

Research Article

Bounds of the Neuman-Sándor Mean Using Power and Identric Means

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In this paper we find the best possible lower power mean bounds for the Neuman-Sándor mean and present the sharp bounds for the ratio of the Neuman-Sándor and identric means.

1. Introduction

For $p \in \mathbb{R}$ the p th power mean $M_p(a, b)$, Neuman-Sándor Mean $M(a, b)$ [1], and identric mean $I(a, b)$ of two positive numbers a and b are defined by

$$M_p(a, b) = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{a^p + b^p}{2}\right)^{1/p}, & p \neq 0, \\ \sqrt{ab}, & p = 0, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

$$M(a, b) = \begin{cases} \frac{a-b}{2\sinh^{-1}((a-b)/(a+b))}, & a \neq b, \\ a, & a = b, \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

$$I(a, b) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{e} \left(\frac{b^b}{a^a}\right)^{1/(b-a)}, & a \neq b, \\ a, & a = b, \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

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

The main properties for $M_p(a, b)$ and $I(a, b)$ are given in [2]. It is well known that $M_p(a, b)$ is continuously and strictly increasing with respect to $p \in \mathbb{R}$ for fixed $a, b > 0$ with $a \neq b$. Recently, the power, Neuman-Sándor, and identric means have been a subject of intensive research. In particular, many remarkable inequalities for these means can be found in the literature [3–26].

Let $H(a, b) = 2ab/(a+b)$, $G(a, b) = \sqrt{ab}$, $L(a, b) = (b-a)/(\log b - \log a)$, $P(a, b) = (a-b)/[4 \arctan(\sqrt{a/b}) - \pi]$, $A(a, b) = (a+b)/2$, $T(a, b) = (a-b)/[2 \arctan((a-b)/(a+b))]$, $Q(a, b) = \sqrt{(a^2 + b^2)}/2$, and $C(a, b) = (a^2 + b^2)/(a+b)$ be the harmonic, geometric, logarithmic, first Seiffert, arithmetic, second Seiffert, quadratic, and contraharmonic means of two positive numbers a and b with $a \neq b$, respectively. Then, it is well known that the inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} H(a, b) = M_{-1}(a, b) &< G(a, b) = M_0(a, b) < L(a, b) \\ &< P(a, b) < I(a, b) < A(a, b) = M_1(a, b) < M(a, b) \\ &< T(a, b) < Q(a, b) = M_2(a, b) < C(a, b), \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

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

The following sharp bounds for L , I , $(IL)^{1/2}$, and $(I+L)/2$ in terms of power means are presented in [27–32]:

$$\begin{aligned} M_0(a, b) &< L(a, b) < M_{1/3}(a, b), \\ M_{2/3}(a, b) &< I(a, b) < M_{\log_2}(a, b), \\ M_0(a, b) &< I^{1/2}(a, b) L^{1/2}(a, b) < M_{1/2}(a, b), \\ \frac{1}{2} [I(a, b) + L(a, b)] &< M_{1/2}(a, b), \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

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

Pittenger [31] found the greatest value r_1 and the least value r_2 such that the double inequality

$$M_{r_1}(a, b) \leq L_p(a, b) \leq M_{r_2}(a, b), \tag{6}$$

holds for all $a, b > 0$, where $L_r(a, b)$ is the r th generalized logarithmic means which is defined by

$$L_r(a, b) = \begin{cases} \left[\frac{b^{r+1} - a^{r+1}}{(r+1)(b-a)} \right]^{1/r}, & a \neq b, r \neq -1, r \neq 0, \\ \frac{1}{e} \left(\frac{b^b}{a^a} \right)^{1/(b-a)}, & a \neq b, r = 0, \\ \frac{b-a}{\log b - \log a}, & a \neq b, r = -1, \\ a, & a = b. \end{cases} \tag{7}$$

