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**ON COMPARABLE MEANS** 

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# ON COMPARABLE MEANS

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1. Let  $-\infty < a < b < \infty$ , and let  $\emptyset$  denote the set of all functions, continuous and strictly monotone in [a, b]. For every  $\varphi \in \emptyset$ , every positive integer n, every  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  of [a, b], and every positive  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n$  with  $\sum_{\nu=1}^n q_{\nu} = 1$ , we consider the mean

 $M_{\varphi}(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n \mid q_1, q_2, \cdots, q_n) = \varphi^{-1}(\sum_{\nu=1}^n q_{\nu} \varphi(x_{\nu}))$ .

Let  $\psi$  and  $\chi$  be elements of  $\varphi$ . We write

if and only if the inequality  $M_{\psi}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \mid q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n) \leq M_{\chi}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \mid q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n)$  holds for every  $n \geq 1$ , every  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  of [a, b], and every positive  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n$  with  $\sum_{\nu=1}^n q_{\nu} = 1$ .

A well-known necessary and sufficient condition for (1) to hold is that  $\chi(\psi^{-1}(x))$  be convex in  $[\psi(a), \psi(b)]$  (or  $[\psi(b), \psi(a)]$ ) if  $\chi$  is increasing, and that  $\chi(\psi^{-1}(x))$  be concave there if  $\chi$  is decreasing.

It is not difficult to see that (1) holds if and only if  $M_{\psi}(x_1, x_2 | q_1, q_2) \leq M_{\chi}(x_1, x_2 | q_1, q_2)$  for every  $x_1, x_2$  of [a, b] and every positive  $q_1, q_2$  with  $q_1 + q_2 = 1$ , which in turn holds if and only if  $M_{\psi}(x_1, x_2 | 1/2, 1/2) \leq M_{\chi}(x_1, x_2 | 1/2, 1/2)$  for every  $x_1, x_2$  of [a, b].

Similarly, we write

(2) 
$$M_{\psi} < M_{\chi}$$

if and only if the inequality

$$M_{\psi}(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n \,|\, q_1, q_2 \cdots, q_n) < M_{\chi}(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n \,|\, q_1, q_2 \cdots, q_n)$$

holds for every  $n \geq 2$ , every  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  (not all equal) of [a, b], and every positive  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n$  with  $\sum_{\nu=1}^n q_\nu = 1$ . A necessary and sufficient condition for (2) to hold is that  $\chi(\psi^{-1}(x))$  be strictly convex in  $[\psi(a), \psi(b)]$  (or  $[\psi(b), \psi(a)]$ ) if  $\chi$  is increasing, and that  $\chi(\psi^{-1}(x))$  be strictly concave there if  $\chi$  is decreasing. Also, (2) holds if and only if  $M_{\psi}(x_1, x_2 | q_1, q_2) < M_{\chi}(x_1, x_2 | q_1, q_2)$  for every  $x_1, x_2 (\neq x_1)$  of [a, b] and every positive  $q_1, q_2$  with  $q_1 + q_2 = 1$ , which in turn holds if and only if  $M_{\psi}(x_1, x_2 | 1/2, 1/2) < M_{\chi}(x_1, x_2 | 1/2, 1/2)$  for every  $x_1$  and  $x_2 (\neq x_1)$  of [a, b].

2. In this paper we give simple criteria for the validity of (1)

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and of (2), and then we give a few applications.

THEOREM 1. Let  $\psi$  and  $\chi$  be elements of  $\varphi$  differentiable in (a, b), and let  $\psi' \neq 0$  there. A necessary and sufficient condition for (1) to hold is that  $\chi'/\psi'$  be nondecreasing in (a, b) if  $\psi$  and  $\chi$  are monotone in the same sense, and that  $\chi'/\psi'$  be nonincreasing there if  $\psi$  and  $\chi$ are monotone in opposite senses.

*Proof.* Consider the function  $u(x) \equiv \chi(\psi^{-1}(x))$ . Let J denote the open interval joining  $\psi(a)$  to  $\psi(b)$ , and let  $\overline{J}$  be the closure of J. For every  $\xi \in J$ , we have

(3) 
$$u'(\xi) = \chi'(\psi^{-1}(\xi))/\psi'(\psi^{-1}(\xi))$$
.

Suppose that  $\psi$  and  $\chi$  are monotone in the same sense. Then (1) holds if and only if u(x) is convex in  $\overline{J}$  in case  $\chi$  increases, and if and only if u(x) is concave there in case  $\chi$  decreases. So (1) holds if and only if u'(x) is nondecreasing in J in case  $\psi$  increases, and if and only if u'(x) is nonincreasing there in case  $\psi$  decreases. From this, with the aid of (3), one easily infers that (1) is equivalent to  $\chi'/\psi'$  being nondecreasing in (a, b). Similarly one shows that (1) is equivalent to  $\chi'/\psi'$  being nonincreasing in (a, b), if  $\psi$  and  $\chi$  are monotone in opposite senses.

