MORE SUPPLEMENTS TO A CLASS OF LOGARITHMICALLY COMPLETELY MONOTONIC FUNCTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE GAMMA FUNCTION

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Abstract. In this article, a necessary and sufficient condition and a necessary condition are established for a function involving the gamma function to be logarithmically completely monotonic on $(0, \infty)$. As applications of the necessary and sufficient condition, some inequalities for bounding the psi and polygamma functions and the ratio of two gamma functions are derived.

This is a continuator of the paper [12].

1. Introduction

Recall [3, 23] that a positive function $f$ is said to be logarithmically completely monotonic on an interval $I$ if $f$ has derivatives of all orders on $I$ and

$$(-1)^n[\ln f(x)]^{(n)} \geq 0. \quad (1)$$

This kind of functions has very closer relationships with the Laplace transforms, Stieltjes transforms and infinitely divisible completely monotonic functions. For more detailed information, please refer to [4, 8, 11, 12, 20, 21, 24] and related references therein.

It is well-known that the classical Euler gamma function is defined for $x > 0$ by

$$\Gamma(z) = \int_0^\infty t^{x-1}e^{-t}dt. \quad (2)$$

The logarithmic derivative of $\Gamma(z)$, denoted by $\psi(z) = \frac{\Gamma'(z)}{\Gamma(z)}$, is called the psi function, and $\psi^{(k)}$ for $k \in \mathbb{N}$ are called the polygamma functions.

For $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\beta \geq 0$, define

$$f_{\alpha,\beta,\pm1}(x) = \left[\frac{e^{\pm\Gamma(x+\beta)}}{x^{x+\beta-\alpha}}\right]^{\pm1}, \quad x \in (0, \infty). \quad (3)$$

The investigation of the function $f_{\alpha,\beta,\pm1}(x)$ has a long history. In what follows, we would like to give a short survey in the literature.

In [15, Theorem 1], for showing

$$\frac{b^{b-1}}{a^{a-1}}e^{a-b} < \frac{\Gamma(b)}{\Gamma(a)} < \frac{b^{b-1/2}}{a^{a-1/2}}e^{a-b} \quad (4)$$

for $b > a > 1$, monotonic properties of the functions $\ln f_{\alpha,0,+1}(x)$ and $\ln f_{\alpha,0,+1}(x)$ on $(1, \infty)$ were obtained.

In [17, Theorem 2.1], the function $f_{\alpha,0,+1}(x)$ for $\alpha \leq 1$ was proved to be logarithmically completely monotonic on $(0, \infty)$. In [13, Theorem 2.1], the functions

2000 Mathematics Subject Classification. Primary 33B15, 26A48, 26A51; Secondary 26D20, 65R10.

Key words and phrases. Necessary and sufficient condition, logarithmically completely monotonic function, inequality, ratio, gamma function, psi function, polygamma function, application.

The second author was supported partially by the China Scholarship Council.

This paper was typeset using \texttt{AMSTeX}.
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If the function

Theorem 1.

Remark 1] from the functions

Moreover, the function

In [2, Theorem 3.2], it was recovered that the function

In [1, p. 376, Theorem 2], it was presented that the function

Recently, some new conclusions on logarithmically completely monotonic properties of the function

The main results of this paper are as follows.

In this paper, for continuing the work in the paper [12], we consider logarithmic-

The necessary and sufficient conditions for the functions

and

to be logarithmically completely monotonic on

and

and mentioned above, were recovered in [5, Theorem 2]. Moreover, the function

was proved in [5, Theorem 1] to be logarithmically completely monotonic on

if 2α ≤ 1 ≤ β. Using monotonic properties of the functions

and the inequality (4) was extended in [5, Remark 1] from

b > a > 1 to

b > a > 0.

In [25], after proving once again the logarithmically completely monotonic property of the functions

and

in virtue of Jensen’s inequality for convex functions, the upper and lower bounds were established: For positive numbers

and

the inequality

holds, where the middle term in (6) is called Gurland’s ratio [16]. The left-hand
side inequality in (6) is same as the corresponding one in [16, Theorem 1], but their
upper bounds do not include each other.

