(2t/3)}{\cosh(2t/3)},$$

which, by factoring, can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} & (11 \cosh t + 10) (901 \cosh^2 t + 1198 \cosh t + 421) \frac{\cosh(2t/3)}{\sinh(t/3)} \times g'(t) \\ = & (9911 \cosh^2 t + 18\,020 \cosh t + 7349) \frac{\sinh t}{\sinh(t/3)} \cosh \frac{2t}{3} \\ & - (11 \cosh t + 10) (901 \cosh^2 t + 1198 \cosh t + 421) \frac{\sinh(2t/3)}{\sinh(t/3)} := g_1(t/3). \end{aligned}$$

Making changes of variables $t = 3s$, $\cosh s = x$ and using the following formulas

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\sinh(2t/3)}{\sinh(t/3)} &= \frac{\sinh(2s)}{\sinh s} = 2 \cosh s = 2x, \\ \frac{\sinh t}{\sinh(t/3)} &= \frac{\sinh(3s)}{\sinh s} = 4 \cosh^2 s - 1 = 4x^2 - 1, \\ \cosh \frac{2t}{3} &= \cosh(2s) = 2 \cosh^2 s - 1 = 2x^2 - 1, \\ \cosh t &= \cosh(3s) = 4 \cosh^3 s - 3 \cosh s = 4x^3 - 3x, \end{aligned}$$

then factoring, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} g_1(s) = & -(x-1) (133\,376x^6 - 25\,200x^5 - 225\,264x^4 \\ & + 86\,696x^3 + 89\,640x^2 - 55\,131x + 7349), \end{aligned}$$

which can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} g_1(s) = & -(x-1) \left[133\,376(x-1)^6 + 775\,056(x-1)^5 + 1649\,376(x-1)^4 \right. \\ & \left. + 1601\,160(x-1)^3 + 746\,784(x-1)^2 + 157\,437(x-1) + 11\,466 \right] < 0 \end{aligned}$$

for $x = \cosh s > 1$ with $s = t/3 > 0$. Therefore, $g'(t) < 0$ for $t > 0$.

A simple computation yields

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \exp g(t) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Phi_{r_0}(t)}{\cosh^{3/2}(2t/3)} = 1, \\ \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \exp g(t) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\Phi_{r_0}(t)}{\cosh^{3/2}(2t/3)} = \frac{901}{330\sqrt{8}}. \end{aligned}$$

By the monotonicity of $g(t)$, the desired double inequality follows.

Final, we show that the constant $2/3$ is the best. Since

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Phi_{r_0}(t) - \cosh^{1/q}(qt)}{t^2} = -\frac{1}{2} \left(q - \frac{2}{3} \right),$$

the necessary condition for the inequality $\Phi_{r_0}(a, b) < A_q(a, b)$ to hold is $q \geq 2/3$. Taking into account the increasing property of $q \mapsto \cosh^{1/q}(qt)$, we see that $q = 2/3$ is the best constant. This completes the proof. \square

5. PROOF OF THEOREM 3

Before proving Theorem 3, we observe the monotonicity of the ratio

$$H_p(t) = \frac{\exp(t \coth t - 1)}{\Psi_p(t)} = 45 \frac{[p \cosh t + (1 - p)] \exp(t \coth t - 1)}{(30p + 1) \cosh^2 t + (28 - 15p) \cosh t + (16 - 15p)}.$$

Theorem 4. For $p > 0$, let $\Psi_p(t)$ be defined by (16). (i) If $p \geq 22/63$, then the function $H_p(t)$ is strictly increasing from on $(0, \infty)$ onto $(1, \lambda_p)$, where $\lambda_p = 90pe^{-1}/(30p + 1)$. Therefore, the double inequality

$$(30) \quad \Psi_p(t) < \exp\left(\frac{t}{\tanh t} - 1\right) < \lambda_p \Psi_p(t)$$

holds for $t > 0$.

(ii) If $0 < p \leq (\sqrt{61} + 1)/30$, then $H_p(t)$ is strictly decreasing from on $(0, \infty)$ onto $(\lambda_p, 1)$. Thus the double inequality

$$(31) \quad \lambda_p \Psi_p(t) < \exp\left(\frac{t}{\tanh t} - 1\right) < \Psi_p(t)$$

holds for $t > 0$.

