

**SCHUR-GEOMETRIC CONVEXITY  
OF STOLARSKY'S EXTENDED MEAN VALUES**

R.C.L. Janardhana<sup>1</sup> §, K.M. Nagaraja<sup>2</sup>, V. Loksha<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research and Development Center

Bharathiar University

Coimbatore, 641046, INDIA

<sup>1</sup>Department of Mathematics

Govt. First Grade College

Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, 560010, Karanataka, INDIA

<sup>2</sup>Department of Mathematics

JSS Academy of Technical Education

Uttarahalli, Kengeri Main Road, Bangalore-60, Karanataka, INDIA

<sup>3</sup>PG Department of Mathematics

VSK University, Jnana Sagara Campus

Vinayaka Nagara, Bellary-04, Karanataka, INDIA

---

**Abstract:** In the recent years, the Schur convexity and Schur-geometrically convexity of Stolarsky's mean values have attracted the attention of a considerable number of mathematicians and researchers. In this paper, the Schur-geometric convexity of Stolarsky's extended type mean values are discussed.

**AMS Subject Classification:** 26D10, 26D15

**Key Words:** schur-geometric, convexity, concavity, harmonic mean, contra harmonic mean

---

Received: December 8, 2016

Revised: February 19, 2017

Published: April 20, 2017

© 2017 Academic Publications, Ltd.

url: [www.acadpubl.eu](http://www.acadpubl.eu)

§Correspondence author

## 1. Introduction

The eminent researchers and scholars have explored the prominence and applications of means and their inequalities to filed of science and technology, see [1]. In previous studies literature (see [8], [9], [15]) have revealed various results on means and inequalities including contra harmonic mean.

In [19], have studied the different properties of Stolarsky (extended) two parameter mean values, which are defined as follows;

$$E_{p,q}(a, b) = \begin{cases} \left[ \frac{p}{q} \frac{(a^q - b^q)}{(a^p - b^p)} \right]^{\frac{1}{q-p}} & pq(q-p)(a-b) \neq 0; \\ e^{\left( \frac{-1}{q} + \frac{(a^q \ln a - b^q \ln b)}{(a^q - b^q)} \right)} & p = q \neq 0; \\ \left( \frac{(a^q - b^q)}{q(\ln a - \ln b)} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} & p = 0, q \neq 0; \\ \sqrt{ab} & p = q = 0; \\ a & a = b > 0. \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

The essential for this paper recalls some of the known means. The Arithmetic mean in weighted form is

$$A_{r,s}(a, b) = ra + sb = A(a, b; r, s);$$

such that  $a, b > 0$  and  $r + s = 1$ , where  $r$  and  $s$  are the weights.

The Stolarsky means  $E_{p,q}(a, b)$  are  $C^\infty$  functions on the domain  $(p, q, a, b) : p, q \in R; a, b > 0$ . Obviously, Stolarsky means  $E_{p,q}(a, b)$  are symmetric with respect to  $a, b$  and  $p, q$ .

Most of the classical two variable means are special cases of  $E_{p,q}(a, b)$ , Stolarsky mean.

For example:

$$E_{1,2}(a, b) = \frac{a+b}{2} \quad \text{is the Arithmetic mean.}$$

$$E_{0,0}(a, b) = \sqrt{ab} \quad \text{is the Geometric mean.}$$

$$E_{-1,-2}(a, b) = \frac{2ab}{a+b} \quad \text{is the Harmonic mean.}$$

$$E_{0,1}(a, b) = \frac{a-b}{\ln a - \ln b} \quad \text{is the Logarithmic mean.}$$

$$E_{1,1}(a, b) = \frac{1}{e} \left( \frac{a^a}{b^b} \right)^{\frac{1}{a-b}} \quad \text{is the Identric mean.}$$

$$E_{r,2r}(a, b) = \left( \frac{a^r + b^r}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} \quad \text{is the } r^{\text{th}} \text{ Power mean.}$$

The basic properties of Stolarsky means, as well as their comparison theorems, log-convexities, and inequalities are studied in papers (see [6], [21], [22]).

In recent years, a considerable number of mathematicians attention have been attracted by the Schur convexity and Schur geometrically convexity of various means (see [2]-[4], [7], [11]-[14], [16]). Qi [17] first proved that the Stolarsky means  $E_{p,q}(a, b)$  are Schur convex on  $(-\infty, 0] \times (-\infty, 0]$  and Schur concave on  $[0, \infty) \times [0, \infty)$  with respect to  $(p, q)$  for fixed  $a, b > 0$  with  $a \neq b$ . Yang [25] improved Qi's result and proved that Stolarsky means  $E_{p,q}(a, b)$  are Schur convex with respect to  $(p, q)$  for fixed  $a, b > 0$  with  $a \neq b$  if and only if  $p + q < 0$  and Schur concave if and only if  $p + q > 0$ .

