



Complex analysis

Fekete–Szegő inequality for certain spiral-like functions

*Inégalité de Fekete–Szegő pour certaines fonctions spiralées*

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ABSTRACT

For $|\alpha| < \pi/2$, let \mathcal{S}_α denote the class of non-vanishing normalized analytic functions $f(z) = z + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_n z^n$ in the unit disk $\mathbb{D} := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 1\}$ satisfying $\operatorname{Re} P_f(z) > 0$ in \mathbb{D} where

$$P_f(z) = e^{i\alpha} \left(1 + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right).$$

The class \mathcal{S}_α consists of functions $f(z)$ for which $zf'(z)$ is spiral-like, which has been introduced and extensively studied by M.S. Robertson [24]. In the present paper, we obtain the sharp upper bound for the Fekete–Szegő functional $|a_3 - \lambda a_2^2|$ for the complex parameter λ when $f \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha$.

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R É S U M É

Pour $|\alpha| < \pi/2$, soit \mathcal{S}_α la classe des fonctions analytiques normalisées $f(z) = z + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_n z^n$, non nulles dans le disque unité $\mathbb{D} := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 1\}$ et satisfaisant $\operatorname{Re} P_f(z) > 0$ dans \mathbb{D} , où

$$P_f(z) = e^{i\alpha} \left(1 + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right).$$

Pour $f(z) \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha$, la fonction $zf'(z)$ est spiralée, notion introduite et étudiée de façon approfondie par M.S. Robertson [24]. Dans la présente Note, nous obtenons une borne supérieure précise de la fonctionnelle de Fekete–Szegő $|a_3 - \lambda a_2^2|$, où λ est un paramètre complexe et $f \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha$.

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1. Introduction

Let \mathcal{A} denote the class of analytic functions f in the unit disk $\mathbb{D} := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 1\}$ normalized by $f(0) = 0$ and $f'(0) = 1$. Any function $f \in \mathcal{A}$ has the following series representation:

$$f(z) = z + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_n z^n. \quad (1.1)$$

A function f is said to be univalent in \mathbb{D} if it is one-to-one in \mathbb{D} . Let \mathcal{S} denote the class of univalent functions in \mathcal{A} . A domain $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ is said to be a star-like domain with respect to a point z_0 if the line segment joining z_0 to any point in Ω lies in Ω . A star-like domain with respect to the origin is simply said to be a star-like domain. A function $f \in \mathcal{A}$ is said to be a star-like function if f maps \mathbb{D} onto a domain $f(\mathbb{D})$ that is star-like with respect to the origin. We denote the class of univalent star-like functions in \mathcal{A} by \mathcal{S}^* . It is well known that a function $f \in \mathcal{A}$ is in \mathcal{S}^* if and only if

$$\operatorname{Re} \left(\frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \right) > 0 \quad \text{for } z \in \mathbb{D}.$$

A domain $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ is said to be convex if it is star-like with respect to every point in Ω . A function $f \in \mathcal{A}$ is said to be convex if $f(\mathbb{D})$ is a convex domain. Let \mathcal{C} denote the class of convex univalent functions in \mathbb{D} . A function $f \in \mathcal{A}$ is in \mathcal{C} if and only if

$$\operatorname{Re} \left(1 + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right) > 0 \quad \text{for } z \in \mathbb{D}.$$

It is well known that $f \in \mathcal{C}$ if and only if $zf' \in \mathcal{S}^*$.

A domain $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ is said to be α -spiral-like if for each point $0 \neq w_0 \in \Omega$ the arc of the α -spiral from w_0 to the origin lies entirely in Ω . An analytic and univalent function f in the unit disk \mathbb{D} with $f(0) = 0$ is said to be α -spiral-like if $f(\mathbb{D})$ is α -spiral-like. A function f is said to be spiral-like if it is α -spiral-like for some α . In 1932, Špaček [26] proved that a function $f \in \mathcal{A}$ is α -spiral-like for some real constant α ($|\alpha| < \pi/2$) if

$$\operatorname{Re} \left(e^{i\alpha} \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \right) > 0 \quad \text{for } z \in \mathbb{D}.$$

The class of all α -spiral-like functions in \mathbb{D} is denoted by $Sp(\alpha)$ and

$$\bigcup_{-\pi/2 < \alpha < \pi/2} Sp(\alpha)$$

denotes the class of spiral-like functions in \mathbb{D} . In particular, $Sp(0)$ reduces to the class of star-like functions \mathcal{S}^* . For a general reference about many of these special classes, we refer the reader to [5].

