

Research Article

Petrović-Type Inequalities for Harmonic h -convex Functions

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Received 29 June 2019; Accepted 13 August 2019; Published 8 January 2020

Academic Editor: Kehe Zhu

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In the article, we establish several Petrović-type inequalities for the harmonic h -convex (concave) function if h is a submultiplicative (super-multiplicative) function, provide some new majorization type inequalities for harmonic convex function, and prove the superadditivity, subadditivity, linearity, and monotonicity properties for the functionals derived from the Petrović type inequalities.

1. Introduction

Let $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be a nonempty interval. Then a real-valued function $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is said to be convex (concave) on I if the inequality

$$f(tx + (1-t)y) \leq (\geq) tf(x) + (1-t)f(y), \quad (1)$$

holds for all $x, y \in I$ and $t \in [0, 1]$.

It is well known that the convex (concave) functions have wide applications in pure and applied mathematics [1–21], many remarkable properties and inequalities can be found in the literature [22–48] via the theory of convexity. Recently, a great deal of generalizations, extensions, and variants have been made for convexity, for example, GA-convexity [49], GG-convexity [50], s -convexity [51, 52], preinvex convexity [53], strong convexity [54–57], Schur convexity [58–60], and others [61–67].

The following well-known Petrović inequality was established by Petrović [68] in 1932.

Theorem 1. Let $a > 0$ and $f: [0, a] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a convex function. Then the inequality

$$\sum_{k=1}^n p_k f(x_k) \leq f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k\right) + \left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k - 1\right)f(0), \quad (2)$$

holds for all nonnegative n -tuples (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) and (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) such that $x_i \leq \sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k \leq a$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, n$).

Now, we recall the definitions of various convexities and the majorization relation between two n -tuples.

Definition 2. Let $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be an interval. Then a real-valued function $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is said to be submultiplicative (supermultiplicative) on I if the inequality

$$f(x, y) \leq (\geq) f(x)f(y), \quad (3)$$

holds for all $x, y \in I$.

Definition 3. Let $n \geq 2$, $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$ and $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n)$ be two n -tuples. Then \mathbf{b} is said to be majorized by \mathbf{a} or \mathbf{a} majorizes \mathbf{b} (in symbol $\mathbf{a} \succ \mathbf{b}$) if

$$\sum_{i=1}^k a_{[i]} \geq \sum_{i=1}^k b_{[i]}, \quad (4)$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ and

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_{[i]} = \sum_{i=1}^n b_{[i]}, \quad (5)$$

where $a_{[i]}$ denotes the i th largest component in \mathbf{a} .

Definition 4. Let $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be an interval. Then a real-valued function $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is said to be harmonic convex (concave) on I if the inequality

$$f\left(\frac{xy}{tx + (1-t)y}\right) \leq (\geq)tf(y) + (1-t)f(x), \quad (6)$$

holds for all $x, y \in I$ with $(x, y) \neq (0, 0)$ and $t \in [0, 1]$.

Definition 5. Let $\alpha \in [0, 1]$, $m \in (0, 1]$, and $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be an interval. Then a real-valued function $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is said to be harmonic (α, m) -convex (concave) on I if the inequality

$$f\left(\frac{mxy}{(1-t)x + mt y}\right) \leq (\geq)t^\alpha f(x) + m(1-t^\alpha)f(y), \quad (7)$$

holds for all $x, y \in I$ with $(x, y) \neq (0, 0)$ and $t \in [0, 1]$.

Definition 6. Let $s, m \in (0, 1]$ and $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be an interval. Then a real-valued function $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is said to be harmonic (s, m) -convex (concave) in the second sense if the inequality

$$f\left(\frac{mxy}{(1-t)x + mt y}\right) \leq (\geq)t^s f(x) + m(1-t)^s f(y), \quad (8)$$

holds for all $x, y \in I$ with $(x, y) \neq (0, 0)$ and $t \in [0, 1]$.

Definition 7. Let $s, m \in (0, 1]$, $p \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$, and $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be an interval. Then a real-valued function $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is said to be harmonic $(p, (s, m))$ -convex (concave) on I if the inequality

$$f\left(\frac{mxy}{[(1-t)x^p + t(my)^p]^{1/p}}\right) \leq (\geq)t^s f(x) + m(1-t)^s f(y), \quad (9)$$

holds for all $t \in [0, 1]$ and $x, y \in I$ with $(x, y) \neq (0, 0)$ and $my \in I$.

