

SEVERAL NEW INEQUALITIES OF TANC FUNCTION WITH APPLICATIONS TO SEIFFERT MEAN

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This paper is dedicated to Professor Dr. Feng Qi for his retirement in 2025

In the paper, the authors discover necessary and sufficient conditions such that an inequality for the ratio between the differences of powers of the tanc function and the cosine function is sound. As a result, the authors derive some new inequalities involving the tangent function, the inverse tangent function, and the second Seiffert mean.

1. INTRODUCTION

For $x \in \mathbb{R}$, the functions

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{sinc} x &= \begin{cases} \frac{\sin x}{x}, & x \neq 0; \\ 1, & x = 0, \end{cases} & \operatorname{sinhc} x &= \begin{cases} \frac{\sinh x}{x}, & x \neq 0; \\ 1, & x = 0, \end{cases} \\ \operatorname{tanc} x &= \begin{cases} \frac{\tan x}{x}, & x \neq 0; \\ 1, & x = 0, \end{cases} & \operatorname{tanhc} x &= \begin{cases} \frac{\tanh x}{x}, & x \neq 0; \\ 1, & x = 0 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

are called the sinc function, the hyperbolic sinc function, the tanc function, and the hyperbolic tanc function, respectively. The function $\operatorname{sinc} x$ is also called the sine cardinal or sampling function, as well as the function $\operatorname{sinhc} x$ is also called

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hyperbolic sine cardinal, see the papers [13, 41]. The sinc function $\operatorname{sinc} x$ arises frequently in signal processing, the theory of the Fourier transforms, and other areas in mathematics, physics, and engineering.

Inequalities involving the sinc function, the hyperbolic sinc function, the tanc function, and the hyperbolic tanc function, such as Wilker’s inequality, Huygens’ inequality, Jordan’s inequality, Caus–Huygens’ inequality, Becker–Stark’s inequality, and so on, arouse great enthusiasm of researchers, see the literatures [2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51] and closely-related references therein.

For $s, t > 0$ with $s \neq t$, the Neuman–Sándor mean $M(s, t)$, the first Seiffert means $P(s, t)$, the second Seiffert means $T(s, t)$ are, respectively, defined in [31, 42, 43] by

$$M(s, t) = \frac{s - t}{2 \operatorname{arsinh}[(s - t)/(s + t)]}, \quad T(s, t) = \frac{s - t}{2 \arctan[(s - t)/(s + t)]},$$

and

$$P(s, t) = \frac{s - t}{4 \arctan(\sqrt{s/t}) - \pi} = \frac{s - t}{2 \arcsin[(s - t)/(s + t)]}.$$

For $s, t > 0$, let

$$A(s, t) = \frac{s + t}{2}, \quad H(s, t) = \frac{2st}{s + t}, \quad C(s, t) = \frac{s^2 + t^2}{s + t}$$

be the arithmetic, harmonic, and contra-harmonic mean.

In the paper [27], Li, Miao, and Guo established three double inequalities for bounding the Neuman–Sándor mean $M(s, t)$ in terms of the arithmetic mean $A(s, t)$ and the contra-harmonic mean $C(s, t)$ and deduced that the double inequalities

$$1 - \beta_1 \left(1 - \frac{1}{\cosh^2 x} \right) < \frac{1}{\operatorname{sinhc} x} < 1 - \alpha_1 \left(1 - \frac{1}{\cosh^2 x} \right),$$

$$1 - \beta_2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{\cosh^4 x} \right) < \left(\frac{1}{\operatorname{sinhc} x} \right)^2 < 1 - \alpha_2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{\cosh^4 x} \right),$$

and

$$1 + \alpha_3 (\cosh^4 x - 1) < \operatorname{sinhc}^2 x < 1 + \beta_3 (\cosh^4 x - 1)$$

hold for $x \in (0, \ln(1 + \sqrt{2}))$ if and only if

$$\alpha_1 \leq \frac{1}{6}, \quad \beta_1 \geq 2[1 - \ln(1 + \sqrt{2})] = 0.237253\dots,$$

$$\alpha_2 \leq \frac{1}{6}, \quad \beta_2 \geq \frac{4}{3}[1 - \ln^2(1 + \sqrt{2})] = 0.297574\dots,$$

and

$$\alpha_3 \leq \frac{1 - \ln^2(1 + \sqrt{2})}{3 \ln^2(1 + \sqrt{2})} = 0.095767\dots, \quad \beta_3 \geq \frac{1}{6}.$$

In the article [28], motivated by the results obtained in the paper [27], Li, Shen, and Guo obtained the following two theorems.