In the present paper, we consider another family of functions \mathcal{S}_α that includes the class of convex functions as a proper subfamily. More precisely, for $-\pi/2 < \alpha < \pi/2$, we say that $f \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha$ if $f \in \mathcal{A}$ and is non-vanishing in \mathbb{D} such that $\operatorname{Re} P_f(z) > 0$ in \mathbb{D} , where

$$P_f(z) = e^{i\alpha} \left(1 + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right). \quad (1.2)$$

The class \mathcal{S}_α has been introduced by M.S. Robertson [24] in 1968. We note that $f \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha$ if and only if there exists a function $g \in \mathcal{S}^*$ such that

$$f'(z) = \left(\frac{g(z)}{z} \right)^{(\cos \alpha) \exp(-i\alpha)}. \quad (1.3)$$

The class \mathcal{S}_α consists of functions f for which $zf'(z)$ is spiral-like. In particular, the class \mathcal{S}_0 consists of the normalized convex functions in \mathbb{D} .

In 1968, Robertson [24] proved that $f \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha$ is univalent if $0 < \cos \alpha \leq x_0$, where x_0 is the positive root $0.2315 \dots$ of the equation $16x^3 + 16x^2 + x - 1 = 0$. For general values of α ($|\alpha| < \pi/2$), a function in \mathcal{S}_α need not be univalent in \mathbb{D} . If $\mu + 1 = |\mu + 1|e^{-i\alpha}$ ($1/2 < \alpha < 1$), and if moreover $|\mu| \leq 1$, $|\mu + 1| > 1$ and $|\mu - 1| > 1$, then the function

$$f_\alpha^*(z) = \frac{1}{\mu} \left(\frac{1}{(1-z)^\mu} - 1 \right) = z + \frac{1}{2}(\mu + 1)z^2 + \frac{1}{6}(\mu^2 + 3\mu + 2)z^3 + \dots$$

belongs to $\mathcal{S}_\alpha \setminus \mathcal{S}$ in \mathbb{D} . For example, the function $f(z) = i(1-z)^i - i$ belongs to $\mathcal{S}_{\pi/4} \setminus \mathcal{S}$. In 1972, Libera and Zeigler [13] improved the range of α to $0 < \cos \alpha \leq 0.2564 \dots$ so that $f \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha$ is univalent. In 1975, Chichra [3] has improved this range still further to $0 < \cos \alpha \leq 0.2588 \dots$ to prove the univalence of $f \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha$ and indicated that this result is the best possible

one obtainable exclusively from an application of Nehari’s test for univalence [19]. It is interesting to note that in the same year Pfaltzgraff [20] has proved that functions in the class \mathcal{S}_α are univalent whenever $0 < \cos \alpha \leq 1/2$. This settles the improvement of ranges of α for which functions in the class \mathcal{S}_α are univalent. On the other hand, Singh and Chichra [25] have proved that if $f \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha$ with $f''(0) = 0$, then f is univalent for all real values of α with $|\alpha| < \pi/2$.

Let $A(r)$ be defined by

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^r |f'(\rho e^{i\theta})|^2 \rho \, d\rho \, d\theta$$

and $L(r)$ be the length of the image of the circle $|z| = r$ under $f(z)$. In 1971, Liu [14] proved that if $f \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha$, then

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow 1} \left(\sup_{f \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha} L(r) \right) \left(\pi A(r) \log \left(\frac{1+r}{1-r} \right) \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \leq 2 \cos \alpha.$$

In 2008, Ponnusamy, Vasudevarao and Yanagihara [23] obtained the region of variability for functions in the class \mathcal{S}_α . Recently, the sharp arclength for functions in the class \mathcal{S}_α has been investigated by Vasudevarao [27].