As direct consequences of these monotonic properties, it is deduced immediately that if

are positive numbers with

then

(1) the inequality

for

and

(2) the inequality (16) for

holds true also if

In this paper, for continuing the work in the paper [12], we consider logarithmically
completely monotonic properties of the function

on

Theorem 1. If the function

is logarithmically completely monotonic on

then either

and

or

and

1.
Theorem 2. If \( \beta \geq \frac{1}{2} \), the necessary and sufficient condition for the function \( f_{\alpha,\beta,-1}(x) \) to be logarithmically completely monotonic on \((0, \infty)\) is \( \alpha \geq \beta \).

As the first application of Theorem 2, the following inequalities are derived by using logarithmically completely monotonic properties of the function \( f_{\alpha,\beta,\pm 1}(x) \) on \((0, \infty)\).

**Theorem 3.** Let \( \beta \) be a positive number.

1. For \( k \in \mathbb{N} \), double inequalities
   \[
   \ln x - \frac{1}{x} \leq \psi(x) \leq \ln x - \frac{1}{2x}
   \]
   and
   \[
   \frac{(k-1)!}{x^k} + \frac{k!}{2x^{k+1}} \leq (-1)^{k+1} \psi^{(k)}(x) \leq \frac{(k-1)!}{x^k} + \frac{k!}{x^{k+1}}
   \]
   hold in \((0, \infty)\).

2. When \( \beta > 0 \), inequalities
   \[
   \psi(x + \beta) \leq \ln x + \frac{\beta}{x}
   \]
   and
   \[
   (-1)^k \psi^{(k-1)}(x + \beta) \geq \frac{(k-2)!}{x^{k-1}} - \frac{\beta(k-1)!}{x^k}
   \]
   hold on \((0, \infty)\) for \( k \geq 2 \).

3. When \( \beta \geq \frac{1}{2} \), inequalities
   \[
   \psi(x + \beta) \geq \ln x \quad \text{and} \quad (-1)^k \psi^{(k-1)}(x + \beta) \leq \frac{(k-2)!}{x^{k-1}}
   \]
   hold on \((0, \infty)\) for \( k \geq 2 \).

4. When \( \beta \geq 1 \), inequalities
   \[
   \psi(x + \beta) \leq \ln x + \frac{\beta - 1/2}{x}
   \]
   and
   \[
   (-1)^k \psi^{(k-1)}(x + \beta) \geq \frac{(k-2)!}{x^{k-1}} - \frac{(\beta - 1/2)(k-1)!}{x^k}
   \]
   holds on \((0, \infty)\) for \( k \geq 2 \).

As the second application of Theorem 2, the following inequalities are derived by using logarithmically convex properties of the function \( f_{\alpha,\beta,\pm 1}(x) \) on \((0, \infty)\).

**Theorem 4.** Let \( n \in \mathbb{N}, x_k > 0 \) for \( 1 \leq k \leq n, p_k \geq 0 \) satisfying \( \sum_{k=1}^n p_k = 1 \). If either \( \beta > 0 \) and \( \alpha \leq 0 \) or \( \beta \geq 1 \) and \( \alpha \leq \frac{1}{2} \), then
\[
\frac{\prod_{k=1}^n [\Gamma(x_k + \beta)]^{p_k}}{\Gamma(\sum_{k=1}^n P_k x_k + \beta)} \geq \frac{\prod_{k=1}^n x_k^{p_k(x_k + \beta - \alpha)}}{(\sum_{k=1}^n P_k x_k)^{p_k x_k + \beta - \alpha}}.
\]
If \( \alpha \geq \beta \geq \frac{1}{2} \), then the inequality (15) reverses.

As the final application of Theorem 2, the following inequality may be derived by using the decreasingly monotonic property of the function \( f_{\alpha,\beta,-1}(x) \) on \((0, \infty)\).

**Theorem 5.** If \( \alpha \geq \beta \geq \frac{1}{2} \), then
\[
I(x, y) \leq \left[ \left( \frac{x}{y} \right)^{\alpha - \beta} \frac{\Gamma(x + \beta)}{\Gamma(y + \beta)} \right]^{1/(x-y)}
\]
holds true for $x, y \in (0, \infty)$ with $x \neq y$, where

$$I(a, b) = e^{b-b^a} \left( \frac{b^b}{a^a} \right)^{1/(b-a)}$$

(17)

for $a > 0$ and $b > 0$ with $a \neq b$ is the identric or exponential mean.