Theorem 1. When $r \geq \frac{8}{25}$, the double inequality

$$(1) \quad \alpha < \frac{1 - \operatorname{sinh}^r x}{1 - \cosh^{2r} x} < \beta, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

holds if and only if $\alpha \leq 0$ and $\beta \geq \frac{1}{6}$.

When $r < 0$, the right-hand side inequality in (1) holds if and only if $\beta \leq \frac{1}{6}$.

Theorem 2. When $r \geq \frac{1}{2}$, the double inequality

$$(2) \quad \beta < \frac{1 - \operatorname{sinc}^r x}{1 - \cos^{2r} x} < \alpha, \quad x \in \left(0, \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$

holds if and only if $\alpha \geq 1 - \left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^r$ and $\beta \leq \frac{1}{6}$.

When $0 < r \leq \frac{8}{25}$, the double inequality (2) holds if and only if $\alpha \geq \frac{1}{6}$ and $\beta \leq 1 - \left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^r$.

When $r < 0$, the right-hand side inequality in (2) holds if and only if $\beta \geq \frac{1}{6}$.

In this paper, motivated by the double inequalities in (1) and (2), we will find out the largest scalar α and the smallest number β such that the double inequality

$$(3) \quad \beta < \frac{1 - \operatorname{tanc}^r x}{1 - \cos^{2r} x} < \alpha, \quad x \in \left(0, \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$

holds for $r \in \mathbb{R}$. Hereafter, substituting the double inequalities (3) into the second Seiffert means $T(s, t)$, we derive generalizations of some inequalities for the second Seiffert means $T(s, t)$.

2. LEMMAS

To attain our main purposes, we need the following lemmas.

Lemma 1 ([3, Theorem 1.25]). For $a, b \in (-\infty, \infty)$ with $a < b$, let $f, g : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous on $[a, b]$, differentiable on (a, b) , and $g'(x) \neq 0$ on (a, b) . If the derivative ratio $\frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$ is increasing on (a, b) , then the functions

$$\frac{f(x) - f(a)}{g(x) - g(a)} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{f(x) - f(b)}{g(x) - g(b)}$$

are also increasing on (a, b) .

Lemma 2 ([44, 46]). Suppose that the Maclaurin power series $f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$ and $g(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n x^n$ converge on $(-r, r)$ for $r > 0$ and $b_n > 0$ for all $n \geq 0$. If the sequence $\frac{a_n}{b_n}$ is increasing in $n \geq 0$, then the function $h(x) = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ is increasing in $x \in (0, r)$.

Lemma 3 ([1, 14, 21, 24, 40, 45]). *The power series expansions*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x}{\sin x} &= 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^{2n} - 2}{(2n)!} |B_{2n}| x^{2n}, \quad 0 < |x| < \pi, \\ \cot x &= \frac{1}{x} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^{2n}}{(2n)!} |B_{2n}| x^{2n-1}, \quad 0 < |x| < \pi, \\ \frac{1}{\sin^2 x} &= \frac{1}{x^2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^{2n}(2n-1)}{(2n)!} |B_{2n}| x^{2n-2}, \quad 0 < |x| < \pi \end{aligned}$$

hold, where B_{2n} be the even-indexed Bernoulli numbers which are generated by

$$\frac{z}{e^z - 1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} B_n \frac{z^n}{n!} = 1 - \frac{z}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_{2n} \frac{z^{2n}}{(2n)!}, \quad |z| < 2\pi.$$

3. NEW INEQUALITIES FOR THE TANC FUNCTION

Now we are in a position to state and prove several new inequalities for the tanc function.

