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On Some New Ostrowski–Mercer-Type Inequalities for Differentiable Functions

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Abstract: In this paper, we establish a new integral identity involving differentiable functions, and then we use the newly established identity to prove some Ostrowski–Mercer-type inequalities for differentiable convex functions. It is also demonstrated that the newly established inequalities are generalizations of some of the Ostrowski inequalities established inside the literature. There are also some applications to the special means of real numbers given.

Keywords: Ostrowski inequality; Jensen–Mercer inequality; convex functions



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1. Introduction

The study of different forms of fundamental inequalities has been the subject of great interest for well over a century. A variety of mathematicians, interested in both pure and applied mathematics, have carried out studies regarding this topic. One of the various mathematical basic discoveries of A. M. Ostrowski [1] is the following classical integral inequality:

Theorem 1. *Ref. [1] Let $f : [1, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ as a differentiable function on $(1, \infty)$ and $f \in L[a, b]$, where $a, b \in [1, \infty)$ with $a < b$. If $|f'(x)| \leq M$, then we have following inequality:*

$$\left| f(x) - \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(t) dt \right| \leq \frac{M}{(b-a)} \left[\frac{(x-a)^2 + (b-x)^2}{2} \right]. \quad (1)$$

The Ostrowski inequality has applications in quadrature, the theory of probability and optimization, stochastics, statistics, information and the theory of integral operators. During the last few years, many researchers have obtained new results on Ostrowski-type inequalities for bounded variation functions; see, for example, [2–6]. To date, a significant number of research papers and books have been published on Ostrowski inequalities and their numerous applications.

In the literature, the well-known Jensen inequality [7] states that if f is a convex function on an interval containing points x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n , then

$$f\left(\sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j x_j\right) \leq \sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j f(x_j). \quad (2)$$

In convex functions theory, the Hermite–Hadamard inequality is very important and was discovered by C. Hermite and J. Hadamard independently (see also [8], and [9] (p.137))

$$f\left(\frac{a+b}{2}\right) \leq \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(x)dx \leq \frac{f(a)+f(b)}{2} \tag{3}$$

where $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a convex function over I and $a, b \in I$ with $a < b$. In the case of concave mappings, the above inequality is reversed.

The following variant of the Jensen inequality, known as the Jensen–Mercer inequality, was demonstrated by Mercer [10]:

Theorem 2. Ref. [10] states that if f is a convex function on $[a, b]$, then the following inequality is true:

$$f\left(a+b-\sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j x_j\right) \leq f(a)+f(b)-\sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j f(x_j) \tag{4}$$

for all $x_j \in [a, b]$ and $\lambda_j \in [0, 1]$ with $\sum_{j=1}^n \lambda_j = 1$.

In [11], the idea of the Jensen–Mercer inequality is used by Kian and Moslehian, and the following Hermite–Hadamard–Mercer inequality was demonstrated:

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(a+b-\frac{x+y}{2}\right) &\leq \frac{1}{y-x} \int_x^y f(a+b-t)dt \\ &\leq \frac{f(a+b-x)+f(a+b-y)}{2} \\ &\leq f(a)+f(b)-\frac{f(x)+f(y)}{2} \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

where f is a convex function on $[a, b]$. After that, in [12–14], the authors used the fractional integral operators and proved some Hermite–Hadamard–Mercer-type inequalities for convex functions. Niezgodá gave the generalized Mercer’s results for convex functions in [15]. In [16], Wang et al. used the well-known Riemann–Liouville fractional integrals and established some new Hermite–Hadamard–Mercer-type inequalities. In [17], Butt et al. proved some new Hermite–Hadamard–Mercer inequalities for harmonically convex functions and in [18], the authors used h -convexity and proved some new Hermite–Hadamard–Mercer inequalities for Caputo–Fabrizio fractional integrals. For generalized fractional Hermite–Hadamard–Mercer inequalities, one can consult [19].

Inspired by these ongoing studies, we develop some new Ostrowski-type inequalities by using the Jensen–Mercer inequalities for differentiable convex functions.

2. Ostrowski–Mercer Inequalities

New Ostrowski–Mercer inequalities are obtained for differentiable convex functions in this section. For this, we first give a new integral identity that will serve as an auxiliary to produce subsequent results for advancement.

