ON POSITIVITY OF TAYLOR COEFFICIENTS OF
CONFORMAL MAPS (Study on Applications for Fractional
Calculus Operators in Univalent Function Theory)

Author(s)
Sugawa, Toshiyuki

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ON POSITIVITY OF TAYLOR COEFFICIENTS OF CONFORMAL MAPS

TOSHIYUKI SUGAWA
HIROSHIMA UNIVERSITY

ABSTRACT. We provide an approach to the proof of positivity of the Taylor coefficients for a given conformal map of the unit disk onto a plane domain. This short note is a summary of the joint work [2] with Stanislawa Kanas.

1. INTRODUCTION

If a univalent function $f(z) = a_0 + a_1 z + a_2 z^2 + \cdots$ in the unit disk $D = \{z \in \mathbb{C}; |z| < 1\}$ has non-negative Taylor coefficients about the origin, namely, $a_k \geq 0$ for all $k \geq 0$, various sharp estimates can easily be deduced. For example, one can show the sharp inequalities

$$|f(z) - a_0 - a_1 z - \cdots - a_k z^k| \leq f(|z|) - a_0 - a_1 |z| - \cdots - a_k |z|^k$$

and

$$|f^{(k)}(z)| \leq f^{(k)}(|z|)$$

for $k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$. Note that this sort of inequalities are, in general, not easy to establish.

As one immediately sees, a necessary condition for a univalent function $f$ to have non-negative Taylor coefficients is that the image domain $\Omega = f(D)$ is symmetric in the real axis. Under the assumption of this symmetric property, however, it seems to be difficult to give a sufficient condition for non-negativity of the coefficients in terms of the shape of $\Omega$. For instance, the convexity of $\Omega$ is not sufficient. In fact, for a constant $0 < c < 1$, the function

$$f(z) = \frac{z}{1 + cz} = z - cz^2 + c^2 z^3 - c^3 z^4 + \cdots$$

maps $D$ univalently onto a disk but has a negative coefficient. (In general, when $f(z)$ has non-negative Taylor coefficients, the function $\hat{f}(z) = -f(-z)$ has a negative coefficient unless $f$ is an odd function.)

In this note, we will explain one approach to show positivity of the Taylor coefficients of a specific conformal map of the interior of a conic section.

2. CONFORMAL MAPPINGS ONTO DOMAINS BOUNDED BY CONIC SECTIONS

For $k \in [0, \infty)$, we set

$$\Omega_k = \{u + iv \in \mathbb{C}; u^2 > k^2(u - 1)^2 + k^2 v^2, u > 0\}.$$
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Note that $1 \in \Omega_k$ for all $k$. $\Omega_0$ is nothing but the right half plane. When $0 < k < 1$, $\Omega_k$ is the unbounded domain enclosed by the right half of the hyperbola

$$\left( \frac{u + k^2/(1 - k^2)}{k/(1 - k^2)} \right)^2 - \frac{v^2}{1/(1 - k^2)} = 1$$

with focus at 1. $\Omega_1$ becomes the unbounded domain enclosed by the parabola

$$v^2 = 2u - 1$$

with focus at 1. When $k > 1$, the domain $\Omega_k$ is the interior of the ellipse

$$\left( \frac{u - k^2/(k^2 - 1)}{k/(k^2 - 1)} \right)^2 + \frac{v^2}{1/(k^2 - 1)} = 1$$

with focus at 1. For every $k$, the domain $\Omega_k$ is convex and symmetric in the real axis. Note also that $\Omega_{k_1} \supset \Omega_{k_2}$ if $0 \leq k_1 \leq k_2$.

Kanas and Wiśniowska [3] treated the family $\Omega_k$ in their study of $k$-uniformly convex functions and gave the explicit formulae for the conformal homeomorphisms $p_k : \mathbb{D} \to \Omega_k$ determined by $p_k(0) = 1$ and $p_k'(0) > 0$. Here, an analytic function $f(z)$ in the unit disk with $f(0) = 0, f'(0) = 1$ is called $k$-uniformly convex if the function $1 + zf''(z)/f'(z)$ maps the unit disk analytically into $\Omega_k$. A function is 1-uniformly convex precisely when it is uniformly convex (see [4]).

In order to state their result, we prepare some notation. Let $\mathcal{K}(z, t)$ and $\mathcal{K}(t)$ be the normal and complete elliptic integrals, respectively, i.e.,

$$\mathcal{K}(z, t) = \int_0^z \frac{dx}{\sqrt{(1 - x^2)(1 - t^2x^2)}}$$

and $\mathcal{K}(t) = \mathcal{K}(1, t)$. The quantity

$$\mu(t) = \frac{\pi \mathcal{K}(\sqrt{1 - t^2})}{2\mathcal{K}(t)}$$

is known as the modulus of the Groetsch ring $\mathbb{D} \setminus [0, t]$ for $0 < t < 1$. Note that $\mu(t)$ is a strictly decreasing smooth function. For details, see [1].

