OPTIMAL BOUNDS FOR NEUMAN-SÁNDOR MEAN IN TERMS OF ONE-PARAMETER CENTROIDAL MEAN

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Abstract. In the paper, we find the best possible parameters \( \alpha, \beta \in (0, 1) \) and \( \lambda, \mu \in (1/2, 1) \) such that the double inequalities

\[
\sqrt{\alpha E^2(a, b) + (1 - \alpha)A^2(a, b)} < NS(a, b) < \sqrt{\beta E^2(a, b) + (1 - \beta)A^2(a, b)},
\]

\[
E[\lambda a + (1 - \lambda)b, \lambda b + (1 - \lambda)a] < NS(a, b) < E[\mu a + (1 - \mu)b, \mu b + (1 - \mu)a]
\]

holds for all \( a, b > 0 \) with \( a \neq b \), here \( NS(a, b) = (a - b)/[2\sinh^{-1}((a - b)/(a + b))] \), \( A(a, b) = (a + b)/2 \) and \( E(a, b) = 2(a^2 + ab + b^2)/[3(a + b)] \) are Neuman-Sáñdor, arithmetic and centroidal means of two positive real numbers \( a \) and \( b \), respectively.

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1. Introduction

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Let $a, b > 0$ with $a \neq b$. Then Neuman-Sándor mean $NS(a, b)$ [1, 2], arithmetic mean $A(a, b)$ and centroidal $E(a, b)$ are respectively defined by

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

$$A(a, b) = \frac{a + b}{2}, E(a, b) = \frac{2(a^2 + ab + b^2)}{3(a + b)}.$$ (1.1)

Recently, Neuman-Sándor mean have been the subject of intensive research. In particular, many remarkable inequalities and properties for these means can be found in the literature [7–17].

Let $T(a, b) = (a - b)/[2\tan^{-1}((a - b)/(a + b))]$, $Q(a, b) = \sqrt{(a^2 + b^2)/2}$ and $C(a, b) = (a^2 + b^2)/(a + b)$ be the second Seiffert, quadratic and contra-harmonic means of two positive real numbers $a$ and $b$, respectively. Then it is well known that the inequalities

$$A(a, b) < NS(a, b) < T(a, b) < E(a, b) < Q(a, b) < C(a, b)$$

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

Neuman and Sándor [1, 2] proved that the inequalities

$$A(a, b) < NS(a, b) < \frac{A(a, b)}{\log(1 + \sqrt{2})} < \frac{\pi}{4} T(a, b) < NS(a, b) < T(a, b),$$

$$A(a, b) T(a, b) < NS^2(a, b) < \frac{1}{2} [A^2(a, b) + T^2(a, b)]$$

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

Neuman [3] proved that the double inequalities

$$\alpha Q(a, b) + (1 - \alpha)A(a, b) < NS(a, b) < \beta Q(a, b) + (1 - \beta)A(a, b)$$

$$\lambda C(a, b) + (1 - \lambda)A(a, b) < NS(a, b) < \mu C(a, b) + (1 - \mu)A(a, b)$$

hold for all $a, b > 0$ with $a \neq b$ if and only if $\alpha \leq 1 - \log(1 + \sqrt{2})/[(\sqrt{2} - 1)\log(1 + \sqrt{2})]$, $\beta \geq 1/3$, $\lambda \leq 1 - \log(1 + \sqrt{2})/\log(1 + \sqrt{2})$ and $\mu \geq 1/6$. 
Qian and Chu [4] found the greatest value $\alpha, \lambda$ and the least value $\beta, \mu$ such that the double inequalities

$$E^{\alpha}(a,b)A^{1-\alpha}(a,b) < NS(a,b) < E^{\beta}(a,b)A^{1-\beta}(a,b),$$

$$\lambda E(a,b) + (1 - \lambda)A(a,b) < NS(a,b) < \mu E(a,b) + (1 - \mu)A(a,b)$$

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

For $\alpha, \beta, \lambda, \mu \in (1/2, 1)$, Jiang and Qi [5, 6] proved that the double inequalities

$$Q(\alpha a + (1 - \alpha)b, \alpha b + (1 - \alpha)a) < NS(a,b) < Q(\beta a + (1 - \beta)b, \beta b + (1 - \beta)a),$$

$$C(\lambda a + (1 - \lambda)b, \lambda b + (1 - \lambda)a) < NS(a,b) < C(\mu a + (1 - \mu)b, \mu b + (1 - \mu)a),$$

hold for all $a, b > 0$ with $a \neq b$ if and only if $\alpha \leq 1/2 + \sqrt{1/\log(1 + \sqrt{2})^2 - 1/2}$, $\beta \geq 1/2 + \sqrt{3}/6$, $\lambda \leq 1/2 + \sqrt{1/\log(1 + \sqrt{2}) - 1/2}$, $\mu \geq 1/2 + \sqrt{6}/12$.