Remark 1. For $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$, let

$$h_{\beta, \pm 1}(x) = \left[ e^x \Gamma(x+1) \right]^{\pm 1}$$

(18)
on $(\max\{0,-\beta\}, \infty)$. In [10, 11], it was showed that the functions $h_{\beta,+1}(x)$ and $h_{\beta,-1}(x)$ are logarithmically completely monotonic if and only if $\beta \geq 1$ and $\beta \leq \frac{1}{2}$ respectively. As consequences of monotonic results of the function $h_{\beta,\pm 1}(x)$, the following two-sided inequality was derived in [11]:

$$(x+1)^{x+1} e^{y-x} \leq \frac{\Gamma(x+1)}{\Gamma(y+1)} \leq \frac{(x+1/2)^{x+1/2}}{(y+1/2)^{y+1/2}} e^{y-x}$$

(19)

for $y > x > 0$, where the constants 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ in the very left and the very right sides of the two-sided inequality (19) cannot be replaced, respectively, by smaller and larger numbers.

Remark 2. In [9], it was showed that the function

$$h(x) = \frac{e^x \Gamma(x)}{x^{1-\ln x + \psi(x)}}$$

(20)
on $(0, \infty)$ has a unique maximum $e$ at $x = 1$, with the following two limits

$$\lim_{x \to 0^+} h(x) = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \to \infty} h(x) = \sqrt{2\pi}.$$ 

(21)

As consequences of the monotonicity of $h(x)$, it was concluded in [9] that the following inequality

$$\frac{x^{\ln x - \psi(x)-1}}{y^{\ln y - \psi(y)-1}} e^{y-x} \leq \frac{\Gamma(y)}{\Gamma(x)}$$

(22)

holds true for $y > x \geq 1$. If $0 < x < y \leq 1$, the inequality (22) is reversed.

Remark 3. It is worthwhile to point out that [20, Thorem 1.3] is equivalent to necessary and sufficient conditions in [5, Theorem 2] and [13, Theorem 2.1] for the functions $f_{1/2,0,+1}(x)$ and $f_{1,0,-1}(x)$ to be logarithmically completely monotonic on $(0, \infty)$. See also [11, 12] and related references therein.

2. PROOFS OF MAIN RESULTS

Now we are in a position to prove our theorems.

Proof of Theorem 1. Suppose that $f_{\alpha,\beta,-1}(x)$ is logarithmically completely monotonic on $(0, \infty)$. Then

$$[\ln f_{\alpha,\beta,-1}(x)]' = \ln x - \psi(x + \beta) + \frac{\beta - \alpha}{x} \leq 0,$$

(23)

from which we have

$$\beta - \alpha \leq x[\psi(x + \beta) - \ln x], \quad x \in (0, \infty).$$

(24)

If $\beta > 0$, then

$$\beta - \alpha \leq \lim_{x \to 0^+} [x\psi(x + \beta) - x\ln x] = 0.$$

That is

$$\alpha \geq \beta.$$ 

(25)
Using the asymptotic formula
\[ \psi(x) = \ln x - \frac{1}{2x} + O\left(\frac{1}{x^2}\right), \quad x \to \infty, \quad (26) \]
see [6, p. 47], in (24) for \( \beta > 0 \), we obtain
\[
\begin{align*}
\beta - \alpha & \leq \lim_{x \to \infty} x \left[ \ln(x + \beta) - \frac{1}{2(x + \beta)} + O\left(\frac{1}{x^2}\right) - \ln x \right] \\
& = \lim_{x \to \infty} x \ln \left(1 + \frac{\beta}{x}\right) - \frac{1}{2} \\
& = \beta \lim_{x \to \infty} \left[ x \ln \left(1 + \frac{\beta}{x}\right) - \frac{1}{2} \right] \\
& = \beta - \frac{1}{2},
\end{align*}
\]
from which we get
\[ \alpha \geq \frac{1}{2}, \quad (27) \]
Combining (25) and (27) yields
\[ \alpha \geq \max \left\{ \beta, \frac{1}{2} \right\} \quad \text{if} \quad \beta > 0. \quad (28) \]
If \( \beta = 0 \), considering \( f_{\alpha,0,-1}(x) = f_{\alpha,1,-1}(x) \) and (28) yields \( \alpha \geq \max \{1, \frac{1}{2}\} = 1 \).