One can modify Theorem 1 by replacing in it (1) by (2), "nondecreasing" by "strictly increasing," and "nonincreasing" by "strictly decreasing."

3. Given a function  $\psi$ , one may construct by means of Riemann-Stieltjes integrals functions  $\chi$  such that  $M_{\psi} \leq M_{\chi}$ . In fact, we have the following

THEOREM 2. Let  $\psi$  be a real function, continuous in [a, b] and differentiable in (a, b). Let m(x) be nondecreasing or nonincreasing in [a, b], continuous in (a, b), and suppose  $m(x)\psi'(x) \neq 0$  throughout (a, b). Let C be a real constant, and for every  $x \in [a, b]$  let

$$\chi(x) = C + \int_a^x m(t) d\psi(t)$$
.

Then  $\psi$  and  $\chi$  belong to  $\varphi$ . If m(x) is positive in (a, b) and nondecreasing in [a, b], or negative in (a, b) and nonincreasing in [a, b], then  $M_{\psi} \leq M_{\chi}$ . Otherwise,  $M_{\chi} \leq M_{\psi}$ .

*Proof.* Since  $\psi' \neq 0$  in (a, b), by a well known property of the derivative,  $\psi'$  is either positive throughout (a, b), or negative through-

out (a, b). Thus  $\psi$  is strictly monotone in [a, b]. Also, by well-known properties of the Riemann-Stieltjes integral,  $\chi$  is continuous in [a, b], and  $\chi'(x) = m(x)\psi'(x)$  throughout (a, b) (and so  $\chi$  is strictly monotone in [a, b]). If m(x) is positive in (a, b) and nondecreasing in [a, b], then  $\psi$  and  $\chi$  are monotone in the same sense in [a, b],  $\chi'/\psi'$  is nondecreasing in (a, b), and hence by Theorem 1,  $M_{\psi} \leq M_{\chi}$ . Similarly the rest of Theorem 2 follows.

Theorem 2 can be modified by replacing in it "nondecreasing" by "strictly increasing," "nonincreasing" by "strictly decreasing," " $M_{\psi} \leq M_{\chi}$ " by " $M_{\psi} < M_{\chi}$ ," and " $M_{\chi} \leq M_{\psi}$ " by " $M_{\chi} < M_{\psi}$ ."

## 4. A converse of Theorem 2 is the following

THEOREM 3. Let  $\psi$  and  $\chi$  be elements of  $\Phi$  differentiable in (a, b), and suppose  $\psi' \neq 0$  there. Suppose, furthermore, that  $M_{\psi} \leq M_{\chi}$ . Then there exists a function m(x), nondecreasing in (a, b) if  $\psi$  and  $\chi$  are monotone in the same sense, and nonincreasing there if  $\psi$  and  $\chi$  are monotone in opposite senses, such that throughout [a, b]

(4) 
$$\chi(x) = \chi(a) + \int_a^x m(t)\psi'(t)dt$$
 (a Lebesgue integral).

*Proof.* For every  $x \in (a, b)$ , let  $m(x) = \chi'(x)/\psi'(x)$ . By Theorem 1, m(x) has the monotonicity property steated in Theorem 3. Now for every  $x \in [a, b]$ 

$$\chi(x) - \chi(a) = \int_a^x \chi'(t) dt = \int_a^x m(t) \psi'(t) dt$$

(cf. [5], Theorems 269 (p. 188) and 264 (p. 183)),

REMARK. Observe that the integral in (4) can be written, under appropriate conditions, as a Riemman-Stieltjes integral:  $\int_{a}^{x} m(t) d\psi(t)$ . [Cf. loc. cit, Theorem 322.1 (p. 254), and 322 (p. 253)].

Theorem 3 remains valid if we replace in it " $M_{\psi} \leq M_{\chi}$ " by " $M_{\psi} < M_{\chi}$ ," "nondecreasing" by "strictly increasing," and "nonincreasing" by "strictly decreasing."

5. It is known that if the end-point a is positive and r < s,  $rs \neq 0$ , then  $M_{x^r} < M_{x^s}$ , and  $M_{x^{-|r|}} < M_{\log x} < M_{x^{|r|}}$ . Consequently, if a > 0 then for every real  $r \ (\neq 0, 1)$ ,  $M_{(x^r)'} < M_{x^r}$ , and  $M_{(\log x)'} < M_{\log x}$ . The question thus arises: Under what conditions on a function  $\varphi$  does one have  $M_{\varphi'} < M_{\varphi}$  (or  $M_{\varphi'} \leq M_{\varphi}$ )?

