

1-1-2019

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### Recommended Citation

ALREFAI, OQLAH (2019) "Some properties for a class of analytic functions defined by a higher-order differential inequality," *Turkish Journal of Mathematics*: Vol. 43: No. 5, Article 33. <https://doi.org/10.3906/mat-1906-65>

Available at: <https://journals.tubitak.gov.tr/math/vol43/iss5/33>

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## Some properties for a class of analytic functions defined by a higher-order differential inequality

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Received: 17.06.2019

Accepted/Published Online: 23.08.2019

Final Version: 28.09.2019

**Abstract:** Let  $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  be the class consisting of functions  $f(z) = z^p + \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} a_k z^k$ ,  $p \in \mathbb{N}$  which satisfy

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \alpha \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} + \beta \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} + \left( \frac{\beta - \alpha}{2} \right) \frac{f^{(j+2)}(z)}{z^{p-j-2}} \right\} > \lambda, \quad (z \in \mathbb{U} = \{z : |z| < 1\}),$$

for some  $\lambda$  ( $\lambda < p! \{ \alpha + (p-j)\beta + (p-j)(p-j-1)(\beta-\alpha)/2 \} / (p-j)!$ ) and  $j = 0, 1, \dots, p$ , where  $p+1-j+2\alpha/(\beta-\alpha) > 0$  or  $\alpha = \beta = 1$ . The extreme points of  $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  are determined and various sharp inequalities related to  $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  are obtained. These include univalence criteria, coefficient bounds, growth and distortion estimates and bounds for certain linear operators. Furthermore, inclusion properties are investigated and estimates on  $\lambda$  are found so that functions of  $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  are  $p$ -valent starlike in  $\mathbb{U}$ . For instance,  $\operatorname{Re}\{z f''(z)\} > (5 - 12 \ln 2)/(44 - 48 \ln 2) \approx -0.309$  is sufficient condition for any normalized analytic function  $f$  to be starlike in  $\mathbb{U}$ . The results improve and include a number of known results as their special cases.

**Key words:** Starlike functions,  $p$ -valent functions, Jack's lemma, univalent functions, extreme points, convex functions, distortion and growth theorem, coefficient bounds, differential inequality

### 1. Introduction and preliminaries

Let  $\mathcal{A}_p$  denote the class of functions  $f(z)$  of the form

$$f(z) = z^p + \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} a_k z^k, \quad p \in \mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\},$$

which are analytic in the open unit disk  $\mathbb{U} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 1\}$ . A function  $f \in \mathcal{A}_p$  is said to be in the class  $\mathcal{S}_p^*(\lambda)$  of  $p$ -valent starlike functions of order  $\lambda$  in  $\mathbb{U}$ , if it satisfies

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{z f'(z)}{f(z)} \right\} > \lambda, \quad (0 \leq \lambda < p; z \in \mathbb{U}).$$

The corresponding class  $\mathcal{CV}_p(\lambda)$  of  $p$ -valent convex functions in  $\mathbb{U}$  consists of functions  $f$  defined by  $z f'(z) \in \mathcal{S}_p^*(\lambda)$ . Furthermore, let  $\mathcal{S}$  be the subclass of functions in  $\mathcal{A}_1$  that are univalent in  $\mathbb{U}$ . The subclasses of  $\mathcal{S}$

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2010 AMS Mathematics Subject Classification: 30C45

consisting of starlike and convex functions in  $\mathbb{U}$  are defined respectively by  $\mathcal{S}_1^*(0) := \mathcal{S}^*$  and  $\mathcal{CV}_1(0) := \mathcal{CV}$ . Let  $\mathcal{R}$  denote the class of functions  $f \in \mathcal{A}_1$  which satisfy

$$\operatorname{Re}\{f'(z) + zf''(z)\} > 0, \quad (z \in \mathbb{U}).$$

Chichra [3] proved that  $\mathcal{R} \subset \mathcal{S}$ . Indeed, Singh and Singh [13] showed that  $\mathcal{R} \subset \mathcal{S}^*$ . Owa et al. [11] studied the subclass  $\mathcal{A}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  of  $\mathcal{A}_p$  consisting of functions  $f$  defined by

