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# Generalized fractional integral inequalities of Hermite–Hadamard type for harmonically convex functions

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## Abstract

In this paper, we establish inequalities of Hermite–Hadamard type for harmonically convex functions using a generalized fractional integral. The results of our paper are an extension of previously obtained results (İşcan in *Hacet. J. Math. Stat.* 43(6):935–942, 2014 and İşcan and Wu in *Appl. Math. Comput.* 238:237–244, 2014). We also discuss some special cases for our main results and obtain new inequalities of Hermite–Hadamard type.

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**Keywords:** Hermite–Hadamard inequalities; Generalized fractional integral; Harmonically convex functions

## 1 Introduction

The Hermite–Hadamard inequality introduced by Hermite and Hadamard, see [4], and [17, p. 137], is one of the best-established inequalities in the theory of convex analysis with a nice geometrical interpretation and several applications. These inequalities state the following.

If  $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a convex function on the interval  $I$  of real numbers and  $a, b \in I$  with  $a < b$ , then

$$f\left(\frac{a+b}{2}\right) \leq \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(x) dx \leq \frac{f(a)+f(b)}{2}. \quad (1.1)$$

Both inequalities hold in reverse order if the function  $f$  is concave. It is worth mentioning that the Hermite–Hadamard inequality may be regarded as a refinement of the concept of convexity and it follows easily from Jensen's inequality. For more results which generalize, unify and extend the inequalities (1.1), see [5–11, 20–24] and the references therein.

İşcan [8] gave the following definition of harmonically convex functions.

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**Definition 1** ([8]) A function  $f : I \subseteq \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is said to be a harmonically convex function if the following inequality holds:

$$f\left(\frac{ab}{ta + (1-t)b}\right) \leq tf(b) + (1-t)f(a), \tag{1.2}$$

for all  $a, b$  in  $I$  and  $t$  in  $[0, 1]$ . If the inequality (1.2) holds in the reversed direction then  $f$  is called harmonically concave function.

İşcan [8] established the following identity and integral inequalities of Hermite–Hadamard type for harmonically convex functions.

**Theorem 1** ([8]) Let  $f : I \subseteq \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be harmonically convex function and  $a, b \in I$  with  $a < b$ . If  $f \in L([a, b])$ , then the following double inequality holds:

$$f\left(\frac{2ab}{a+b}\right) \leq \frac{ab}{b-a} \int_a^b \frac{f(x)}{x^2} dx \leq \frac{f(a)+f(b)}{2}. \tag{1.3}$$

**Lemma 1** ([8]) Let  $f : I \subseteq \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be differentiable on  $I^\circ$  (interior of  $I$ ) and  $a, b \in I$  with  $a < b$ . If  $f' \in L([a, b])$ , then the following identity holds:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{f(a)+f(b)}{2} - \frac{ab}{b-a} \int_a^b \frac{f(x)}{x^2} dx \\ &= \frac{ab(b-a)}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{1-2t}{(tb+(1-t)a)^2} f'\left(\frac{ab}{tb+(1-t)a}\right) dt. \end{aligned} \tag{1.4}$$

**Theorem 2** ([8]) Let  $f : I \subseteq (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be differentiable on  $I^\circ$ ,  $a, b \in I$  with  $a < b$ , and  $f' \in L([a, b])$ . If  $|f'|^q$  is harmonically convex function on  $[a, b]$  for  $q \geq 1$ , then the following inequality holds:

$$\left| \frac{f(a)+f(b)}{2} - \frac{ab}{b-a} \int_a^b \frac{f(x)}{x^2} dx \right| \leq \frac{ab(b-a)}{2} \lambda_1^{1-\frac{1}{q}} [\lambda_2 |f'(a)|^q + \lambda_3 |f'(b)|^q]^{\frac{1}{q}}, \tag{1.5}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_1 &= \frac{1}{ab} - \frac{2}{(b-a)^2} \ln\left(\frac{(a+b)^2}{4ab}\right), \\ \lambda_2 &= \frac{-1}{b(b-a)} + \frac{3a+b}{(b-a)^3} \ln\left(\frac{(a+b)^2}{4ab}\right), \\ \lambda_3 &= \lambda_1 - \lambda_2. \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 3** ([8]) Let  $f : I \subseteq (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be differentiable on  $I^\circ$ ,  $a, b \in I$  with  $a < b$ , and  $f' \in L([a, b])$ . If  $|f'|^q$  is harmonically convex function on  $[a, b]$  for  $q > 1$ ,  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$ , then the following inequality holds:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \frac{f(a)+f(b)}{2} - \frac{ab}{b-a} \int_a^b \frac{f(x)}{x^2} dx \right| \\ & \leq \frac{ab(b-a)}{2} \left(\frac{1}{p+1}\right)^{\frac{1}{p}} (\mu_1 |f'(a)|^q + \mu_2 |f'(b)|^q)^{\frac{1}{q}}, \end{aligned} \tag{1.6}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_1 &= \frac{[a^{2-2q} + b^{1-2q}[(b-a)(1-2q) - a]]}{2(b-a)^2(1-q)(1-2q)}, \\ \mu_2 &= \frac{[b^{2-2q} + a^{1-2q}[(b-a)(1-2q) + b]]}{2(b-a)^2(1-q)(1-2q)}. \end{aligned}$$

Now we recall some special functions and an inequality that will be needed in the sequel to establish our main results in this paper.