The following sharp power mean bounds for the first Seiffert mean $P(a, b)$ are given in [10, 33]:

$$M_{\log 2 / \log \pi}(a, b) < P(a, b) < M_{2/3}(a, b), \tag{8}$$

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

In [17], the authors answered the question: for $\alpha \in (0, 1)$, what are the greatest value p and the least value q such that the double inequality

$$M_p(a, b) < P^\alpha(a, b) G^{1-\alpha}(a, b) < M_q(a, b) \tag{9}$$

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

Neuman and Sándor [1] established that

$$\begin{aligned} A(a, b) < M(a, b) < \frac{A(a, b)}{\log(1 + \sqrt{2})}, \\ \frac{\pi}{4} T(a, b) < M(a, b) < T(a, b), \\ M(a, b) < \frac{2A(a, b) + Q(a, b)}{3}, \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

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

Let $0 < a, b \leq 1/2$ with $a \neq b$, $a' = 1 - a$ and $b' = 1 - b$. Then, the Ky Fan inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{G(a, b)}{G(a', b')} < \frac{L(a, b)}{L(a', b')} < \frac{P(a, b)}{P(a', b')} \\ < \frac{A(a, b)}{A(a', b')} < \frac{M(a, b)}{M(a', b')} < \frac{T(a, b)}{T(a', b')} \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

were presented in [1].

In [24], Li et al. found the best possible bounds for the Neuman-Sándor mean $M(a, b)$ in terms of the generalized

logarithmic mean $L_r(a, b)$. Neuman [25] and Zhao et al. [26] proved that the inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha Q(a, b) + (1 - \alpha) A(a, b) \\ < M(a, b) < \beta Q(a, b) + (1 - \beta) A(a, b), \\ \lambda C(a, b) + (1 - \lambda) A(a, b) < M(a, b) \\ < \mu C(a, b) + (1 - \mu) A(a, b), \\ \alpha_1 H(a, b) + (1 - \alpha_1) Q(a, b) < M(a, b) \\ < \beta_1 H(a, b) + (1 - \beta_1) Q(a, b), \\ \alpha_2 G(a, b) + (1 - \alpha_2) Q(a, b) < M(a, b) \\ < \beta_2 G(a, b) + (1 - \beta_2) Q(a, b) \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

hold for all $a, b > 0$ with $a \neq b$ if and only if $\alpha \leq [1 - \log(1 + \sqrt{2})]/[(\sqrt{2} - 1)\log(1 + \sqrt{2})]$, $\beta \geq 1/3$, $\lambda \leq [1 - \log(1 + \sqrt{2})]/\log(1 + \sqrt{2})$, $\mu \geq 1/6$, $\alpha_1 \geq 2/9$, $\beta_1 \leq 1 - 1/[\sqrt{2}\log(1 + \sqrt{2})]$, $\alpha_2 \geq 1/3$, and $\beta_2 \leq 1 - 1/[\sqrt{2}\log(1 + \sqrt{2})]$.

In [7], Sándor and Trif proved that the inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} e^{((a-b)^2/6(a+b)^2)} < \frac{A(a, b)}{I(a, b)} < e^{((a-b)^2/24ab)}, \\ e^{((a-b)^2/3(a+b)^2)} < \frac{I(a, b)}{G(a, b)} < e^{((a-b)^2/12ab)}, \\ e^{((a-b)^4/30(a+b)^4)} < \frac{I(a, b)}{A^{2/3}(a, b) G^{1/3}(a, b)} \\ < e^{((a-b)^4/120ab(a+b)^4)} \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