Qi et al. [16] tried to obtain the Schur convexity of  $E_{p,q}(a, b)$  with respect to  $(a, b)$  for fixed  $(p, q)$ . Shi et al. [18] worked on the same and obtained a sufficient condition for the Schur convexity of  $E_{p,q}(a, b)$  with respect to  $(a, b)$ . Chu and Zhang [3] improved Shi's results and gave a necessary and sufficient condition. This perfectly solved the Schur convexity of Stolarsky means with respect to  $(a, b)$ .

For the Schur geometrically convexity, Chu and Zhang [2] proved that Stolarsky means  $E_{p,q}(a, b)$  are Schur geometrically convex with respect to  $(a, b) \in (0, \infty) \times (0, \infty)$  if  $p + q \geq 0$  and Schur geometrically concave if  $p + q \leq 0$ . Li et al. [7] also investigated the Schur geometrically convexity of generalized exponent mean  $I_p(a, b)$ .

The purpose of this paper is to investigate Schur-geometric convexity of Stolarsky's extended type mean values  $N_{p,q}(a, b; r, s)$ .

In [1], the weighted contra harmonic mean is defined on the basis of proportions by,

$$C_{r,s}(a, b) = \frac{ra^2 + sb^2}{ra + sb} = C(a, b; r, s);$$

where  $a, b > 0$  and  $r, s$  are weights such that  $r + s = 1$ .

This work has led to a new family introduction of Stolarsky's extended type mean values in weighted forms in *two* and *n* variables.

For two variables  $a, b > 0$ ,  $p, q \in R$  and  $r, s$  are weights such that  $r + s = 1$ . Consider a new mean in the following form;

$$N_{p,q}(a, b; r, s) = \left[ \frac{p^2 C(a^q, b^q; r, s) - A(a^q, b^q; r, s)}{q^2 C(a^p, b^p; r, s) - A(a^p, b^p; r, s)} \right]^{\frac{1}{q-p}}.$$

Which is equivalently,

$$N_{p,q}(a, b; r, s) = \left[ \frac{p^2}{q^2} \left( \frac{ra^p + sb^p}{ra^q + sb^q} \right) \left( \frac{ra^{2q} + sb^{2q} - (ra^q + sb^q)^2}{ra^{2p} + sb^{2p} - (ra^p + sb^p)^2} \right) \right]^{\frac{1}{q-p}}.$$

Which is equivalently,

$$N_{p,q}(a, b; r, s) = \left[ \frac{p^2}{q^2} \left( \frac{ra^p + sb^p}{ra^q + sb^q} \right) \left( \frac{a^q - b^q}{a^p - b^p} \right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{q-p}}.$$

In [23], author introduced the homogeneous function with two parameters  $p$  and  $q$  by,

$$H_{f,p,q}(a, b) = \left[ \frac{f(a^q, b^q)}{f(a^p, b^p)} \right]^{\frac{1}{q-p}} \quad pq(q-p) \neq 0$$

and studied its monotonicity and deduced some inequalities involving means, where  $f$  is a homogeneous function for  $a$  and  $b$ .

In particular,  $f = A$  is the Arithmetic mean of  $a$  and  $b$ .

$$H_{A,p,q}(a, b) = \begin{cases} \left[ \frac{(a^q + b^q)}{(a^p + b^p)} \right]^{\frac{1}{q-p}} & pq(q-p) \neq 0; \\ G_{A,q}(a, b) = a^{\frac{a^q}{a^q + b^q}} b^{\frac{b^q}{a^q + b^q}} & p = q \neq 0; \\ \sqrt{ab} & p = q = 0; \\ a & a = b > 0. \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Here  $G_{A,q}(a, b) = Z_q(a, b) = Z_q^{\frac{1}{q}}(a^q, b^q) = Z_q$ , where  $Z(a, b) = a^{\frac{a}{a+b}} b^{\frac{b}{a+b}}$  is named power-exponential mean between two positive numbers  $a$  and  $b$ .