Theorem 3. *When $r > 0$, the right-hand side of the inequality (3) holds if and only if $\alpha \geq -\frac{1}{3}$. When $r \leq -\frac{1}{10}$, the double inequality (3) holds if and only if $\alpha \leq -\frac{1}{3}$ and $\beta \geq 0$.*

Proof. Let

$$f_1(x) = \text{tanc}^r x - 1, \quad f_2(x) = \cos^{2r} x - 1, \quad F(x) = \frac{f_1(x)}{f_2(x)}.$$

Then direct differentiation gives

$$\frac{f_1'(x)}{f_2'(x)} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\sin x}{x \cos^3 x} \right)^{r-1} \frac{\sin x \cos x - x}{x^2 \sin x \cos^3 x}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \left[\frac{f_1'(x)}{f_2'(x)} \right]' &= \frac{r-1}{2} \left(\frac{\sin x}{x \cos^3 x} \right)^{r-2} \frac{x - \sin x \cos x + 2x \sin^2 x}{x^2 \cos^4 x} \frac{\sin x \cos x - x}{x^2 \sin x \cos^3 x} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\sin x}{x \cos^3 x} \right)^{r-1} \frac{\left(\begin{matrix} 2x \sin^3 x \cos x + x \sin x \cos x + x^2 \\ -2 \sin^2 x \cos^2 x - 4x^2 \sin^2 x \end{matrix} \right)}{x^3 \sin^2 x \cos^4 x} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\sin x}{x \cos^3 x} \right)^{r-2} \frac{\left[\begin{matrix} x^2 + [(r-1)(x - \sin x \cos x) \\ + 2x \sin^2 x](\sin x \cos x - x) \\ + 2x \sin^3 x \cos x + x \sin x \cos x \\ - 2 \sin^2 x \cos^2 x - 4x^2 \sin^2 x \end{matrix} \right]}{x^4 \sin x \cos^7 x} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\sin x}{x \cos^3 x} \right)^{r-2} \frac{\left(\begin{array}{l} 2x \sin x \cos x - \sin^2 x \cos^2 x - x^2 \\ + 2x \sin^3 x \cos x - 2x^2 \sin^2 x \end{array} \right)}{x^4 \sin x \cos^7 x} \\
&\quad \times \left[r - \frac{x \sin x \cos x + 2x^2 \sin^2 x + \sin^2 x \cos^2 x - 2x^2}{\left(\begin{array}{l} 2x \sin x \cos x - \sin^2 x \cos^2 x - x^2 \\ + 2x \sin^3 x \cos x - 2x^2 \sin^2 x \end{array} \right)} \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\sin x}{x \cos^3 x} \right)^{r-2} \frac{\left(\begin{array}{l} 4x \sin x \cos x - \sin^2 x \cos^2 x - 3x^2 \\ - 2x \sin x \cos^3 x + 2x^2 \cos^2 x \end{array} \right)}{x^4 \sin x \cos^7 x} \\
&\quad \times \left[r - \frac{x \sin x \cos x + \sin^2 x \cos^2 x - 2x^2 \cos^2 x}{\left(\begin{array}{l} 4x \sin x \cos x - \sin^2 x \cos^2 x - 3x^2 \\ - 2x \sin x \cos^3 x + 2x^2 \cos^2 x \end{array} \right)} \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\sin x}{x \cos^3 x} \right)^{r-2} \frac{\sin x}{x^4 \cos^5 x} \left(-1 - 2x \cot x + \frac{8x}{\sin 2x} + \frac{2x^2}{\sin^2 x} \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \frac{12x^2}{\sin^2 2x} \right) \left(r - \frac{1 + \frac{2x}{\sin 2x} - \frac{2x^2}{\sin^2 x}}{-1 - 2x \cot x + \frac{8x}{\sin 2x} + \frac{2x^2}{\sin^2 x} - \frac{12x^2}{\sin^2 2x}} \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\sin x}{x \cos^3 x} \right)^{r-2} \frac{B(x) \sin x}{x^4 \cos^5 x} \left[r - \frac{A(x)}{B(x)} \right],
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$A(x) = 1 + \frac{2x}{\sin 2x} - \frac{2x^2}{\sin^2 x}$$

and

$$B(x) = -1 - 2x \cot x + \frac{8x}{\sin 2x} + \frac{2x^2}{\sin^2 x} - \frac{12x^2}{\sin^2 2x}.$$