Let $x \in [1/2, 1]$ and

$$J(x) = E[xa + (1 - x)b, xb + (1 - x)a].$$

(1.3)

It is not difficult to directly verify that $J(x)$ is continuous and strictly increasing on $[1/2, 1]$ and to notice that

$$J(1/2) = A(a,b) < NS(a,b) < E(a,b) = J(1)$$

(1.4)

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

Motivated by (1.3) and (1.4), it is natural to ask a question: what are the best possible parameters $\alpha, \beta \in (0, 1)$ and $\lambda, \mu \in (1/2, 1)$ such that the double inequalities

$$\sqrt{\alpha E^2(a,b) + (1 - \alpha)A^2(a,b)} < NS(a,b) < \sqrt{\beta E^2(a,b) + (1 - \beta)A^2(a,b)},$$

$$E[\lambda a + (1 - \lambda)b, \lambda b + (1 - \lambda)a] < NS(a,b) < E[\mu a + (1 - \mu)b, \mu b + (1 - \mu)a]$$

holds for all $a, b > 0$ with $a \neq b$? The main purpose of this paper is to answer these questions.

2. Lemmas
In order to prove our main results we need two Lemmas, which we present in this section.

**Lemma 2.1.** Let \( p \in (0,1) \), \( l_0 = \log \left( 1 + \sqrt{2} \right) = 0.8813 \cdots \) and

\[
f(x) = p^3 x^{10} - p^2 (18 - 13p) x^8 + 2 p^2 (23p + 90) x^6 - 2 p (5p^2 + 27p - 486) x^4
+p (25p + 9) (27 - 7p) x^2 + 125 p^3 - 720 p^2 + 1701 p - 1458
\]  
(2.1)

Then the following statements are true:

1. If \( p = 1/2 \), then \( f(x) > 0 \) for all \( x \in (1, \sqrt{2}) \);
2. If \( p = 9 \left( 1 - l_0^2 \right) / (7 l_0^2) = 0.3693 \cdots \), then there exists \( \theta_0 \in (1, \sqrt{2}) \) such that \( f(x) < 0 \) for \( x \in (1, \theta_0) \) and \( f(x) > 0 \) for \( x \in (\theta_0, \sqrt{2}) \).

**Proof** For part (1), if \( p = 1/2 \), then (2.1) lead to

\[
f(x) = \frac{1}{8} (x^2 - 1) \left( x^8 - 22x^6 + 384x^4 + 4154x^2 + 6175 \right)
> \frac{1}{8} (x^2 - 1) \left( x^8 + 340x^4 + 4154x^2 + 6175 \right) > 0
\]  
(2.2)

for \( x \in (1, \sqrt{2}) \). Therefore, part (1) follows easily from (2.2).

For part (2), if \( p = 9 \left( 1 - l_0^2 \right) / (7 l_0^2) = 0.3693 \cdots \). Then numerical computations lead to

\[
5 p^2 + 27 p - 486 = -475.3443 \cdots < 0,
\]  
(2.3)

\[
f(1) = 2916 p - 1458 = -380.8693 \cdots < 0,
\]  
(2.4)

\[
f\left( \sqrt{2} \right) = 243 p^3 + 1440 p^2 + 6075 p - 1458 = 999.7924 \cdots > 0
\]  
(2.5)

It follows from (2.3) that

\[
f'(x) = 2 px \left[ 5 p^2 x^8 - 4 p (18 - 13p) x^6 + 6 p (23p + 90) x^4
- 4 (5 p^2 + 27p - 486) x^2 + (25p + 9) (27p - 7p) \right]
> 2 px \left[ 5 p^2 x^8 + 6 p (11p + 18) x^4 - 4 (5 p^2 + 27p - 486) x^2
+ (25p + 9) (27p - 7p) \right] > 0
\]  
(2.6)

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

Therefore, part (2) follows easily from (2.4),(2.5) and (2.6).
Lemma 2.2. Let \( p \in [1/2, 1] \), and
\[
g(x) = (1 - 2p)^4 x^3 + 4(4p^4 - 8p^3 + 9p^2 - 5p + 1)x^2 + 4(-4p^4 + 8p^3 + 3p^2 - 7p + 2)x - 4(2p^2 - 2p - 1)^2
\]
(2.7)

Then the following statements are true:

1. If \( p = 1/2 + \sqrt{2}/4 \), then \( f(x) > 0 \) for all \( x \in (1, \sqrt{2}) \);
2. If \( p = 1/2 + \sqrt{3/10} \approx 0.8177 \), then there exists \( \xi_0 \in (1, \sqrt{2}) \) such that \( g(x) < 0 \) for \( x \in (1, \xi_0) \) and \( g(x) > 0 \) for \( x \in (\xi_0, \sqrt{2}) \).

