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**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

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**OPTIMAL CONVEX COMBINATION BOUNDS OF SQUARE-ROOT AND QUADRATIC  
 MEANS FOR NEUMAN-SÁNDOR MEAN**

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**ABSTRACT**

In this paper, we present the least value  $a$  and the greatest value  $b$  such that the double inequality

$$aN(a,b) + (1 - a)Q(a,b) < M(a,b) < bN(a,b) + (1 - b)Q(a,b)$$

holds for all  $a, b > 0$  with  $a \neq b$ . Here  $N(a,b)$ ,  $Q(a,b)$  and  $M(a,b)$  denote the square-root, quadratic and Neuman-Sándor means of two positive numbers  $a$  and  $b$ , respectively.

**Keywords:** Inequality, Neuman-Sándor mean, square-root mean, quadratic mean

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

For  $a, b > 0$  with  $a \neq b$ , the Neuman-Sándor mean  $M(a,b)$  [1] was defined by

$$M(a,b) = \frac{a - b}{2 \sinh^{-1} [(a - b)/(a + b)]}, \tag{1.1}$$

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

Recently, the Neuman-Sándor mean has been the subject of intensive research. In particular, many remarkable inequalities for  $M(a,b)$  can be found in the literature [1, 2]. Let

$$H(a,b) = (2ab)/(a + b), G(a,b) = \sqrt{ab},$$

$$L(a,b) = (a - b)/(\log a - \log b), N(a,b) = \frac{2}{\pi} \sqrt{a + \sqrt{b}} / 2 \sqrt{\frac{a}{b}}, P(a,b) = (a - b)/(4 \tan^{-1} \sqrt{a/b - p}), A(a,b) =$$

$$(a + b)/2, T(a,b) = (a - b)/[2 \tan^{-1} (a - b)/(a + b)], Q(a,b) = \sqrt{(a^2 + b^2)/2} \text{ and } C(a,b) =$$

$(a^2 + b^2)/(a + b)$  be the harmonic, geometric, logarithmic, square-root, first Seiffert, arithmetic, second Seiffert, quadratic and contra-harmonic mean of  $a$  and  $b$ , respectively. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \min\{a,b\} < H(a,b) < G(a,b) < L(a,b) < N(a,b) < P(a,b) \\ < A(a,b) < M(a,b) < T(a,b) < Q(a,b) < C(a,b) < \max(a,b) \end{aligned} \quad (1.2)$$

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

In [3], Neuman proved that the double inequalities

$$aQ(a,b) + (1-a)A(a,b) < M(a,b) < bQ(a,b) + (1-b)A(a,b) \quad (1.3)$$

and

$$lC(a,b) + (1-l)A(a,b) < M(a,b) < mC(a,b) + (1-m)A(a,b) \quad (1.4)$$

hold for all  $a, b > 0$  with  $a \neq b$  if and only if

$$a \in [1 - \log(1 + \sqrt{2})] / [(\sqrt{2} - 1)\log(1 + \sqrt{2})] = 0.3249L, \quad b \in [1 - \log(1 + \sqrt{2})] / \log(1 + \sqrt{2}) \text{ and } m \in [1 - \log(1 + \sqrt{2})] / \log(1 + \sqrt{2}) = 1/6.$$

In [4], Li etc showed that the double inequality

$$L_{p_0}(a,b) < M(a,b) < L_2(a,b) \quad (1.5)$$

holds for all  $a, b > 0$  with  $a \neq b$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} L_p(a,b) &= [(a^{p+1} - b^{p+1}) / (p+1)(a-b)]^{1/p} \quad (p \neq -1, 0), \quad L_0(a,b) \\ &= 1/e [(a^a) / (b^b)]^{1/(a-b)} \quad \text{and} \quad L_{-1}(a,b) = (a-b) / (\log a - \log b) \end{aligned}$$

is the  $p$ -th generalized logarithmic mean of  $a$  and  $b$ , and  $p_0 = 1.843L$  is the unique solution of the equation  $(p+1)^{1/p} = \log(1 + \sqrt{2})$ .