2. Preliminaries

If f is a locally univalent function of the form (1.1), then the quantity $a_3 - a_2^2$ represents $\frac{1}{6} S_f(0)$, where $S_f(z) = (f''(z)/f'(z))' - \frac{1}{2} (f''(z)/f'(z))^2$ represents the Schwarzian derivative of f (see [10,19]). For a complex number λ , the coefficient functional $\phi_\lambda(f) = a_3 - \lambda a_2^2$ for functions f in the class \mathcal{A} plays a significant role in the theory of univalent functions. For instance, maximizing $|\phi_\lambda(f)|$ over the class \mathcal{S} or on its subclasses is known as the Fekete–Szegő problem.

For a function f in the class \mathcal{S} given by (1.1), Fekete and Szegő [6] proved the following sharp inequality

$$|a_3 - \lambda a_2^2| \leq 1 + 2 \exp \left(\frac{-2\lambda}{1-\lambda} \right) \tag{2.1}$$

in the case where λ is a real parameter, $0 \leq \lambda < 1$ by using Loewner’s method. Despite the fact that the Koebe function $z/(1-z)^2$ is an extremal for many problems in the class \mathcal{S} and various of its subclasses, it is interesting to note that the Koebe function fails to be an extremal for the inequality (2.1) when $0 < \lambda < 1$. We note that the Koebe function is extremal for the inequality (2.1) only when $\lambda = 0$ and $\lambda = 1$. The inequality (2.1) is sharp in the following sense that for each λ in $[0, 1)$, there exists a function $f \in \mathcal{S}$ for which the equality holds.

In 1987, W. Koepf [11] solved the Fekete–Szegő problem for functions that are close to convex (see also [12]). Using a variational method, Pfluger [21] has given another treatment of the Fekete–Szegő inequality, including a description of the image domains under extremal functions. In 1986, Jenkins [8] proved the inequality (2.1) by means of his general coefficient theorem [7]. Using Jenkins’ method, Pfluger [22] has proved that

$$|a_3 - \lambda a_2^2| \leq 1 + 2 \left| \exp \left(\frac{-2\lambda}{1-\lambda} \right) \right| \tag{2.2}$$

holds for the complex parameter λ in the unit disk \mathbb{D} with $\operatorname{Re} \left(\frac{1}{1-\lambda} \right) \geq 1$. Ma and Minda [16–18] gave a complete answer to the Fekete–Szegő problem for the classes of strongly close-to-convex functions and strongly star-like functions. Subsequently, Choi, Kim and Sugawa [4] developed a new method for solving the Fekete–Szegő problem for classes of close-to-convex functions defined in terms of subordination. The Fekete–Szegő problem has a long and rich history in the literature (see, for instance, [1,2,9,15,28]).

In the present paper, we solve the Fekete–Szegő problem for functions in the class \mathcal{S}_α for complex parameter λ . As a particular case (by taking $\alpha = 0$), we obtain the sharp bound for the Fekete–Szegő functional for the class of convex functions \mathcal{C} .

3. Main results

Theorem 3.1. *Let $f \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha$ be given by (1.1) and $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$. Then we have*

$$|a_3 - \lambda a_2^2| \leq \begin{cases} \frac{1}{3}(\cos \alpha) \left| 1 + (2 - 3\lambda)e^{-i\alpha} \cos \alpha \right| & \text{for } \left| \lambda - \left(1 + \frac{i}{3} \tan \alpha \right) \right| \geq \frac{1}{3 \cos \alpha} \\ \frac{1}{3} \cos \alpha & \text{for } \left| \lambda - \left(1 + \frac{i}{3} \tan \alpha \right) \right| < \frac{1}{3 \cos \alpha}. \end{cases} \tag{3.2}$$

The inequality (3.2) is sharp.

Proof. Let $f \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha$. Then there exists an analytic function $\omega : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ of the form

$$\omega(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k z^k \tag{3.3}$$

such that

$$e^{i\alpha} \left(1 + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right) = (\cos \alpha) \left(\frac{1 + z\omega(z)}{1 - z\omega(z)} \right) + i \sin \alpha. \tag{3.4}$$

A simple computation shows that

$$zf''(z)(1 - z\omega(z)) = e^{-i\alpha} (\cos \alpha)(1 + z\omega(z))f'(z) + (1 - z\omega(z))(i e^{-i\alpha} \sin \alpha - 1)f'(z)$$

which is equivalent to

$$zf''(z) - z^2\omega(z)f''(z) = 2(\cos \alpha)e^{-i\alpha}z\omega(z)f'(z). \tag{3.5}$$