In weighted form,  $f = A_{r,s}(a, b) = ra + sb$ , and

$$H_{A,p,q}(a, b) = \begin{cases} \left[ \frac{(ra^q + sb^q)}{(ra^p + sb^p)} \right]^{\frac{1}{q-p}} & p \neq q; \\ G_{A,q}(a, b) = a^{\frac{ra^q}{ra^q + qb^q}} b^{\frac{sb^q}{ra^q + sb^q}} & p = q \neq 0; \\ a^r b^s & p = q = 0; \\ a & a = b > 0; . \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

In [20], author has introduced and studied the various properties and log-convexity results of the class  $W$  of weighted two parameter means which are given by;

$$W_{p,q}(a, b; r, s) = \begin{cases} \left[ \frac{p^2}{q^2} \left( \frac{ra^q + sb^q - a^{r^q} b^{s^q}}{ra^p + sb^p - a^{rp} b^{sp}} \right) \right]^{\frac{1}{q-p}} & pq(q-p)(a-b) \neq 0; \\ \left[ \frac{2}{\ln^2(a/b)} \left( \frac{ra^q + sb^q - a^{r^q} b^{s^q}}{rsq^2} \right) \right]^{\frac{1}{q}} & q(a-b) \neq 0, p = 0; \\ \exp \left( \frac{-2}{q} + \frac{ra^q \ln a + sb^q \ln b - (r \ln a + s \ln b) a^{r^q} b^{s^q}}{ra^q + sb^q - a^{r^q} b^{s^q}} \right) & p = q, q \neq 0; \\ a^{(r+1)/3} b^{(s+1)/3} & a \neq b, p = q = 0; \\ a & a = b > 0. \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

The above definitions lead to express the mean values  $N_{p,q}(a, b; r, s)$  in the following form;

$$N_{p,q}(a, b; r, s) = \left[ \frac{ra^p + sb^p}{ra^q + sb^q} \right]^{\frac{1}{q-p}} \left[ \left( \frac{p}{q} \frac{a^q - b^q}{a^p - b^p} \right)^{\frac{1}{q-p}} \right]^2.$$

which is equivalently,

$$N_{p,q}(a, b; r, s) = \left[ \frac{f(a^p, b^p; r, s)}{f(a^q, b^q; r, s)} \right]^{\frac{1}{q-p}} E_{p,q}^2(a, b)$$

or

$$N_{p,q}(a, b; r, s) = H_{f=A(a,b;r,s)}(a, b; p, q) E_{p,q}^2(a, b) \quad (5)$$

Here  $f = A(a, b; r, s)$  is Arithmetic mean in weighted form.

The various properties and identities concerning to  $N_{p,q}(a, b; r, s)$  are also studied by K. M. Nagaraja and et.al.

The laborious calculations give the following different cases of the mean value  $N_{p,q}(a, b; r, s)$ .

$$N_{p,q}(a, b; r, s) = \begin{cases} \left[ \frac{p^2}{q^2} \left( \frac{ra^p+sb^p}{ra^q+sb^q} \right) \left( \frac{a^q-b^q}{a^p-b^p} \right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{q-p}} & pq(q-p)(a-b) \neq 0; \\ \left[ \frac{1}{\ln^2(a/b)} \left( \frac{1}{ra^q+sb^q} \right) \left( \frac{a^q-b^q}{q} \right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{q}} & s(a-b) \neq 0, r=0; \\ \exp \left( \frac{-2}{q} - \frac{ra^q \ln a + sb^q \ln b}{ra^q + sb^q} + 2 \frac{a^q \ln a - b^q \ln b}{a^q - b^q} \right) & p=q, q \neq 0; \\ a^{1-r} b^{1-s} & a \neq b, p=q=0; \\ a & a=b > 0. \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

## 2. Definition and Properties

In 1923, Schur introduced Schur convexity [10], and it has many important applications in analytic inequalities [5], linear regression, graphs and matrices, combinatorial optimization, information theoretic topics, Gamma functions, stochastic orderings, reliability, and other related fields. Some of the definitions are recall for convenience of readers.

**Definition 2.1.** [10] Let  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  and  $y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n) \in R^n$

1.  $x$  is majorized by  $y$  (in symbol  $x \prec y$ ) If  $\sum_{i=1}^k x_{[i]} \leq \sum_{i=1}^k y_{[i]}$ , and  $\sum_{i=1}^n x_{[i]} = \sum_{i=1}^n y_{[i]}$ , where  $x_{[1]} \geq \dots \geq x_{[n]}$  and  $y_{[1]} \geq \dots \geq y_{[n]}$  are rearrangements of  $x$  and  $y$  in descending order.
2.  $x \geq y$  means  $x_i \geq y_i$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Let  $\Omega \in R^n (n \geq 2)$ . The function  $\varphi : \Omega \rightarrow R$  is said to be increasing if  $x \geq y$  implies  $\varphi(x) \geq \varphi(y)$ .  $\varphi$  is said to be decreasing if and only if  $-\varphi$  is increasing.
3.  $\Omega \subseteq R^n$  is called a convex set if  $(\alpha x_1 + \beta y_1, \dots, \alpha x_n + \beta y_n) \in \Omega$  for every  $x$  and  $y \in \Omega$  where  $\alpha, \beta \in [0, 1]$  with  $\alpha + \beta = 1$ .
4. Let  $\Omega \subseteq R^n$ . The function  $\varphi : \Omega \rightarrow R$  be said to be a Schur convex function on  $\Omega$  if  $x \prec y$  on  $\Omega$  implies  $\varphi(x) \leq \varphi(y)$ .  $\varphi$  is said to be a Schur concave function on  $\Omega$  if and only if  $-\varphi$  is Schur convex.