Definition 8. Let $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be an interval and $h: [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a nonnegative real-valued function. Then a real-valued function $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is said to be harmonic h -convex (concave) if the inequality

$$f\left(\frac{xy}{tx + (1-t)y}\right) \leq (\geq)h(t)f(y) + h(1-t)f(x), \quad (10)$$

holds for all $t \in [0, 1]$ and $x, y \in I$ with $(x, y) \neq (0, 0)$.

Abbas Baloch [69] proved that.

Lemma 9. Let $I \subseteq (0, \infty)$ and $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a real-valued function. Then f is harmonic convex on I if and only if the function $xf(x)$ is convex on I .

The following three examples also can be found in the literature [67].

Example 1. Let $f(x) = x$. Then f is harmonic convex on $(0, \infty)$ and harmonic concave on $(-\infty, 0)$.

Example 2. Let $f: (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x, & 0 < x < 2, \\ 4 - \frac{4}{x}, & x \geq 2. \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

Then f is harmonic convex on $(0, \infty)$ due to $xf(x)$ is convex on $(0, \infty)$.

Example 3. The function

$$g(x) = \frac{(x-1)^2 + 1}{x}, \quad (12)$$

is harmonic convex on $(0, \infty)$ due to $xg(x)$ is convex on $(0, \infty)$.

Lemma 10 (see [70]). Let $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be an interval and $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a real-valued function. Then f is convex on I if and only if the bivariate function

$$h_f(x, y) = \frac{f(y) - f(x)}{y - x}, \quad (13)$$

is increasing with respect to its variables x and y .

2. Main Results

Lemma 11. Let $c, a \in \mathbb{R}$ with $c < a$, (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) and (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) be two n -tuples such that

$$c < x_i \leq \sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k \leq a, \quad (14)$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and $h: [c, a] \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ and $f: [c, a] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be two real-valued functions. Then one has

$$\sum_{k=1}^n p_k f(x_k) \leq \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n p_k h(x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c)} f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k\right), \quad (15)$$

if the function $f(x)/h(x-c)$ is increasing on $(c, a]$.

Proof. It follows from (14) and the monotonicity of the function $f(x)/h(x-c)$ on the interval $(c, a]$ that

$$\frac{f(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c)} \geq \frac{f(x_j)}{h(x_j - c)}, \quad (16)$$

$$h\left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c\right) f(x_j) \leq h(x_j - c) f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k\right),$$

for all $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

From above inequality we clearly see that

$$h\left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c\right) \sum_{j=1}^n p_j f(x_j) \leq f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k\right) \sum_{j=1}^n p_j h(x_j - c),$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^n p_k f(x_k) \leq \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n p_k h(x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c)} f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k\right). \quad (17)$$

Theorem 12. Let $c, a \in \mathbb{R}$ with $c < a$, (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) , and (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) be two n -tuples such that

$$c < x_i \leq \sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k \leq a, \quad (18)$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and $h: [c, a] \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ be a supermultiplicative function such that

$$h(\alpha) + h(1 - \alpha) \leq 1, \quad (19)$$

for all $\alpha \in (0, 1)$. Then one has

$$\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k f(x_k) \leq \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n p_k h(x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c)} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k \right) f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k \right) + c \left[\sum_{k=1}^n p_k - \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n p_k h(x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c)} \right] f(c), \tag{20}$$

if $f : [c, a] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a harmonic h -convex function.

Proof. It follows from Lemma 9 and the harmonic h -convexity of the function f on $[c, a]$ that the function $g(z) = zf(z)$ is h -convex on $[c, a]$. Let $x, y \in (c, a]$ such that $x = \alpha y + (1 - \alpha)c$ and

$$S_h(x) = \frac{g(x) - g(c)}{h(x - c)}. \tag{21}$$

Then we clearly see that $y > x$ and

$$S_h(x) = \frac{g[\alpha y + (1 - \alpha)c - g(c)]}{h[\alpha(y - c)]} \leq \frac{h(\alpha)g(y) + [h(1 - \alpha) - 1]g(c)}{h[\alpha(y - c)]}. \tag{22}$$

Since h is a supermultiplicative function, we have

$$S_h(x) \leq \frac{h(\alpha)g(y) + [h(1 - \alpha) - 1]g(c)}{h(\alpha)h(y - c)}. \tag{23}$$