(a) The Beta function is defined as follows:

$$\beta(x, y) = \frac{\Gamma(x)\Gamma(y)}{\Gamma(x+y)} = \int_0^1 t^{x-1}(1-t)^{y-1} dt, \quad x, y > 0.$$

(b) The hypergeometric function is given as

$${}_2F_1(a, b; c; z) = \frac{1}{\beta(b, c-b)} \int_0^1 t^{b-1}(1-t)^{c-b-1}(1-zt)^{-a} dt, \quad c > b > 0, |z| < 1.$$

**Lemma 2** For  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$  and  $0 \leq a < b$ , we have the following inequality:

$$|b^\alpha - a^\alpha| \leq (b-a)^\alpha.$$

İşcan [10] also established the following identity and inequalities of Hermite–Hadamard type for harmonically convex functions via Riemann–Liouville fractional integrals.

**Theorem 4** ([10]) Let  $f : I \subseteq (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be function such that  $f \in L([a, b])$ , where  $a, b \in I$  with  $a < b$ . If  $f$  is harmonically convex function on  $[a, b]$ , the following double inequality holds for the fractional integrals:

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\frac{2ab}{a+b}\right) &\leq \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+1)}{2} \left(\frac{ab}{b-a}\right)^\alpha \left\{ I_{\frac{1}{a}-}^\alpha (f \circ g)\left(\frac{1}{b}\right) + I_{\frac{1}{b}+}^\alpha (f \circ g)\left(\frac{1}{a}\right) \right\} \\ &\leq \frac{f(a)+f(b)}{2}, \end{aligned} \tag{1.7}$$

where  $g(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ .

**Lemma 3** ([10]) Let  $f : I \subseteq (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a differentiable function on  $I^\circ$  such that  $f' \in L([a, b])$ , where  $a, b \in I$  with  $a < b$ . Then the following identity holds for the fractional integrals:

$$I_f(g; \alpha, a, b) = \frac{ab(b-a)}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{[t^\alpha - (1-t)^\alpha]}{(tb - (1-t)a)^2} f' \left( \frac{ab}{tb + (1-t)a} \right) dt, \tag{1.8}$$

where

$$I_f(g; \alpha, a, b) = \frac{f(a)+f(b)}{2} - \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+1)}{2} \left(\frac{ab}{b-a}\right)^\alpha \left\{ I_{\frac{1}{a}-}^\alpha (f \circ g)\left(\frac{1}{b}\right) + I_{\frac{1}{b}+}^\alpha (f \circ g)\left(\frac{1}{a}\right) \right\},$$

and  $g$  is as given in Theorem 4.

**Theorem 5** ([10]) *Let  $f : I \subseteq (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a differentiable function on  $I^\circ$  such that  $f' \in L([a, b])$ , where  $a, b \in I$  with  $a < b$ . If  $|f'|^q$  is harmonically convex function on  $[a, b]$  for some fixed  $q \geq 1$ , then we have the following inequality for the fractional integrals:*

$$|I_f(g; \alpha, a, b)| \leq \frac{ab(b-a)}{2} C_1^{1-\frac{1}{q}}(\alpha; a, b) (C_2(\alpha; a, b)|f'(b)|^q + C_3(\alpha; a, b)|f'(a)|^q)^{\frac{1}{q}}, \tag{1.9}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} C_1(\alpha; a, b) &= \frac{b^{-2}}{\alpha+1} \left[ {}_2F_1\left(2, 1; \alpha+2; 1-\frac{a}{b}\right) + {}_2F_1\left(2, \alpha+1; \alpha+2; 1-\frac{a}{b}\right) \right], \\ C_2(\alpha; a, b) &= \frac{b^{-2}}{\alpha+2} \left[ \frac{1}{\alpha+1} {}_2F_1\left(2, 2; \alpha+3; 1-\frac{a}{b}\right) + {}_2F_1\left(2, \alpha+2; \alpha+3; 1-\frac{a}{b}\right) \right], \\ C_3(\alpha; a, b) &= \frac{b^{-2}}{\alpha+1} \left[ {}_2F_1\left(2, 1; \alpha+3; 1-\frac{a}{b}\right) + \frac{1}{\alpha+1} {}_2F_1\left(2, \alpha+1; \alpha+3; 1-\frac{a}{b}\right) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 6** ([10]) *Let  $f : I \subseteq (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a differentiable function on  $I^\circ$  such that  $f' \in L([a, b])$ , where  $a, b \in I$  with  $a < b$ . If  $|f'|^q$  is harmonically convex function on  $[a, b]$  for some fixed  $q \geq 1$ , then we have the following inequality for the fractional integrals:*