Making use of the series expansions in Lemma 3 results in

$$\begin{aligned}
A(x) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^{2n} - 2}{(2n)!} |B_{2n}| (2x)^{2n} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^{2n+1}(2n-1)}{(2n)!} |B_{2n}| x^{2n} \\
&= \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{2^{2n}(2^{2n} - 4n)}{(2n)!} |B_{2n}| x^{2n} \\
&= \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_n x^{2n}
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$B(x) = 2x \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^{2n}}{(2n)!} |B_{2n}| x^{2n-1} + 4 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^{2n} - 2}{(2n)!} |B_{2n}| (2x)^{2n}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + 2x^2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^{2n}(2n-1)}{(2n)!} |B_{2n}| x^{2n-2} - 12x^2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^{2n}(2n-1)}{(2n)!} |B_{2n}| (2x)^{2n-2} \\
 & = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{[2^{2n}(7-6n) + 4n - 8] 2^{2n}}{(2n)!} |B_{2n}| x^{2n} \\
 & = - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} b_n x^{2n},
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$a_n = \frac{2^{2n}(2^{2n} - 4n)}{(2n)!} |B_{2n}| > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad b_n = \frac{[2^{2n}(6n - 7) - 4n + 8] 2^{2n}}{(2n)!} |B_{2n}| > 0.$$

Let

$$\xi_n = \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \frac{2^{2n} - 4n}{2^{2n}(6n - 7) - 4n + 8}, \quad n \geq 2.$$

By induction, it is not difficult to verify that the sequence ξ_n is decreasing in $n \geq 2$. Hence, in light of Lemma 2, we conclude that the function $\frac{A(x)}{B(x)}$ is increasing on $(0, \frac{\pi}{2})$ and onto $(-\frac{1}{10}, 0)$.

It is clear that $B(x) < 0$. By Lemma 1, we obtain the following conclusions:

1. when $r > 0$, it is obvious that $r - \frac{A(x)}{B(x)} > 0$, that is, $\left[\frac{f_1'(x)}{f_2'(x)}\right]' < 0$, which is equivalent to that the derivative ratio $\frac{f_1'(x)}{f_2'(x)}$ is decreasing on $(0, \frac{\pi}{2})$, therefore the function $F(x) = \frac{f_1(x)}{f_2(x)} = \frac{f_1(x) - f_1(0)}{f_2(x) - f_2(0)}$ is decreasing on $(0, \frac{\pi}{2})$;
2. when $r \leq -\frac{1}{10}$, it is easy to deduce that $r - \frac{A(x)}{B(x)} < 0$, accordingly the derivative $\left[\frac{f_1'(x)}{f_2'(x)}\right]' > 0$, that is, the derivative ratio $\frac{f_1'(x)}{f_2'(x)}$ is increasing on $(0, \frac{\pi}{2})$, consequently the function $F(x) = \frac{f_1(x)}{f_2(x)} = \frac{f_1(x) - f_1(0)}{f_2(x) - f_2(0)}$ is increasing on $(0, \frac{\pi}{2})$.

Moreover, it is easy to compute $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} F(x) = -\frac{1}{3}$. The proof of Theorem 3 is thus complete. □

By Theorem 3, we derive the following corollaries.

Corollary 1. For $x \in (0, \frac{\pi}{2})$, the inequality

$$\frac{1 - \operatorname{tanc} x}{1 - \cos^2 x} < \alpha$$

holds if and only if $\alpha \geq -\frac{1}{3}$.

Corollary 2. For $r \geq \frac{1}{10}$ and $0 < x < \frac{\pi}{2}$, the inequality

$$\alpha < \frac{1 - \left(\frac{1}{\tan x}\right)^r}{1 - \left(\frac{1}{\cos x}\right)^{2r}}$$

holds if and only if $\alpha \leq -\frac{1}{3}$.

Corollary 3. For $0 < x < \frac{\pi}{2}$, the inequality

$$\frac{4}{3} - \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{1}{\cos x}\right)^2 < \frac{1}{\tan x} < 1 < \frac{4}{3} - \frac{1}{3} \cos^2 x < \tan x$$

holds.

Corollary 4. For $0 < x < 1$, the inequality

$$\frac{4}{3} - \frac{1}{3}(1+x^2) < \frac{\arctan x}{x} < 1 < \frac{4}{3} - \frac{1}{3(1+x^2)} < \frac{x}{\arctan x}$$

holds.

4. APPLICATIONS TO THE SECOND SEIFFERT MEAN

Applying Theorem 3, we can obtain the following inequalities for bounding the second Seiffert mean $T(s, t)$.

Theorem 4. Let $s, t > 0$ with $s \neq t$.

