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A NEW UPPER BOUND OF THE LOGARITHMIC MEAN

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[Abstract](#)

[Contents](#)



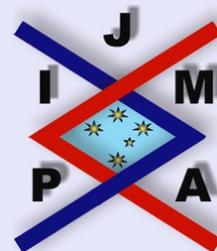
[Home Page](#)

[Go Back](#)

[Close](#)

[Quit](#)





Abstract

Let a and b be positive numbers with $a \neq b$. The inequalities about the logarithmic-mean

$$L(a, b) < H_p(a, b) < M_q(a, b)$$

are obtained, where $p \geq \frac{1}{2}$ and $q \geq \frac{2}{3}p$. We would point out that $p = \frac{1}{2}$ and $q = \frac{1}{3}$ are the best constants such that above inequalities hold.

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Contents

1	Introduction and Main Results	3
2	Proof of Theorem 1.1	5
	References	

A New Upper Bound of the Logarithmic Mean

Gao Jia and Jinde Cao

Title Page

Contents



Go Back

Close

Quit

Page 2 of 9

1. Introduction and Main Results

The aim of this paper is to establish a new upper bound for the logarithmic mean.

Let a and b be positive numbers with $a \neq b$, $p > 0$, $q > 0$. The logarithmic mean is defined as

$$L(a, b) = \frac{b - a}{\log b - \log a},$$

The power mean is defined by

$$M_q(a, b) = \left(\frac{a^q + b^q}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}},$$

and the Heron mean is defined as

$$H_p(a, b) = \left(\frac{a^p + (ab)^{p/2} + b^p}{3} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

There are many important results concerning $L(a, b)$, $M_p(a, b)$ and $H_q(a, b)$. The well known Lin Tong-Po inequality (see [1]) is stated as

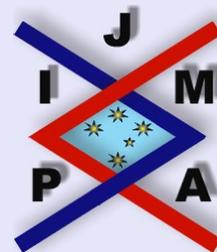
$$(1.1) \quad L(a, b) < M_{\frac{1}{3}}(a, b).$$

In [2], Yang Z.H. obtained the inequalities

$$(1.2) \quad L(a, b) < M_{\frac{1}{2}}(a, b) < H_1(a, b).$$

In [1], Kuang J. C. summarized and stated the interpolation inequalities

$$(1.3) \quad L(a, b) < M_{\frac{1}{3}}(a, b) < M_{\frac{1}{2}}(a, b) < H_1(a, b) < M_{\frac{2}{3}}(a, b).$$



A New Upper Bound of the Logarithmic Mean

Gao Jia and Jinde Cao

Title Page

Contents



Go Back

Close

Quit

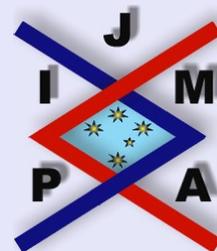
Page 3 of 9

In this paper, we further improve the upper bound of the logarithmic mean and obtain the following theorem:

Theorem 1.1. *Let $p \geq \frac{1}{2}$, $q \geq \frac{2}{3}p$, and a, b be positive numbers with $a \neq b$. We then have*

$$(1.4) \quad L(a, b) < H_p(a, b) < M_q(a, b).$$

Furthermore, $p = \frac{1}{2}$, $q = \frac{2}{3}$ are the best constants for (1.4).



A New Upper Bound of the Logarithmic Mean

Gao Jia and Jinde Cao

Title Page

Contents



Go Back

Close

Quit

Page 4 of 9

2. Proof of Theorem 1.1

In this section, there are two goals: the first is to state and prove some fundamental lemmas. The second is to prove our main result by virtue of these lemmas.

Lemma 2.1. ([3], [4]). Suppose a and b are fixed positive numbers with $a \neq b$. For $p > 0$, then $H_p(a, b)$ and $M_p(a, b)$ are strictly monotone increasing functions with respect to p .

Lemma 2.2. Let $x > 1$. Then

$$(2.1) \quad \frac{x-1}{\log x} < \left(\frac{x^{\frac{1}{2}} + x^{\frac{1}{4}} + 1}{3} \right)^2.$$

Proof. Taking $t = x^{\frac{1}{4}}$, where $x > 1$, it is easy to see that inequality (2.1) is equivalent to

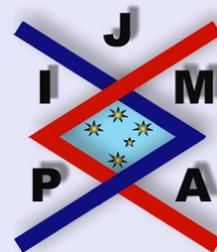
$$(2.2) \quad \frac{t^4 - 1}{4 \log t} < \frac{1}{9}(t^2 + t + 1)^2.$$

Define the function

$$(2.3) \quad f(t) = \frac{4}{9} \log t - \frac{t^4 - 1}{(t^2 + t + 1)^2}.$$

Calculating the derivative for $f(t)$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} f'(t) &= \frac{4}{9t} - \frac{4t^3(t^2 + t + 1) - 2(t^4 - 1)(2t + 1)}{(t^2 + t + 1)^3} \\ &= \frac{2(t-1)^4(2t^2 + 5t + 2)}{9t(t^2 + t + 1)^3}. \end{aligned}$$



A New Upper Bound of the
Logarithmic Mean

Gao Jia and Jinde Cao

Title Page

Contents



Go Back

Close

Quit

Page 5 of 9

Since $t = x^{\frac{1}{4}} > 1$, we find that $f'(t) > 0$. Obviously, $f'(1) = 0$. So $f(t) > 0$ for $t > 1$. i.e. (2.1) holds. \square

Lemma 2.3. *Let $x > 1$, then the following inequality holds*

$$(2.4) \quad \left(\frac{x^{\frac{1}{2}} + x^{\frac{1}{4}} + 1}{3} \right)^2 < \left(\frac{x^{\frac{1}{3}} + 1}{2} \right)^3.$$