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \alpha \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} + \beta \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} \right\} > \lambda, \quad (z \in \mathbb{U}),$$

for some  $\alpha$  ( $\alpha > 0$ ),  $\beta$  ( $\beta > 0$ ) and  $\lambda$  ( $0 \leq \lambda < p! \{ \alpha + (p-j)\beta \} / (p-j)!$ , where  $j = 0, 1, \dots, p-1$ ). The class is studied for the starlikeness when  $j = p = \alpha = 1$  by Gao and Zhou [5], while for  $j = p = \alpha = \beta = 1$  was studied earlier by Silverman [12]. Wang et al. [15] found radius of univalence for the special case when  $j = 0$  and  $p = 1$ . Several authors, including [8, 9, 14, 16], studied classes of analytic functions associated with  $\mathcal{R}$ . We can deduce that [11, Theorem 2.1] which presents characterization for functions of  $\mathcal{A}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  holds true with the same proof, whenever the parameter conditions extended to be  $p + 1 - j + \alpha/\beta > 0$ ,  $\lambda < p! \{ \alpha + (p-j)\beta \} / (p-j)!$  and  $j = 0, 1, \dots, p$ .

In this paper, we consider the subclass  $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  of  $\mathcal{A}_p$  consisting of functions  $f(z)$  which satisfy

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \alpha \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} + \beta \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} + \left( \frac{\beta - \alpha}{2} \right) \frac{f^{(j+2)}(z)}{z^{p-j-2}} \right\} > \lambda, \quad (z \in \mathbb{U}), \tag{1.1}$$

for some  $\lambda$  ( $\lambda < p! \{ \alpha + (p-j)\beta + (p-j)(p-j-1)(\beta - \alpha)/2 \} / (p-j)!$  and  $j = 0, 1, \dots, p$ , where  $p + 1 - j + 2\alpha/(\beta - \alpha) > 0$  or  $\alpha = \beta = 1$ ). The extreme points and the sharp coefficient bounds for  $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  are determined. These key results yield important information, like distortion and growth estimates, bounds for auxiliary linear operators acting on  $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  that are helpful in investigating starlikeness conditions. Using an application of Jack’s lemma, inclusion properties associated with the classes  $\mathcal{A}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  and  $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  are investigated by suitably choosing the parameters. Estimates on  $\lambda$  are found that would ensure functions of certain subclasses of  $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  are  $p$ -valent starlike in  $\mathbb{U}$ . The results improve and include a number of known results as their special cases.

From the definition of the class  $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$ , we see the following

**Lemma 1.1** (i)  $f(z) \in \mathcal{B}_p(j, j + 2, \lambda; j) \iff zf'(z) \in \mathcal{B}_p(1, 1, \lambda; j)$ .

(ii)  $f(z) \in \mathcal{B}_p(1, 2, \lambda, 1) \iff zf'(z) \in \mathcal{B}_p(0, 1, \lambda, 0)$ .

**Proof** Let  $f(z) = z^p + \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} a_k z^k$ . Then

$$f^{(j)}(z) = \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} z^{p-j} + \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{k!}{(k-j)!} a_k z^{k-j}. \tag{1.2}$$

Using the representation (1.2) and a mild computation, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} zf'(z) \in \mathcal{B}_p(1, 1, \lambda; j) &\iff \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{p!p(p-j+1)}{(p-j)!} + \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{k!k(k-j+1)}{(k-j)!} a_k z^{k-p} \right\} > \lambda \\ &\iff f(z) \in \mathcal{B}_p(j, j + 2, \lambda; j). \end{aligned}$$

