

## THE ORDER OF STARLIKENESS OF CERTAIN INTEGRAL OPERATORS

by

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**1. Introduction.** Let  $\alpha$  be a real number,  $\alpha < 1$ , and denote by  $S^*(\alpha)$  the class of functions  $f(z) = z + a_2z^2 + \dots$ , which are regular in the unit disc  $U = \{|z| < 1\}$  and satisfy

$$\operatorname{Re} \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} > \alpha, \quad z \in U.$$

If  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$ , then  $S^*(\alpha)$  is the well-known class of starlike functions of order  $\alpha$  and  $S^*(\alpha) \subset S^*(0) = S^*$ , the class of starlike functions. We also are interested in the case  $\alpha < 0$ , and continue to call „starlike of order  $\alpha$ ” any function in  $S^*(\alpha)$ , although it is not necessarily starlike, not even univalent.

Let  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  be real numbers and suppose  $\beta > 0$ ,  $\beta + \gamma > 0$  and  $-\frac{\gamma}{\beta} \leq \alpha < 1$ . From a more general result on Briot–Bouquet differential subordination [1, Theorem 1] it is easy to deduce that the integral operator  $I_{\beta, \gamma}$  defined by  $g = I_{\beta, \gamma}(f)$ , where

$$(1) \quad g(z) = \left( \frac{\beta + \gamma}{z^\gamma} \int_0^z f^\beta(w) w^{\gamma-1} dw \right)^{1/\beta}, \quad z \in U, f \in S^*(\alpha)$$

maps  $S^*(\alpha)$  into  $S^*(\alpha)$ , i.e.  $I_{\beta, \gamma}: S^*(\alpha) \rightarrow S^*(\alpha)$ .

For a given  $\alpha \in \left[-\frac{\gamma}{\beta}, 1\right)$  we define the *order of starlikeness* of the class  $I_{\beta, \gamma}(S^*(\alpha))$  by the largest number  $\delta = \delta(\alpha; \beta, \gamma)$  such that  $I_{\beta, \gamma}(S^*(\alpha)) \subset S^*(\delta)$ .

In this paper we find  $\delta(\alpha; \beta, \gamma)$ , for appropriate choices of  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$ , by using the sharp subordination result recently obtained in [1] and [3], as well as the useful lemma due to J. FENG and D. R. WILKEN [2]. Our general result includes some particular ones obtained by several authors [2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9].

**2. Preliminaries.** Let  $f$  and  $g$  be regular in  $U$ . We say that  $f$  is subordinate to  $g$ , written  $f < g$ , or  $f(z) < g(z)$ , if  $g$  is univalent,  $f(0) = g(0)$  and  $f(U) \subset g(U)$ .

We will make use of the following lemmas to prove our main result.

**Lemma A.** Let  $\beta > 0$ ,  $\beta + \gamma > 0$  and  $-\gamma/\beta \leq \alpha < 1$ . Then the differential equation

$$q(z) + \frac{zq'(z)}{\beta q(z) + \gamma} = \frac{1 + (1 - 2\alpha)z}{1 - z}, \quad q(0) = 1,$$

has a univalent solution in  $U$ , given by

$$(2) \quad q(z) = \frac{1}{\beta Q(z)} - \frac{\gamma}{\beta}$$

where

$$(3) \quad Q(z) = \int_0^1 \left( \frac{1-z}{1-tz} \right)^{2\beta(1-\alpha)} t^{\beta+\gamma-1} dt, \quad z \in U,$$

and  $q(z) < [1 + (1 - 2\alpha)z]/(1 - z)$ .

If  $p(z) = 1 + p_1z + \dots$  is regular in  $U$  and satisfies the differential subordination

$$(4) \quad p(z) + \frac{zp'(z)}{\beta p(z) + \gamma} < \frac{1 + (1 - 2\alpha)z}{1 - z}$$

then  $p(z) < q(z)$  and this subordination is sharp.

More general forms of this lemma may be found in [1, Corollary 2.1] and [3, Corollary 1.1].