(iii) If $(\sqrt{61} + 1)/30 < p < 22/63$, then there is a $t_0 > 0$ such that the $H_p(t)$ is strictly decreasing on $(0, t_0)$ and increasing on (t_0, ∞) . Consequently, the inequality

$$(32) \quad \exp\left(\frac{t}{\tanh t} - 1\right) < \max\{1, \lambda_p\} \Psi_p(t)$$

holds for $t > 0$. In particular, if $\lambda_p \leq 1$, that is, $(\sqrt{61} + 1)/30 < p \leq 1/(90e^{-1} - 30) = p_0^*$, then we have

$$(33) \quad \exp\left(\frac{t}{\tanh t} - 1\right) < \Psi_p(t)$$

for $t > 0$.

Proof. Let

$$\begin{aligned} h_1(t) &= \ln H_p(t) = \frac{t \cosh t}{\sinh t} - 1 + \ln 45 + \ln(p \cosh t + 1 - p) \\ &\quad - \ln[(30p + 1) \cosh^2 t + (28 - 15p) \cosh t + 16 - 15p]. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} h_1(t) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} h_1(t) = \ln \frac{90p}{30p + 1} - 1 = \ln \lambda_p.$$

Differentiation yields

$$\begin{aligned}
 h_1'(t) &= -\frac{t}{\sinh^2 t} + \frac{\cosh t}{\sinh t} + p \frac{\sinh t}{p \cosh t - p + 1} \\
 &\quad - \frac{[2(30p + 1) \cosh t + (28 - 15p)] \sinh t}{(30p + 1) \cosh^2 t + (28 - 15p) \cosh t + 16 - 15p} \\
 (34) \quad &= \frac{h_3(\cosh t) \sinh t - t}{\sinh^2 t} := \frac{h_2(t)}{\sinh^2 t},
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$h_3(x) = x + \frac{p(x^2 - 1)}{px - p + 1} - \frac{[2(30p + 1)x + (28 - 15p)](x^2 - 1)}{(30p + 1)x^2 + (28 - 15p)x + 16 - 15p};$$

$$(35) \quad h_2'(t) = h_3'(\cosh t) \sinh^2 t + h_3(\cosh t) \cosh t - 1 = h_4(\cosh t),$$

where

$$h_4(x) = (x^2 - 1) h_3'(x) + x h_3(x) - 1.$$

Direct computation and simplification give

$$(36) \quad h_4(x) = \frac{(x - 1)^3 (x + 1) \times h_5(x)}{(px - p + 1)^2 [(30p + 1)x^2 + (28 - 15p)x + 16 - 15p]^2},$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 h_5(x) &= p(30p + 1)(15p^2 - p - 1)x^3 \\
 &\quad - (1350p^4 - 1710p^3 + 57p^2 + 118p + 2)x^2 \\
 &\quad + (1350p^4 - 3375p^3 + 2367p^2 - 226p - 88)x \\
 &\quad - (450p^4 - 1680p^3 + 2279p^2 - 1290p + 240).
 \end{aligned}$$

To treat easily the sign of $h_5(x)$ on $(1, \infty)$, we make a change of variable $x = y + 1$, where $y > 0$, to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 h_5(y + 1) &= (450p^4 - 15p^3 - 31p^2 - p)y^3 + (1665p^3 - 150p^2 - 121p - 2)y^2 \\
 &\quad + (2160p^2 - 465p - 92)y + 15(63p - 2) \\
 &: = c_3(p)y^3 + c_2(p)y^2 + c_1(p)y + c_0(p).
 \end{aligned}$$

Clearly, every coefficient $c_i(p)$ ($i = 3, 2, 1, 0$) is an NP-type polynomial. By Proposition 1 there is a unique $p_i > 0$ such that $c_i(p) < 0$ for $p \in (0, p_i)$ and $c_i(p) > 0$ for $p \in (p_i, \infty)$, $i = 3, 2, 1, 0$. Since

$$c_3(p) = p(30p + 1)(15p^2 - p - 1),$$

we see that

$$p_3 = \frac{1 + \sqrt{61}}{30} = 0.293\dots;$$

due to

$$c_2\left(\frac{8}{25}\right) = -\frac{4754}{3125} < 0 \quad \text{and} \quad c_2\left(\frac{1}{3}\right) = \frac{8}{3} > 0,$$

we see that $p_2 \in (0.325, 0.333)$. Also, we have

$$p_1 = \frac{1 + \sqrt{112345}}{1440} = 0.340\dots \quad \text{and} \quad p_0 = \frac{22}{63} = 0.349\dots$$