This proves (i). Now,

$$\begin{aligned} f(z) \in \mathcal{B}_p(1, 2, \lambda; 1) &\iff \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f'(z)}{z^{p-1}} + 2 \frac{f''(z)}{z^{p-2}} + \frac{f'''(z)}{2z^{p-3}} \right\} > \lambda \\ &\iff zf'(z) \in \mathcal{B}_p(0, 1, \lambda; 0). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the proof of (ii) follows.  $\square$

## 2. The extreme points of $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$

**Theorem 2.1** A function  $f \in \mathcal{A}_p$  is in the class of  $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  if and only if

$$f(z) = z^p + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \int_{|x|=1} \left( \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(k-j)! x^{k-p} z^k}{k!(k-j+1)\{(\beta-\alpha)(k-j)+2\alpha\}} \right) d\mu(x), \quad (2.1)$$

where  $\mu(x)$  is the probability measure on  $X = \{x \in \mathbb{C} : |x| = 1\}$  and

$$\sigma = p!\{\alpha + (p-j)\beta + (p-j)(p-j-1)(\beta-\alpha)/2\}/(p-j)!. \quad (2.2)$$

**Proof** We define the function

$$F(z) = \frac{\alpha(f^{(j)}(z)/z^{p-j}) + \beta(f^{(j+1)}(z)/z^{p-j-1}) + (\beta-\alpha)(f^{(j+2)}(z)/2z^{p-j-2}) - \lambda}{\sigma - \lambda},$$

where  $\sigma = p!\{\alpha + (p-j)\beta + (p-j)(p-j-1)(\beta-\alpha)/2\}/(p-j)!$ . Then  $F(z)$  is a Carathéodory function, since  $F(0) = 1$  and  $\operatorname{Re} F(z) > 0$ . Therefore, by the aid of Herglotz expressions of Carathéodory functions, we can write  $F(z)$  in the following form:

$$F(z) = \int_{|x|=1} \frac{1+xz}{1-xz} d\mu(x). \quad (2.3)$$

Since (2.3) is equivalent to

$$\alpha f^{(j)}(z) + \beta z f^{(j+1)}(z) + \frac{1}{2}(\beta-\alpha)z^2 f^{(j+2)}(z) = \lambda z^{p-j} + (\sigma - \lambda)z^{p-j} \int_{|x|=1} \left( 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 2x^k z^k \right) d\mu(x),$$

we have, for  $\beta \neq \alpha$ , that

$$\frac{2\alpha}{\beta-\alpha} (zf^{(j)}(z))' + (z^2 f^{(j+1)}(z))' = \frac{2}{\beta-\alpha} \left\{ \sigma z^{p-j} + 2(\sigma - \lambda) \int_{|x|=1} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x^k z^{k+p-j} \right) d\mu(x), \right\}. \quad (2.4)$$

Integrating both sides of (2.4) from 0 to  $z$  gives

$$\frac{2\alpha}{\beta-\alpha} z f^{(j)}(z) + z^2 f^{(j+1)}(z) = \frac{2}{\beta-\alpha} \left\{ \frac{\sigma z^{p-j+1}}{p-j+1} + 2(\sigma - \lambda) \int_{|x|=1} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^k z^{k+p-j+1}}{k+p-j+1} \right) d\mu(x), \right\}. \quad (2.5)$$

Multiplying both sides of (2.5) by  $z^{\frac{2\alpha}{\beta-\alpha}-2}$  yields

$$\left( z^{\frac{2\alpha}{\beta-\alpha}} \left[ f^{(j)}(z) - \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} z^{p-j} \right] \right)' = \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)}{\beta - \alpha} \int_{|x|=1} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^k z^{\frac{2\alpha}{\beta-\alpha} + k + p - j - 1}}{k + p - j + 1} d\mu(x). \tag{2.6}$$

If  $p + 1 - j + 2\alpha/(\beta - \alpha) > 0$ , then by integrating (2.6) from 0 to  $z$ , we reach:

$$f^{(j)}(z) = \frac{p! z^{p-j}}{(p-j)!} + \int_{|x|=1} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda) x^k z^{k+p-j}}{(k + p - j + 1) \{(\beta - \alpha)(k + p - j) + 2\alpha\}} d\mu(x). \tag{2.7}$$