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

Neuman and Sándor [15] and Gao [20] proved that $\alpha_1 = 1$, $\beta_1 = e/2$, $\alpha_2 = 1$, $\beta_2 = 2\sqrt{2}/e$, $\alpha_3 = 1$, $\beta_3 = 3/e$, $\alpha_4 = e/\pi$, $\beta_4 = 1$, $\alpha_5 = 1$, and $\beta_5 = 2e/\pi$ are the best possible constants such that the double inequalities $\alpha_1 < A(a, b)/I(a, b) < \beta_1$, $\alpha_2 < I(a, b)/M_{2/3}(a, b) < \beta_2$, $\alpha_3 < I(a, b)/He(a, b) < \beta_3$, $\alpha_4 < P(a, b)/I(a, b) < \beta_4$, and $\alpha_5 < T(a, b)/I(a, b) < \beta_5$ hold for all $a, b > 0$ with $a \neq b$, where $He(a, b) = (a + \sqrt{ab} + b)/3 = (2A(a, b) + G(a, b))/3$ is the Heronian mean of a and b .

In [34], Sándor established that

$$He(a, b) < M_{2/3}(a, b), \tag{14}$$

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

It is not difficult to verify that the inequality

$$\frac{2A(a, b) + Q(a, b)}{3} < [He(a^2, b^2)]^{1/2} \tag{15}$$

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

From inequalities (10), (14), and (15), one has

$$M(a, b) < [M_{2/3}(a^2, b^2)]^{1/2} = M_{4/3}(a, b), \tag{16}$$

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

It is the aim of this paper to find the best possible lower power mean bound for the Neuman-Sándor mean $M(a, b)$ and to present the sharp constants α and β such that the double inequality

$$\alpha < \frac{M(a, b)}{I(a, b)} < \beta \tag{17}$$

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

2. Main Results

Theorem 1. $p_0 = (\log 2)/\log [2 \log(1 + \sqrt{2})] = 1.224\dots$ is the greatest value such that the inequality

$$M(a, b) > M_{p_0}(a, b) \tag{18}$$

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

Proof. From (1) and (2), we clearly see that both $M(a, b)$ and $M_p(a, b)$ are symmetric and homogenous of degree one. Without loss of generality, we assume that $b = 1$ and $a = x > 1$.

Let $p_0 = (\log 2)/\log [2 \log(1 + \sqrt{2})]$, then from (1) and (2) one has

$$\begin{aligned} & \log M(x, 1) - \log M_{p_0}(x, 1) \\ &= \log \frac{x-1}{2 \sinh^{-1}((x-1)/(x+1))} - \frac{1}{p_0} \log \frac{x^{p_0}+1}{2}. \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

Let

$$f(x) = \log \frac{x-1}{2 \sinh^{-1}((x-1)/(x+1))} - \frac{1}{p_0} \log \frac{x^{p_0}+1}{2}. \tag{20}$$

Then, simple computations lead to

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x) = 0, \tag{21}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = \frac{1}{p_0} \log 2 - \log [2 \sinh^{-1}(1)] = 0, \tag{22}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{(1+x^{p_0-1})f_1(x)}{(x-1)(x^{p_0}+1)\sinh^{-1}((x-1)/(x+1))}, \tag{23}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(x) &= -\frac{\sqrt{2}(x-1)(x^{p_0}+1)}{(x+1)(x^{p_0-1}+1)\sqrt{1+x^2}} + \sinh^{-1}\left(\frac{x-1}{x+1}\right), \\ f_1(1) &= 0, \end{aligned} \tag{24}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f_1(x) = -\sqrt{2} + \sinh^{-1}(1) = -0.5328\dots < 0, \tag{25}$$

$$f'_1(x) = \frac{\sqrt{2}(x-1)f_2(x)}{(x+1)^2(x^{p_0-1}+1)^2(1+x^2)^{3/2}}, \tag{26}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f_2(x) &= 1+x+2x^2+(p_0-1)x^{p_0-2}-x^{p_0-1}+x^{p_0+1} \\ &\quad - (p_0-1)x^{p_0+2}-2x^{2p_0-2}-x^{2p_0-1}-x^{2p_0}, \end{aligned} \tag{27}$$