Making use of (19) we get

$$S_h(x) \leq \frac{g(y) - g(c)}{h(y - c)} = S_h(y), \tag{24}$$

which implies that the function $S_h(x) = [g(x) - g(c)]/h(x - c)$ is increasing on $(c, a]$. Then from Lemma 11 one has

$$\sum_{k=1}^n p_k (g(x_k) - g(c)) \leq \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n p_k h(x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c)} \left[g\left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k \right) - g(c) \right], \tag{25}$$

which is equivalent to

$$\sum_{k=1}^n p_k g(x_k) \leq \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n p_k h(x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c)} g\left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k \right) + \left[\sum_{k=1}^n p_k - \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n p_k h(x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c)} \right] g(c). \tag{26}$$

Therefore, inequality (20) can be obtained immediately by replacing $g(x) = xf(x)$ in the last inequality above.

Let $h(x) = x$. Then h is a supermultiplicative function and inequality (19) becomes an identity, and Theorem 12 leads to Theorem 13 immediately.

Theorem 13. Let $c, a \in \mathbb{R}$ with $c < a$, (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) , and (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) be two n -tuples such that

$$c < x_i \leq \sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k \leq a, \tag{27}$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Then the inequality

$$\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k f(x_k) \leq \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n p_k (x_k - c)}{(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c)} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k \right) f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k \right) + c \left[\sum_{k=1}^n p_k - \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n p_k (x_k - c)}{(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c)} \right] f(c), \tag{28}$$

holds if $f : [c, a] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a harmonic convex function.

Remark 14. Let $c, a \in \mathbb{R}$ with $c < a$, (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) , and (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) be two n -tuples such that

$$c < x_i \leq \sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k \leq a, \tag{29}$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Then from the proof of Theorem 12 we clearly see that the following statements are true:

- (1) If $h : [c, a] \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ and $f : [c, a] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are two functions such that $f(x)/h(x - c)$ is decreasing on $(c, a]$, then the reverse inequality of (15) holds.
- (2) If $h : [c, a] \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ is a submultiplicative function such that $h(\alpha) + h(1 - \alpha) \geq 1$ for all $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ and $f : [c, a] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a harmonic h -concave function, then the reverse inequality of (20) holds.
- (3) If $f : [c, a] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a harmonic concave function, then the reverse inequality of (28) holds.

Theorem 15. Let $I \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$, $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n \in I$, $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$, $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n)$ such that $\mathbf{a} > \mathbf{b}$, and $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a harmonic convex function. Then the inequality

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i f(a_i) \geq \sum_{i=1}^n b_i f(b_i), \tag{30}$$

holds.

Proof. Let $g(z) = zf(z)$ and

$$\lambda_i = \frac{g(b_i) - g(a_i)}{b_i - a_i}. \tag{31}$$

Then from Lemmas 9 and 10 together with the harmonic convexity of f that g is convex on I and the sequence $\{\lambda_i\}_{i=1}^n$ is decreasing. Let

$$A_k = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i, B_k = \sum_{i=1}^k b_i, A_0 = B_0. \tag{32}$$

Then $A_n = B_n$ due to $\mathbf{a} > \mathbf{b}$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n a_i f(a_i) - \sum_{i=1}^n b_i f(b_i) &= \sum_{i=1}^n g(a_i) - \sum_{i=1}^n g(b_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i (a_i - b_i) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i (A_i - A_{i-1} - B_i + B_{i-1}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i (A_i - B_i) - \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i (A_{i-1} - B_{i-1}) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \lambda_i (A_i - B_i) - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \lambda_{i+1} (A_i - B_i) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (\lambda_i - \lambda_{i+1}) (A_i - B_i). \end{aligned} \tag{33}$$

Therefore, inequality (30) follows from the monotonicity of the sequence $\{\lambda_i\}_{i=1}^{n-1}$ and $A_i \geq B_i$ for all $i = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ together with the last identity above.

The weighted version of Theorem 15 can be stated as follows.

Theorem 16. Let $I \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$, $a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n \in I$, $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$, $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n)$ such that $\mathbf{a} > \mathbf{b}$, $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) \in (0, \infty)^n$ and $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a harmonic convex function. Then the inequality

$$\sum_{i=1}^n p_i a_i f(a_i) \geq \sum_{i=1}^n p_i b_i f(b_i), \quad (34)$$

holds.

3. Related Results

In this section, we present several interesting properties for the functionals derived from the Petrović-type inequalities given in Section 2.