Lemma 1. Let $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a differentiable function on (a, b) . If $f \in L[a, b]$, then for all $x \in [u_1, u_2]$, $u_1, u_2 \in [a, b]$ and $t \in [0, 1]$, the following equality is satisfied:

$$\begin{aligned} &(x-u_1)^2 \int_0^1 t f'(x+a-(tu_1+(1-t)x))dt - (u_2-x)^2 \int_0^1 t f'(x+b-(tu_2+(1-t)x))dt \tag{6} \\ &= (x-u_1)f(x+a-u_1) + (u_2-x)f(x+b-u_2) - \left[\int_a^{x+a-u_1} f(t)dt + \int_{x+b-u_2}^b f(t)dt \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. It is enough to remember that

$$\begin{aligned}
 I &= (x - u_1)^2 \int_0^1 t f'(x + a - (tu_1 + (1 - t)x)) dt \\
 &\quad - (u_2 - x)^2 \int_0^1 t f'(x + b - (tu_2 + (1 - t)x)) dt \\
 &= (x - u_1)^2 I_1 - (u_2 - x)^2 I_2.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{7}$$

Using the integration by parts, we obtain the equalities

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_1 &= \int_0^1 t f'(x + a - (tu_1 + (1 - t)x)) dt \\
 &= \frac{f(x + a - u_1)}{x - u_1} - \frac{1}{(x - u_1)^2} \int_a^{x+a-u_1} f(t) dt
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{8}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_2 &= \int_0^1 t f'(x + b - (tu_2 + (1 - t)x)) dt \\
 &= -\frac{f(x + b - u_2)}{(u_2 - x)} + \frac{1}{(u_2 - x)^2} \int_{x+b-u_2}^b f(t) dt.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{9}$$

We obtain the resulting equality (6) by placing the equalities (8) and (9) in (7). \square

Remark 1. If we set $u_1 = a$ and $u_2 = b$ and in Lemma 1, then we obtain Lemma 1, as proved in [20].

Theorem 3. We assume that the conditions of Lemma 1 hold. If the mapping $|f'|$ is convex on $[a, b]$, then we have the following inequality

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\left| (x - u_1)f(x + a - u_1) + (u_2 - x)f(x + b - u_2) - \left[\int_a^{x+a-u_1} f(t) dt + \int_{x+b-u_2}^b f(t) dt \right] \right| \\
 &\leq \frac{1}{6} \left[(x - u_1)^2 \{2|f'(x)| + 3|f'(a)| - 2|f'(u_1)|\} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + (u_2 - x)^2 \{2|f'(x)| + 3|f'(b)| - 2|f'(u_2)|\} \right].
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{10}$$

Proof. Taking the modulus in Lemma 1 and from the Jensen–Mercer inequality, we have the inequality

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\left| (x - u_1)f(x + a - u_1) + (u_2 - x)f(x + b - u_2) - \left[\int_a^{x+a-u_1} f(t) dt + \int_{x+b-u_2}^b f(t) dt \right] \right| \\
 &\leq (x - u_1)^2 \int_0^1 t |f'(x + a - (tu_1 + (1 - t)x))| dt \\
 &\quad + (u_2 - x)^2 \int_0^1 t |f'(x + b - (tu_2 + (1 - t)x))| dt \\
 &\leq (x - u_1)^2 \int_0^1 t [|f'(x)| + |f'(a)| - t|f'(u_1)| - (1 - t)|f'(x)|] dt \\
 &\quad + (u_2 - x)^2 \int_0^1 t [|f'(x)| + |f'(b)| - t|f'(u_2)| - (1 - t)|f'(x)|] dt \\
 &= \frac{1}{6} \left[(x - u_1)^2 \{2|f'(x)| + 3|f'(a)| - 2|f'(u_1)|\} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + (u_2 - x)^2 \{2|f'(x)| + 3|f'(b)| - 2|f'(u_2)|\} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

which ends the proof. \square

Corollary 1 (Ostrowski–Mercer Inequality). *In Theorem 3, if we choose $|f'(t)| \leq M$ for all $t \in [a, b]$, then we have the following Ostrowski–Mercer inequality*

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| (x - u_1)f(x + a - u_1) + (u_2 - x)f(x + b - u_2) - \left[\int_a^{x+a-u_1} f(t)dt + \int_{x+b-u_2}^b f(t)dt \right] \right| \quad (11) \\ & \leq \frac{M}{2} \left((x - u_1)^2 + (u_2 - x)^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. The result can be easily obtained using $|f'(x + a - (tu_1 + (1 - t)x))| \leq M$ and $|f'(x + b - (tu_2 + (1 - t)x))| \leq M$. \square