Obviously, $p_3 < p_2 < p_1 < p_0$. We have thus the changes pattern of signs of coefficients $c_i(p)$:

p	$c_0(p)$	$c_1(p)$	$c_2(p)$	$c_0(p)$
$(0, p_3)$	-	-	-	-
(p_3, p_2)	-	-	-	+
(p_2, p_1)	-	-	+	+
(p_1, p_0)	-	+	+	+
(p_0, ∞)	+	+	+	+

From the above table, we find that: (i) $h_5(y+1) > 0$ if $p \in [p_0, \infty)$; (ii) $h_5(y+1) < 0$ if $p \in (0, p_3]$; (iii) if $p \in (p_3, p_0)$ then $h_5(y+1)$ is an NP-type polynomial of y , and by Proposition 1 there is a $y_0 > 0$ such that $h_5(y+1) < 0$ for $y \in (0, y_0)$ and $h_5(y+1) > 0$ for $y \in (y_0, \infty)$. Next we prove the desired result by distinguishing three cases.

Case 1: $p \in [p_0, \infty)$. Since $h_5(y+1) > 0$ for $y > 0$, so is $h_4(x)$ for $x > 1$, and then $h'_2(t) > 0$ for $t > 0$ by (35), which implies that $h_2(t) > h_2(0) = 0$. This, due to (34), indicates that $h'_1(t) > 0$ for $t > 0$, that is, $H_p(t)$ is strictly increasing on $(0, \infty)$. It follows that

$$0 = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \ln H_p(t) < \ln H_p(t) < \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \ln H_p(t) = \ln \lambda_p,$$

which implies the double inequality (30).

Case 2: $p \in (0, p_3]$. In the same way, $H_p(t)$ is strictly decreasing on $(0, \infty)$ and the double inequality (31) follows.

Case 3: $p \in (p_3, p_0)$. We see that there is an $x_0 = y_0 + 1 > 1$ such that $h_5(x) < 0$ for $x \in (1, x_0)$ and $h_5(x) > 0$ for $x \in (x_0, \infty)$, so is $h_4(x)$ by the relation (36). It follows from (35) that $h_2(t)$ is decreasing on $(0, t_0)$ and increasing on (t_0, ∞) , where $t_0 = \operatorname{arcosh} x_0$. Since $h_2(0) = 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} h_3(x) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left[x + \frac{p(x^2 - 1)}{px + 1 - p} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{[2(30p + 1)x + (28 - 15p)](x^2 - 1)}{(30p + 1)x^2 + (28 - 15p)x + 16 - 15p} \right] \\ &= \frac{15p^2 - p - 1}{p(30p + 1)}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} h_2(t) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left[h_3(\cosh t) - \frac{t}{\sinh t} \right] \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sinh t \\ &= \operatorname{sgn} \left[\frac{15p^2 - p - 1}{p(30p + 1)} \right] \infty = \infty, \end{aligned}$$

therefore, there is a $t_1 \in (t_0, \infty)$ such that $h_2(t) < 0$ for $t \in (0, t_1)$ and $h_2(t) > 0$ for $t \in (t_1, \infty)$. This, by (34), implies that $h_1(t)$ is decreasing on $(0, t_1)$ and increasing on (t_1, ∞) , then so is $H_p(t)$. It then follows that

$$H_p(t) < \max\{1, \lambda_p\},$$

which implies (32). Evidently, the inequality (33) holds for $t > 0$ when $\max\{1, \lambda_p\} = 1$, that is, $p_3 < p \leq 1/(90e^{-1} - 30) = p_0^*$.

This completes the proof. □

We are now in a position to prove Theorem 3.