$$\begin{aligned} &|I_f(g; \alpha, a, b)| \\ &\leq \frac{ab(b-a)}{2} C_1^{1-\frac{1}{q}}(\alpha; a, b) (C_2(\alpha; a, b)|f'(b)|^q + C_3(\alpha; a, b)|f'(a)|^q)^{\frac{1}{q}}, \end{aligned} \tag{1.10}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} C_1(\alpha; a, b) &= \frac{b^{-2}}{\alpha+1} \left[ {}_2F_1\left(2, \alpha+1; \alpha+2; 1-\frac{a}{b}\right) - {}_2F_1\left(2, 1; \alpha+2; 1-\frac{a}{b}\right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + {}_2F_1\left(2, 1; \alpha+2; \frac{1}{2}\left(1-\frac{a}{b}\right)\right) \right], \\ C_2(\alpha; a, b) &= \frac{b^{-2}}{\alpha+2} \left[ {}_2F_1\left(2, \alpha+2; \alpha+3; 1-\frac{a}{b}\right) - \frac{1}{\alpha+1} {}_2F_1\left(2, 2; \alpha+3; 1-\frac{a}{b}\right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{2(\alpha+1)} {}_2F_1\left(2, 1; \alpha+3; \frac{1}{2}\left(1-\frac{a}{b}\right)\right) \right], \\ C_3(\alpha; a, b) &= \frac{b^{-2}}{\alpha+1} \left[ \frac{1}{\alpha+1} {}_2F_1\left(2, \alpha+1; \alpha+3; 1-\frac{a}{b}\right) - {}_2F_1\left(2, 1; \alpha+3; 1-\frac{a}{b}\right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + {}_2F_1\left(2, 1; \alpha+3; \frac{1}{2}\left(1-\frac{a}{b}\right)\right) \right], \end{aligned}$$

and  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$ .

**Theorem 7** ([10]) *Let  $f : I \subseteq (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a differentiable function on  $I^\circ$  such that  $f' \in L([a, b])$ , where  $a, b \in I$  with  $a < b$ . If  $|f'|^q$  is harmonically convex function on  $[a, b]$  for some*

fixed  $q > 1$ , then we have the following inequality for the fractional integrals:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & |I_f(g; \alpha, a, b)| \\
 & \leq \frac{a(b-a)}{2b} \left( \frac{1}{\alpha p + 1} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( \frac{|f'(b)|^q + |f'(a)|^q}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\
 & \quad \times \left[ {}_2F_1^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( 2p, 1; \alpha p + 2; 1 - \frac{a}{b} \right) + {}_2F_1 \left( 2p, \alpha p + 1; \alpha p + 2; 1 - \frac{a}{b} \right) \right], \tag{1.11}
 \end{aligned}$$

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

**Theorem 8** ([10]) *Let  $f : I \subseteq (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a differentiable function on  $I^\circ$  such that  $f' \in L([a, b])$ , where  $a, b \in I$  with  $a < b$ . If  $|f'|^q$  is harmonically convex function on  $[a, b]$  for some fixed  $q > 1$ , then we have the following inequality for the fractional integrals:*

$$|I_f(g; \alpha, a, b)| \leq \frac{b-a}{2(ab)^{1-\frac{1}{p}}} L_{2p-2}(a, b) \left( \frac{1}{\alpha q + 1} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \left( \frac{|f'(b)|^q + |f'(a)|^q}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}, \tag{1.12}$$

where  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$  and  $L_{2p-2}(a, b) = \left( \frac{b^{2p-1} - a^{2p-1}}{(2p-1)(b-a)} \right)^{\frac{1}{2p-2}}$  is the  $2p - 2$ -Logarithmic mean.

**Theorem 9** ([10]) *Let  $f : I \subseteq (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a differentiable function on  $I^\circ$  such that  $f' \in L([a, b])$ , where  $a, b \in I$  with  $a < b$ . If  $|f'|^q$  is a harmonically convex function on  $[a, b]$  for some fixed  $q > 1$ , then we have the following inequality for the fractional integrals:*

$$\begin{aligned}
 |I_f(g; \alpha, a, b)| & \leq \frac{a(b-a)}{2b} \left( \frac{1}{\alpha p + 1} \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \\
 & \quad \times \left( \frac{{}_2F_1(2q, 2; 3; 1 - \frac{a}{b})|f'(b)|^q + {}_2F_1(2q, 1; 3; 1 - \frac{a}{b})|f'(a)|^q}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}, \tag{1.13}
 \end{aligned}$$

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

For some similar studies with this work of harmonically convex functions, see ([2, 3, 13–15, 18]).

Now we recall the definition of left- and right-sided generalized fractional integrals given by Sarikaya and Ertuğral in [19] as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 {}_{a+}I_\varphi f(x) & = \int_a^x \frac{\varphi(x-t)}{x-t} f(t) dt, \quad x > a, \\
 {}_{b-}I_\varphi f(x) & = \int_x^b \frac{\varphi(t-x)}{t-x} f(t) dt, \quad x < b,
 \end{aligned}$$

respectively, where the function  $\varphi : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  satisfies  $\int_0^1 \frac{\varphi(t)}{t} dt < \infty$ . For details of the generalized fractional integrals see [19].