$$f_2(1) = 0,$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f_2(x) = -\infty, \tag{28}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f'_2(x) &= 1+4x+(p_0-1)(p_0-2)x^{p_0-3}-(p_0-1)x^{p_0-2} \\ &\quad + (p_0+1)x^{p_0}-(p_0-1)(p_0+2)x^{p_0+1} \\ &\quad - 4(p_0-1)x^{2p_0-3}-(2p_0-1)x^{2p_0-2}-2p_0x^{2p_0-1}, \end{aligned}$$

$$f'_2(1) = 4(4-3p_0) > 0, \tag{29}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f'_2(x) = -\infty, \tag{30}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f''_2(x) &= 4+(p_0-1)(p_0-2)(p_0-3)x^{p_0-4} \\ &\quad - (p_0-1)(p_0-2)x^{p_0-3}+p_0(p_0+1)x^{p_0-1} \\ &\quad - (p_0-1)(p_0+2)(p_0+1)x^{p_0} \\ &\quad - 4(p_0-1)(2p_0-3)x^{2p_0-4} \\ &\quad - 2(2p_0-1)(p_0-1)x^{2p_0-3} \\ &\quad - 2p_0(2p_0-1)x^{2p_0-2}, \end{aligned}$$

$$f''_2(1) = 4(2p_0-1)(4-3p_0) > 0, \tag{31}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f''_2(x) = -\infty, \tag{32}$$

$$f'''_2(x) = (p_0-1)x^{p_0-5}f_3(x), \tag{33}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f_3(x) &= -(2-p_0)(3-p_0)(4-p_0)-(2-p_0)(3-p_0)x \\ &\quad + p_0(p_0+1)x^3-p_0(p_0+1)(p_0+2)x^4 \\ &\quad - 8(3-2p_0)(2-p_0)x^{p_0}+2(2p_0-1)(3-2p_0)x^{p_0+1} \\ &\quad - 4p_0(2p_0-1)x^{p_0+2} \\ &< -(2-p_0)(3-p_0)(4-p_0) \\ &\quad - (2-p_0)(3-p_0)x+p_0(p_0+1)x^4 \\ &\quad - p_0(p_0+1)(p_0+2)x^4-8(3-2p_0)(2-p_0)x^{p_0} \\ &\quad + 2(2p_0-1)(3-2p_0)x^{p_0+2}-4p_0(2p_0-1)x^{p_0+2} \\ &= -(2-p_0)(3-p_0)(4-p_0)-(2-p_0)(3-p_0)x \\ &\quad - p_0(p_0+1)^2x^4-8(3-2p_0)(2-p_0)x^{p_0} \\ &\quad - 2(2p_0-1)(4p_0-3)x^{p_0+2} < 0, \end{aligned} \tag{34}$$

for $x > 1$.

Equation (33) and inequality (34) imply that $f_2''(x)$ is strictly decreasing on $[1, +\infty)$. Then, the inequality (31) and (32) lead to the conclusion that there exists $x_1 > 1$, such that $f_2'(x)$ is strictly increasing on $[1, x_1]$ and strictly decreasing on $[x_1, +\infty)$.

From (29) and (30) together with the piecewise monotonicity of $f_2'(x)$, we clearly see that there exists $x_2 > x_1 > 1$, such that $f_2(x)$ is strictly increasing on $[1, x_2]$ and strictly decreasing on $[x_2, +\infty)$.

It follows from (26)–(28) and the piecewise monotonicity of $f_2(x)$ that there exists $x_3 > x_2 > 1$, such that $f_1(x)$, is strictly increasing on $[1, x_3]$ and strictly decreasing on $[x_3, +\infty)$.

From (23)–(25) and the piecewise monotonicity of $f_1(x)$ we see that there exists $x_4 > x_3 > 1$, such that $f(x)$ is strictly increasing on $(1, x_4]$ and strictly decreasing on $[x_4, +\infty)$.

Therefore, $M(x, 1) > M_{p_0}(x, 1)$ for $x > 1$ follows easily from (19)–(22) and the piecewise monotonicity of $f(x)$.