Using the series representations for functions f and ω given by (1.1) and (3.3), respectively, in (3.5), we obtain

$$z^2 f''(z) \omega(z) = 2 a_2 c_0 z^2 + (2 a_2 c_1 + 6 a_3 c_0) z^3 + \dots \tag{3.6}$$

$$zf''(z) - z^2 f''(z) \omega(z) = 2 a_2 z + (6 a_3 - 2 a_2 c_0) z^2 + (12 a_4 - (2 a_2 c_1 + 6 a_3 c_0)) z^3 + \dots \tag{3.7}$$

By substituting (3.6) and (3.7) in (3.5) and equating the coefficients of z and z^2 , we obtain $a_2 = (\cos \alpha) e^{-i\alpha} c_0$ and

$$a_2 = (\cos \alpha) e^{-i\alpha} c_0, \tag{3.8}$$

$$a_3 = \frac{1}{6} \left(2 a_2 c_0 + (2(\cos \alpha) e^{-i\alpha})(2 a_2 c_0 + c_1) \right). \tag{3.9}$$

Further, a substitution of $a_2 = (\cos \alpha) e^{-i\alpha} c_0$ in (3.9) yields

$$a_3 = \frac{1}{3} (\cos \alpha) e^{-i\alpha} \left(c_0^2 + 2(\cos \alpha) e^{-i\alpha} c_0^2 + c_1 \right). \tag{3.10}$$

Therefore, from (3.8) and (3.10) and $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$, a simple computation gives

$$\begin{aligned} a_3 - \lambda a_2^2 &= \frac{1}{3} (\cos \alpha) e^{-i\alpha} \left(c_0^2 + 2(\cos \alpha) e^{-i\alpha} c_0^2 + c_1 \right) - \lambda (\cos^2 \alpha) e^{-2i\alpha} c_0^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{3} (\cos \alpha) e^{-i\alpha} \left(c_1 + c_0^2 + c_0^2 (2 - 3\lambda) (\cos \alpha) e^{-i\alpha} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{3} (\cos \alpha) e^{-i\alpha} \left(c_1 + c_0^2 \gamma(\alpha) \right) \end{aligned} \tag{3.11}$$

where $\gamma(\alpha) = 1 + (2 - 3\lambda)(\cos \alpha) e^{-i\alpha}$. In view of the Schwarz–Pick lemma, it is well known that

$$|c_0| \leq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad |c_1| \leq 1 - |c_0|^2. \tag{3.12}$$

Using (3.12) in (3.11) and then applying the triangle inequality yields

$$\begin{aligned} |a_3 - \lambda a_2^2| &\leq \frac{1}{3} (\cos \alpha) \left(|c_1| + |c_0|^2 |\gamma(\alpha)| \right) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{3} (\cos \alpha) \left(1 + (|\gamma(\alpha)| - 1) |c_0|^2 \right). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore when $f \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha$ is given by (1.1) and $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$, we obtain

$$|a_3 - \lambda a_2^2| \leq \begin{cases} \frac{1}{3} |\gamma(\alpha)| \cos \alpha & \text{for } |\gamma(\alpha)| \geq 1 \\ \frac{1}{3} \cos \alpha & \text{for } |\gamma(\alpha)| < 1. \end{cases} \tag{3.13}$$

A simple observation shows that

$$\begin{aligned} |\gamma(\alpha)| &= \left| 1 + (2 - 3\lambda)(\cos \alpha) e^{-i\alpha} \right| \\ &= \left| e^{i\alpha} + (2 - 3\lambda) \cos \alpha \right| \\ &= |3(1 - \lambda) \cos \alpha + i \sin \alpha| \\ &= 3(\cos \alpha) \left| 1 - \lambda + \frac{i}{3} \tan \alpha \right|. \end{aligned} \tag{3.14}$$