An integration of both sides in (2.7) gives

$$f^{(j-1)}(z) - f^{(j-1)}(0) = \frac{p!}{(p-j+1)!} z^{p-j+1} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \int_{|x|=1} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^k z^{k+p-j+1}}{(k + p - j + 1)^2 \{(\beta - \alpha)(k + p - j) + 2\alpha\}} \right) d\mu(x).$$

Therefore, we have

$$f^{(j-1)}(z) = \frac{p! z^{p-j+1}}{(p-j+1)!} + \int_{|x|=1} \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda) x^{k-p} z^{k-j+1}}{(k-j+1)^2 \{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} d\mu(x). \tag{2.8}$$

Applying the same method for (2.8), we get

$$f^{(j-2)}(z) = \frac{p!}{(p-j+2)!} z^{p-j+2} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \int_{|x|=1} \left( \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{k-p} z^{k-j+2}}{(k-j+2)(k-j+1)^2 \{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \right) d\mu(x). \tag{2.9}$$

Since  $f^{(p)}(0) = p!$  and  $f^{(j)}(0) = 0$ , for  $j = 0, 1, \dots, p - 1$ , then integrating  $(j - 2)$  times to both sides of (2.9) gives (2.1). If  $\beta = \alpha = 1$ , then

$$f(z) = z^p + 2 \left( \frac{p!(p-j+1)}{(p-j)!} - \lambda \right) \int_{|x|=1} \left( \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(k-j)!}{k!(k-j+1)} x^{k-p} z^k \right) d\mu(x)$$

is given in [11, Theorem 2.1] for the class  $\mathcal{A}_p(1, 1, \lambda; j)$  which is equivalent to  $\mathcal{B}_p(1, 1, \lambda; j)$ , where  $j = 0, 1, \dots, p$ . This completes the proof of Theorem 2.1. □

**Remark 2.2** *Theorem 2.1 can be reduced to special known cases as follows*

(a) For  $\alpha = \frac{1}{2} - \gamma$  and  $\beta = \frac{1}{2} + \gamma$ ,  $p = 1$ ,  $j = 0$  in (2.1), we have

$$f(z) = z + 4(1 - \lambda) \int_{|x|=1} \left( \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{x^{k-1} z^k}{(k+1)(2\gamma k + 1 - 2\gamma)} \right) d\mu(x)$$

is a characterization for the functions of the class  $\mathcal{W}_\lambda(3\gamma + \frac{1}{2}, \gamma)$  given in [2, Theorem 2.1], whenever  $\varphi = 0$  and  $\gamma \leq 3/2$ .

(b) If  $\alpha = \beta = p = j = 1$  in (2.1), then

$$f(z) = \int_{|x|=1} \left[ \int_0^z \left( \frac{(2\lambda - 1)t + 2(\beta - 1)\bar{x} \log(1 - xt)}{t} \right) dt \right] d\mu(x)$$

which is a result obtained in [12, Theorem 1].

(c) If  $\alpha = \beta = 1$  and  $j = 0$  in (2.1), we obtain a result given in [15, Theorem 2.1].

(d) If  $\alpha = 0$ ,  $\beta = 1$ ,  $p = 1$  and  $j = 0$  in (2.1), then

$$f(z) = z + 4(1 - \lambda) \int_{|x|=1} \left( \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{x^{k-1} z^k}{k(k+1)} \right) d\mu(x)$$

leads to a result obtained from [5, Theorem 1].

