

A General Schlicht Integral Operator

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Dedicated to Professor Dumitru Acu on his 60th anniversary

Abstract

Let A be the class of analytic functions f in the open complex unit disc $U = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 1\}$, with $f(0) = 0$, $f'(0) = 1$ and $f(z)/z \neq 0$ in U . Let define the integral operator $I : A \rightarrow A$, $I(f) = F$, where:

$$F(z) = \left[(\alpha + \beta + 1) \int_0^z f^\alpha(u) g^\beta(u) \right]^{1/(\alpha + \beta + 1)}, \quad z \in U$$

With suitable conditions on the constants α and β and on the function $g \in A$, the author shows that F is analytic and univalent (or schlicht) in U . Additional results are also obtained, such as a new generalization of Becker's condition of univalence and improvements of some known results.

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1 Introduction

Let $U = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 1\}$ be the complex unit disc and let A be the class of analytic functions in U of the form:

$$f(z) = z + a_n z^n + a_{n+1} z^{n+1} + \dots$$

and with $f(z)/z \neq 0$ for all $z \in U$.

Univalence of complex functions is an important property, but, unfortunately, it is difficult and in many cases impossible to show directly that a certain complex function is univalent. For this reason, many authors found different types of sufficient conditions of univalence. One of these conditions of univalence is the well-known criterion of Ahlfors and Becker ([1] and [7]), which states that the function $f \in A$ is univalent if:

$$(1) \quad (1 - |z|^2) \left| \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \right| \leq 1$$

There are many generalizations of this criterion, such those obtained in [4], [5], [6] and [9]. In this paper, as an additional result, we will also obtain a new generalization of the above-mentioned univalence criterion. But, the principal result deals with finding sufficient conditions on the constants α and β and on the function $g \in A$ so that the function:

$$(2) \quad F(z) = \left[(\alpha + \beta + 1) \int_0^z f^\alpha(u) g^\beta(u) du \right]^{1/(\alpha+\beta+1)}, \quad z \in U$$

is univalent. The result improves also former results obtained in [3], [4], [5], [6] and [7].

2 Preliminaries

For proving our principal result we will need the following definitions and lemma:

Definition 1. *If f and g are analytic functions in U and g is univalent, then we say that f is subordinate to g , written $f \prec g$ or $f(z) \prec g(z)$ if $f(0) = g(0)$ and $f(U) \subset g(U)$.*

Definition 2. *A function $L(z, t)$, $z \in U$, $t \geq 0$ is called a Lőwner chain or a subordination chain if:*

- (i) $L(\cdot, t)$ is analytic and univalent in U for all $t \geq 0$.
- (ii) $L(z, \cdot)$ is continuously differentiable in $[0, \infty)$ for all $t \geq 0$.
- (iii) $L(z, s) \prec L(z, t)$ for all real s and t with $0 \leq s < t$.

Let $0 < r \leq 1$. We denote by U_r the set: $U_r = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < r\}$.

Lemma 1. (see [8], [9]) *Let $0 < r_0 \leq 1$, $t \geq 0$ and $a_1(t) \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$. Let:*

$$L(z, t) = a_1(t)z + a_2(t)z^2 + \dots$$

be analytic in U_{r_0} for all $t \geq 0$, locally absolutely continuous in $[0, \infty)$ locally uniform with respect to U_{r_0} . For almost all $t \geq 0$ suppose that:

$$(3) \quad z \frac{\partial L(z, t)}{\partial z} = p(z, t) \frac{\partial L(z, t)}{\partial t}, \quad z \in U_{r_0}$$

where $p(z, t)$ is analytic in the unit disc U and $\text{Re} p(z) > 0$ in U for all $t \geq 0$. If:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |a_1(t)| = \infty$$

and $\{L(z, t)/a_1(t)\}$ forms a normal family in U_{r_0} , then, for each $t \geq 0$, $L(z, t)$ has an analytic and univalent extension to the whole unit disc U and is a Lőwner chain.