Remark 2. *If we consider $u_1 = a$ and $u_2 = b$ in Corollary 1, then inequality (11) is reduced to (1).*

Remark 3. *If we consider $u_1 = a$ and $u_2 = b$ in Theorem 3, then we obtain Theorem 3, established in [20].*

Theorem 4. *We assume that the conditions of Lemma 1 hold. If the mapping $|f'|^q, q > 1$ is convex on $[a, b]$, then we have the following inequality*

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| (x - u_1)f(x + a - u_1) + (u_2 - x)f(x + b - u_2) - \left[\int_a^{x+a-u_1} f(t)dt + \int_{x+b-u_2}^b f(t)dt \right] \right| \quad (12) \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2(1+p)^{\frac{1}{p}}} \left[(x - u_1)^2 \left(|f'(x)|^q + 2|f'(a)|^q - |f'(u_1)|^q \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + (u_2 - x)^2 \left(|f'(x)|^q + 2|f'(b)|^q - |f'(u_2)|^q \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \right] \end{aligned}$$

where $\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{p} = 1$.

Proof. From Lemma 1 and Hölder’s inequality, we have the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| (x - u_1)f(x + a - u_1) + (u_2 - x)f(x + b - u_2) - \left[\int_a^{x+a-u_1} f(t)dt + \int_{x+b-u_2}^b f(t)dt \right] \right| \quad (13) \\ & \leq (x - u_1)^2 \int_0^1 t |f'(x + a - (tu_1 + (1 - t)x))| dt \\ & \quad + (u_2 - x)^2 \int_0^1 t |f'(x + b - (tu_2 + (1 - t)x))| dt \\ & \leq (x - u_1)^2 \left(\int_0^1 t^p dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left(\int_0^1 |f'(x + a - (tu_1 + (1 - t)x))|^q dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ & \quad + (u_2 - x)^2 \left(\int_0^1 t^p dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left(\int_0^1 |f'(x + b - (tu_2 + (1 - t)x))|^q dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}. \end{aligned}$$

From the Jensen–Mercer inequality, we have the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| (x - u_1)f(x + a - u_1) + (u_2 - x)f(x + b - u_2) - \left[\int_a^{x+a-u_1} f(t)dt + \int_{x+b-u_2}^b f(t)dt \right] \right| \\ & \leq (x - u_1)^2 \left(\int_0^1 t^p dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left(\int_0^1 \left[|f'(x)|^q + |f'(a)|^q - t|f'(u_1)|^q - (1 - t)|f'(x)|^q \right] dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ & \quad + (u_2 - x)^2 \left(\int_0^1 t^p dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left(\int_0^1 \left[|f'(x)|^q + |f'(b)|^q - t|f'(u_2)|^q - (1 - t)|f'(x)|^q \right] dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ & = \frac{1}{2(1+p)^{\frac{1}{p}}} \left[(x - u_1)^2 \left(|f'(x)|^q + 2|f'(a)|^q - |f'(u_1)|^q \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \right. \end{aligned}$$

$$+(u_2 - x)^2 \left(|f'(x)|^q + 2|f'(b)| - |f'(u_2)|^q \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}$$

which finishes the proof. \square

Corollary 2. In Theorem 4, if we choose $|f'(t)| \leq M$ for all $t \in [a, b]$, then we have the following Ostrowski–Mercer inequality

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| (x - u_1)f(x + a - u_1) + (u_2 - x)f(x + b - u_2) - \left[\int_a^{x+a-u_1} f(t)dt + \int_{x+b-u_2}^b f(t)dt \right] \right| \\ & \leq \frac{M}{(p+1)^{\frac{1}{p}}} \left((x - u_1)^2 + (u_2 - x)^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. The result can be easily obtained by using $|f'(x + a - (tu_1 + (1 - t)x))| \leq M$ and $|f'(x + b - (tu_2 + (1 - t)x))| \leq M$. \square

Remark 4. If we consider $u_1 = a$, $u_2 = b$ and $x = x$ in Corollary 2, then we obtain Theorem 3, as proved in [21] for $s = 1$.