1. When $r > 0$, the double inequality

$$(4) \quad \alpha \left[\frac{A^r(s, t)}{C^r(s, t)} - 1 \right] < \frac{T^r(s, t)}{A^r(s, t)} - 1 < \beta \left[\frac{A^r(s, t)}{C^r(s, t)} - 1 \right]$$

holds if and only if $\alpha \geq -\frac{1}{3}$ and $\beta \leq -\frac{2^r(4^r - \pi^r)}{\pi^r(2^r - 1)}$.

2. When $r \leq -\frac{1}{10}$, the double inequality (4) holds if and only if $\alpha \leq -\frac{1}{3}$ and $\beta \geq -\frac{2^r(4^r - \pi^r)}{\pi^r(2^r - 1)}$.

Proof. Without loss of generality, we assume that $s > t > 0$. Let $u = \frac{s-t}{s+t}$. Then $u \in (0, 1)$ and

$$\frac{T^r(s, t)C^r(s, t) - A^r(s, t)C^r(s, t)}{A^{2r}(s, t) - A^r(s, t)C^r(s, t)} = \frac{T^r(s, t) - A^r(s, t)}{\frac{A^{2r}(s, t)}{C^r(s, t)} - A^r(s, t)} = \frac{\frac{u^r}{\arctan^r u} - 1}{\left(\frac{1}{1+u^2}\right)^r - 1}.$$

Let $u = \tan \theta$. Then $\theta \in (0, \frac{\pi}{4})$ and

$$\frac{T^r(s, t)C^r(s, t) - A^r(s, t)C^r(s, t)}{A^{2r}(s, t) - A^r(s, t)C^r(s, t)} = \frac{\tan^r \theta - 1}{\cos^{2r} \theta - 1} = F(\theta).$$

By virtue of Theorem 3, we obtain that, when $r > 0$, the function $F(\theta)$ is decreasing on the interval $(0, \frac{\pi}{4})$, whereas $F(\theta)$ is increasing on $(0, \frac{\pi}{4})$ for $r < -\frac{1}{10}$.

According to L'Hospital's rule, we have

$$\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0^+} F(\theta) = -\frac{1}{3} \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{\theta \rightarrow (\pi/4)^-} F(\theta) = -\frac{2^r(4^r - \pi^r)}{\pi^r(2^r - 1)}.$$

The proof of Theorem 4 is thus complete. □

As consequences of Theorem 4, the following corollaries can be derived.

Corollary 5. For $s, t > 0$ with $s \neq t$.

1. The double inequality

$$\alpha_1 \left[\frac{C^2(s, t)}{A^2(s, t)} - 1 \right] < \frac{A^2(s, t)}{T^2(s, t)} - 1 < \beta_1 \left[\frac{C^2(s, t)}{A^2(s, t)} - 1 \right]$$

holds if and only if

$$\alpha_1 \leq -\frac{1}{3} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_1 \geq \frac{\pi^2}{48} - \frac{1}{3} = -0.127717\dots$$

2. The double inequality

$$\alpha_4 \left[\frac{A^2(s, t)}{C^2(s, t)} - 1 \right] < \frac{T^2(s, t)}{A^2(s, t)} - 1 < \beta_4 \left[\frac{A^2(s, t)}{C^2(s, t)} - 1 \right]$$

holds if and only if

$$\alpha_4 \geq -\frac{1}{3} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_4 \leq \frac{4}{3} - \frac{64}{\pi^2} = -0.828185\dots$$

3. The double inequality

$$\alpha_2 \left[\frac{C(s, t)}{A(s, t)} - 1 \right] < \frac{A(s, t)}{T(s, t)} - 1 < \beta_2 \left[\frac{C(s, t)}{A(s, t)} - 1 \right]$$

holds if and only if

$$\alpha_2 \leq -\frac{1}{3} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_2 \geq \frac{\pi}{4} - 1 = -0.214602\dots$$

4. The double inequality

$$\alpha_3 \left[\frac{A(s, t)}{C(s, t)} - 1 \right] < \frac{T(s, t)}{A(s, t)} - 1 < \beta_3 \left[\frac{A(s, t)}{C(s, t)} - 1 \right]$$

holds if and only if

$$\alpha_3 \geq -\frac{1}{3} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_3 \leq 2 - \frac{8}{\pi} = -0.546479\dots$$

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