Lemma 1 is a variant of the well-known theorem of Pommerenke ([8]) and its proof can be found in [9].

3 Principal result

Let B be the class of analytic functions p in U with $p(0) = 1$ and $p(z) \neq 0$ for all $z \in U$.

Theorem 1. *Let $f, g \in A$, $p \in B$ and α, β, γ and δ complex numbers satisfying:*

$$(4) \quad \operatorname{Re} \frac{\gamma}{\alpha + \beta + 1} > \frac{1}{2}$$

$$(5) \quad \operatorname{Re}(\alpha + \beta + 1) > 0$$

$$(6) \quad \operatorname{Re} \gamma > 0$$

$$(7) \quad \left| \frac{\delta + 1}{\gamma p(z)} - 1 \right| < 1, \quad z \in U$$

$$(8) \quad \left| \frac{\delta + 1}{\alpha + \beta + 1} - 1 \right| < 1$$

and, for all $z \in U$:

$$(9) \quad \left| \frac{1-\gamma}{\gamma} + \frac{1+\delta-p(z)}{\gamma p(z)} |z|^{2\gamma} + \frac{1-z^{2\gamma}}{\gamma} \left[\alpha \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} + \beta \frac{zg'(z)}{g(z)} + \frac{zp'(z)}{p(z)} \right] \right| \leq 1$$

Then, the function F defined by (2) is analytic and univalent in U .

Proof. Let :

$$h(u) = \left[\frac{f(u)}{u} \right]^\alpha \left[\frac{g(u)}{u} \right]^\beta$$

where the powers are considered with their principal branches. The function h does not vanish in U because f and g are in A . Let define now the function:

$$h_1(z, t) = \frac{\alpha + \beta + 1}{(e^{-t}z)^{\alpha + \beta + 1}} \int_0^{e^{-t}z} h(u)u^{\alpha + \beta} du = 1 + b_1z + \dots$$

where $t \geq 0$ and $z \in U$. We consider now the power development of h :

$$h(u) = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n u^n, \quad u \in U.$$

We denote:

$$\phi(w) = \frac{\alpha + \beta + 1}{w^{\alpha + \beta + 1}} \int_0^w h(u)u^{\alpha + \beta} du = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \frac{\alpha + \beta + 1}{n + \alpha + \beta + 1} w^n.$$

From (5) we have that $\operatorname{Re}(\alpha + \beta + 1) > 0$ and, consequently:

$\operatorname{Re}(\alpha + \beta + 1) > -n/2$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. It follows immediately that:

$$\operatorname{Re} \frac{n}{n + 2(\alpha + \beta + 1)} > 0, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}$$

and hence:

$$\left| \frac{\alpha + \beta + 1}{n + \alpha + \beta + 1} \right| < 1.$$

Taking into account that h is analytic in U , we deduce that:

$$1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \frac{\alpha + \beta + 1}{n + \alpha + \beta + 1} w^n$$

converges locally uniformly in U , and, thus, ϕ is analytic in U . Because for every $t \geq 0$ and for every $z \in U$ we have that $e^{-t}z \in U$ we deduce that $\phi(e^{-t}z) = h_1(z, t)$ is analytic in U for all $t \geq 0$. Let now:

$$m = \frac{\alpha + \beta + 1}{\delta + 1}$$

$$h_2(z, t) = p(e^{-t}z)h(e^{-t}z), \quad z \in U, \quad t \geq 0$$

$$h_3(z, t) = h_1(z, t) + m(e^{2\gamma t} - 1)h_2(z, t), \quad z \in U, \quad t \geq 0.$$

Suppose now that $h_3(0, t_1) = 0$ for a certain positive real number t_1 , that is $1 + m(e^{2\gamma t_1} - 1) = 0$, or:

$$(10) \quad e^{2\gamma t_1} = \frac{m-1}{m} = \frac{\alpha + \beta - \delta}{\alpha + \beta + 1}.$$