Remark 5. If we consider $u_1 = a$, $u_2 = b$ and $x = x$ in Theorem 4, then we have the following inequality

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| f(x) - \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(t)dt \right| \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2(b-a)(1+p)^{\frac{1}{p}}} \left[(x-a)^2 \left(|f'(x)|^q + |f'(a)|^q \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} + (b-x)^2 \left(|f'(x)|^q + |f'(b)|^q \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 5. We assume that the conditions of Lemma 1 hold. If the mapping $|f'|^q$, $q \geq 1$ is convex on $[a, b]$, then we have the following inequality

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| (x - u_1)f(x + a - u_1) + (u_2 - x)f(x + b - u_2) - \left[\int_a^{x+a-u_1} f(t)dt + \int_{x+b-u_2}^b f(t)dt \right] \right| \quad (14) \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2} \left[(x - u_1)^2 \left(\frac{2|f'(x)|^q + 3|f'(a)|^q - 2|f'(u_1)|^q}{3} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + (u_2 - x)^2 \left(\frac{2|f'(x)|^q + 3|f'(b)|^q - 2|f'(u_2)|^q}{3} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. From Lemma 1 and the well-known power mean inequality, we obtain the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| (x - u_1)f(x + a - u_1) + (u_2 - x)f(x + b - u_2) - \left[\int_a^{x+a-u_1} f(t)dt + \int_{x+b-u_2}^b f(t)dt \right] \right| \\ & \leq (x - u_1)^2 \left(\int_0^1 t dt \right)^{1-\frac{1}{q}} \left(\int_0^1 t |f'(x + a - (tu_1 + (1 - t)x))|^q dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ & \quad + (u_2 - x)^2 \left(\int_0^1 t dt \right)^{1-\frac{1}{q}} \left(\int_0^1 t |f'(x + b - (tu_2 + (1 - t)x))|^q dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}. \end{aligned}$$

From the Jensen–Mercer inequality, we obtain

$$\left| (x - u_1)f(x + a - u_1) + (u_2 - x)f(x + b - u_2) - \left[\int_a^{x+a-u_1} f(t)dt + \int_{x+b-u_2}^b f(t)dt \right] \right|$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq (x - u_1)^2 \left(\int_0^1 t dt \right)^{1-\frac{1}{q}} \left(\int_0^1 t \left[|f'(x)|^q + |f'(a)|^q - t|f'(u_1)|^q - (1-t)|f'(x)|^q \right] dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &\quad + (u_2 - x)^2 \left(\int_0^1 t dt \right)^{1-\frac{1}{q}} \left(\int_0^1 t \left[|f'(x)|^q + |f'(b)|^q - t|f'(u_2)|^q - (1-t)|f'(x)|^q \right] dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[(x - u_1)^2 \left(\frac{2|f'(x)|^q + 3|f'(a)|^q - 2|f'(u_1)|^q}{3} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (u_2 - x)^2 \left(\frac{2|f'(x)|^q + 3|f'(b)|^q - 2|f'(u_2)|^q}{3} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \right] \end{aligned}$$

which finishes the proof. \square

Remark 6. In Theorem 5, if we choose $|f'(t)| \leq M$ for all $t \in [a, b]$, then we recapture the inequality (11).

Remark 7. If we consider $u_1 = a$ and $u_2 = b$ in Theorem 5, then we have the following inequality

$$\begin{aligned} &\left| f(x) - \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(t) dt \right| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2(b-a)} \left[(x-a)^2 \left(\frac{2|f'(x)|^q + |f'(a)|^q}{3} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} + (b-x)^2 \left(\frac{2|f'(x)|^q + |f'(b)|^q}{3} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Remark 8. In the previous inequalities, by setting $x = \frac{a+b}{2}$, one can acquire multiple midpoint-type inequalities. Furthermore, it leaves the specifics to the interested reader.

Theorem 6. We assume that the conditions of Lemma 1 hold. If the mapping $|f'|^q, q > 1$ is concave on $[a, b]$, then we have the following inequality

$$\begin{aligned} &\left| (x - u_1)f(x + a - u_1) + (u_2 - x)f(x + b - u_2) - \left[\int_a^{x+a-u_1} f(t) dt + \int_{x+b-u_2}^b f(t) dt \right] \right| \quad (15) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{(1+p)^{\frac{1}{p}}} \left[(x - u_1)^2 \left| f' \left(\frac{2a+x-u_1}{2} \right) \right| + (u_2 - x)^2 \left| f' \left(\frac{2b+x-u_2}{2} \right) \right| \right] \end{aligned}$$

where $\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{p} = 1$.