Next, we prove that $p_0 = (\log 2) / \log [2 \log(1 + \sqrt{2})] = 1.224\dots$ is the greatest value such that $M(x, 1) > M_{p_0}(x, 1)$ for all $x > 1$.

For any $\varepsilon > 0$ and $x > 1$, from (1) and (2), one has

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{M_{p_0+\varepsilon}(x, 1)}{M(x, 1)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \left[\left(\frac{1+x^{p_0+\varepsilon}}{2} \right)^{1/(p_0+\varepsilon)} \frac{2 \sinh^{-1}((x-1)/(x+1))}{x-1} \right] \\ &= 2^{-1/(p_0+\varepsilon)} \times 2 \sinh^{-1}(1) \\ &= 2^{\varepsilon/p_0(p_0+\varepsilon)} > 1. \end{aligned} \tag{35}$$

Inequality (35) implies that for any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $X = X(\varepsilon) > 1$, such that $M(x, 1) < M_{p_0+\varepsilon}(x, 1)$ for $x \in (X, +\infty)$. \square

Remark 2. $4/3$ is the least value such that inequality (16) holds for all $a, b > 0$ with $a \neq b$, namely, $M_{4/3}(a, b)$ is the best possible upper power mean bound for the Neuman-Sándor mean $M(a, b)$.

In fact, for any $\varepsilon \in (0, 4/3)$ and $x > 0$, one has

$$\begin{aligned} & M_{4/3-\varepsilon}(1+x, 1) - M(1+x, 1) \\ &= \left[\frac{(1+x)^{4/3-\varepsilon} + 1}{2} \right]^{1/(4/3-\varepsilon)} - \frac{x}{2 \sinh^{-1}(x/(2+x))}. \end{aligned} \tag{36}$$

Letting $x \rightarrow 0$ and making use of Taylor expansion, we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[\frac{(1+x)^{4/3-\varepsilon} + 1}{2} \right]^{1/(4/3-\varepsilon)} - \frac{x}{2 \sinh^{-1}(x/(2+x))} \\ &= \left[1 + \frac{4-3\varepsilon}{6}x + \frac{(4-3\varepsilon)(1-3\varepsilon)}{36}x^2 + o(x^2) \right]^{1/(4/3-\varepsilon)} \\ & \quad - \frac{x}{x - (1/2)x^2 + (5/24)x^3 + o(x^3)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \left[1 + \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1-3\varepsilon}{24}x^2 + o(x^2) \right] \\ & \quad - \left[1 + \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1}{24}x^2 + o(x^2) \right] = -\frac{\varepsilon}{8}x^2 + o(x^2). \end{aligned} \tag{37}$$

Equations (36) and (37) imply that for any $\varepsilon \in (0, 4/3)$ there exists $\delta = \delta(\varepsilon) > 0$, such that $M(1+x, 1) > M_{(4/3)-\varepsilon}(1+x, 1)$ for $x \in (0, \delta)$.

Theorem 3. For all $a, b > 0$ with $a \neq b$, one has

$$1 < \frac{M(a, b)}{I(a, b)} < \frac{e}{2 \log(1 + \sqrt{2})}, \tag{38}$$

with the best possible constants 1 and $e/[2 \log(1 + \sqrt{2})] = 1.5419\dots$

Proof. From (2) and (3), we clearly see that both $M(a, b)$ and $I(a, b)$ are symmetric and homogenous of degree one. Without loss of generality, we assume that $b = 1$ and $a = x > 1$. Let

$$f(x) = \frac{M(x, 1)}{I(x, 1)} = \frac{e(x-1)}{2x^{x/(x-1)} \sinh^{-1}((x-1)/(x+1))}. \tag{39}$$