Some of the special cases of these generalized fractional operators are given as follows.

*Remark 1* If we choose  $\varphi(t) = t$ ,  $\varphi(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} t^\alpha$ ,  $\varphi(t) = \frac{1}{k\Gamma_k(\alpha)} t^{\frac{\alpha}{k}}$ ,  $k > 0$ ,  $\varphi(t) = t(x-t)^{\alpha-1}$  and  $\varphi(t) = \frac{t}{\alpha} \exp(-\frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha} t)$ ,  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , then we obtain the classical Riemann integral, the

Riemann–Liouville fractional integral, the  $k$ -Riemann–Liouville fractional [16], conformable fractional integrals [12] and fractional integral operators with exponential kernel [1], respectively.

The main aim of this paper is to establish inequalities of Hermite–Hadamard type for harmonically convex functions using generalized fractional integrals. Some applications of the results presented in this paper are also obtained.

## 2 Main results

For brevity, throughout in this paper the following notations are used:

$$T_{f,\Lambda}(g; a, b) = \frac{f(a) + f(b)}{2} - \frac{1}{2\Lambda(1)} \left[ \frac{1}{a} I_\varphi(f \circ g) \left( \frac{1}{b} \right) + \frac{1}{b} I_\varphi(f \circ g) \left( \frac{1}{a} \right) \right], \tag{2.1}$$

where

$$g(x) = \frac{1}{x}, \quad \Lambda(x) = \int_0^x \frac{\varphi(\frac{b-a}{ab}t)}{t} dt < +\infty. \tag{2.2}$$

We start with the following result.

**Theorem 10** *Let  $f : I \subseteq (0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function such that  $f \in L([a, b])$ . If  $f$  is harmonically convex function on  $[a, b]$ , then the following inequalities hold for the generalized fractional integrals:*

$$f\left(\frac{2ab}{a+b}\right) \leq \frac{1}{2\Lambda(1)} \left[ \frac{1}{a} I_\varphi(f \circ g) \left( \frac{1}{b} \right) + \frac{1}{b} I_\varphi(f \circ g) \left( \frac{1}{a} \right) \right] \leq \frac{f(a) + f(b)}{2}. \tag{2.3}$$

*Proof* Since  $f$  is harmonically convex function on  $[a, b]$ , we have the following inequality:

$$f\left(\frac{2xy}{x+y}\right) \leq \frac{f(x) + f(y)}{2}. \tag{2.4}$$

By changing the variables  $x = \frac{ab}{tb+(1-t)a}$  and  $y = \frac{ab}{ta+(1-t)b}$ , the inequality (2.4) becomes

$$f\left(\frac{2ab}{a+b}\right) \leq \frac{1}{2} \left[ f\left(\frac{ab}{tb+(1-t)a}\right) + f\left(\frac{ab}{ta+(1-t)b}\right) \right]. \tag{2.5}$$

Multiplying (2.5) with  $\frac{\varphi(\frac{b-a}{ab}t)}{t}$  on both sides and integrating the resulting inequality with respect to  $t$  over  $[0, 1]$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 f\left(\frac{2ab}{a+b}\right) dt &\leq \frac{1}{2\Lambda(1)} \left[ \int_0^1 \frac{\varphi(\frac{b-a}{ab}t)}{t} f\left(\frac{ab}{tb+(1-t)a}\right) dt \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \int_0^1 \frac{\varphi(\frac{b-a}{ab}t)}{t} f\left(\frac{ab}{ta+(1-t)b}\right) dt \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2\Lambda(1)} \left[ \frac{1}{a} I_\varphi(f \circ g) \left( \frac{1}{b} \right) + \frac{1}{b} I_\varphi(f \circ g) \left( \frac{1}{a} \right) \right], \end{aligned}$$

which is first inequality of our desired result (2.3).

To prove the second inequality of (2.3), note that  $f$  is harmonically convex function and hence the following inequalities hold for  $t \in [0, 1]$ :

$$f\left(\frac{ab}{tb + (1-t)a}\right) \leq tf(a) + (1-t)f(b), \tag{2.6}$$

$$f\left(\frac{ab}{ta + (1-t)b}\right) \leq tf(b) + (1-t)f(a). \tag{2.7}$$

By adding (2.6) and (2.7), we have

$$f\left(\frac{ab}{tb + (1-t)a}\right) + f\left(\frac{ab}{ta + (1-t)b}\right) \leq f(a) + f(b). \tag{2.8}$$

On multiplying the both sides of (2.8) by  $\frac{\varphi(\frac{b-a}{ab}t)}{t}$  and integrating the result with respect to  $t$  on  $[0, 1]$ , we obtain

$$\int_0^1 \frac{\varphi(\frac{b-a}{ab}t)}{t} f\left(\frac{ab}{tb + (1-t)a}\right) dt + \int_0^1 \frac{\varphi(\frac{b-a}{ab}t)}{t} f\left(\frac{ab}{ta + (1-t)b}\right) dt \leq \Lambda(1)[f(a) + f(b)], \tag{2.9}$$

by changing the variables  $x = \frac{ab}{tb+(1-t)a}$  and  $y = \frac{ab}{ta+(1-t)b}$ , the inequality (2.9) becomes

$$\left[ {}_{\frac{1}{a}+}I_{\varphi}(f \circ g)\left(\frac{1}{b}\right) + {}_{\frac{1}{b}-}I_{\varphi}(f \circ g)\left(\frac{1}{a}\right) \right] \leq \Lambda(1)[f(a) + f(b)].$$

Hence we have the proof of Theorem 10. □

*Remark 2* Under the assumptions of Theorem 10, if we take  $\varphi(t) = t$ , then inequalities (2.3) reduce to inequalities (1.3).