Prove Theorem 3. (i) We first prove the second and third inequalities in (12) hold with the best constants p_0 and p_0^* . They are clearly equivalent to

$$(37) \quad \Psi_{p_0}(t) < \exp\left(\frac{t}{\tanh t} - 1\right) < \Psi_{p_0^*}(t)$$

for $t > 0$ with the best p_0 and p_0^* . The inequality (37) follows from the inequalities (30) and (33). The optimality of p_0 and p_0^* is due to the two facts. The first of which is the monotonicity of $\Psi_p(t)$ with respect to p . In fact, we have

$$\frac{\partial \Psi_p(t)}{\partial p} = -\frac{1}{45} \frac{(\cosh t - 1)^3}{(p \cosh t + 1 - p)^2} < 0.$$

The second is the necessary conditions for (37) to hold for all $t > 0$, that is,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\exp(t \coth t - 1) - \Psi_p(t)}{t^6} &= \frac{1}{360} \left(p - \frac{22}{63} \right) \geq 0, \\ \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\exp(t \coth t - 1) - \Psi_p(t)}{\cosh t} &= \frac{2}{e} - \frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{45p} \leq 0, \end{aligned}$$

which give $p \geq p_0$ and $p \leq p_0^*$, respectively.

(ii) A direct computation yields

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_{p_0^*}(t) - \lambda_{p_0} \Psi_{p_0}(t) &= -\left(\frac{660}{241e} - 1 \right) \\ &\times \frac{(1446 - 418e)x^2 + (2868 - 1021e)x + 1356 - 451e}{(22x + 41)(ex + 90 - 31e)} < 0, \end{aligned}$$

where $x = \cosh t > 1$, which proves the fourth inequality of (12). Since

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\Psi_{p_0^*}(t)}{\Psi_{p_0}(t)} = \frac{660}{241e} = \lambda_{p_0},$$

the constant λ_{p_0} is the best possible.

(iii) Final, we prove the first inequality of (12). Assume that $b > a > 0$ and let $a/b = x^6 \in (0, 1)$. Then this inequality is equivalent to

$$j(x) = \left[\frac{1}{15} \frac{241(1+x^6)^2/4 + 478(1+x^6)x^3/2 + 226x^6}{22(1+x^6)/2 + 41x^3} \right]^2 - \left(\frac{1+x^4}{2} \right)^3 > 0$$

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

$$j(x) = \frac{1}{3600} \frac{(x-1)^4 \times j_{20}(x)}{(11x^6 + 41x^3 + 11)^2} > 0,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} j_{20}(x) = & 3631x^{20} + 14524x^{19} + 36310x^{18} + 127512x^{17} + 183303x^{16} \\ & + 98856x^{15} + 485982x^{14} + 738792x^{13} + 88047x^{12} + 469432x^{11} \\ & + 1222582x^{10} + 469432x^9 + 88047x^8 + 738792x^7 + 485982x^6 \\ & + 98856x^5 + 183303x^4 + 127512x^3 + 36310x^2 + 14524x + 3631, \end{aligned}$$

which is clearly positive for $x \in (0, 1)$.

It remains to show that the constant $2/3$ is the best. Since

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cosh^{1/q}(qt) - \Psi_{p_0}(t)}{t^2} = \frac{1}{2} \left(q - \frac{2}{3} \right),$$

the necessary condition for the inequality $A_q(a, b) < \Psi_{p_0}(a, b)$ to hold is $q \leq 2/3$. This in conjunction with the increasing property of $q \mapsto \cosh^{1/q}(qt)$ reveals that $q = 2/3$ is the best constant.

We thus complete the proof. \square

6. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we established a nice chain of sharp inequalities for some means (7), where the inequalities from the first to fourth are given in Theorems 1 and 2, while ones from the fifth to eighth are given by Theorem 3. Moreover, this chain can be written as

$$(38) \quad \sqrt{\theta_2 L A_{2/3}} < \sqrt{\theta_1 L \Phi_{r_0}} < TQ < \sqrt{L \Phi_{r_0}} < \sqrt{L A_{2/3}},$$

$$(39) \quad A_{2/3} < \Psi_{p_0} < E < \Psi_{p_0^*} < \lambda_{p_0} \Psi_{p_0}.$$

Clearly, as an upper bound for the Toader-Qi mean, $\sqrt{L \Phi_{r_0}}$ is better than $\sqrt{L A_{2/3}}$, which improves a known result given in [42]. As a lower bound for the exponential

mean E , Ψ_{p_0} is superior to $A_{2/3}$, which is also a refinement of Stolarsky's inequality in [16].

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