THEOREM 4. A necessary and sufficient condition for a real

function  $\varphi$  to fulfill the conditions  $(\alpha)-(\gamma)$  below is that  $\varphi(x)$  should be (throughout [a, b]) of one of the forms  $A + \int_a^x \exp C(t)dt$ ,  $A - \int_a^x \exp C(t)dt$ ,  $A + \int_a^x \exp \{-C(t)\}dt$ ,  $A - \int_a^x \exp \{-C(t)\}dt$ , where A is a real number, and C(t) is a function, continuous and convex in [a, b], differentiable in (a, b), and satisfying there C'(x) < 0.

( $\alpha$ )  $\varphi$  is twice differentiable in (a, b),  $\varphi'(a)$  and  $\varphi'(b)$  exist as right and left hand derivatives, respectively,  $\varphi'(a)\varphi'(b) \neq 0$ , and  $\varphi'$  is continuous in [a, b].

( $\beta$ )  $\varphi'\varphi'' \neq 0$  throughout (a, b) (and hence  $\varphi$  and  $\varphi'$  are strictly monotone in [a, b]).

 $(\gamma) \quad M_{\varphi'} \leq M_{\varphi}.$ 

Proof.

Necessity. By Theorem 1,  $\varphi'/\varphi''$  is either positive and nondecreasing in (a, b), or negative and nonincreasing there. Thus,  $\varphi''/\varphi'$  is either positive and nonincreasing in (a, b), or negative and nondecreasing there. In the first case we set  $C(x) = -\log |\varphi'(x)|$  (in [a, b]). Then C(x) is continuous in [a, b] and C'(x) < 0 in (a, b). Also C'(x) is nondecreasing in (a, b), and, therefore, C(x) is convex in [a, b]. Either for every  $x \in [a, b]$ ,  $\varphi(x) = \varphi(a) + \int_a^x \exp \{-C(t)\} dt$ , or for every  $x \in [a, b]$ ,  $\varphi(x) = \log |\varphi'(x)|$  (in [a, b]). Then C(x) is continuous in [a, b]. C'(x) < 0 in (a, b), and, again, C(x) is convex in [a, b]. Either for every  $x \in [a, b]$ ,  $\varphi(x) = \varphi(a) + \int_a^x \exp C(t) dt$ , of for every  $x \in [a, b]$ ,  $\varphi(x) = \varphi(a) - \int_a^x \exp C(t) dt$ , of for every  $x \in [a, b]$ ,  $\varphi(x) = \varphi(a) - \int_a^x \exp C(t) dt$ , of for every  $x \in [a, b]$ ,  $\varphi(x) = \varphi(a) - \int_a^x \exp C(t) dt$ .

Sufficiency. ( $\alpha$ ) and ( $\beta$ ) clearly hold. Also, by the convexity of C(t), C'(t) is nondecreasing in (a, b). Now, either throughout (a, b),  $\varphi'/\varphi'' = \{C'(t)\}^{-1}$ , or throughout (a, b),  $\varphi'/\varphi'' = -\{C'(t)\}^{-1}$ . In the first case,  $\varphi'$  and  $\varphi$  are monotone in opposite senses, and  $\varphi'/\varphi''$  is non-increasing in (a, b). In the second case,  $\varphi'$  and  $\varphi$  are monotone in the same sense, and  $\varphi'/\varphi''$  is nondecreasing in (a, b). In either case, by Theorem 1,  $M_{\varphi'} \leq M_{\varphi}$ .

Theorem 4 can be modified by replacing in it "convex" by "strictly convex," and " $M_{\varphi'} \leq M_{\varphi}$ " by " $M_{\varphi'} < M_{\varphi}$ ."

THEOREM 5. Let  $\varphi$  be strictly monotone in [a, b] and three-times differentiable in (a, b). Let  $\varphi'$  be continuous in [a, b] (where  $\varphi'(a)$ 

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and  $\varphi'(b)$  are right and left hand derivatives, respectively). Let  $\varphi'' \neq 0$  throughout (a, b). A necessary and sufficient condition for  $M_{\varphi'} \leq M_{\varphi}$  to hold is that  $\varphi''^2 \geq \varphi' \varphi'''$  throughout (a, b) if  $\varphi'$  and  $\varphi$  are monotone in the same sense, and that  $\varphi''^2 \leq \varphi' \varphi'''$  throughout (a, b) if  $\varphi'$  and  $\varphi$  are monotone in opposite senses.

Theorem 5 follows easily from Theorem 1 by considering the derivative of  $\varphi'/\varphi''$ .