**Lemma B.** Let  $d\mu(t)$  be a positive measure on  $[0, 1]$  and let  $Q(z, t)$  be a complex-valued function defined on  $U \times [0, 1]$ , such that  $Q(z, \cdot)$  is integrable on  $[0, 1]$  for each  $z \in U$ . Suppose that  $\operatorname{Re} Q(z, t) > 0$  in  $U$ ,  $Q(-r, t)$  is real and

$$\operatorname{Re} \frac{1}{Q(z, t)} \geq \frac{1}{Q(-r, t)}$$

for  $|z| \leq r < 1$  and  $t \in [0, 1]$ .

If

$$Q(z) = \int_0^1 Q(z, t) d\mu(t)$$

then

$$\operatorname{Re} \frac{1}{Q(z)} \geq \frac{1}{Q(-r)}, \quad \text{for } |z| \leq r.$$

This lemma is due to J. FENG and D. R. WILKEN [2, Lemma 2].

### 3. Main result.

**THEOREM.** Let  $\beta > 0$ ,  $\beta + \gamma > 0$  and consider the integral operator  $I_{\beta, \gamma}$  defined by (1). If  $\alpha \in [-\gamma/\beta, 1)$  then the order of starlikeness of the class  $I_{\beta, \gamma}(S^*(\alpha))$  is given by

$$(5) \quad \delta(\alpha; \beta, \gamma) = \inf_{|z| < 1} \operatorname{Re} q(z).$$

Moreover if  $\alpha \in [\alpha_0, 1)$ , where

$$(6) \quad \alpha_0 = \max \left\{ \frac{\beta - \gamma - 1}{2\beta}, -\frac{\gamma}{\beta} \right\}$$

and  $g = I_{\beta, \gamma}(f)$ , for  $f \in S^*(\alpha)$ , then

$$(7) \quad \operatorname{Re} \frac{zg'(z)}{g(z)} \geq q(-r) = \frac{1}{\beta} \left[ \frac{\beta + \gamma}{F(1, 2\beta(1 - \alpha), \beta + \gamma + 1; r/(1 + r))} - \gamma \right],$$

for  $|z| \leq r < 1$  and

$$(8) \quad \delta(\alpha; \beta, \gamma) = q(-1) = \frac{1}{\beta} \left[ \frac{\beta + \gamma}{F(1, 2\beta(1 - \alpha), \beta + \gamma + 1; 1/2)} - \gamma \right],$$

where  $q$  is given by (2) and  $F(a, b, c; z)$  is the hypergeometric function. The extremal function is given by  $g = I_{\beta, \gamma}(k)$ , where  $k(z) = z(1 - z)^{2(\alpha-1)}$ .

*Proof.* If we let  $p(z) = \frac{zg'(z)}{g(z)}$  from (1) we obtain

$$p(z) + \frac{zp'(z)}{\beta p(z) + \gamma} = \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)}.$$

Since  $f \in S^*(\alpha)$  is equivalent to

$$\frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} < \frac{1 + (1 - 2\alpha)z}{1 - z},$$

we deduce that  $p(z)$  satisfies the differential subordination (4) and hence, by Lemma A,  $p(z) < q(z)$  which implies (5).

Next we shall use the following well-known formulas

$$(9) \quad \int_0^1 t^{b-1}(1-t)^{c-b-1}(1-tz)^{-a} dt = \frac{\Gamma(b)\Gamma(c-b)}{\Gamma(c)} F(a, b, c; z), \quad c > b > 0,$$

and

$$(10) \quad F(a, b, c; z) = (1-z)^{-a} F\left(a, c-b, c; \frac{z}{z-1}\right),$$

which hold for all  $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus (1, \infty)$ .