From (6) we have that $|e^{2\gamma t_1}| = e^{2t_1 \operatorname{Re} \gamma} \geq 1$ and from (8) we deduce that $\left| \frac{\alpha + \beta - \delta}{\alpha + \beta + 1} \right| < 1$. It follows immediately that (10) is false and then, we have:

$$(11) \quad h_3(0, t) \neq 0 \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0$$

Let now suppose that for all r with $0 < r \leq 1$ it exists at least one $t_r \geq 0$ so that $h_3(z, t_r)$ has at least one zero in $U_r = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < r\}$. We choose $r = 1, 1/2, 1/3, \dots$ and form a sequence $(t_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ so that $h_3(z, t_n)$ has at least one zero in $U_{1/n}$.

If $(t_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is bounded, we can find a subsequence $(t_{n_k})_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ of $(t_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ that converges to $\tau_0 \geq 0$. Because h_3 is continuous with respect to t we obtain:

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} h_3(z, t_{n_k}) = h_3(z, \tau_0) \quad \text{for all } z \in U.$$

But in this case $h_2(\cdot, \tau_0)$ has at least one zero in every disc U_{1/n_k} . If we let now $k \rightarrow \infty$ we deduce that $h_3(0, \tau_0) = 0$, which contradicts (11).

If the sequence $(t_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is unbounded we can consider, without loss of generality, that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} t_n = \infty$. We have now:

$$h_3(z, t) = h_1(z, t) + m(e^{2\gamma t} - 1)h_2(z, t) = \phi(e^{-t}z) + m(e^{2\gamma t} - 1)h_2(z, t)$$

Because $\phi(0) = 1$ we deduce that $M = \max_{z \in \bar{U}} |\phi(e^{-t}z)| > 0$. Because $p(0)h(0) = 1$, there exists $r_1 \in (0, 1]$ so that $p(w)h(w) \neq 0$ in \bar{U}_{r_1} . Then, $h_2(w, t) = p(e^{-t}z)h(e^{-t}z)$ do not vanish in \bar{U}_{r_1} for every $t \geq 0$ and, thus, we have: $K = \min_{w \in \bar{U}_{r_1}} |h_2(w, t)| > 0$. From (5) we deduce that $m \neq 0$ and thus, $|m| > 0$. It follows immediately that:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |1 - e^{2\gamma t}| = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{2t \operatorname{Re} \gamma} \sqrt{e^{-4t \operatorname{Re} \gamma} - 2e^{-2t \operatorname{Re} \gamma} \cos 2t \operatorname{Im} \gamma + 1} = \infty$$

because $\operatorname{Re} \gamma > 0$.

Hence, for sufficiently large t we have:

$$(12) \quad |m| |1 - e^{2\gamma t}| |h_2(z, t)| > |m| |1 - e^{2\gamma t}| K > M + 1 > |\phi(e^{-t}z) + 1|$$

In the same time we have:

$$\begin{aligned} |h_3(z, t)| &= |h_1(z, t) - m(1 - e^{2\gamma t})h_2(z, t)| \geq \\ &\geq ||h_1(z, t)| - |m| |1 - e^{2\gamma t}| |h_2(z, t)|| \end{aligned}$$

From (12) it follows immediately that $|h_3(z, t)| > 1$ for all $z \in U_{r_1}$ and for sufficiently large t . Thus, it exists $N \in \mathbb{N}$ so that $h_3(\cdot, t_n)$ does not vanish in U_{r_1} for all $n > N$. For $n \in [0, N]$ we have that $h_3(z, t_n)$ does not vanish in U_{r_2} where:

$$r_2 = \min\{r_{t_n} : h_3(z, t) \neq 0, z \in U_{r_{t_n}}, t \geq 0, n \in [0, N]\}.$$

If we let now $r_0 = \min\{r_1, r_2\}$ we have that $h_3(\cdot, t_n)$ does not vanish in U_{r_0} for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$. It follows that the supposition of the nonexistence of a positive real number $r_0 < 1$ with the property that $h_3(z, t) \neq 0$ for all $t \geq 0$ and all $z \in U_{r_0}$ is false. Hence, we can choose $r_0 \in (0, 1]$ so that $h_3(z, t) \neq 0$

for all $t \geq 0$ and all $z \in U_{r_0}$.