**Proposition 1** (Kanas-Wiśniowska [3]). The conformal map $p_k : \mathbb{D} \to \Omega_k$ with $p_k(0) = 1$ and $p_k'(0) > 0$ is given by

$$p_k(z) = \begin{cases} 
(1 + z)/(1 - z) & \text{if } k = 0, \\
(1 - k^2)^{-1} \cosh[C_k \log(1 + \sqrt{z})/(1 - \sqrt{z})] - k^2/(1 - k^2) & \text{if } 0 < k < 1, \\
1 + (2/\pi^2) \log(1 + \sqrt{z})/(1 - \sqrt{z})^2 & \text{if } k = 1, \\
(k^2 - 1)^{-1} \sin[C_k \mathcal{K}((z/\sqrt{t} - 1)/(1 - \sqrt{t}z), t)] + k^2/(k^2 - 1) & \text{if } 1 < k,
\end{cases}$$

where $C_k = (2/\pi) \arccos k$ for $0 < k < 1$ and $C_k = \pi/2\mathcal{K}(t)$ and $t \in (0, 1)$ is chosen so that $k = \cosh(\mu(t)/2)$ for $k > 1$. 


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3. Main Results

For each $k \in [0, \infty)$, we write

$$p_k(z) = 1 + A_1(k)z + A_2(k)z^2 + \cdots$$

for the conformal mapping $p_k$ of $\mathbb{D}$ onto $\Omega_k$ with $p_k(0) = 1$ and $p'_k(0) > 0$. Since $\Omega_k$ lies in the right half-plane, Carathéodory's theorem yields that $|A_n(k)| \leq 2$ holds for each $n \geq 1$ and $k \in [0, \infty)$. Our main result is the following.

**Theorem 2.** $A_n(k) > 0$ for all $n \geq 1$ and $k \in [0, +\infty)$.

Since $p_0(z) = 1 + 2z + 2z^2 + 2z^3 + \cdots$ and

$$p_1(z) = 1 + \frac{2}{\pi^2} \left( z + \frac{z^2}{3} + \frac{z^3}{5} + \cdots \right)^2,$$

the assertion of the theorem is trivial for $k = 0$ and $k = 1$. When $0 < k < 1$, the assertion is also trivial because the function $\cosh$ has the non-negative Taylor coefficients.

In what follows, we consider the cases when $k > 1$. Due to complexity of the representation of $p_k$ given above for $k > 1$, we try to simplify it.

We now consider the conformal mapping $J$ of $\mathbb{D}$ onto $\mathbb{C} \setminus [-1, 1]$ defined by $f(z) = (z + z^{-1})^{12}$. Since $J(e^{-s+it}) = \cosh s \cos t - i \sinh s \sin t$, the circle $|z| = e^{-s}$ is mapped by $J$ onto the ellipse $E_s$ given by

$$\left( \frac{u}{\cosh s} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{v}{\sinh s} \right)^2 = 1$$

for $s > 0$ and the radial segment $(0, e^{it})$ is mapped by $J$ into the component $H_t$ of the hyperbola given by

$$\left( \frac{u}{\cosh t} \right)^2 - \left( \frac{v}{\sinh t} \right)^2 = 1, \quad u \cos t > 0,$$

for $t \in \mathbb{R}$ with $(2/\pi)t \notin \mathbb{Z}$.

Let $T_n$ be the Chebyshev polynomial of degree $n$, i.e., $T_n(\cos \theta) = \cos(n\theta)$. Then it is well known that the $n$-fold mapping $z \mapsto z^n$ is conjugate under $J$ to $T_n$, in other words,

$$J(z^n) = T_n(J(z))$$

holds in $|z| < 1$. In particular, one can see that the ellipse $E_s$ is mapped by $T_n$ onto $E_{ns}$ and that the hyperbola $H_t$ is mapped by $T_n$ onto $H_{nt}$.

Applying the above argument to $T_2(w) = 2w^2 - 1$, we obtain the following.

**Lemma 3.** The Chebyshev polynomial $T_2(w) = 2w^2 - 1$ maps the domain bounded by $H_t$ and $H_{\pi-t}$ onto the connected component of $\mathbb{C} \setminus H_{2t}$ containing $-1$. Also, $T_2$ maps the domain bounded by the ellipse $E_s$ onto the domain bounded by $E_{2s}$.

On the basis of the above lemma, we can obtain another representation of $p_k$. 