The proof is complete. \( \square \)

Proof of Theorem 2. By Theorem 1, the necessary condition is obtained readily.

Differentiating (23) and making use of
\[
\psi^{(n)}(x) = (-1)^{n+1} \int_0^\infty \frac{t^n}{1 - e^{-xt}} e^{-xt} \, dt, \quad x \in (0, \infty)
\]
and
\[ \frac{1}{x^n} = \frac{1}{\Gamma(n)} \int_0^\infty t^{n-1} e^{-xt} \, dt, \quad x \in (0, \infty), \]
see [7, p. 884], gives
\[
\begin{align*}
(-1)^n [\ln f_{\alpha,\beta,-1}(x)]^{(n)} &= \frac{(n-2)!}{x^{n-1}} - (-1)^n \psi^{(n-1)}(x + \beta) - \frac{(\beta - \alpha)(n-1)!}{x^n} \\
& = \int_0^\infty t^{n-2} e^{-xt} \, dt - \int_0^\infty \frac{t^{n-1}}{1 - e^{-t}} e^{-(x+\beta)t} \, dt - (\beta - \alpha) \int_0^\infty t^{n-1} e^{-xt} \, dt \\
& = \int_0^\infty \left[ \alpha - \beta - \frac{1}{e^{(1/2-\beta)t}} \right] t^{n-1} e^{-xt} \, dt
\end{align*}
\]

for \( n \geq 2 \). The inequality
\[ \frac{t}{e^t - 1} < \frac{1}{e^{t/2}}, \quad t \in (0, \infty) \quad (30) \]
was ever used in [18, 19, 22]. Substituting it into (29) leads to
\[
(-1)^n [\ln f_{\alpha,\beta,-1}(x)]^{(n)} \geq \int_0^\infty \left[ \alpha - \beta - \frac{e^{(1/2-\beta)t} - 1}{t} \right] t^{n-1} e^{-xt} \, dt, \quad n \geq 2.
\]
Since the function
\[ \frac{e^{(1/2-\beta)t} - 1}{t}, \quad t \in (0, \infty) \quad (31) \]
is increasing, if \( \alpha \geq \beta \geq \frac{1}{2} \), then
\[
(-1)^n [\ln f_{\alpha,\beta,-1}(x)]^{(n)} \geq (\alpha - \beta) \int_0^\infty t^{n-1} e^{-xt} \, dt \geq 0, \quad n \geq 2. \quad (32)
\]
By using (26), it follows that
\[
[\ln f_{\alpha,\beta,-1}(x)(x)]' = \ln \left(1 + \frac{\beta}{x}\right) - \frac{1}{2(x + \beta)} + \frac{\alpha - \beta}{x} + O\left(\frac{1}{x^2}\right)
\]
as \(x \to \infty\), thus for all \(\alpha\) and \(\beta\),
\[
\lim_{x \to \infty} [\ln f_{\alpha,\beta,-1}(x)]' = 0.
\] (33)
From (33) and (32), we have
\[
[\ln f_{\alpha,\beta,-1}(x)]' \leq 0 \quad \text{if} \quad \alpha \geq \beta \geq \frac{1}{2}.
\]
Thus \((-1)^n[\ln f_{\alpha,\beta,-1}(x)]^{(n)} \geq 0\) are valid for all \(n \in \mathbb{N}\). The proof is complete. \(\square\)

Proof of Theorem 3. If \(f_{\alpha,\beta,-1}(x)\) is logarithmically completely monotonic on \((0, \infty)\), then
\[
(-1)^k[\ln f_{\alpha,\beta,-1}(x)]^{(k)} \geq 0
\]
on \((0, \infty)\) for \(k \in \mathbb{N}\), which is equivalent to
\[
\psi(x + \beta) \geq \ln x + \frac{\beta - \alpha}{x}
\] (34)
and, for \(k \geq 2\),
\[
(-1)^k \psi^{(k-1)}(x + \beta) \leq \frac{(k - 2)!}{x^{k-1}} - \frac{(\beta - \alpha)(k - 1)!}{x^k}.
\] (35)
Hence, Theorem 2 implies inequalities in (12).