Suppose  $\alpha \in (\alpha_0, 1)$  where  $\alpha_0$  is given by (6) and denote  $a = 2\beta(1 - \alpha)$ ,  $b = \beta + \gamma$  and  $c = \beta + \gamma + 1 = b + 1$ . Since  $c > b > 0$ , from (3), by using (9) and (10), we deduce

$$\begin{aligned} Q(z) &= (1-z)^a \frac{\Gamma(b)\Gamma(c-b)}{\Gamma(c)} F(a, b, c; z) = \frac{1}{\beta + \gamma} F\left(a, c-b, c; \frac{z}{z-1}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\beta + \gamma} F\left(1, a, c; \frac{z}{z-1}\right), \quad z \in U. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\alpha > \alpha_0$  implies  $c > a$ , by using again (9), we get

$$Q(z) = \int_0^1 \frac{1-z}{1-(1-t)z} d\mu(t), \quad z \in U,$$

where

$$d\mu(t) = \frac{\Gamma(b)}{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(c-a)} t^{a-1}(1-t)^{c-a-1} dt.$$

If we let  $Q(z, t) = (1-z)/(1-(1-t)z)$ , then  $\operatorname{Re} Q(z, t) > 0$ ,  $Q(-r, t)$  is real and

$$\operatorname{Re} \frac{1}{Q(z, t)} = \operatorname{Re} \frac{1-(1-t)z}{1-z} \geq \frac{1+(1-t)r}{1+r} = \frac{1}{Q(-r, t)},$$

for  $|z| \leq r < 1$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ . By Lemma B we have

$$\operatorname{Re} \frac{1}{Q(z)} \geq \frac{1}{Q(-r)},$$

which implies (7). If we take  $g = I_{\beta, \gamma}(h)$ , then a simple computation yields  $p = q$ , which shows that (7) is sharp. In the case  $\alpha = \alpha_0$ , we obtain (7), by letting  $\alpha \rightarrow \alpha_0^+$ . From (7) we obtain (8), by letting  $r \rightarrow 1^-$ . This completes the proof of our theorem.

**4. Particular cases.** 1) Let  $\beta > 0$  and  $\beta + \gamma \geq 1$ . In this case  $\alpha_0 = (\beta - \gamma - 1)/2\beta$  and if we take  $\alpha = \alpha_0$ , i.e.  $c = a$ , by using  $F(1, a, a; z) = (1-z)^{-1}$ , we easily get  $q(z) = (\beta + \gamma z)/\beta(1-z)$  and

$$\delta\left(\frac{\beta - \gamma - 1}{2\beta}; \beta, \gamma\right) = \frac{\beta - \gamma}{2\beta}$$

which shows that, if  $\beta \geq \gamma \geq 1 - \beta$ , the integral operator  $I_{\beta, \gamma}$  maps each starlike function of order  $(\beta - \gamma - 1)/2\beta$  into a starlike (univalent) function. This result is sharp if  $\beta = \gamma \geq 1/2$ . For instance, if  $\beta = \gamma = 1$ , we deduce that the Libera integral operator maps starlike functions of order  $-1/2$  into starlike functions.

2) Let  $\beta > 0$  and  $\beta + \gamma \leq 1$ . In this case  $\alpha_0 = -\gamma/\beta$  and we have

$$\delta(-\gamma/\beta; \beta, \gamma) = \frac{1}{\beta\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{\Gamma(\beta + \gamma + 1/2)}{\Gamma(\beta + \gamma)} - \gamma/\beta.$$

If in this last formula we take  $\gamma = 0$  and  $\beta = 1/\alpha \leq 1$ , we get

$$\delta(0; 1/\alpha, 0) = \frac{\Gamma(1/\alpha + 1/2)}{\sqrt{\pi}\Gamma(1/\alpha + 1)},$$

which is the order of starlikeness of  $\alpha$ -convex functions, for  $\alpha \geq 1$ , [4]. We note that  $\delta(0; 1/\alpha, 0) = 0 \neq q(-1)$ , for  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$ .