In [5], Chu etc proved that the double inequalities

$$a_1L(a,b) + (1-a_1)Q(a,b) < M(a,b) < b_1L(a,b) + (1-b_1)Q(a,b) \quad (1.6)$$

and

$$a_2L(a,b) + (1-a_2)C(a,b) < M(a,b) < b_2L(a,b) + (1-b_2)C(a,b) \quad (1.7)$$

hold for all  $a, b > 0$  with  $a \neq b$  if and only if

$$a_1 \in [2/5, 1 - 1/(\sqrt{2}\log(1 + \sqrt{2}))] = 0.1977L, \quad a_2 \in [5/8, 1 - 1/(2\log(1 + \sqrt{2}))] = 0.4327L.$$

In [6], Liu etc attested that the double inequality

$$aG(a,b) + (1-a)Q(a,b) < M(a,b) < bG(a,b) + (1-b)Q(a,b) \quad (1.8)$$

holds for all  $a, b > 0$  with  $a \neq b$  if and only if  $a \in [1/3, 1 - 1/(\sqrt{2}\log(1 + \sqrt{2}))] = 0.1977L$

The main purpose of this paper is to found the least value  $a$  and the greatest value  $b$  such that the double inequality

$$aN(a,b) + (1-a)Q(a,b) < M(a,b) < bN(a,b) + (1-b)Q(a,b)$$

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

## 2. MAIN RESULTS

**THEOREM 2.1.** The double inequality

$$aN(a,b) + (1-a)Q(a,b) < M(a,b) < bN(a,b) + (1-b)Q(a,b)$$

holds for all  $a, b > 0$  with  $a \neq b$  if and only if  $a^3 = 4/9$  and

$$b \in \left( \frac{2(4 + \sqrt{2})}{7} - \frac{1}{(\sqrt{2} \log(1 + \sqrt{2}))} \right) = 0.3058L .$$

**Proof.** Without loss of generality, we assume that  $a > b > 0$ . Let  $x = (a - b)/(a + b) \in (0, 1)$ ,  $l =$

$$\left( \frac{2(4 + \sqrt{2})}{7} - \frac{1}{(\sqrt{2} \log(1 + \sqrt{2}))} \right) \text{ and } p \in \{4/9, l\} . \text{ Then}$$

$$\frac{N(a,b)}{A(a,b)} = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \sqrt{1 - x^2}), \quad \frac{M(a,b)}{A(a,b)} = \frac{x}{\sinh^{-1} x}, \quad \frac{Q(a,b)}{A(a,b)} = \sqrt{1 + x^2} . \quad (2.1)$$

and

$$\frac{pN(a,b) + (1 - p)Q(a,b) - M(a,b)}{A(a,b)} = \frac{p(1 + \sqrt{1 - x^2}) + 2(1 - p)\sqrt{1 + x^2}}{2 \log(x + \sqrt{1 + x^2})} D_p(x), \quad (2.2)$$

where

$$D_p(x) = \log(x + \sqrt{1 + x^2}) - \frac{2x}{p(1 + \sqrt{1 - x^2}) + 2(1 - p)\sqrt{1 + x^2}} . \quad (2.3)$$

Equation (2.3) leads to

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} D_p(x) = 0, \quad (2.4)$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} D_p(x) = \log(1 + \sqrt{2}) - \frac{2}{p + 2(1 - p)\sqrt{2}}, \quad (2.5)$$

and

$$D_p(x) = \frac{1}{p(1 + \sqrt{1 - x^2}) + 2(1 - p)\sqrt{1 + x^2}} F_p(x), \quad (2.6)$$

where

$$F_p(x) = \frac{(3p^2 - 8p + 4)x^2 + 2p(3p - 2)}{\sqrt{1 + x^2}} + \frac{2p^2(1 - x^2)}{\sqrt{1 - x^4}} + \frac{4p(p - 1)x^2 + 2p(1 - 2p)}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}} + 2p(1 - 2p). \quad (2.7)$$