**Proof** For part (1), if \( p = 1/2 + \sqrt{2}/4 \), then (2.7) becomes
\[
g(x) = \frac{1}{4} (x - 1)(x^2 + 8x + 25)
\]
(2.8)

Therefore, part (1) follows easily from (2.8).

For part (2), if \( p = 1/2 + \sqrt{3/10} \approx 0.8177 \). Then numerical computations lead to

\[
4p^4 - 8p^3 + 9p^2 - 5p + 1 = 0.3425 \cdots > 0,
\]
(2.9)
\[
-4p^4 + 8p^3 + 3p^2 - 7p + 2 = 0.8677 \cdots > 0,
\]
(2.10)
\[
8p^2 - 8p + 1 = -0.1924 \cdots < 0,
\]
(2.11)
\[
8p^4 - 16p^3 + 6(4 + \sqrt{2})p^2 - 2(8 + 3\sqrt{2})p + 8 - 3\sqrt{2} = 0.2854 \cdots > 0,
\]
(2.12)
\[
g(1) = 9(8p^2 - 8p + 1),
\]
(2.13)
\[
g(\sqrt{2}) = 2\left(1 + \sqrt{2}\right)\left[8p^4 - 16p^3 + 6\left(4 + \sqrt{2}\right)p^2 - 2\left(8 + 3\sqrt{2}\right)p + 8 - 3\sqrt{2}\right],
\]
(2.14)
\[
g'(x) = 3(1 - 2p)^4 x^2 + 8\left(4p^4 - 8p^3 + 9p^2 - 5p + 1\right)x + 4(-4p^4 + 8p^3 + 3p^2 - 7p + 2).
\]
(2.15)

It follows from (2.8)-(2.15) that
\[
g(1) < 0, g(\sqrt{2}) > 0,
\]
(2.16)
and
\[
g'(x) > 0
\]
(2.17)
for \( x \in \left( 1, \sqrt{2} \right) \).

Therefore, part (2) follows easily from (2.16) and (2.17).

3. Main results

**Theorem 3.1.** For \( \alpha, \beta \in (0, 1) \), the double inequality

\[
\sqrt{\alpha E^2(a,b) + (1 - \alpha)A^2(a,b)} < NS(a,b) < \sqrt{\beta E^2(a,b) + (1 - \beta)A^2(a,b)}
\]

hold for all \( a, b > 0 \) with \( a \neq b \) if and only if \( \alpha \leq 9 \left( 1 - l_0^2 \right) / (7l_0^2) = 0.3693 \cdots, \beta \geq 1/2 \).

**Proof** Since \( A(a,b), E(a,b) \) and \( NS(a,b) \) are symmetric and homogeneous of degree 1, without loss of generality, we assume that \( a > b \). Let \( v = (a - b)/(a + b) \in (0, 1) \), \( x = \sqrt{1 + v^2} \in \left( 1, \sqrt{2} \right) \) and \( p \in (0, 1) \). Then from (1.1) and (1.2) lead to

\[
NS(a,b) - \sqrt{pE^2(a,b) + (1 - p)A^2(a,b)} = A(a,b) \left[ \frac{v}{\sinh^{-1}(v)} - \sqrt{p \left( \frac{1}{3}v^2 + 1 \right)^2 + 1 - p} \right]
\]

\[
= A(a,b) \left[ p \left( \frac{x^2}{3} + \frac{2}{3} \right)^2 + 1 - p \right]
\]

\[
\frac{\sinh^{-1} \left( \sqrt{x^2 - 1} \right)}{\sqrt{x^2 - 1 + \sinh^{-1} \left( \sqrt{x^2 - 1} \right)}} \sqrt{p(x^2/3 + 2/3)^2 + 1 - p} F(x),
\]

where

\[
F(x) = \frac{x^2 - 1}{p(x^2/3 + 2/3)^2 + 1 - p} - \left[ \sinh^{-1} \left( \sqrt{x^2 - 1} \right) \right]^2
\]