Proof. Taking $t = x^{\frac{1}{12}}$, where $x > 1$, it is easy to see that inequality (2.4) is equivalent to

$$(2.5) \quad 9(t^4 + 1)^3 > 8(t^6 + t^3 + 1)^2.$$

Define a function $g(t)$ as

$$g(t) = 9(t^4 + 1)^3 - 8(t^6 + t^3 + 1)^2.$$

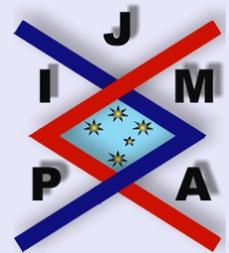
Factorizing $g(t)$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} g(t) &= (t - 1)^4(1 + 4t + 10t^2 + 4t^3 - 2t^4 + 4t^5 + 10t^6 + 4t^7 + t^8) \\ &= (t - 1)^4((t^4 - 1)^2 + 4t + 10t^2 + 4t^3 + 4t^5 + 10t^6 + 4t^7). \end{aligned}$$

The proof is completed. \square

Proof of Theorem 1.1. We first prove, for $p = \frac{1}{2}, q = \frac{1}{3}$, that (1.4) is true. In fact, since $a > 0, b > 0$ and $a \neq b$, there is no harm in supposing $b > a$. If we take $x = \frac{b}{a}$, using Lemma 2.2 and Lemma 2.3, we have

$$(2.6) \quad L(a, b) < H_{\frac{1}{2}}(a, b) < M_{\frac{1}{3}}(a, b).$$



A New Upper Bound of the Logarithmic Mean

Gao Jia and Jinde Cao

Title Page

Contents



Go Back

Close

Quit

Page 6 of 9

For $q \geq \frac{2}{3}p$, there is the known result ([1])

$$(2.7) \quad H_p(a, b) < M_q(a, b), \quad (a \neq b).$$

Using Lemma 2.1, combining (2.6) and (2.7), we can conclude that

$$L(a, b) < H_{\frac{1}{2}}(a, b) < H_p(a, b) < M_q(a, b), \quad \left(p \geq \frac{1}{2}, q \geq \frac{2}{3}p \right).$$

Next, we prove that $p = \frac{1}{2}$ and $q = \frac{1}{3}$ are the best constants for (1.4). Suppose we know that the following inequalities

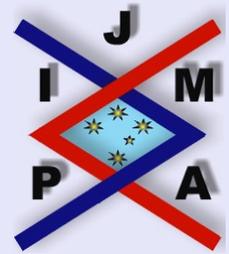
$$(2.8) \quad L(x, 1) < H_p(x, 1) < M_q(x, 1),$$

hold for any $x > 1$. There is no harm in supposing $1 < x \leq 2$. (In fact, if $n < x \leq n + 1$, we can take $t = x - n$, where n is a positive integer.) Taking $t = x - 1$, applying Taylor's Theorem to the functions $L(x, 1)$, $H_p(x, 1)$ and $M_q(x, 1)$, we have

$$(2.9) \quad L(x, 1) = L(t + 1, 1) = 1 + \frac{1}{2}t - \frac{1}{12}t^2 + \dots,$$

$$(2.10) \quad H_p(x, 1) = H_p(t + 1, 1) = 1 + \frac{1}{2}t + \frac{2p - 3}{24}t^2 + \dots,$$

$$(2.11) \quad M_q(x, 1) = M_q(t + 1, 1) = 1 + \frac{1}{2}t + \frac{q - 1}{8}t^2 + \dots,$$



A New Upper Bound of the Logarithmic Mean

Gao Jia and Jinde Cao

Title Page

Contents



Go Back

Close

Quit

Page 7 of 9

With simple manipulations (2.9), (2.10) and (2.11), together with (2.8), yield

$$(2.12) \quad -\frac{1}{12} \leq \frac{2p-3}{24} \leq \frac{q-1}{8}.$$

From (2.12), it immediately follows that

$$p \geq \frac{1}{2}, \quad \text{and} \quad q \geq \frac{2}{3}p.$$

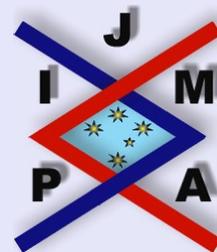
We then have, by virtue of Lemma 2.1, that $p = \frac{1}{2}$ and $q = \frac{1}{3}$ are the best constants for (1.4). \square

Remark 2.1. *It is easy to see that the best lower bound of the logarithmic mean is $H_0(a, b) = \sqrt{ab}$, namely $H_0 = G$, the geometric mean. In addition, using Lemma 2.1, combining (1.4), (2.7), (2.8) and the related results in [1], we derive the following graceful inequalities*

$$\sqrt{ab} < L(a, b) < H_{\frac{1}{2}}(a, b) < M_{\frac{1}{3}}(a, b) < M_{\alpha}(a, b) < H_{\beta}(a, b) < M_{\gamma}(a, b),$$

where $\frac{1}{3} < \alpha < \frac{\log 2}{\log 3}\beta$, $\gamma \geq \frac{2}{3}\beta$, $\beta > \frac{\log 3}{3 \log 2}$.

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A New Upper Bound of the Logarithmic Mean

Gao Jia and Jinde Cao

Title Page

Contents



Go Back

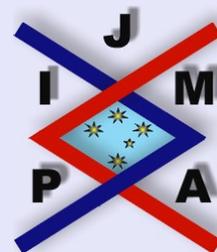
Close

Quit

Page 8 of 9

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A New Upper Bound of the Logarithmic Mean

Gao Jia and Jinde Cao

Title Page

Contents



Go Back

Close

Quit

Page 9 of 9