3) Let  $\beta > 0$  and  $\beta + \gamma = 1$ . In this case  $\alpha_0 = 1 - \frac{1}{\beta}$  and for  $\alpha \in [1 - 1/\beta, 1)$  we have

$$\delta(\alpha; \beta, 1 - \beta) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\beta} \left[ \frac{1 - 2\beta(1 - \alpha)}{2 - 2^{2\beta(1 - \alpha)}} + \beta - 1 \right], & \alpha \neq 1 - 1/2\beta \\ \frac{1}{\beta} \left[ \frac{1}{2 \ln 2} + \beta - 1 \right], & \alpha = 1 - 1/2\beta. \end{cases}$$

If in this last formula we take  $\beta = 1$ , we obtain the order of starlikeness of convex functions of order  $\alpha$ , for  $\alpha \in [0, 1)$  [2], [9]. If we take  $\beta = 1/2$ , then, for  $\alpha \in [-1, 1)$ , we have

$$\delta(\alpha; 1/2, 1/2) = \begin{cases} \alpha/(1 - 2^{-\alpha}) - 1, & \alpha \neq 0 \\ 1/\ln 2 - 1 & \alpha = 0. \end{cases}$$

4) Let  $\beta > 0$  and  $\beta + \gamma = 2$ . In this case  $\alpha_0 = 1 - 3/2\beta$ , and for  $\alpha \in [1 - 3/2\beta, 1)$  we obtain

$$\delta(\alpha; \beta, 2 - \beta) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\beta} \left[ \frac{(1 - 2\beta(1 - \alpha))(1 - \beta(1 - \alpha))}{2^{2\beta(1 - \alpha)} - 2\beta(1 - \alpha)} + \beta - 2 \right], & \alpha \neq 1 - \frac{1}{2\beta}, \alpha \neq 1 - 1/\beta \\ \frac{1}{\beta} \left[ \frac{1}{2(1 - \ln 2)} + \beta - 2 \right], & \alpha = 1 - 1/2\beta \\ \frac{1}{\beta} \left[ \frac{1}{2(2 \ln 2 - 1)} + \beta - 2 \right], & \alpha = 1 - 1/\beta. \end{cases}$$

If we take  $\beta = 1$ , we obtain the following result.

**Corollary.** If  $\alpha \in [-1/2, 1)$  then the order of starlikeness of the class  $L(S^*(\alpha))$ , where  $L$  is the Libera integral operator defined by

$$L(f)(z) = \frac{2}{z} \int_0^z f(w) dw$$

is given by

$$\delta(\alpha; 1, 1) = \begin{cases} \frac{\alpha(2\alpha - 1)}{2(2^{-2\alpha} + \alpha - 1)} - 1, & \alpha \neq 1/2, \alpha \neq 0 \\ \frac{1}{2(1 - \ln 2)} - 1, & \alpha = 1/2 \\ \frac{1}{2(2 \ln 2 - 1)} - 1, & \alpha = 0. \end{cases}$$

We note that  $\delta(-1/2; 1, 1) = 0$ , but  $\delta(-1; 1, 1) = -1 \neq q(-1) = -1/4$ .

**Remarks.** 1) If  $A_\beta$  is the operator defined by  $A_\beta(f)(z) = z(f(z)/z)^\beta$ , then we have  $I_{\beta, \gamma} = A_{1/\beta} \circ I_{1, \beta + \gamma - 1} \circ A_\beta$ . Since  $A_\beta$  maps bijectively  $S^*(\alpha)$  onto  $S^*(\alpha\beta + 1 - \beta)$ , we easily deduce the following relationship

$$\beta\delta(\alpha; \beta, \gamma) = \delta(\alpha\beta + 1 - \beta; 1, \beta + \gamma - 1) + \beta - 1,$$

which shows that for the problem involved in this paper it is sufficient to consider integral operators of the form  $I_{1, \gamma}$ , with  $\gamma + 1 > 0$ .

2) For some particular cases, in [5], [6] and [7] elementary proofs of the fact that  $\min_{|z|=1} \operatorname{Re} q(z) = q(-1)$  were given. We note that in all those cases it was proved that  $z = -1$  is the only point of minimum.

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