**Definition 2.2.** [24] Let  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  and  $y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n) \in R_+^n$

$\Omega \subseteq R^n$  is called geometrically convex set if  $(x_1^\alpha y_1^\beta, \dots, x_n^\alpha y_n^\beta) \in \Omega$  for all  $x$  and  $y \in \Omega$  where  $\alpha, \beta \in [0, 1]$  with  $\alpha + \beta = 1$ .

Let  $\Omega \subseteq R_+^n$ . The function  $\varphi : \Omega \rightarrow R_+$  is said to be Schur geometrically convex function on  $\Omega$  if  $(\ln x_1, \dots, \ln x_n) \prec (\ln y_1, \dots, \ln y_n)$  on  $\Omega$  implies  $\varphi(x) \leq \varphi(y)$ .  $\varphi$  is said to be a Schur geometrically concave function on  $\Omega$  if and only if  $-\varphi$  is Schur geometrically convex.

**Definition 2.3.**  $\Omega \subseteq R^n$  is called symmetric set if  $x \in \Omega$  implies  $Px \in \Omega$  for every  $n \times n$  permutation matrix  $P$ .

The function  $\varphi : \Omega \rightarrow R$  is called symmetric if for every permutation matrix  $P$ ,  $\varphi(Px) = \varphi(x)$  for all  $x \in \Omega$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** [25] Let  $\Omega \subseteq R^n$  be symmetric with non empty interior geometrically convex set  $\Omega^0$  and let  $\varphi : \Omega \rightarrow R_+$  be continuous on  $\Omega$  and differentiable in  $\Omega^0$ . Then  $\varphi$  is Schur-geometrically convex (Schur-geometrically concave) on  $\Omega$  if and only if  $\varphi$  is symmetric on  $\Omega$  and

$$(\ln x_1 - \ln x_2) \left( x_1 \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x_1} - x_2 \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x_2} \right) \geq 0 (\leq 0). \tag{7}$$

holds for any  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in \Omega^0$ .

### 3. Main Results

In this section, we shall prove some of the lemmas required for proving main theorem.

**Lemma 3.1.** Stolarsky's extended family type mean  $N_{p,q}(a, b; r, s)$  are Schur-geometric convex or Schur-geometric concave with respect to  $(a, b) \in (0, \infty) \times (0, \infty)$  if and only if  $g(t) \geq 0$  or  $g(t) \leq 0$  for all  $t > 0$ , where

$$g(t) = g_{p,q}(t) = \begin{cases} \left[ \frac{(p-q)\text{Sinh}2(p+q)t - (p+q)\text{Sinh}2(p-q)t + 6p\text{Sinh}2qt - 6q\text{Sinh}2pt}{pq(p-q)} \right] & pq(p-q) \neq 0; \\ \left[ \frac{2\text{Sinh}2qt - 4qt\text{Cosh}2qt - 12qt + 6\text{Sinh}2qt}{-q^2} \right] & p = 0, q \neq 0; \\ \left[ \frac{2\text{Sinh}2pt - 4pt\text{Cosh}2pt - 12pt + 6\text{Sinh}2pt}{-p^2} \right] & p \neq 0, q = 0; \\ \left[ \frac{\text{Sinh}4qt - 4qt + 6\text{Sinh}2qt - 12qt\text{Cosh}2qt}{q^2} \right] & p = q \neq 0; \\ 0 & p = q = 0; \end{cases} \tag{8}$$

*Proof.* Let Stolarsky's extended family type means  $N = N_{p,q}(a, b; r, s)$  for  $pq(q-p) \neq 0$  is defined as;

$$N = N_{p,q}(a, b; r, s) = \left[ \frac{p^2}{q^2} \left( \frac{ra^p + sb^p}{ra^q + sb^q} \right) \left( \frac{a^q - b^q}{a^p - b^p} \right)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{q-p}} \quad (9)$$

Let  $r = s$ .