Then, simple computations lead to

$$\frac{f'(x)}{f(x)} = \frac{\log x}{(x-1)^2 \sinh^{-1}((x-1)/(x+1))} f_1(x), \tag{40}$$

where

$$f_1(x) = \sinh^{-1}\left(\frac{x-1}{x+1}\right) - \frac{\sqrt{2}(x-1)^2}{(x+1)\sqrt{1+x^2} \log x}, \tag{41}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f_1(x) = 0,$$

$$f_1'(x) = \frac{\sqrt{2}f_2(x)}{x(x+1)^2(1+x^2)^{3/2} \log^2 x}, \tag{42}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f_2(x) &= x(x+1)(1+x^2) \log^2 x \\ & \quad - x(3x^3 - x^2 + x - 3) \log x \\ & \quad + (x-1)^2(x+1)(1+x^2), \\ f_2(1) &= 0, \end{aligned} \tag{43}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_2'(x) &= (4x^3 + 3x^2 + 2x + 1) \log^2 x \\
 &\quad + 5(-2x^3 + x^2 + 1) \log x + 5x^4 \\
 &\quad - 7x^3 + x^2 - x + 2,
 \end{aligned} \tag{44}$$

$$f_2'(1) = 0,$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_2''(x) &= 2(6x^2 + 3x + 1) \log^2 x \\
 &\quad + 2(-11x^2 + 8x + 2 + x^{-1}) \log x + 20x^3 \\
 &\quad - 31x^2 + 7x - 1 + 5x^{-1},
 \end{aligned} \tag{45}$$

$$f_2''(1) = 0,$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_2'''(x) &= 6(4x + 1) \log^2 x \\
 &\quad + 2(-10x + 14 + 2x^{-1} - x^{-2}) \log x \\
 &\quad + 60x^2 - 84x + 23 + 4x^{-1} - 3x^{-2},
 \end{aligned} \tag{46}$$

$$f_2'''(1) = 0,$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_2^{(4)}(x) &= 24 \log^2 x + 4(7 + 3x^{-1} - x^{-2} + x^{-3}) \log x \\
 &\quad + 120x - 104 + 28x^{-1} + 4x^{-3} > 0
 \end{aligned} \tag{47}$$

for $x > 1$.

From (46) and (47), we clearly see that $f_2''(x)$ is strictly increasing on $[1, +\infty)$. Then, (45) leads to the conclusion that $f_2'(x)$ is strictly increasing on $[1, +\infty)$.

Equations (43) and (44) together with the monotonicity of $f_2'(x)$ imply that $f_2(x) > 0$ for $x > 1$. Then, (42) leads to the conclusion that $f_1(x)$ is strictly increasing on $[1, +\infty)$.

It follows from equations (40) and (41) together with the monotonicity of $f_1(x)$ that $f(x)$ is strictly increasing on $(1, +\infty)$.

Therefore, Theorem 3 follows from (39) and the monotonicity of $f(x)$ together with the facts that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = \frac{e}{2 \log(1 + \sqrt{2})}, \tag{48}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} f(x) = 1.$$

□

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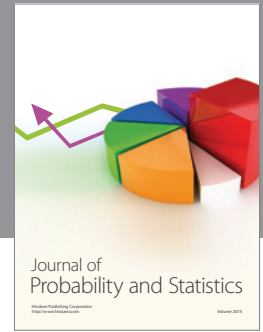
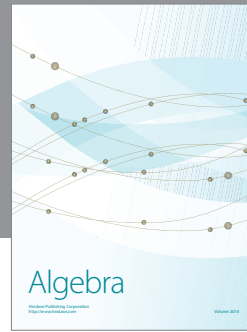
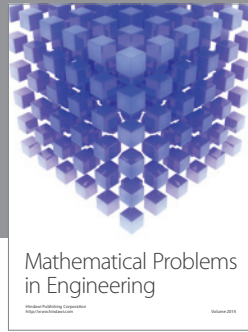
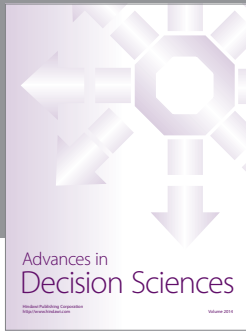
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