Let $h_4(z, t)$ be the uniform branch of $[h_3(z, t)]^{1/(\alpha+\beta+1)}$ which takes the value $[1 + m(e^{2\gamma t} - 1)]^{1/(\alpha+\beta+1)}$ at the origin. Let us define:

$$(13) \quad L(z, t) = e^{-t} z h_4(z, t)$$

which is analytic for all $t \geq 0$. If $L(z, t) = a_1(t)z + a_2(z)z^2 + \dots$, it is clear that $L(0, t) = 0$ for every $t \geq 0$ and:

$$a_1(t) = e^{-t} [1 + m(e^{2\gamma t} - 1)]^{1/(\alpha+\beta+1)}.$$

From the above written equations we can formally write:

$$(14) \quad L(z, t) = [L_1(z, t)]^{1/(\alpha+\beta+1)} = [(\alpha + \beta + 1) \int_0^{e^{-t}z} f^\alpha(u)g^\beta(u)du + m(e^{2\gamma t} - 1)e^{-t}z f^\alpha(e^{-t}z)g^\beta(e^{-t}z)p(e^{-t}z)]^{1/(\alpha+\beta+1)}.$$

By simple calculations we obtain:

$$a_1(t) = (c + 1)^{-\frac{1}{\alpha+\beta+1}} e^{\frac{2\gamma-\alpha-\beta-1}{\alpha+\beta+1}t} [\alpha + \beta + 1 - (\alpha + \beta - c)e^{-2\gamma t}]^{\frac{1}{\alpha+\beta+1}}.$$

Thus, $e^t a_1(t) = h_4(0, t) = [h_3(0, t)]^{1/(\alpha+\beta+1)}$ with the chosen uniform branch. Because $h_3(\cdot, t)$ does not vanish in U_{r_0} for all $t \geq 0$, we obtain that $a_1(t) \neq 0$ for every $t \geq 0$. If we let $t \rightarrow \infty$, from (4) and (6) we easily obtain:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |a_1(t)| = \infty.$$

Because $h_4(\cdot, t)$ is analytic in U_{r_0} for every $t \geq 0$, we deduce that $L(z, t) = e^{-t} z h_4(z, t)$ is also analytic in U_{r_0} for all $t \geq 0$. The family $\{L(z, t)/a_1(t)\}_{t \geq 0}$ consists of analytic functions in U_{r_0} . Hence, this family is uniformly bounded

in U_{r_1} , where $0 < r_1 \leq r_0$. By applying Montel's theorem we have that $\{L(z, t)/a_1(t)\}$ forms a normal family in U_{r_1} . Let denote:

$$(15) \quad J(z, t) = m(e^{2t} - 1) \left[\alpha \frac{e^{-t} z f'(e^{-t} z)}{f(e^{-t} z)} + \beta \frac{e^{-t} z g'(e^{-t} z)}{g(e^{-t} z)} + \frac{e^{-t} z p'(e^{-t} z)}{p(e^{-t} z)} \right] p(e^{-t} z)$$

From (14) we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial L(z, t)}{\partial t} &= \frac{1}{\alpha + \beta + 1} [L_1(z, t)]^{-\frac{\alpha + \beta}{\alpha + \beta + 1}} e^{-t} z f^\alpha(e^{-t} z) g^\beta(e^{-t} z) \cdot \\ &\cdot [2\gamma m e^{2\gamma t} p(e^{-t} z) - m(e^{2\gamma t} - 1)p(e^{-t} z) - \alpha - \beta - 1 - J(z, t)] \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that $\partial L(z, t)/\partial t$ is analytic in U_{r_2} , where $0 < r_2 \leq r_1$. Consequently, $L(z, t)$ is locally absolutely continuous and we have also:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial L(z, t)}{\partial z} &= \frac{1}{\alpha + \beta + 1} [L_1(z, t)]^{-\frac{\alpha + \beta}{\alpha + \beta + 1}} e^{-t} z f^\alpha(e^{-t} z) g^\beta(e^{-t} z) \cdot \\ &\cdot [m(e^{2\gamma t} - 1)p(e^{-t} z) + \alpha + \beta + 1 + J(z, t)] \end{aligned}$$