Let  $x = \sqrt{t}$ ,  $t \in (0, 1)$ , then

$$F_p(x) = \frac{(3p^2 - 8p + 4)t + 2p(3p - 2)}{\sqrt{1 + t}} + \frac{2p^2(1 - t)}{\sqrt{1 - t^2}} + \frac{4p(p - 1)t + 2p(1 - 2p)}{\sqrt{1 - t}} + 2p(1 - 2p) = G_p(t). \quad (2.8)$$

Now we distinguish between two cases:

**Case 1.**  $p = 4/9$ . (2.8) yields

$$G_{4/9}(t) = \frac{4(7t-4)}{27\sqrt{1+t}} + \frac{32}{81(1+t)}\sqrt{1-t^2} + \frac{8(1-10t)}{81\sqrt{1-t}} + \frac{8}{81}. \quad (2.9)$$

(2.9) is rewritten into

$$G_{4/9}(t) = -\frac{16(1-t)}{27\sqrt{1+t}} + \frac{4t}{9\sqrt{1+t}} + \frac{32}{81(1+t)}\sqrt{1-t^2} + \frac{8\sqrt{1-t}}{81} - \frac{8t}{9\sqrt{1-t}} + \frac{8}{81}. \quad (2.10)$$

Because the Taylor series of the following functions  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+t}}$ ,  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-t}}$ ,  $\sqrt{1-t}$ ,  $\sqrt{1-t^2}$  and  $\sqrt{1+t}$

are

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+t}} = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{(2n-1)!!}{(2n)!!} t^n, \quad t \in (-1, 1), \quad (2.11)$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-t}} = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(2n-1)!!}{(2n)!!} t^n, \quad t \in (-1, 1), \quad (2.12)$$

$$\sqrt{1-t} = 1 - \frac{1}{2}t - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(2n-3)!!}{(2n)!!} t^n, \quad t \in (-1, 1), \quad (2.13)$$

$$\sqrt{1-t^2} = 1 - \frac{1}{2}t^2 - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(2n-3)!!}{(2n)!!} t^{2n}, \quad t \in (-1, 1), \quad (2.14)$$

and

$$\sqrt{1+t} = 1 + \frac{1}{2}t + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{(2n-3)!!}{(2n)!!} t^n, \quad t \in (-1, 1), \quad (2.15)$$

respectively, inequalities

$$1 - \frac{1}{2}t + \frac{3}{8}t^2 - \frac{5}{16}t^3 < \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+t}} < 1 - \frac{1}{2}t + \frac{3}{8}t^2, \quad (2.16)$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-t}} > 1 + \frac{1}{2}t + \frac{3}{8}t^2, \quad (2.17)$$

$$\sqrt{1-t} < 1 - \frac{1}{2}t - \frac{1}{8}t^2, \quad (2.18)$$

$$\sqrt{1-t^2} < 1 - \frac{1}{2}t^2 - \frac{1}{8}t^4, \quad (2.19)$$

and

$$\sqrt{1+t} > 1 + \frac{1}{2}t - \frac{1}{8}t^2 \quad (2.20)$$

hold for all  $t \in (0, 1)$ . Making use of the inequalities (2.16)- (2.19) for (2.10) cause the conclusion that

$$\begin{aligned}
 G_{4/9}(t) &< -\frac{16(1-t)}{27}\left(1-\frac{1}{2}t+\frac{3}{8}t^2-\frac{5}{16}t^3\right)+\frac{4t}{9}\left(1-\frac{1}{2}t+\frac{3}{8}t^2\right)+\frac{32}{81(1+t)}\left(1-\frac{1}{2}t^2-\frac{1}{8}t^4\right) \\
 &+\frac{8}{81}\left(1-\frac{1}{2}t-\frac{1}{8}t^2\right)-\frac{8t}{9}\left(1+\frac{1}{2}t+\frac{3}{8}t^2\right)+\frac{8}{81} \\
 &= -\frac{t^2}{162(1+t)}[30t^3+(1+t)(156-t)+6] \\
 &< 0
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.21}$$

for  $t \in (0,1)$ . From (2.6), (2.8) and (2.21) we clearly see that  $D_{4/9}(x)$  is strictly decreasing in  $x \in (0,1)$ . It follows from (2.2) and (2.4) together with the monotonicity of  $D_{4/9}(x)$  that