Similarly, under the hypotheses of Theorem 5,  $M_{\varphi'} < M_{\varphi}$  holds, if  $\varphi''^2 > \varphi' \varphi'''$  throughout (a, b) and  $\varphi$  and  $\varphi'$  are monotone in the same sense, and also if  $\varphi''^2 < \varphi' \varphi'''$  throughout (a, b) and  $\varphi$  and  $\varphi'$  are monotone in opposite senses.

As an example, let a = 0,  $b = \pi/2$ ,  $\varphi(x) \equiv \cos x$ .  $\varphi$  and  $\varphi'$  are monotone in the same sense in  $[0, \pi/2]$ , and  $\varphi''^2 = \cos^2 x > -\sin^2 x = \varphi'\varphi'''$  throughout  $(0, \pi/2)$ . Therefore,  $M_{-\sin x} < M_{\cos x}$ , i.e.,  $M_{\sin x} < M_{\cos x}$ .

6. In a previous paper [3] the authors studied, for given positive  $q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n$  (with  $\sum_{\nu=1}^n q_{\nu} = 1$ ), the ratio

$$(5) \begin{cases} F(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \\ = M_{\chi}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \mid q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n) / M_{\psi}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \mid q_1, q_2, \dots, q_n) \end{cases}$$

where 0 < a,  $\psi(x) \equiv x^r$ ,  $\chi(x) \equiv x^s$   $(r < s, rs \neq 0)$ .

Their purpose was to find an upper bound for F in

$$I = \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n): a \leq x_k \leq b, k = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$$
.

A crucial step was to show that if  $X^*$  is a point of I such that  $F(X^*) = \max \{F(X) : X \in I\}$ , then  $X^*$  is necessarily a vertex of I. In particular,  $X^*$  cannot be an interior point of I. This last property holds under quite general conditions:

THEOREM 6. Let  $\psi$  and  $\chi$  be elements of  $\Phi$ , differentiable in (a, b), and satisfying  $\psi'\chi' \neq 0$  there. Assume  $0 \notin [a, b]$ ,  $M_{\psi} < M_{\chi}$ . Let  $q_1, \dots, q_n$  (n > 1) be given positive numbers with  $\sum_{\nu=1}^n q_{\nu} = 1$ , and let I be as in the last paragraph. Let F of (5) attain its maximum in I at a point  $X^* = (x_1^*, \dots, x_n^*)$  of I. Then  $X^*$  is not an interior point of I.

*Proof.* Suppose that some  $x_j^*$  satisfies  $a < x_j^* < b$ . Then  $(\partial F/\partial x_j)_{x_j=x_j^*, j=1, 2, \cdots, n} = 0$ , i.e.,

$$egin{split} &\left[\psi^{-1}\Bigl(\sum\limits_{
u=1}^n q_
u\psi(x^*_
u)
ight)
ight]^{-2}&\left[q_j\chi'(x^*_j)\psi^{-1}\Bigl(\sum\limits_{
u=1}^n q_
u\psi(x^*_
u)
ight)\middle/\chi'\Bigl(\chi^{-1}\Bigl(\sum\limits_{
u=1}^n q_
u\chi(x^*_
u)
ight)ig)\ &-q_j\psi'(x^*_j)\chi^{-1}\Bigl(\sum\limits_{
u=1}^n q_
u\chi(x^*_
u)
ight)ig/\psi'\Bigl(\psi^{-1}\Bigl(\sum\limits_{
u=1}^n q_
u\psi(x^*_
u)
ight)ig)
ight]=0\;. \end{split}$$

Thus

$$\chi'(x_j^*)/\psi'(x_j^*) = \left[\chi^{-1}\Bigl(\sum\limits_{
u=1}^n q_
u\chi(x_
u^*)\Bigr)\chi'\Bigl(\chi^{-1}\Bigl(\sum\limits_{
u=1}^n q_
u\chi(x_
u^*)\Bigr)\Bigr)
ight] 
onumber \ imes \left[\psi^{-1}\Bigl(\sum\limits_{
u=1}^n q_
u\psi(x_
u^*)\Bigr)\psi'\Bigl(\psi^{-1}\Bigl(\sum\limits_{
u=1}^n q_
u\psi(x_
u^*)\Bigr)\Bigr)
ight].$$

Let C denote the right hand side of the last equality. If both  $x_j^*$  and  $x_k^*$  are interior points of [a, b], then  $\chi'(x_j^*)/\psi'(x_j^*) = C = \chi'(x_k^*)/\psi'(x_k^*)$ , and hence, by the strict monotonicity of  $\chi'/\psi'$  [see the end of § 2],  $x_j^* = x_k^*$ . Thus, if  $X^*$  were an interior point of I, we would have  $x_1^* = x_2^* = \cdots = x_n^*$ , and therefore

$$1 = F(x_1^*, x_2^*, \dots, x_n^*) = \max \{F(X) : X \in I\} > 1$$
.

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