**Theorem 4.** For $k > 0$, the function $p_k$ is written by $p_k(z) = 1 + Q_k(\sqrt{z})^2$, where

$$Q_k(z) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{1}{1-k^2}} \sinh(C_k \text{arctanh}z) & \text{if } 0 < k < 1, \\ \frac{1}{2\pi} \text{arctanh}z & \text{if } k = 1, \\ \sqrt{\frac{2}{k^2-1}} \sin(C_k'(\mathcal{K}(z/\sqrt{s}, s))) & \text{if } 1 < k. \end{cases}$$

Here, $C_k = (2/\pi) \arccos k$ when $0 < k < 1$, and $s \in (0,1)$ is chosen so that $k = \cosh \mu(s)$ and $C_k' = (\pi/2)/\mathcal{K}(s)$ when $k > 1$.

Furthermore, the function $Q_k$ is odd and maps the unit disk conformally onto the domain $D_k = \{x+iy : (k-1)x^2 + (k+1)y^2 < 1\}$.

Note that $D_k$ is the inside of a hyperbola when $k < 1$ and $D_k$ is the interior of an ellipse when $k > 1$. When $k = 1$, the domain $D_k$ becomes the parallel strip $-1/\sqrt{2} < \text{Im} z < 1/\sqrt{2}$. Also note that $D_k$ is invariant under the involution $z \mapsto -z$.

4. ROUGH IDEA OF THE PROOF

We indicate here how to deduce Theorem 2. A detailed exposition will appear in [2].

In order to prove positivity of the Taylor coefficients of $p_k$, it is enough to show that of $Q_k$ thanks to Theorem 4. Though the assertion is trivial in the case when $0 < k < 1$, we first treat this case in order to highlight an idea of the present method. When $0 < k < 1$, one can check that $w = Q_k(z)$ satisfies the linear differential equation

$$ (1-z^2)^2 w'' - 2z(1-z^2)w' - C_k^2 w = 0 \tag{1} $$

in $D$.

**Lemma 5.** Let $Q(z)$ be an analytic solution of (1) in $D$ with $Q(0) = 0$ and $Q'(0) > 0$. Then $Q$ has Taylor expansion in the form $Q(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} B_n z^{2n+1}$ and the coefficients satisfy the inequalities

$$ (2) \quad (2n+1)B_n - (2n-1)B_{n-1} > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad B_n > 0 $$

for each $n \geq 1$.

**Proof.** By the linear differential equation (1), one obtains the recursive formula for coefficients

$$ (2n+2)(2n+3)B_{n+1} - \{2(2n+1)^2 + C_k^2\} B_n + 2n(2n-1)B_{n-1} = 0 $$

for $n \geq 0$, here we have set $B_{-1} = 0$. We now suppose that the assertion is true up to $n$. Then, by the above formula, we get

$$ (3) \quad (2n+2)\{(2n+3)B_{n+1} - (2n+1)B_n\} $$

for $n \geq 0$, where we have set $B_{-1} = 0$. We now suppose that the assertion is true up to $n$. Then, by the above formula, we get

$$ (3) \geq \{2(2n+1)^2 - (2n+2)(2n+1) + C_k^2\} B_n - 2n(2n-1)B_{n-1} = 0 $$

Therefore, the assertion is also true for $n+1$. By induction, the proof is done. □
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In the case when $k > 1$, the function $w = Q_k(z)$ satisfies the similar differential equation

$$(1-sz^2)(1-z^2/s)w'' - 2z((s+s^{-1})/2 - z^2)w' + \frac{C_k^2}{s}w = 0$$

in $D$, where $s \in (0,1)$ is chosen so that $k = \cosh \mu(s)$ and $C_k' = \pi/2\mathcal{K}(s)$. Note that $Q_k(z)$ satisfies $Q_k(0) = 0$ and $Q_k'(0) > 0$.

The above two differential equations can also be unified into the form

$$(1 - 2Mz^2 + z^4)w'' - 2z(M - z^2)w' - cw = 0,$$

where $M = 1$ and $c = C_k^2$ for $0 < k < 1$ and $M = (s + s^{-1})/2 \geq 1$ and $c = -C_k^2/s = -\pi^2/4s\mathcal{K}(s)^2$ for $k > 1$. Let $w = Q(z)$ be the solution of the equation with the initial condition $Q(0) = 0$ and $Q'(0) = 1$. In the same way as above, one obtains the relations for the coefficients of $Q(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} B_n z^{2n+1}$:

$$(2n+2)(2n+3)B_{n+1} - \{2M(2n+1)^2 + c\}B_n + 2n(2n-1)B_{n-1} = 0$$

for $n \geq 0$, where we also have set $B_{-1} = 0$.

In the case when $k > 1$, however, the above argument breaks down at the inequality (3) because now $c < 0$. In fact, the coefficients $B_n$ tend rapidly to $0$ as $n \to \infty$, therefore, some renormalization techniques are required in this case. See [2] for the details.

REFERENCES


DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HIROSHIMA UNIVERSITY, HIGASHI-HIROSHIMA, 839-8526 JAPAN

E-mail address: sugawa@math.sci.hiroshima-u.ac.jp