If \(\beta \geq 1\), Theorem 1 in [12, Theorem 1] said that the function \(f_{\alpha,\beta,1}(x)\) is logarithmically completely monotonic on \((0, \infty)\) if and only if \(\alpha \leq \frac{1}{2}\), this means that inequalities in (34) and (35) are reversed, and so inequalities in (13) and (14) are valid.

If \(\beta > 0\) and \(\alpha \leq 0\), Theorem 1 in [12] also said that the function \(f_{\alpha,\beta,1}(x)\) is logarithmically completely monotonic on \((0, \infty)\), this means that inequalities in (34) and (35) are also reversed, and so inequalities (10) and (11) are valid.

When \(\beta = 0\), several mathematicians have proved that the functions \(f_{\alpha,0,1}(x)\) and \(f_{\alpha,0,-1}(x)\) are logarithmically completely monotonic on \((0, \infty)\) if and only if \(\alpha \leq \frac{1}{2}\) and \(\alpha \geq 1\) respectively, which implies by reasoning as above the double inequalities (8) and (9). The proof of Theorem 3 is complete. \(\square\)

Proof of Theorem 4. The first conclusion in [12, Theorem 1] implies that the function \(f_{\alpha,\beta,1}(x)\) is logarithmically convex for \(\beta > 0\) and \(\alpha \leq 0\) on \((0, \infty)\). Combining this with Jensen’s inequality for convex functions yields
\[
\ln \frac{\exp\left(\sum_{k=1}^{n} p_k x_k\right) \Gamma\left(\sum_{k=1}^{n} p_k x_k + \beta\right)}{\left(\sum_{k=1}^{n} p_k x_k\right) \Gamma\left(\sum_{k=1}^{n} p_k x_k + \beta - \alpha\right)} \leq \sum_{k=1}^{n} p_k \ln \frac{\exp(x_k) \Gamma(x_k + \beta)}{x_k^{x_k + \beta - \alpha}},
\] (36)
where \(n \in \mathbb{N}\), \(x_k > 0\) for \(1 \leq k \leq n\), \(p_k \geq 0\) satisfying \(\sum_{k=1}^{n} p_k = 1\), \(\beta > 0\) and \(\alpha \leq 0\). Rearranging it leads to the inequality (15).

The third conclusion in [12, Theorem 1] implies that the function \(f_{\alpha,\beta,1}(x)\) is also logarithmically convex for \(\beta \geq 1\) and \(\alpha \leq \frac{1}{2}\) on \((0, \infty)\), hence, the inequality (36) is also valid for \(\beta \geq 1\) and \(\alpha \leq \frac{1}{2}\).

Theorem 2 above implies that the function \(f_{\alpha,\beta,1}(x)\) is logarithmically concave for \(\alpha \geq \beta \geq \frac{1}{2}\) on \((0, \infty)\), therefore, the inequality (36) is reversed. Theorem 4 is proved. \(\square\)

Proof of Theorem 5. Theorem 2 implies that the function \(f_{\alpha,\beta,-1}(x)\) is decreasing on \((0, \infty)\) if \(\alpha \geq \beta \geq \frac{1}{2}\), this is
\[
\frac{e^y \Gamma(y + \beta)}{y^{y + \beta - \alpha}} > \frac{e^x \Gamma(x + \beta)}{x^{x + \beta - \alpha}}
\]
for $y > x > 0$, which can be rearranged as

$$\frac{\Gamma(y + \beta)}{\Gamma(x + \beta)} > e^{x-y} y^{\alpha-\beta} \left( \frac{y}{x} \right)^{(y-x)/x} \frac{1}{e} \left( \frac{y}{x} \right)^{(y-x)/x}.$$ 

The proof of Theorem 5 is complete. \qed

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