Taking logarithm on both sides, differentiate partially with respect to  $a$ , multiply by  $a$  and on rearranging leads to

$$a \frac{\partial N}{\partial a} = \frac{N}{p-q} \left[ \frac{qa^q}{a^q + b^q} - \frac{pa^p}{a^p + b^p} + 2 \frac{pa^p}{a^p - b^p} - 2 \frac{qa^q}{a^q - b^q} \right]. \quad (10)$$

Similarly,

$$b \frac{\partial N}{\partial b} = \frac{N}{p-q} \left[ \frac{qb^q}{a^q + b^q} - \frac{pb^p}{a^p + b^p} + 2 \frac{pb^p}{a^p - b^p} - 2 \frac{qb^q}{a^q - b^q} \right] \quad (11)$$

then,

$$(lna - lnb) \left( a \frac{\partial N}{\partial a} - b \frac{\partial N}{\partial b} \right) = \frac{(lna - lnb)N}{p-q} [\Delta] \quad (12)$$

where,

$$\Delta = \left[ \frac{q(a^q - b^q)}{a^q + b^q} - \frac{p(a^p - b^p)}{a^p + b^p} + 2 \frac{p(a^p + b^p)}{a^p - b^p} - 2 \frac{q(a^q + b^q)}{a^q - b^q} \right].$$

Substituting  $ln\sqrt{a/b} = t$  and using  $\sinh x = \frac{1}{2}(e^x - e^{-x})$ ;  $\cosh x = \frac{1}{2}(e^x + e^{-x})$ , we have

$$\Delta = \sqrt{ab} \left[ q \frac{\sinh qt}{\cosh qt} - p \frac{\sinh pt}{\cosh pt} + 2p \frac{\cosh pt}{\sinh pt} - 2q \frac{\cosh qt}{\sinh qt} \right].$$

For  $pq(p-q) \neq 0$ , using the product into sum formula for hyperbolic functions leads to

$$(lna - lnb) \left( a \frac{\partial N}{\partial a} - b \frac{\partial N}{\partial b} \right) = \frac{(pq)N(a-b)\sqrt{ab}}{\sinh pt \sinh qt \cosh pt \cosh qt} [g_{p,q}(t)], \quad (13)$$

where

$$g_{p,q}(t) =$$



$$\left[ \frac{(p-q)\text{Sinhp}2(p+q)t - (p+q)\text{Sinhp}2(p-q)t + 6p\text{Sinh}2qt - 6q\text{Sinh}2pt}{pq(p-q)} \right]. \quad (14)$$

In case of  $p \neq q = 0$ . Since  $N_{p,q} \in C^\infty$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial N_{p,0}}{\partial a} &= \lim_{q \rightarrow 0} \frac{\partial N_{p,q}}{\partial a}, & \frac{\partial N_{p,0}}{\partial b} &= \lim_{q \rightarrow 0} \frac{\partial N_{p,q}}{\partial b}, \\ \frac{\partial N_{p,p}}{\partial a} &= \lim_{q \rightarrow p} \frac{\partial N_{p,q}}{\partial a}, & \frac{\partial N_{p,p}}{\partial b} &= \lim_{q \rightarrow p} \frac{\partial N_{p,q}}{\partial b}, \\ \frac{\partial N_{0,0}}{\partial a} &= \lim_{p \rightarrow 0} \frac{\partial N_{p,q}}{\partial a}, & \frac{\partial N_{0,0}}{\partial b} &= \lim_{p \rightarrow 0} \frac{\partial N_{p,q}}{\partial b}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} (\ln a - \ln b) \left( a \frac{\partial N_{p,0}}{\partial a} - b \frac{\partial N_{p,0}}{\partial b} \right) &= \lim_{q \rightarrow 0} \left[ (\ln a - \ln b) \left( a \frac{\partial N_{p,q}}{\partial a} - b \frac{\partial N_{p,q}}{\partial b} \right) \right] \\ &= \lim_{q \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{(pq)N_{p,q}(a-b)\sqrt{ab}}{\text{SinhptSinhqtCoshptCoshqt}} [g_{p,q}(t)] \right) = \frac{(p)N_{p,0}(a-b)\sqrt{ab}}{t\text{SinhptCoshpt}} [g_{p,0}(t)]. \end{aligned}$$

Likewise for  $q \neq p = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} (\ln a - \ln b) \left( a \frac{\partial N_{0,q}}{\partial a} - b \frac{\partial N_{0,q}}{\partial b} \right) &= \lim_{p \rightarrow 0} \left[ (\ln a - \ln b) \left( a \frac{\partial N_{p,q}}{\partial a} - b \frac{\partial N_{p,q}}{\partial b} \right) \right] \\ &= \lim_{p \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{(pq)N_{p,q}(a-b)\sqrt{ab}}{\text{SinhptSinhqtCoshptCoshqt}} [g_{p,q}(t)] \right) = \frac{(q)N_{0,q}(a-b)\sqrt{ab}}{t\text{SinhqtCoshqt}} [g_{0,q}(t)]. \end{aligned}$$