Then simple computations lead to

\[
F(1) = 0,
\]

\[
F \left( \sqrt{2} \right) = \frac{9}{7p + 9} - l_0^2,
\]

\[
F'(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}} F_1(x),
\]
where
\[
F_1(x) = \frac{9x\sqrt{x^2 - 1} \left[ 9 - p(x^2 - 1)^2 \right]}{\left[ p(x^2 + 2)^2 + 9(1 - p) \right]^2} - \sinh^{-1} \left( \sqrt{x^2 - 1} \right),
\]
\[F_1(1) = 0, F_1 \left( \sqrt{2} \right) = \frac{9\sqrt{2}(9 - p)}{(7p + 9)^2} - l_0 \tag{3.6}\]
\[F'_1(x) = -\frac{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}{\left[ p(x^2 + 2)^2 + 9(1 - p) \right]^2} f(x) \tag{3.7}\]

where \( f(x) \) is defined Lemma 2.1.

We divide the proof into four cases.

**Case 1** \( p = 1/2 \). Then it follows from Lemma 2.1(1) and (3.7) that \( F_1(x) \) is strictly decreasing on \( (1, \sqrt{2}) \). Therefore,

\[
NS(a, b) < \sqrt{\frac{E^2(a, b) + A^2(a, b)}{2}}
\]

for all \( a, b > 0 \) with \( a \neq b \) follows from (3.1)-(3.3),(3.5),(3.6) and the monotonicity of \( F(x) \).

**Case 2** \( 0 < p < 1/2 \). Let \( x > 0, x \to 0^+ \), then it follows from (1.1) and (1.2) together with the Taylor expansion we get

\[
NS(1, 1 + x) - \sqrt{pE^2(1, 1 + x) + (1 - p)A^2(1, 1 + x)}
= \frac{x}{2\sinh^{-1} \left( \frac{x}{\sqrt{2}} \right)} - \sqrt{p \left[ \frac{2(3 + 3x + x^2)}{3(2 + x)} \right]^2 + (1 - p) \left( \frac{2 + x}{2} \right)^2}
= \frac{(1 - 2p)}{24} x^2 + O(x^2). \tag{3.8}\]

Equations (3.8) implies that there exists \( 0 < \delta_0 < 1 \) such that

\[
NS(1, 1 + x) > \sqrt{pE^2(1, 1 + x) + (1 - p)A^2(1, 1 + x)}
\]

for all \( a > b > 0 \) with \( (a - b)/ (a + b) \in (0, \delta_0) \).

**Case 3** \( p = 9 \left( 1 - l_0^2 \right) / (7l_0^2) = 0.3693 \cdots \). Then it follows from Lemma 2.1(2) and (3.7) that there exists \( \theta_0 \in \left( 1, \sqrt{2} \right) \) such that \( F_1(x) \) is strictly increasing on \( (1, \theta_0] \) and strictly decreasing on \( [\theta_0, \sqrt{2}) \).
Equations (3.5) and (3.6) together with the piecewise monotonicity of $F_1(x)$ lead to the conclusion that there exists $\theta_0 \in (1, \sqrt{2})$ such that $F(x)$ is strictly increasing on $(1, \theta_0]$ and strictly decreasing on $[\theta_0, \sqrt{2})$, and

$$F(\sqrt{2}) = 0.$$  \hfill (3.9)

Therefore,

$$NS(a, b) > \sqrt{pE^2(a, b) + (1 - p)A^2(a, b)}$$

for all $a, b > 0$ with $a \neq b$ follows from (3.1)-(3.3) and (3.9) together with the piecewise monotonicity of $F(x)$.

**Case 4**

If $\left(1 - l_0^2\right) / \left(7l_0^2\right) < p < 1$. Then (3.4) lead to

$$\lim_{x \to \sqrt{2}} F(x) < 0 \quad (3.10)$$

Equations (3.1), (3.2) and the inequality (3.10) imply that there exists $0 < \delta_1 < 1$ such that

$$NS(a, b) < \sqrt{pE^2(a, b) + (1 - p)A^2(a, b)}$$

for all $a, b > 0$ with $a / (a + b) / (a + b) \in (1 - \delta_1, 1)$.