*Remark 3* Under the assumptions of Theorem 10, if we define  $\varphi(t) = \frac{t^{\alpha}}{\Gamma(\alpha)}$ , then inequalities (2.3) reduce to inequalities (1.7).

**Corollary 1** Under the assumptions of Theorem 10, if we take  $\varphi(t) = \frac{t^{\frac{\alpha}{k}}}{k\Gamma_k(\alpha)}$ , then we have

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\frac{2ab}{a+b}\right) &\leq \frac{\Gamma_k(\alpha+k)}{2} \left(\frac{ab}{b-a}\right)^{\frac{\alpha}{k}} \left\{ I_{\frac{1}{a}-}^{\alpha,k}(f \circ g)\left(\frac{1}{b}\right) + I_{\frac{1}{b}+}^{\alpha,k}(f \circ g)\left(\frac{1}{a}\right) \right\} \\ &\leq \frac{f(a) + f(b)}{2}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.10}$$

**Corollary 2** Under the assumptions of Theorem 10, if we take  $\varphi(t) = t(b-t)^{\alpha-1}$ , then we obtain the following inequalities:

$$f\left(\frac{2ab}{a+b}\right) \leq \frac{1}{2\Lambda^*(1)} \left[ {}_{\frac{1}{a}-}I_{\varphi}(f \circ g)\left(\frac{1}{b}\right) + {}_{\frac{1}{b}+}I_{\varphi}(f \circ g)\left(\frac{1}{a}\right) \right] \leq \frac{f(a) + f(b)}{2}, \tag{2.11}$$

where

$$\Lambda^*(1) = \frac{b^{\alpha} - (b - \frac{b-a}{ab})^{\alpha}}{\alpha}.$$

**Corollary 3** Under the assumptions of Theorem 10, taking  $\varphi(t) = \frac{t}{\alpha} \exp(-\frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha}t)$ ,  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , we obtain

$$f\left(\frac{2ab}{a+b}\right) \leq \frac{1}{2\Lambda^{**}(1)} \left[ \frac{1}{a} I_{\varphi}(f \circ g)\left(\frac{1}{b}\right) + \frac{1}{b} I_{\varphi}(f \circ g)\left(\frac{1}{a}\right) \right] \leq \frac{f(a)+f(b)}{2}, \tag{2.12}$$

where

$$\Lambda^{**}(1) = \frac{1 - \exp(-\frac{(\alpha-1)(b-a)}{\alpha ab})}{1 - \alpha}.$$

The next lemma is very crucial in the proof of our next results.

**Lemma 4** Let  $f : I \subseteq (0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a differentiable function on  $I^{\circ}$  such that  $f' \in L([a, b])$ , where  $a, b \in I$  with  $a < b$ . Then the following identity holds for the generalized fractional integrals:

$$T_{f,\Lambda}(g; a, b) = \frac{1}{2\Lambda(1)} \int_0^1 \frac{[\Lambda(1-t) - \Lambda(t)]}{(tb + (1-t)a)^2} f'\left(\frac{ab}{tb + (1-t)a}\right) dt. \tag{2.13}$$

*Proof* Denote

$$T_{f,\Lambda}(g; a, b) = \frac{1}{2\Lambda(1)} [T_{f,\Lambda}^{(1)}(g; a, b) - T_{f,\Lambda}^{(2)}(g; a, b)], \tag{2.14}$$

where

$$T_{f,\Lambda}^{(1)}(g; a, b) = \int_0^1 \frac{\Lambda(1-t)}{(tb + (1-t)a)^2} f'\left(\frac{ab}{tb + (1-t)a}\right) dt \tag{2.15}$$

and

$$T_{f,\Lambda}^{(2)}(g; a, b) = \int_0^1 \frac{\Lambda(t)}{(tb + (1-t)a)^2} f'\left(\frac{ab}{tb + (1-t)a}\right) dt. \tag{2.16}$$

Integrating (2.15) by parts, we have

$$\begin{aligned} T_{f,\Lambda}^{(1)}(g; a, b) &= -\Lambda(1-t) f\left(\frac{ab}{tb + (1-t)a}\right) \Big|_0^1 \\ &\quad - \int_0^1 \frac{\varphi(\frac{b-a}{ab}(1-t))}{1-t} f\left(\frac{ab}{tb + (1-t)a}\right) dt \\ &= \Lambda(1)f(b) - \frac{1}{b} I_{\varphi}(f \circ g)\left(\frac{1}{a}\right). \end{aligned} \tag{2.17}$$

Similarly, using (2.16), we get

$$T_{f,\Lambda}^{(2)}(g; a, b) = -\Lambda(1)f(a) + \frac{1}{a} I_{\varphi}(f \circ g)\left(\frac{1}{b}\right). \tag{2.18}$$

Substituting (2.17) and (2.18) in (2.14), we obtain (2.13) which completes the proof of Lemma 4. □

*Remark 4* Under the assumptions of Lemma 4, if we take  $\varphi(t) = t$ , the identity (2.13) reduces to (1.4).