**Corollary 2.3** The extreme points of the class  $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  are

$$f_x(z) = z^p + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(k-j)! x^{k-p} z^k}{k!(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}}, \quad (|x| = 1). \quad (2.10)$$

**Proof** Using the notation  $f_x(z)$ , (2.1) can be written as

$$f_\mu(z) = \int_{|x|=1} f_x(z) d\mu(x).$$

By Theorem 2.1, the map  $\mu \rightarrow f_\mu$  is one-to-one, so the assertion follows (see [6]).  $\square$

Setting  $p = 1$  and  $j = 0$  in Theorem 2.1, we get the following

**Corollary 2.4** A function  $f \in \mathcal{A}_1$  is in the class of  $\mathcal{B}_1(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; 0)$  if and only if

$$f(z) = z + 4(\alpha + \beta - \lambda) \int_{|x|=1} \left( \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{x^{k-1} z^k}{(k+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)k + 2\alpha\}} \right) d\mu(x), \quad (2.11)$$

where  $\mu(x)$  is the probability measure on  $X = \{x \in \mathbb{C} : |x| = 1\}$  and  $\lambda < \alpha + \beta$ .

If  $p = 1$  and  $j = 1$  in Theorem 2.1, then

**Corollary 2.5** A function  $f \in \mathcal{A}_1$  is in the class of  $\mathcal{B}_1(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; 1)$  if and only if

$$f(z) = z + 4(\alpha - \lambda) \int_{|x|=1} \left( \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{x^{k-1} z^k}{k^2\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-1) + 2\alpha\}} \right) d\mu(x), \quad (2.12)$$

where  $\mu(x)$  is the probability measure on  $X = \{x \in \mathbb{C} : |x| = 1\}$  and  $\lambda < \alpha$ .

**Corollary 2.6** *If  $f \in \mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$ , then*

$$|a_k| \leq \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda) \cdot (k - j)!}{k!(k - j + 1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k - j) + 2\alpha\}}, \quad (k \geq p + 1),$$

where  $\sigma = p!\{\alpha + (p - j)\beta + (p - j)(p - j - 1)(\beta - \alpha)/2\}/(p - j)!$ . The result is sharp, where equality attained for functions defined by (2.10).

**Remark 2.7** *For  $\alpha = \beta = p = j = 1$ , Corollary 2.6 yields the coefficient bounds obtained in [12, Corollary 1].*

**Corollary 2.8** *If  $f \in \mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  and  $z \in \mathbb{U}$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \left\{ 0, \frac{p!|z|^{p-j}}{(p-j)!} - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)|z|^{k+p-j}}{(k+p-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k+p-j) + 2\alpha\}} \right\} \\ & \leq |f^{(j)}(z)| \leq \frac{p!|z|^{p-j}}{(p-j)!} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)|z|^{k+p-j}}{(k+p-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k+p-j) + 2\alpha\}}. \end{aligned}$$

Setting  $p = 1, \beta = 3, \alpha = 1$  in Corollary 2.8 and using the fact that  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (1/k^2) = \pi^2/6$ , we obtain respectively the following two remarks for  $j = 0$  and  $j = 1$ .

**Remark 2.9** *If*

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f(z)}{z} + 3f'(z) + zf''(z) \right\} > \lambda, \quad (\lambda < 4, z \in \mathbb{U}),$$

then

$$|f(z)| < 1 + (4 - \lambda) \left( \frac{\pi^2}{3} - \frac{5}{2} \right), \quad (z \in \mathbb{U}).$$

**Remark 2.10** *If*

$$\operatorname{Re} \{ f'(z) + 3zf''(z) + z^2f'''(z) \} > \lambda, \quad (\lambda < 1, z \in \mathbb{U}),$$

then

$$|f'(z)| < 1 + (1 - \lambda) \left( \frac{\pi^2}{3} - 2 \right), \quad (z \in \mathbb{U}).$$

**3. Bounds for auxiliary linear operators acting on  $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$**

In this section, sharp bounds for the linear operators  $f^{(j)}(z)/z^{p-j}$ ,  $f^{(j-1)}(z)/z^{p-j+1}$  and  $f^{(j+1)}(z)/z^{p-j-1}$  are obtained. These bounds play main role in finding several univalence criteria and investigating p-valent starlike functions included in  $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$ .