For  $q = p \neq 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} (\ln a - \ln b) \left( a \frac{\partial N_{p,p}}{\partial a} - b \frac{\partial N_{p,p}}{\partial b} \right) &= \lim_{q \rightarrow p} \left( \frac{(pq)N_{p,q}(a-b)\sqrt{ab}}{\text{Sinh}^2pt\text{Cosh}^2pt} [g_{p,q}(t)] \right) \\ &= \frac{p^2 N_{p,p}(a-b)\sqrt{ab}}{\text{SinhptCoshpt}} [g_{p,p}(t)]. \end{aligned}$$

For  $q = p = 0$ :

$$(\ln a - \ln b) \left( a \frac{\partial N_{0,0}}{\partial a} - b \frac{\partial N_{0,0}}{\partial b} \right) = \lim_{p \rightarrow 0} \left( a \frac{(pq)N_{p,p}(a-b)\sqrt{ab}}{\text{Sinh}^2pt\text{Cosh}^2pt} [g_{p,p}(t)] \right)$$

$$= \frac{N_{0,0}(a-b)\sqrt{ab}}{t^2} [g_{0,0}(t)].$$

By summarizing all cases above yield;

$$(lna - lnb) \left( a \frac{\partial N}{\partial a} - b \frac{\partial N}{\partial b} \right) = \begin{cases} \frac{pqN(a-b)\sqrt{ab}}{SinhptSinhqtCoshptCoshqt} [g_{p,q}(t)] & pq(p-q) \neq 0; \\ \frac{(q)N_{0,q}(a-b)\sqrt{ab}}{2tSinhqtCoshqt} [g_{0,q}(t)] & p = 0, q \neq 0; \\ \frac{pN_{p,0}(a-b)\sqrt{ab}}{2tSinhptCoshpt} [g_{p,0}(t)] & p \neq 0, q = 0; \\ \frac{2p^2N_{p,p}(a-b)\sqrt{ab}}{2SinhptCoshpt} [g_{p,p}(t)] & p = q \neq 0; \\ \frac{N_{0,0}(a-b)\sqrt{ab}}{2t^2} [g_{0,0}(t)] & p = q = 0. \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

Since  $(lna - lnb) \left( a \frac{\partial N}{\partial a} - b \frac{\partial N}{\partial b} \right)$  is symmetric with respect to  $a$  and  $b$ , without loss of generality we assume  $a > b$ , then  $t = \ln\sqrt{a/b} > 0$ . It is easy to verify that  $\frac{N(a-b)\sqrt{ab}}{2} > 0$ ,  $\frac{p}{sinhpt} > 0$ ,  $\frac{q}{sinhqt} > 0$  if  $pq \neq 0$  for  $t > 0$ . Thus by Lemma 2.1 Stolarsky means  $N_{p,q}(a, b)$  are Schur-geometric convex (Schur-geometric concave) with respect to  $(a, b) \in (0, \infty) \times (0, \infty)$  if and only if  $(lna - lnb) \left( a \frac{\partial N}{\partial a} - b \frac{\partial N}{\partial b} \right) (\geq)(\leq)0$ , if and only if  $g(t) = g_{p,q}(t)(\geq)(\leq)0$  for all  $t > 0$ .

This completes the proof of Lemma 3.1.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.2.** *The function  $g(t) = g_{p,q}(t)$  defined by (3.1) and  $g'(t) = \frac{\partial g_{p,q}(t)}{\partial t}$  both are symmetric with respect to  $p$  and  $q$ , and both continuous with respect to  $p$  and  $q$  on  $R \times R$ .*

*Proof.* It is easy to check that  $g_{p,q}(t)$  and  $\frac{\partial g_{p,q}(t)}{\partial t}$  are symmetric with respect to  $p$  and  $q$ . That is  $\frac{\partial g_{p,q}(t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial g_{q,p}(t)}{\partial t}$ .

By Lemma 3.1, we note that  $g(t) = g_{p,q}(t)$  is continuous with respect to  $(p, q)$  on  $R \times R$ . Finally, we prove that  $g'(t) = \frac{\partial g_{p,q}(t)}{\partial t}$  is also continuous with respect to  $(p, q)$  on  $R \times R$ .

Simple calculations yield the following cases.