*Remark 5* Under the assumptions of Lemma 4, taking  $\varphi(t) = \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)}$ , the identity (2.13) reduces to identity (1.8).

**Theorem 11** Let  $f : I \subseteq (0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a differentiable function on  $I^\circ$  such that  $f' \in L([a, b])$ , where  $a, b \in I$  with  $a < b$ . If  $|f'|^q$  is harmonically convex on  $[a, b]$  for some  $q \geq 1$ , then the following inequality holds for the generalized fractional integrals:

$$|T_{f,\Lambda}(g; a, b)| \leq B_{1,\Lambda}^{1-\frac{1}{q}}(a, b)(B_{2,\Lambda}(a, b)|f'(a)|^q + B_{3,\Lambda}(a, b)|f'(b)|^q)^{\frac{1}{q}}, \tag{2.19}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} B_{1,\Lambda}(a, b) &= \int_0^1 \frac{[\Lambda(1-t) - \Lambda(t)]}{(tb + (1-t)a)^2} dt, \\ B_{2,\Lambda}(a, b) &= \int_0^1 \frac{[\Lambda(1-t) - \Lambda(t)]}{(tb + (1-t)a)^2} t dt, \\ B_{3,\Lambda}(a, b) &= \int_0^1 \frac{[\Lambda(1-t) - \Lambda(t)]}{(tb + (1-t)a)^2} (1-t) dt. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof* From Lemma 4 and the well-known power mean inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |T_{f,\Lambda}(g; a, b)| &\leq \int_0^1 \frac{|\Lambda(1-t) - \Lambda(t)|}{(tb + (1-t)a)^2} \left| f' \left( \frac{ab}{tb + (1-t)a} \right) \right| dt \\ &\leq \left( \int_0^1 \frac{|\Lambda(1-t) - \Lambda(t)|}{(tb + (1-t)a)^2} dt \right)^{1-\frac{1}{q}} \\ &\quad \times \left( \int_0^1 \frac{|\Lambda(1-t) - \Lambda(t)|}{(tb + (1-t)a)^2} \left| f' \left( \frac{ab}{tb + (1-t)a} \right) \right|^q dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &\leq \left( \int_0^1 \frac{[\Lambda(1-t) - \Lambda(t)]}{(tb + (1-t)a)^2} dt \right)^{1-\frac{1}{q}} \\ &\quad \times \left( \int_0^1 \frac{[\Lambda(1-t) - \Lambda(t)]}{(tb + (1-t)a)^2} [t|f'(a)|^q + (1-t)|f'(b)|^q] dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &= \left( \int_0^1 \frac{[\Lambda(1-t) - \Lambda(t)]}{(tb + (1-t)a)^2} dt \right)^{1-\frac{1}{q}} \\ &\quad \times \left( \int_0^1 \frac{[\Lambda(1-t) - \Lambda(t)]}{(tb + (1-t)a)^2} t|f'(a)|^q dt \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \int_0^1 \frac{[\Lambda(1-t) - \Lambda(t)]}{(tb + (1-t)a)^2} (1-t)|f'(b)|^q dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &= B_{1,\Lambda}^{1-\frac{1}{q}}(a, b)(B_{2,\Lambda}(a, b)|f'(a)|^q + B_{3,\Lambda}(a, b)|f'(b)|^q)^{\frac{1}{q}}, \end{aligned}$$

which is our required inequality (2.19). □

*Remark 6* Under the assumptions of Theorem 11, if we define  $\varphi(t) = t$ , and  $\varphi(t) = \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)}$ , then inequality (2.19) reduces to the inequalities (1.5), (1.9), respectively.

*Remark 7* Under the assumptions of Theorem 11, taking  $\varphi(t) = \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)}$  and using Lemma 2, the inequality (2.19) reduces to the inequality (1.10).