**Theorem 3.1** *If  $f(z) \in \mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  and  $|z| \leq r$ , where  $j = 0, \dots, p$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} \right\} & \geq \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(-r)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \\ & > \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} + \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)(-1)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} \right\} &\leq \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{r^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \\ &< \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}}. \end{aligned}$$

The inequalities are both sharp.

**Proof** It suffices to consider the extreme point

$$g(z) = z^p + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(k-j)!}{k!(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} z^k. \tag{3.2}$$

Case I: if  $p + 1 - j + 2\alpha/(\beta - \alpha) > 0$ , then from (2.7), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{g^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} &= \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} + \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)z^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \\ &= \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} + \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)}{\beta - \alpha} \int_0^1 \int_0^1 s^{p+1-j} t^{\frac{2\alpha}{\beta-\alpha} + p-j} \frac{z}{1-stz} ds dt \end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

Therefore,

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{g^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} \right\} = \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} + \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)}{\beta - \alpha} \int_0^1 \int_0^1 s^{p+1-j} t^{\frac{2\alpha}{\beta-\alpha} + p-j} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{z}{1-stz} \right\} ds dt. \tag{3.4}$$

Since,  $k(z) = z/(1 - \delta z)$ ,  $(0 \leq \delta \leq 1)$  is convex in  $\mathbb{U}$ ,  $k(\bar{z}) = \overline{k(z)}$  and  $k(z)$  maps real axis to real axis, we have

$$\frac{-r}{1 + \delta r} \leq \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{z}{1 - \delta z} \right\} \leq \frac{r}{1 - \delta r}, \quad (|z| \leq r). \tag{3.5}$$

Applying (3.5) into (3.4) and expanding the integrand into a power series gives

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{g^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} \right\} = \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} + \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)}{\beta - \alpha} \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} s^{k-j} t^{\frac{2\alpha}{\beta-\alpha} + k-j-1} (-r)^{k-p} ds dt. \tag{3.6}$$

Performing the indicated integration yields

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{g^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} \right\} &\geq \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(-r)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \\ &> \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}}. \end{aligned}$$



On the other hand, using (3.5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{g^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} \right\} &\leq \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{r^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \\ &< \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}}. \end{aligned}$$

The sharpness can be seen from (3.2).

Case II: if  $\alpha = \beta = 1$ , we consider the extreme point

$$h(z) = z^p + 2 \left( \frac{p!(p-j+1)}{(p-j)!} - \lambda \right) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(k-j)!}{k!(k-j+1)} z^k \quad (3.7)$$

Applying similar technique of  $g(z)$  for the function  $h(z)$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{h^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} \right\} &\geq \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} + 2 \left( \frac{p!(p-j+1)}{(p-j)!} - \lambda \right) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(-r)^{k-p}}{k-j+1} \\ &> \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} + 2 \left( \frac{p!(p-j+1)}{(p-j)!} - \lambda \right) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k-p}}{k-j+1}, \end{aligned}$$

while

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{h^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} \right\} &\leq \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} + 2 \left( \frac{p!(p-j+1)}{(p-j)!} - \lambda \right) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{r^{k-p}}{k-j+1} \\ &< \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} + 2 \left( \frac{p!(p-j+1)}{(p-j)!} - \lambda \right) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k-j+1}. \end{aligned}$$

The sharpness can be seen from (3.7). This completes the proof of Theorem 3.1.  $\square$

**Remark 3.2** If  $\alpha = \beta = 1$  in Theorem 3.1, we obtain a result found in [10, Lemma 5].

**Corollary 3.3** If  $f(z) \in \mathcal{B}_1(1, 1, \lambda; 1)$ , then

$$\operatorname{Re}\{f'(z)\} > 1 + 2(1 - \lambda) \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{k} = (1 - \lambda)(2 \ln 2 - 1) + \lambda.$$

This result was obtained by several authors [1, 4, 5, 12].