Therefore $|\gamma(\alpha)| < 1$ if and only if $\left| \lambda - \left(1 + \frac{1}{3} \tan \alpha\right) \right| < \frac{1}{3 \cos \alpha}$. In view of (3.13) and (3.14), we obtain the following functional inequality for functions f in the class \mathcal{S}_α :

$$|a_3 - \lambda a_2^2| \leq \begin{cases} \frac{1}{3}(\cos \alpha) \left| 1 + (2 - 3\lambda)(\cos \alpha)e^{-i\alpha} \right| & \text{for } \left| \lambda - \left(1 + \frac{1}{3} \tan \alpha\right) \right| \geq \frac{1}{3 \cos \alpha} \\ \frac{1}{3} \cos \alpha & \text{for } \left| \lambda - \left(1 + \frac{1}{3} \tan \alpha\right) \right| < \frac{1}{3 \cos \alpha}. \end{cases}$$

To prove that the inequality (3.2) is sharp, we define f_1 and f_2 by

$$f_1'(z) = \frac{1}{(1-z)(2 \cos \alpha) e^{-i\alpha}} \quad \text{and} \quad f_2'(z) = \frac{1}{(1-z^2)(\cos \alpha) e^{-i\alpha}} \quad \text{for } z \in \mathbb{D}.$$

Then a simple computation shows that

$$e^{i\alpha} \left(1 + \frac{zf_1''(z)}{f_1'(z)} \right) = (\cos \alpha) \left(\frac{1+z}{1-z} \right) + i \sin \alpha$$

and

$$e^{i\alpha} \left(1 + \frac{zf_2''(z)}{f_2'(z)} \right) = (\cos \alpha) \left(\frac{1+z^2}{1-z^2} \right) + i \sin \alpha$$

and hence $\operatorname{Re} P_{f_1}(z) > 0$ and $\operatorname{Re} P_{f_2}(z) > 0$ in the unit disk \mathbb{D} . Thus $f_1, f_2 \in \mathcal{S}_\alpha$.

Further, it is easy to see that

$$f_1'(z) = 1 + 2(\cos \alpha)e^{-i\alpha}z + (\cos \alpha)e^{-i\alpha}(2(\cos \alpha)e^{-i\alpha} + 1)z^2 + \dots$$

and hence

$$a_2(f_1) = (\cos \alpha)e^{-i\alpha} \quad \text{and} \quad a_3(f_1) = \frac{1}{3}(\cos \alpha)e^{-i\alpha}(2(\cos \alpha)e^{-i\alpha} + 1). \tag{3.15}$$

In view of (3.15) and $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$, a simple computation gives

$$\begin{aligned} a_3(f_1) - \lambda a_2^2(f_1) &= \frac{1}{3}(\cos \alpha)e^{-i\alpha}(2(\cos \alpha)e^{-i\alpha} + 1) - \lambda(\cos^2 \alpha)e^{-2i\alpha} \\ &= \frac{1}{3}(\cos \alpha)e^{-i\alpha} \left(1 + 2(\cos \alpha)e^{-i\alpha} - 3\lambda(\cos \alpha)e^{-i\alpha} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{3}(\cos \alpha)e^{-i\alpha} \left(1 + (2 - 3\lambda)(\cos \alpha)e^{-i\alpha} \right). \end{aligned}$$

This shows that the first inequality in (3.2) is sharp.

Next, it is not difficult to see that

$$f_2'(z) = 1 + (\cos \alpha) e^{-i\alpha} z^2 + \dots$$

Therefore $a_2(f_2) = 0$ and $a_3(f_2) = \frac{1}{3}(\cos \alpha) e^{-i\alpha}$, and hence for $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ we have

$$a_3(f_2) - \lambda a_2^2(f_2) = \frac{1}{3}(\cos \alpha) e^{-i\alpha}.$$

Therefore, the second inequality in (3.2) is sharp. This completes the proof. \square

In particular, for $\alpha = 0$, Theorem 3.1 reduces to the following interesting Fekete–Szegő inequality for the class of convex functions \mathcal{C} .

Corollary 3.16. *Let $f(z) = z + \sum_{n=2}^\infty a_n z^n \in \mathcal{C}$ and $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$. Then we have*

$$|a_3 - \lambda a_2^2| \leq \begin{cases} |1 - \lambda| & \text{for } |\lambda - 1| \geq \frac{1}{3} \\ \frac{1}{3} & \text{for } |\lambda - 1| < \frac{1}{3}. \end{cases} \tag{3.17}$$

The inequality (3.17) is sharp.

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