**Corollary 4** Under the assumptions of Theorem 11, taking  $\varphi(t) = \frac{t^{\frac{\alpha}{k}}}{k\Gamma_k(\alpha)}$ , the inequality

$$|T_{f,\Lambda}(g; a, b)| \leq B_{1,\Lambda}^{1-\frac{1}{q}}(a, b)(B_{2,\Lambda}(a, b)|f'(a)|^q + B_{3,\Lambda}(a, b)|f'(b)|^q)^{\frac{1}{q}} \tag{2.20}$$

is obtained, where

$$\Lambda(t) = \frac{(\frac{b-a}{ab}t)^{\frac{\alpha}{k}}}{\Gamma_k(\alpha + k)}.$$

**Corollary 5** Under the assumptions of Theorem 11, if we take  $\varphi(t) = t(b-t)^{\alpha-1}$ , then we have

$$|T_{f,\Lambda^*}(g; a, b)| \leq B_{1,\Lambda^*}^{1-\frac{1}{q}}(a, b)(B_{2,\Lambda^*}(a, b)|f'(a)|^q + B_{3,\Lambda^*}(a, b)|f'(b)|^q)^{\frac{1}{q}}, \tag{2.21}$$

where

$$\Lambda^*(t) = \frac{b^\alpha - (b - \frac{(b-a)t}{ab})^\alpha}{\alpha}.$$

**Corollary 6** Under the assumptions of Theorem 11, if we choose  $\varphi(t) = \frac{t}{\alpha} \exp(-\frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha}t)$ ,  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , then we have

$$|T_{f,\Lambda^{**}}(g; a, b)| \leq B_{1,\Lambda^{**}}^{1-\frac{1}{q}}(a, b)(B_{2,\Lambda^{**}}(a, b)|f'(a)|^q + B_{3,\Lambda^{**}}(a, b)|f'(b)|^q)^{\frac{1}{q}}, \tag{2.22}$$

where

$$\Lambda^{**}(t) = \frac{1 - \exp(\frac{(\alpha-1)(b-a)t}{aab})}{1 - \alpha}.$$

**Theorem 12** Let  $f : I \subseteq (0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a differentiable function on  $I^\circ$  such that  $f' \in L([a, b])$ , where  $a, b \in I^\circ$  with  $a < b$ . If  $|f'|^q$  is harmonically convex on  $[a, b]$  for some fixed  $q > 1$ , then the following inequality for generalized fractional integrals holds:

$$|T_{f,\Lambda}(g; a, b)| \leq (B_{4,\Lambda}^p(a, b) + B_{5,\Lambda}^p(a, b)) \left( \frac{|f'|^q + |f''|^q}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}, \tag{2.23}$$

where

$$B_{4,\Lambda}(a, b) = \int_0^1 \frac{(\Lambda(1-t))^p}{(tb + (1-t)a)^{2p}} dt,$$

$$B_{5,\Lambda}(a, b) = \int_0^1 \frac{(\Lambda(t))^p}{(tb + (1-t)a)^{2p}} dt,$$

and  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$ .

*Proof* It follows from Lemma 4 and the Hölder inequality that

$$\begin{aligned}
 |T_{f,\Lambda}(g; a, b)| &\leq \int_0^1 \frac{|\Lambda(1-t) - \Lambda(t)|}{(tb + (1-t)a)^2} \left| f' \left( \frac{ab}{tb + (1-t)a} \right) \right| dt \\
 &= \int_0^1 \frac{\Lambda(1-t)}{(tb + (1-t)a)^2} \left| f' \left( \frac{ab}{tb + (1-t)a} \right) \right| dt \\
 &\quad + \int_0^1 \frac{\Lambda(t)}{(tb + (1-t)a)^2} \left| f' \left( \frac{ab}{tb + (1-t)a} \right) \right| dt \\
 &\leq \left( \int_0^1 \frac{(\Lambda(1-t))^p}{(tb + (1-t)a)^{2p}} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( \int_0^1 \left| f' \left( \frac{ab}{tb + (1-t)a} \right) \right|^q dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\
 &\quad + \left( \int_0^1 \frac{(\Lambda(t))^p}{(tb + (1-t)a)^{2p}} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( \int_0^1 \left| f' \left( \frac{ab}{tb + (1-t)a} \right) \right|^q dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\
 &\leq \left( \int_0^1 \frac{(\Lambda(1-t))^p}{(tb + (1-t)a)^{2p}} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( \int_0^1 (t|f'(a)|^q + (1-t)|f'(b)|^q) dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\
 &\quad \times \left( \int_0^1 \frac{(\Lambda(t))^p}{(tb + (1-t)a)^{2p}} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( \int_0^1 (t|f'(a)|^q + (1-t)|f'(b)|^q) dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\
 &= (B_{4,\Lambda}^{\frac{1}{p}}(a, b) + B_{5,\Lambda}^{\frac{1}{p}}(a, b)) \left( \frac{|f'^q + |f''^q}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 12. □

*Remark 8* Under the assumptions of Theorem 12, taking  $\varphi(t) = t$  and  $\varphi(t) = \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)}$ , the inequality (2.23) reduces to the inequalities (1.6) and (1.11), respectively.

*Remark 9* Under the assumptions of Theorem 12, if we take  $\varphi(t) = \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)}$  and use the Lemma 2, then the inequality (2.23) reduces to the inequalities (1.12) and (1.13).

**Corollary 7** Under the assumptions of Theorem 12,  $\varphi(t) = \frac{t^{\frac{\alpha}{k}}}{k\Gamma_k(\alpha)}$  gives

$$|T_{f,\Lambda}(g; a, b)| \leq (B_{4,\Lambda}^{\frac{1}{p}}(a, b) + B_{5,\Lambda}^{\frac{1}{p}}(a, b)) \left( \frac{|f'^q + |f''^q}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}, \tag{2.24}$$

where  $\Lambda(t)$  is defined in Corollary 4.