**Theorem 3.2.** For $\lambda, \mu \in (1/2, 1)$, the double inequality

\[ E[\lambda a + (1 - \lambda) b, \lambda b + (1 - \lambda) a] < NS(a, b) < E[\mu a + (1 - \mu) b, \mu b + (1 - \mu) a] \]

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

$$\lambda \leq 1/2 + \sqrt{3 / \log \left(1 + \sqrt{2}\right) - 1}/2 = 0.8177 \ldots$$

$$\mu \geq 1/2 + \sqrt{2}/4 = 0.8535 \ldots$$

**Proof** Since both $E(a, b)$ and $NS(a, b)$ are symmetric and homogeneous of degree 1, without loss of generality, we assume that $a > b$. Let $v = (a - b) / (a + b) \in (0, 1)$, $x = \sqrt{1 + v^2} \in (1, \sqrt{2})$ and $p \in (1/2, 1)$. Then from (1.1) and (1.2) lead to

\[ E[pa + (1 - p) b, pb + (1 - p) a] - NS(a, b) \]

\[ = A(a, b) \left[ \frac{(1 - 2p)^2}{3} v^2 + 3 - \frac{v}{\sinh^{-1}(v)} \right] \]

\[ = A(a, b) \left[ \frac{(1 - 2p)^2}{3} (x^2 - 1) + 3 \right] \frac{3\sinh^{-1}(\sqrt{x^2 - 1})}{G(x)}, \quad (3.11) \]
where

\[ G(x) = \text{sinh}^{-1}\left(\sqrt{x^2 - 1}\right) - \frac{3\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}{(1 - 2p)^2x^2 + 3 - (2p - 1)^2}. \]  

(3.12)

Then simple computations lead to

\[ G(1) = 0, \]  

(3.13)

\[ G\left(\sqrt{2}\right) = \log\left(1 + \sqrt{2}\right) - \frac{3}{4(p^2 - p + 1)}. \]  

(3.14)

\[ G'(x) = \frac{(x - 1)}{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}\left[(1 - 2p)^2x^2 + 3 - (1 - 2p)^2\right]^2}\]  

(3.15)

where \( g(x) \) is defined Lemma 2.2.

We divide the proof into four cases.

**Case 1** \( p = 1/2 + \sqrt{2}/4 \). Then from Lemma 2.2(1) and (3.15) lead to the conclusion that \( G(x) \) is strictly increasing on \( \left(1, \sqrt{2}\right) \). Therefore,

\[ \text{NS}(a,b) < E[pa + (1 - p)b, pb + (1 - p)a] \]

for all \( a,b > 0 \) with \( a \neq b \) follows easily from (3.11) and (3.13) together with the monotonicity of \( F(x) \).

**Case 2** \( 1/2 + \sqrt{2}/4 < p \leq 1 \). let \( q = (1 - 2p)^2 \) and \( v \to 0^+ \), then \( 1/2 < q \leq 1 \) and power series expansions lead to

\[ \frac{(1 - 2p)^2v^2 + 3}{3v} = \frac{1}{3\text{sinh}^{-1}(v)} \left[(q - \frac{1}{2})v^3 + o(v^3)\right]. \]  

(3.16)

Equations (3.11) and (3.16) imply that there exists small enough \( 0 < \gamma_0 < 1 \) such that

\[ \text{NS}(a,b) > E[pa + (1 - p)b, pb + (1 - p)a] \]

for all \( a > b > 0 \) with \( (a - b)/(a + b) \in (0, \gamma_0) \).

**Case 3** \( p = 1/2 + \sqrt{3}\left[1/\log\left(1 + \sqrt{2}\right) - 1\right]/2 \). Then (3.14) and (3.15) together with Lemma 2.2(2) lead to the conclusion that there exists \( \xi_0 \in \left(1, \sqrt{2}\right) \) such that \( G(x) \) is strictly decreasing on \( (1, \xi_0] \) and strictly increasing on \( [\xi_0, \sqrt{2}) \), and

\[ G\left(\sqrt{2}\right) = 0. \]  

(3.17)
Therefore,

\[ NS(a, b) > E \left[ pa + (1 - p) b, pb + (1 - p) a \right] \]

for all \( a, b > 0 \) with \( a \neq b \) follows easily from (3.3) and (3.5) together with (3.17) and the piecewise monotonicity of \( G(x) \).

**Case 4** \( 1/2 \leq p < 1/2 + \sqrt{3} \left[ 1/ \log \left( 1 + \sqrt{2} \right) - 1 \right] / 2 \). Then

\[
\lim_{v \to 1^+} \left[ \frac{(1 - 2p)^2 v^2 + 3 - v}{3 \sinh^{-1}(v)} \right] = \frac{1}{3} \left[ (1 - 2p)^2 + 3 \right] - \frac{1}{\log \left( 1 + \sqrt{2} \right)} < 0 \quad (3.18)
\]

Equations (3.3) and inequality (3.18) imply that there exists \( 0 < \gamma_1 < 1 \) such that

\[ NS(a, b) < E \left[ pa + (1 - p) b, pb + (1 - p) a \right] \]

for all \( a > b > 0 \) with \( (a - b) / (a + b) \in (1 - \gamma_1, 1) \).

**Conflict of Interests**

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests.

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