Let $c, a \in \mathbb{R}$ with $c < a$, $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in (c, a]^n$, and $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) \in (0, \infty)^n$ be two n -tuples such that

$$x_i \leq \sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k \leq a, \quad (35)$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and $h: [c, a] \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ and $f: [c, a] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be two real-valued functions. Then the Petrović-type functional $\mathcal{F}_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}; f)$ is defined by

$$\mathcal{F}_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}; f) = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n p_k h(x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c)} f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k\right) - \sum_{k=1}^n p_k f(x_k). \quad (36)$$

Remark 17. From Lemma 11 we clearly see that

$$\mathcal{F}_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}; f) \geq 0, \quad (37)$$

if $f(x)/h(x-c)$ is increasing on $(c, a]$ and

$$\mathcal{F}_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}; f) \leq 0, \quad (38)$$

if $f(x)/h(x-c)$ is decreasing on $(c, a]$.

Let $I \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$, $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$, $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n) \in I^n$, $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n) \in (0, \infty)^n$, and $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a real-valued function. Then the Petrović-type functional $\mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{p}; f)$ is defined by

$$\mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{p}; f) = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i a_i f(a_i) - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i b_i f(b_i). \quad (39)$$

Remark 18. Theorem 16 leads to the conclusion that

$$\mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{p}; f) \geq 0, \quad (40)$$

if $\mathbf{a} > \mathbf{b}$ and f is harmonic convex on I and

$$\mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{p}; f) \leq 0, \quad (41)$$

if $\mathbf{a} > \mathbf{b}$ and f is harmonic concave on I .

Theorem 19. Let $c, a \in \mathbb{R}$ with $c < a$, $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in (c, a]^n$ and $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n)$, $\mathbf{q} = (q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n) \in (0, \infty)^n$ be two n -tuples such that

$$x_i \leq \sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k \leq a, x_i \leq \sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k \leq a, \quad (42)$$

for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and $h: [c, a] \rightarrow [1, \infty)$ and $f: [c, a] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be two real-valued functions, and \mathcal{F}_1 be defined by (36). Then the following statements are true:

- (1) If $\sum_{k=1}^n (p_k + q_k)x_k \in (c, a]$ and $f(x)/h(x-c)$ is increasing on $(c, a]$, then

$$\mathcal{F}_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}; f) \geq \mathcal{F}_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}; f) + \mathcal{F}_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{q}; f), \quad (43)$$

that is $\mathcal{F}_1(\mathbf{p}) = \mathcal{F}_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}; f)$ is superadditive on $(0, \infty)^n$.

- (2) If $p \geq q$ (namely, $p_j \geq q_j$ for all $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$) and $\sum_{k=1}^n (p_k - q_k)x_k \geq x_j$ for all $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and $f(x)/h(x-c)$ is increasing on $(c, a]$, then

$$\mathcal{F}_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}; f) \geq \mathcal{F}_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{q}; f) \geq 0, \quad (44)$$

that is $\mathcal{F}_1(\mathbf{p}) = \mathcal{F}_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}; f)$ is increasing with respect to positive n -tuples.

- (3) If $\sum_{k=1}^n (p_k + q_k)x_k \in (c, a]$ and $f(x)/h(x-c)$ is decreasing on $(c, a]$, then the reverse inequality of (43) holds, that is $\mathcal{F}_1(\mathbf{p}) = \mathcal{F}_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}; f)$ is subadditive on $(0, \infty)^n$. If $\mathbf{p} \geq \mathbf{q}$ and $\sum_{k=1}^n (p_k - q_k)x_k \geq x_j$ for all $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, and $f(x)/h(x-c)$ is decreasing on $(c, a]$, then the reverse inequality of (44) holds, that is $\mathcal{F}_1(\mathbf{p}) = \mathcal{F}_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}; f)$ is decreasing with respect to positive n -tuples.