$$\frac{4}{9}N(a,b)+\frac{5}{9}Q(a,b)<M(a,b).
 \tag{2.22}$$

**Case 2.**  $p = l = \frac{2}{3}(4 + \sqrt{2}) - 1/(\sqrt{2} \log(1 + \sqrt{2}))$  (2.8) leads to

$$\begin{aligned}
 G_l(t) &= \frac{(3l^2 - 8l + 4)t + 2l(3l - 2)}{\sqrt{1+t}} + \frac{2l^2(1-t)}{\sqrt{1-t^2}} \\
 &+ \frac{4l(l-1)t + 2l(1-2l)}{\sqrt{1-t}} + 2l(1-2l).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.23}$$

Simple computations yield

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} G_l(t) = 0,
 \tag{2.24}$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 1^-} G_l(t) = -\infty,
 \tag{2.25}$$

$$G_l'(t) = \frac{(3l^2 - 8l + 4)t + 4(2 - 3l)}{2(1+t)^{3/2}} + \frac{2l^2(t-1)}{(1-t^2)^{3/2}} + \frac{2l(1-l)t + l(2l-3)}{(1-t)^{3/2}},
 \tag{2.26}$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} G_l'(t) = 2(2 - 3l) > 0,
 \tag{2.27}$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 1^-} G_l'(t) = -\infty,
 \tag{2.28}$$

$$G_l(t) = \frac{1}{4(1-t^2)^{5/2}} H(t),
 \tag{2.29}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 H(t) &= [4l(1-l)t + 2l(2l-5)](1+t)^2\sqrt{1+t} + 8l^2(2t^2-3t+1) \\
 &- \frac{[(3l^2-8l+4)t-2(3l^2+10l-8)](1-t)^3}{\sqrt{1-t}}.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{2.30}$$

Making use of (2.17) and (2.20) for (2.27) leads to

$$\begin{aligned}
H(t) &< [4l(1-l)t + 2l(2l-5)](1+t)^2 \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}t - \frac{1}{8}t^2\right) + 8l^2(2t^2 - 3t + 1) \\
&- [(3l^2 - 8l + 4)t - 2(3l^2 + 10l - 8)](1-t)^3 \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}t + \frac{3}{8}t^2\right) \\
&= H_1(t).
\end{aligned} \tag{2.31}$$

Again making use of the transform  $t = 1/u$ ,  $u \in (1, +\infty)$  for the function  $H_1(t)$ , we have

$$H_1(t) = \frac{1}{8u^6} H_2(u), \tag{2.32}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
H_2(u) &= 16(9l^2 + 5l - 8)u^6 - 72(4l^2 + 7l - 4)u^5 + 2(129l^2 + 35l - 80)u^4 - (127l^2 \\
&- 60l - 20)u^3 + 3(11l^2 + 26l - 20)u^2 - (29l^2 + 24l - 28)u + 3(3l^2 - 8l + 4).
\end{aligned} \tag{2.33}$$

Simple calculations lead to

$$\lim_{u \rightarrow 1^+} H_2(u) = -264\lambda < 0, \tag{2.34}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
H_2'(u) &= 96(9l^2 + 5l - 8)u^5 - 360(4l^2 + 7l - 4)u^4 + 8(129l^2 + 35l - 80)u^3 \\
&- 3(127l^2 - 60l - 20)u^2 + 6(11l^2 + 26l - 20)u - (29l^2 + 24l - 28),
\end{aligned} \tag{2.35}$$

$$\lim_{u \rightarrow 1^+} H_2'(u) = -8\lambda(181 - 14\lambda) < 0, \tag{2.36}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
H_2''(u) &= 6[80(9l^2 + 5l - 8)u^4 - 240(4l^2 + 7l - 4)u^3 + 4(129l^2 + 35l \\
&- 80)u^2 - (127l^2 - 60l - 20)u + (11l^2 + 26l - 20)],
\end{aligned} \tag{2.37}$$