Let:

$$p_1(z, t) = \frac{z \partial L(z, t) / \partial z}{\partial L(z, t) / \partial t} = \frac{m(e^{2\gamma t} - 1)p(e^{-t} z) + \alpha + \beta + 1 + J(z, t)}{(2\gamma - 1)m e^{2\gamma t} p(e^{-t} z) + m p(e^{-t} z)}$$

Consider now the function:

$$w(z, t) = \frac{p_1(z, t) - 1}{p_1(z, t) + 1}$$

Further calculations show that:

$$w(z, t) = \frac{m(1 - \gamma)e^{2\gamma t} p(e^{-t} z) - m p(e^{-t} z) + \alpha + \beta + 1 + J(z, t)}{\gamma m e^{2\gamma t} p(e^{-t} z)}$$

It is clear that $w(\cdot, t)$ is analytic in U_{r_2} for all $t \geq 0$. Hence, $w(\cdot, t)$ has an analytic extension $\tilde{w}(\cdot, t)$.

Let now $t = 0$. Taking into account that $m = (\alpha + \beta + 1)/(\delta + 1)$, we easily obtain from (15):

$$\tilde{w}(z, 0) = -1 + \frac{c + 1}{\gamma p(z)}$$

and from (7) it follows immediately that $|\tilde{w}(z, 0)| < 1$.

Let now $t > 0$. We observe that $\tilde{w}(\cdot, t)$ is analytic in $\bar{U} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| \leq 1\}$ because if $t \geq 0$, for every $z \in \bar{U}$ we have that $e^{-t}z \in U$. In this case we have:

$$|\tilde{w}(z, t)| = \max_{z \in \bar{U}} |\tilde{w}(z, t)| = \max_{|z|=1} |\tilde{w}(z, t)| = |\tilde{w}(e^{i\theta}, t)|$$

with $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$. Let $v = e^{-t}e^{i\theta} \in U$. After simple calculations we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{w}(e^{i\theta}, t) &= \frac{1 - \gamma}{\gamma} + \frac{\alpha + \beta + 1 - mp(v)}{\gamma mp(v)} |v|^{2\gamma} + \\ &+ \frac{1 - |v|^{2\gamma}}{\gamma} \left[\alpha \frac{vf'(v)}{f(v)} + \beta \frac{vg'(v)}{g(v)} + \frac{vp'(v)}{p(v)} \right] \end{aligned}$$

But:

$$\frac{\alpha + \beta + 1 - mp(v)}{\gamma mp(v)} = \frac{\delta + 1 - p(v)}{\gamma p(v)}$$

and from (9) we deduce that $|\tilde{w}(e^{i\theta}, t)| \leq 1$ and hence, $|\tilde{w}(z, t)| < 1$ in U for all $t \geq 0$. From the definition of w and \tilde{w} we deduce that $p_1(\cdot, t)$ has an analytic extension $\tilde{p}_1(\cdot, t)$ to the whole disc U for all $t \geq 0$ and $\operatorname{Re} \tilde{p}_1(z, t) > 0$ in U for all $t \geq 0$. By applying **Lemma 1** we obtain that $L(z, t)$ is a subordination chain and thus, $L(z, 0) = F(z)$ is analytic and univalent in U and the proof of the theorem is complete.