Proof. (1) It follows from (36) that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}; f) &= \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n (p_k + q_k)h(x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n (p_k + q_k)(x_k - c))} \\ &\quad \cdot f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n (p_k + q_k)x_k\right) - \sum_{k=1}^n (p_k + q_k)f(x_k) \\ &= \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n p_k h(x_k - c) + \sum_{k=1}^n q_k h(x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k + \sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k - c)} \\ &\quad \cdot \left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k + \sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k\right) \\ &\quad - \sum_{k=1}^n p_k f(x_k) - \sum_{k=1}^n q_k f(x_k). \end{aligned} \quad (45)$$

Making use of the monotonicity of the function $f(x)/h(x-c)$ and Lemma 11 one has

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^n p_k f(x_k) + \sum_{k=1}^n q_k f(x_k) &\leq \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n p_k h(x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c)} f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k\right) \\ &\quad + \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n q_k h(x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k - c)} f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k\right) \\ &\leq \frac{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c) + h(\sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k + \sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k - c)} \\ &\quad \cdot f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k + \sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k\right). \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

Combining (45) and (46) gives

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{F}_1(x, \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}; f) &\geq \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n p_k h(x_k - c) + \sum_{k=1}^n q_k (x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c) + h(\sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k - c)} \\
 &\quad \cdot \left[f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k\right) + f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k\right) \right] \\
 &\quad - \sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - \sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k \\
 &= \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n p_k h(x_k - c) + \sum_{k=1}^n q_k (x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c) + h(\sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k - c)} f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k\right) \\
 &\quad + \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n p_k h(x_k - c) + \sum_{k=1}^n q_k (x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c) + h(\sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k - c)} f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k\right) \\
 &\quad - \sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - \sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k \\
 &\geq \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n p_k h(x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c) + h(\sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k - c)} f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k\right) \\
 &\quad + \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n q_k h(x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c) + h(\sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k - c)} f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k\right) \\
 &\quad - \sum_{k=1}^n p_k f(x_k) - \sum_{k=1}^n q_k f(x_k) \\
 &\geq \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n p_k h(x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k - c)} f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n p_k x_k\right) \\
 &\quad + \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n q_k h(x_k - c)}{h(\sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k - c)} f\left(\sum_{k=1}^n q_k x_k\right) \\
 &\quad - \sum_{k=1}^n p_k f(x_k) - \sum_{k=1}^n q_k f(x_k). \tag{47}
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\mathcal{F}_1(x, \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}; f) \geq \mathcal{F}_1(x, \mathbf{p}; f) + \mathcal{F}_1(x, \mathbf{q}; f), \tag{48}$$

follows from (47).

(2) It follows from part (1) and Remark 17 that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{F}_1(x, \mathbf{p}; f) &= \mathcal{F}_1(x, (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}) + \mathbf{q}; f) \\
 &\geq \mathcal{F}_1(x, \mathbf{q}; f) + \mathcal{F}_1(x, \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}; f) \\
 &\geq \mathcal{F}_1(x, \mathbf{q}; f) \geq 0.
 \end{aligned} \tag{49}$$

(3) Part (3) can be proved by similar methods as in proving parts (1) and (2).

Theorem 20. *Let $I \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$, $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n)$, $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n) \in I^n$ with $\mathbf{a} > \mathbf{b}$, $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n)$, $\mathbf{q} = (q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n) \in (0, \infty)^n$, $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a harmonic convex function, and $\mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{p}; f)$ be defined by (39). Then the following statements are true:*

(1) $\mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{p}; f)$ is linear with respect to \mathbf{p} , that is

$$\mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}; f) = \mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{p}; f) + \mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{q}; f). \tag{50}$$

(2) If $\mathbf{p} \geq \mathbf{q}$, then

$$\mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{p}; f) \geq \mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{q}; f) \geq 0, \tag{51}$$

that is $\mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{p}; f)$ is increasing with respect to \mathbf{p} .

(3) If f is harmonic concave on I , then inequalities (50) and (51) also hold true.

Proof. (1) It follows from (39) that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}; f) &= \sum_{i=1}^n (p_i + q_i) a_i f(a_i) - \sum_{i=1}^n (p_i + q_i) b_i f(b_i) \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^n p_i a_i f(a_i) - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i b_i f(b_i) \\
 &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^n q_i a_i f(a_i) - \sum_{i=1}^n q_i b_i f(b_i) \\
 &= \mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{p}; f) + \mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{q}; f).
 \end{aligned} \tag{52}$$

(2) From part (1) and Remark 18 we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{p}; f) &= \mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}) + \mathbf{q}; f) \\
 &= \mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}; f) + \mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{q}; f) \\
 &\geq \mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{q}; f) \geq 0.
 \end{aligned} \tag{53}$$

(3) Part (3) can be proved by similar methods in proving parts (1) and (2). □

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Authors' Contributions

All authors contributed equally to writing of this paper. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Acknowledgments

This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant nos. 61673169, 11301127, 11701176, 11626101, 11601485) and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.

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