Case (i) For  $pq(p-q) \neq 0$

$$g'(t) = \frac{\partial g_{p,q}(t)}{\partial t}$$

$$= \frac{2(p-q)(p+q)(\text{Cosh}2(p+q)t - \text{Cosh}2(p-q)t) + 12pq(\text{Cosh}2qt - \text{Cosh}2pt)}{pq(p-q)}.$$

Case (ii) For  $p = 0, q \neq 0$

$$g'(t) = \frac{\partial g_{p,q}(t)}{\partial t} = \frac{4q\text{Cosh}4qt - 4q - 24q^2t\text{Sinh}2qt}{q^2}$$

Case (iii) For  $q = 0, p \neq 0$

$$g'(t) = \frac{\partial g_{p,q}(t)}{\partial t} = \frac{4p\text{Cosh}4pt - 4p - 24p^2t\text{Sinh}2pt}{p^2}.$$

Case (iv) For  $p = q \neq 0$

$$g'(t) = \frac{\partial g_{p,q}(t)}{\partial t} = \frac{-8q^2t\text{Sinh}2qt - 12q + 12q\text{Cosh}2qt}{-q^2}.$$

Case (v) For  $p = q = 0$

$$g'(t) = \frac{\partial g_{p,q}(t)}{\partial t} = 0.$$

It is obvious that  $\frac{\partial g_{p,q}(t)}{\partial t}$  is continuous with respect to  $(p, q)$  on  $R \times R$ , with  $pq(p-q) \neq 0$ . Further, we have

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow 0} \frac{\partial g_{p,q}(t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial g_{p,0}(t)}{\partial t}; \quad \lim_{p \rightarrow 0} \frac{\partial g_{p,q}(t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial g_{0,q}(t)}{\partial t};$$

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow p} \frac{\partial g_{p,q}(t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial g_{p,p}(t)}{\partial t}; \quad \lim_{p \rightarrow 0} \frac{\partial g_{p,p}(t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial g_{0,0}(t)}{\partial t}.$$

Hence,  $g'(t)$  is continuous for all  $(p, q) \in R \times R$ . □

This completes the proof of Lemma 3.2.

**Lemma 3.3.**  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0, t > 0} \frac{g_{p,q}(t)}{t^3} = \frac{-8}{3}(p+q).$

*Proof.* It is easy to check that first and second derivatives of  $g(t) = 0$ , at  $t = 0$ . In the case of  $p q (p - q) \neq 0$ . Applying L-Hospital's rule (three times) yield;

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0, t > 0} \frac{g_{p,q}(t)}{t^3} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0, t > 0} \frac{g'_{p,q}(t)}{3t^2} = \dots = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0, t > 0} \frac{g'''_{p,q}(t)}{6} = \frac{-8(p+q)}{3}.$$

Similarly,  $p = 0, q \neq 0$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0, t > 0} \frac{g_{0,q}(t)}{t^3} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0, t > 0} \frac{g'_{0,q}(t)}{3t^2} = \dots = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0, t > 0} \frac{g'''_{0,q}(t)}{6} = \frac{-8q}{3}$$

for  $q = 0, p \neq 0$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0, t > 0} \frac{g_{p,0}(t)}{t^3} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0, t > 0} \frac{g'_{p,0}(t)}{3t^2} = \dots = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0, t > 0} \frac{g'''_{p,0}(t)}{6} = \frac{-8p}{3}$$

for  $p = q \neq 0$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0, t > 0} \frac{g_{p,p}(t)}{t^3} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0, t > 0} \frac{g'_{p,p}(t)}{3t^2} = \dots = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0, t > 0} \frac{g'''_{p,p}(t)}{6} = \frac{-16p}{3}.$$

for  $p = q = 0$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0, t > 0} \frac{g_{0,0}(t)}{t^3} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0, t > 0} \frac{g'_{0,0}(t)}{3t^2} = \dots = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0, t > 0} \frac{g'''_{0,0}(t)}{6} = 0. \quad \square$$

By summarizing the above cases, we conclude the proof of Lemma 3.3.

The proof of our main result stated below follows from the above lemmas:

**Theorem 3.1.** For fixed  $(p, q) \in R \times R$  and  $r = s$ ,

1. Stolarsky's extended family type means  $N_{p,q}(a, b; r, s)$  are Schur-geometric convex with respect to  $(a, b)$  if  $\frac{-8(p+q)}{3} \leq 0$ .
2. Stolarsky's extended family type means  $N_{p,q}(a, b; r, s)$  are Schur-geometric concave if  $\frac{-8(p+q)}{3} \geq 0$ .

#### 4. Conclusion

In the case when  $r \neq s$ , the convexity and concavity of Stolarsky's extended family type means  $N_{p,q}(a, b; r, s)$  is an open problem.