**Corollary 8** Under the assumptions of Theorem 12, if we take  $\varphi(t) = t(b - t)^{\alpha-1}$ , then we obtain

$$|T_{f,\Lambda^*}(g; a, b)| \leq (B_{4,\Lambda^*}^{\frac{1}{p}}(a, b) + B_{5,\Lambda^*}^{\frac{1}{p}}(a, b)) \left( \frac{|f'^q + |f''^q}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}, \tag{2.25}$$

where  $\Lambda^*(t)$  is defined as in Corollary 5.

**Corollary 9** Under the assumptions of Theorem 12, if we set  $\varphi(t) = \frac{t}{\alpha} \exp(-\frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha}t)$ ,  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , then we have the following inequality:

$$|T_{f, \Lambda^{**}}(g; a, b)| \leq (B_{4, \Lambda^{**}}^{\frac{1}{p}}(a, b) + B_{5, \Lambda^{**}}^{\frac{1}{p}}(a, b)) \left( \frac{|f'|^q + |f''|^q}{2} \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}, \tag{2.26}$$

where  $\Lambda^{**}(t)$  is defined in Corollary 6.

### 3 Applications to special means

Let us consider some means for positive real numbers  $\ell_1$  and  $\ell_2$ , where  $\ell_1 < \ell_2$ , as follows:

(1) The arithmetic mean:

$$A(\ell_1, \ell_2) = \frac{\ell_1 + \ell_2}{2}.$$

(2) The geometric mean:

$$G(\ell_1, \ell_2) = \sqrt{\ell_1 \ell_2}.$$

(3) The generalized log-mean:

$$L_p(\ell_1, \ell_2) = \left[ \frac{\ell_2^{p+1} - \ell_1^{p+1}}{(p+1)(\ell_2 - \ell_1)} \right]^{\frac{1}{p}}; \quad p \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1, 0\}.$$

**Proposition 1** Under the assumptions of Theorem 11, take  $\varphi(t) = t$  to obtain

$$|A(\ell_1^{p+2}, \ell_2^{p+2}) - G^2(\ell_1, \ell_2)L_p^p(\ell_1, \ell_2)| \leq 2^{\frac{1-q}{q}}(p+2)G^2(\ell_1, \ell_2)(\ell_2 - \ell_1)\lambda_1^{1-\frac{1}{q}} \times \sqrt[q]{A(\lambda_2 \ell_1^{q(p+1)}, \lambda_3 \ell_2^{q(p+1)})}, \tag{3.1}$$

where  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$  and  $\lambda_3$  are given in Theorem 2.

*Proof* Taking  $f(x) = x^{p+2}$ , where  $x > 0$  and  $p \in (-1, +\infty) \setminus \{0\}$  in Theorem 11, (3.1) is obtained. □

**Proposition 2** Under the assumptions of Theorem 12,  $\varphi(t) = t$  gives

$$|A(\ell_1^{s+2}, \ell_2^{s+2}) - G^2(\ell_1, \ell_2)L_s^s(\ell_1, \ell_2)| \leq 2^{\frac{1-q}{q}} \frac{(s+2)}{\sqrt[p+1]{p}} G^2(\ell_1, \ell_2)(\ell_2 - \ell_1) \sqrt[q]{A(\mu_1 \ell_1^{q(s+1)}, \mu_2 \ell_2^{q(s+1)})}, \tag{3.2}$$

where  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$  are the same as in Theorem 3.

*Proof* Taking  $f(x) = x^{s+2}$ , where  $x > 0$  and  $s \in (-1, +\infty) \setminus \{0\}$  in Theorem 12, (3.2) is obtained. □

*Remark 10* Under the assumptions of Theorems 11 and 12, for appropriate choices of the functions such as

$$\varphi(t) = \frac{t^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)}; \frac{t^{\frac{\alpha}{k}}}{k\Gamma_k(\alpha)}; t(b-t)^{\alpha-1} \text{ and } \frac{t}{\alpha} \exp\left(-\frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha}t\right)$$

and for harmonically convex function  $f(x) = x^{p+2}$ , where  $x > 0$  and  $p \in (-1, +\infty) \setminus \{0\}$ ;  $x^2 \ln x$ , where  $x > 0$ , we obtain some new interesting inequalities using the special means. The details are left to the reader.

#### 4 Conclusion

In this paper, we established inequalities of Hermite–Hadamard type for harmonically convex functions using generalized fractional integrals. Some special cases are provided as well. Finally, some application to special means are given. The results of the present paper can be applied in convex analysis, optimization and also different areas of pure and applied sciences.

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#### Availability of data and materials

Data sharing not applicable to this paper as no data sets were generated or analyzed during the current study.

#### Competing interests

It is declared that the authors have no competing interests.

#### Authors' contributions

The study was carried out in collaboration of all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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