Remark 1. We can write a variant of **Theorem 1** with $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$. In this case, condition (8) can be replaced by:

$$(16) \quad 1 - \frac{\delta + 1}{\alpha + \beta + 1} \notin [1, \infty)$$

However, condition (8) was necessary only for showing that $h_2(0, t) \neq 0$ for all $t \geq 0$. But if $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ then $h_2(0, t) = 0$ is equivalent to $e^{2\gamma t} = (m-1)/m \in \mathbb{R}$. But this last equality is impossible because $e^{2\gamma t} > 1$ and $(m-1)/m \notin [1, \infty)$.

4 Some particular cases

If we let in **Theorem 1** $\gamma = 1$ and $p(z) = 1$ for all $z \in U$, then we obtain, using **Remark 1** also, the following result:

Corollary 1. *If $f, g \in A$ and α, β and δ are complex numbers satisfying:*

$$(17) \quad |\alpha + \beta| < 1$$

$$(18) \quad |\delta| < 1$$

$$(19) \quad 1 - (\delta + 1)/(\alpha + \beta + 1) \notin [1, \infty)$$

$$(20) \quad \left| c|z|^2 + (1 - |z|^2) \left[\alpha \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} + \beta \frac{zg'(z)}{g(z)} \right] \right| \leq 1, \quad z \in U$$

then the function F defined in (2) is analytic and univalent in U .

If in **Corollary 1** we let $\delta = \alpha + \beta$ we obtain **Theorem 1** from [5] and if we let additionally $g(z) = z$ for all $z \in U$ we obtain **Theorem 1** from [4]. For $\beta = -1$ in this last theorem we obtain **Theorem 1** from [3].

From **Theorem 1** we can obtain many other results by choosing properly the constants. An interesting example can be obtained if we let $\alpha + \beta = \omega$, $p(z) = 1$ and $g(z) = f(z)[f'(z)]^{1/\beta}$ for all $z \in U$ in **Theorem 1**. For the power we choose the principal branch and obtain:

Corollary 2. *If $f \in A$ and γ, δ and ω are complex numbers satisfying:*

$$(21) \quad \operatorname{Re} \frac{2\gamma}{\omega + 1} > 1$$

$$(22) \quad \operatorname{Re} \gamma > 0, \quad \left| \frac{\delta + 1}{\gamma} - 1 \right| < 1, \quad \operatorname{Re} \omega > -1$$

$$(23) \quad \left| \frac{\delta + 1}{\omega + 1} - 1 \right| < 1$$

and for all $z \in U$:

$$(24) \quad \left| \frac{1 - \gamma}{\gamma} + \frac{\delta}{\gamma} |z|^{2\gamma} + \frac{\omega}{\gamma} (1 - |z|^{2\gamma}) \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} + \frac{1 - |z|^{2\gamma}}{\gamma} \frac{zf'(z)}{f'(z)} \right| \leq 1$$

then f is univalent in u .

If we let in **Corollary 2** $\gamma = 1$ and use also **Remark 1** we obtain a generalization of the well-known criterion of univalence of L.V.Ahlfors and J.Becker ([1], [2]), given in (1):

Corollary 3. *If $f \in A$, δ and $\omega \in \mathbb{C}$ satisfy:*

$$(25) \quad |\delta| < 1$$

$$(26) \quad |\omega| < 1$$

$$(27) \quad \frac{\omega - \delta}{\delta + 1} \notin [1, \infty)$$

$$(28) \quad \left| \delta |z|^2 + \omega (1 - |z|^2) \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} + (1 - |z|^2) \frac{zf'(z)}{f'(z)} \right| \leq 1, \quad z \in U$$

then f is univalent in U .

For $\delta = \omega = 0$ we obtain from **Corollary 3** the criterion of univalence of Ahlfors and Becker.

For $\delta = \omega = (1 - \alpha)/\alpha$, conditions (25) and (26) are equivalent to:
Re $\alpha > 1/2$ and we obtain the result from [6].

If in **Corollary 2** we let $\omega = 0$ and $\gamma = (m + 1)/2$, $m \in \mathbb{R}$ we obtain the result from [7].

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