#### Acknowledgments

The authors acknowledge anonymous referees for their careful reading of the manuscript and their fruitful comments and suggestions.

#### References

- [1] P.S. Bullen, *Handbook of means and their inequalities*, Kluwer Acad. Publ., Dordrecht, (2003).
- [2] Y.M. Chu, X.M. Zhang and G.D. Wang, The Schur geometrical convexity of the extended mean values, *J. Convex. Anal.*, **15** 4 (2008), 707-718.
- [3] Y.M. Chu and X.M. Zhang, Necessary and sufficient conditions such that extended mean values are Schur-convex or Schur-concave, *J. Math. Kyoto Univ.* **48** 1 (2008), 229-238.
- [4] Y.M. Chu and Y.P. Lv, The Schur harmonic convexity of the Hamy symmetric function and its applications, *J. Inequal. Appl.* (2009), 10, doi: 10.1155/2009/838529.
- [5] G.H. Hardy, J.E. Littlewood and G. Plya, Some simple inequalities satisfied by convex functions, *Messenger Math.* **58** (1929), 145-152.
- [6] E.B. Leach and M.C. Sholander, Extended mean values II, *J. Math. Anal. Appl.*, **92** (1983), 207-223.
- [7] D.M. Li and H.N. Shi, Schur convexity and Schur-geometrically concavity of generalized exponent mean, *J. Math. Inequal.* **3** 2 (2009), 217-225.
- [8] V. Loksha, S. Padmanabhan, K.M. Nagaraja and Y. Simsek, Relation between Greek means and various other means, *General Mathematics*, **17** 3 (2009), 3-13.
- [9] V. Loksha, K.M. Nagaraja, B.N. Kumar and S. Padmanabhan, Oscillatory type mean in Greek means, *Int. e-Journal of Engg. Maths Theory and Applications*, **9** 3 (2010), 18-26.
- [10] A.W. Marshall and I. Olkin, *Inequalities: Theorey of Majorization and Its Applications*, New York, Academic Press (1979).
- [11] K.M. Nagaraja, K. Murali and V. Loksha, Schur convexity and concavity of Gnan mean, *Proceedings of the Jangjeon Math. Society* **17** 3 (2014), 355-367.
- [12] K.M. Nagaraja and S.K. Sahu, Schur Geometric convexity of Gnan mean for two variables, *Journal of the International Mathematical Virtual Institute* **3** (2013), 39-59.
- [13] K.M. Nagaraja, P.S.K. Reddy and K. Sridevi, Schur Harmonic convexity of Gnan mean for two variables, *Journal of the International Mathematical Virtual Institute* **3** (2013), 61-80.

- [14] K.M. Nagaraja, P.S.K. Reddy and B. Naveenkumar, Refinement of Inequality involving ratio of Means for four Positive Arguments, *Bulletin of International Mathematical Virtual Institute* **3** (2013), 135-138.
- [15] K.M. Nagaraja, V. Lokesha and S. Padmanabhan, A simple proof on strengthening and extension of inequalities, *Advn. Stud. Contemp. Math.*, **17** 1 (2008), 97-103.
- [16] F. Qi, J. Sandor and S.S. Dragomir, Notes on the Schur-convexity of the extended mean values, *Taiwanese J. Math.*, **9** 3 (2005), 411-420.
- [17] F. Qi, A note on Schur-convexity of extended mean values, *Rocky Mountain J. Math.* **35** 5 (2005), 1787-1793.
- [18] H.N. Shi, S.H. Wu and F. Qi, An alternative note on the Schur-convexity of the extended mean values, *Math. Inequal. Appl.* **9** 2 (2006), 219-224.
- [19] S. Simic, An extension of Stolarsky means, *Novi Sad J. Math.* **38** 3 (2008), 81-89.
- [20] S. Simic, On weighted Stolarsky means, *Sarajevo Journal of Mathematics* **7** 19 (2011), 3-9.
- [21] K.B. Stolarsky, Generalizations of the Logarithmic Mean, *Math. Mag.* **48** (1975), 87-92.
- [22] K.B. Stolarsky, The power and generalized Logarithmic Means, *Amer.Math. Monthly* **87** (1980), 545-548.
- [23] Zh.H. Yang, On the homogeneous functions with two parameters and its monotonicity, *J. Inequal. Pure Appl. Math.* **6** (2005).
- [24] X.M. Zhang, Geometrically Convex Functions, Hefei, *An. hui University Press* (2004) (Chinese).
- [25] Zhen-Hang Yang, Necessary and Suffcient Condition for Schur Convexity of the Two-Parameter Symmetric Homogeneous Means, *Applied Mathematical Sciences* **5** 64 (2011), 3183 - 3190.