Proof. From Lemma 1 and Hölder’s inequality, we have the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} &\left| (x - u_1)f(x + a - u_1) + (u_2 - x)f(x + b - u_2) - \left[\int_a^{x+a-u_1} f(t) dt + \int_{x+b-u_2}^b f(t) dt \right] \right| \quad (16) \\ &\leq (x - u_1)^2 \int_0^1 t |f'(x + a - (tu_1 + (1-t)x))| dt \\ &\quad + (u_2 - x)^2 \int_0^1 t |f'(x + b - (tu_2 + (1-t)x))| dt \\ &\leq (x - u_1)^2 \left(\int_0^1 t^p dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left(\int_0^1 |f'(x + a - (tu_1 + (1-t)x))|^q dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &\quad + (u_2 - x)^2 \left(\int_0^1 t^p dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left(\int_0^1 |f'(x + b - (tu_2 + (1-t)x))|^q dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $|f'|^q$ is concave mapping, therefore, from inequality (5), we have

$$\int_0^1 |f'(x + a - (tu_1 + (1 - t)x))|^q dt \leq \left| f' \left(x + a - \frac{u_1 + x}{2} \right) \right|^q = \left| f' \left(\frac{2a + x - u_1}{2} \right) \right|^q \tag{17}$$

and

$$\int_0^1 |f'(x + b - (tu_2 + (1 - t)x))|^q dt \leq \left| f' \left(x + b - \frac{u_2 + x}{2} \right) \right|^q = \left| f' \left(\frac{ba + x - u_2}{2} \right) \right|^q. \tag{18}$$

We obtain the resulting inequality (15) by placing the inequalities (17) and (18) in (16). □

Remark 9. If we consider $u_1 = a$ and $u_2 = b$ in Theorem 6, then we obtain Theorem 5, as proved in [21] for $s = 1$.

3. Application to Special Means

For arbitrary positive numbers a, b ($a \neq b$), we consider the means as follows:

1. The arithmetic mean

$$A(a, b) = \frac{a + b}{2}.$$

2. The generalized logarithmic mean

$$L_p(a, b) = \left[\frac{b^{p+1} - a^{p+1}}{(b - a)(p + 1)} \right]^{\frac{1}{p}}, \quad p \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1, 0\}.$$

3. The identric mean

$$I(a, b) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{e} \left(\frac{b^b}{a^a} \right)^{\frac{1}{b-a}}, & \text{if } a \neq b, \quad a, b > 0. \\ a, & \text{if } a = b, \end{cases}$$

Proposition 1. Let $a, b > 0$, then we have the following inequality

$$\begin{aligned} & |(x - u_1)(2A(x, a) - u_1)^n + (u_2 - x)(2A(x, b) - u_2)^n \\ & - [(x - u_1)L_n^n(x + a - u_1, a) + (u_2 - x)L_n^n(b, x + b - u_2)]| \\ & \leq \frac{M}{2} \left((x - u_1)^2 + (u_2 - x)^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. The result can be directly obtained by applying Corollary 1 to the convex function $f(x) = x^n, x > 0$. There, some information is omitted. □

Proposition 2. Let $a, b > 0$, then we have the following inequality

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \ln(2A(x, a) - u_1)^{(x-u_1)} + \ln(2A(x, b) - u_2)^{(u_2-x)} \right. \\ & \left. - \left[\ln I(x + a - u_1, a)^{(x-u_1)} + \ln I(b, x + b - u_2)^{(u_2-x)} \right] \right| \\ & \leq \frac{1}{(1 + p)^{\frac{1}{p}}} \left[\frac{2(x - u_1)^2}{2a + x - u_1} + \frac{2(u_2 - x)^2}{2b + x - u_2} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. The result can be directly obtained by applying Theorem 6 to the concave function $f(x) = \ln x$. There, some information is omitted. □

4. Conclusions

In this work, we established some new Ostrowski–Mercer-type inequalities for differentiable convex functions. Moreover, we proved that the newly established inequalities are strong generalizations of comparable results in the literature. Finally, we gave some applications to the special means of real numbers using the newly established inequalities. It is an interesting and novel problem that upcoming researchers may prove some new inequalities for co-ordinated convex functions using the techniques of this paper in their future work.

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