$$\lim_{u \rightarrow 1^+} H_2''(u) = -12\lambda(527 - 80\lambda) < 0, \tag{2.38}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
H_2'''(u) &= 6[320(9l^2 + 5l - 8)u^3 - 720(4l^2 + 7l - 4)u^2 \\
&+ 8(129l^2 + 35l - 80)u - (127l^2 - 60l - 20)],
\end{aligned} \tag{2.39}$$

$$\lim_{u \rightarrow 1^+} H_2'''(u) = -30(60 + 620\lambda - 181\lambda^2) < 0, \tag{2.40}$$

$$H_2^{(4)}(u) = 48[120(9l^2 + 5l - 8)u^2 - 180(4l^2 + 7l - 4)u + (129l^2 + 35l - 80)], \tag{2.41}$$

$$\lim_{u \rightarrow 1^+} H_2^{(4)}(u) = -48(320 + 625\lambda - 489\lambda^2) < 0, \tag{2.42}$$

and

$$H_2^{(5)}(u) = -2880[4(8 - 5l - 9l^2)(u - 1) + (20 + l - 24l^2)] < 0 \tag{2.43}$$

for  $u > 1$ . From (2.43) we clearly see that  $H_2^{(4)}(u)$  is strictly decreasing in  $(1, +\infty)$ . It follows from (2.29), (2.31), (2.32), (2.34), (2.36), (2.38), (2.40) and (2.42) together with the monotonicity of  $H_2^{(4)}(u)$  that  $G_l'(t) < 0$  for  $t \in (0, 1)$ , hence  $G_l'(t)$  is strictly decreasing in  $(0, 1)$ . From (2.27) and (2.28) together with the monotonicity of  $G_l'(t)$  we know that there exists  $m_1 \in (0, 1)$  such that

$G_l \phi(t) > 0$  for  $t \in (0, m_1)$  and  $G_l \phi(t) < 0$  for  $t \in (m_1, 1)$ , thus  $G_l(t)$  is strictly increasing in  $(0, m_1)$  and strictly decreasing in  $(m_1, 1)$ . From (2.6), (2.8), (2.24) and (2.25) together with the monotonicity of  $G_l(t)$  we confirm that there exists  $m_2 \in (0, 1)$  such that  $D_l \phi(t) > 0$  for  $t \in (0, m_2)$  and  $D_l \phi(t) < 0$  for  $t \in (m_2, 1)$ , thus  $D_l(t)$  is strictly increasing in  $(0, m_2)$  and strictly decreasing in  $(m_2, 1)$ .

Notice that (2.5) becomes

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \Gamma} D_l(x) = 0. \quad (2.44)$$

Therefore the inequality

$$M(a, b) < lN(a, b) + (1-l)Q(a, b) \quad (2.45)$$

follows from (2.2), (2.4) and (2.44) together with the monotonicity of  $D_l(t)$ .

Finally we prove that  $4/9N(a, b) + 5/9Q(a, b)$  is the best possible lower convex combination bound and  $lN(a, b) + (1-l)Q(a, b)$  is the best possible upper convex combination bound of the square-root and quadratic means for the Neuman-Sándor mean.

Equations (2.1) lead to

$$\frac{Q(a, b) - M(a, b)}{Q(a, b) - N(a, b)} = \frac{\sqrt{1+x^2} - \frac{x}{\sinh^{-1} x}}{\sqrt{1+x^2} - \frac{1}{2}(1 + \sqrt{1-x^2})} = B(x). \quad (2.46)$$

From (2.46) one has

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} B(x) = \frac{4}{9}, \quad (2.47)$$

and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \Gamma} B(x) = l. \quad (2.48)$$

If  $a < 4/9$ , then (2.46) and (2.47) lead to the conclusion that there exists  $0 < d_1 < 1$  such that  $aN(a, b) + (1-a)Q(a, b) > M(a, b)$  for all  $a, b > 0$  with  $(a-b)/(a+b) \in (0, d_1)$ .

If  $b > l$ , then (2.46) and (2.48) lead to the conclusion that there exists  $0 < d_2 < 1$  such that  $M(a, b) > bN(a, b) + (1-b)Q(a, b)$  for all  $a, b > 0$  with  $(a-b)/(a+b) \in (1-d_2, 1)$ .

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