**Corollary 3.4**  $\mathcal{B}_1(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; 1) \subset \mathcal{S}$  for  $\lambda \geq \lambda_0$ , where

$$\lambda_0 = \alpha + \frac{1}{4} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{(k+1)[(\beta - \alpha)k + 2\alpha]} \right)^{-1} \quad (3.8)$$

The result cannot be extended to  $\lambda < \lambda_0$ .

**Proof** Let  $f \in \mathcal{B}_1(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; 1)$ . From (3.1), we know that if

$$1 + 4(\alpha - \lambda) \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{(k+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)k + 2\alpha\}} \geq 0,$$

then  $f \in \mathcal{S}$ , that is, if  $\lambda \geq \lambda_0$ , we have  $\mathcal{B}_1(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; 1) \subset \mathcal{S}$ . The result cannot be extended to  $\lambda < \lambda_0$  because  $g'(-1) = 0$  at  $\lambda = \lambda_0$ . Thus  $g'(-r) = 0$  for some  $r = r(\lambda) < 1$  when  $\lambda < \lambda_0$ .  $\square$

**Example 3.5** (i)  $\mathcal{B}_1(1, 3, \lambda; 1) \subset \mathcal{S}$ , for  $\lambda \geq (6 - \pi^2)/(12 - \pi^2) \approx -1.8164$ .

(ii)  $\mathcal{B}_1(0, 1, \lambda; 1) \subset \mathcal{S}$ , for  $\lambda \geq 1/(4 - 8 \ln 2) \approx -0.6472$ . The bounds of  $\lambda$  in (i) and (ii) are best possible for univalence.

**Theorem 3.6** If  $f(z) \in \mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  and  $|z| \leq r$ , where  $j = 1, \dots, p$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j-1)}(z)}{z^{p-j+1}} \right\} &\geq \frac{p!}{(p-j+1)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(-r)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)^2\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \\ &> \frac{p!}{(p-j+1)!} + \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)(-1)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)^2\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \end{aligned} \tag{3.9}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j-1)}(z)}{z^{p-j+1}} \right\} &\leq \frac{p!}{(p-j+1)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{r^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)^2\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \\ &< \frac{p!}{(p-j+1)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(k-j+1)^2\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}}. \end{aligned}$$

The inequalities are both sharp.

**Proof** We need only to consider the extreme point  $g(z)$  defined by (3.2).

Case I: if  $p + 1 - j + 2\alpha/(\beta - \alpha) > 0$ , then from (2.7), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{g^{(j-1)}(z)}{z^{p-j+1}} &= \frac{p!}{(p-j+1)!} + \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)z^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)^2\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \\ &= \frac{p!}{(p-j+1)!} + \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)}{\beta - \alpha} \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \int_0^1 (us)^{p+1-j} t^{\frac{2\alpha}{\beta-\alpha} + p-j} \frac{z}{1 - stuz} ds dt du. \end{aligned} \tag{3.10}$$

Therefore,

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{g^{(j-1)}(z)}{z^{p-j+1}} \right\} = \frac{p!}{(p-j+1)!} + \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)}{\beta - \alpha} \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \int_0^1 (us)^{p+1-j} t^{\frac{2\alpha}{\beta-\alpha} + p-j} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{z}{1 - stuz} \right\} ds dt du. \tag{3.11}$$

Applying (3.5) into (3.11) and expanding the integrand into a power series gives

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{g^{(j-1)}(z)}{z^{p-j+1}} \right\} = \frac{p!}{(p-j+1)!} + \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)}{\beta - \alpha} \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} (us)^{k-j} t^{\frac{2\alpha}{\beta-\alpha} + k-j-1} (-r)^{k-p} ds dt du. \tag{3.12}$$

Perform the indicated integration yield

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{g^{(j-1)}(z)}{z^{p-j+1}} \right\} &\geq \frac{p!}{(p-j+1)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(-r)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)^2 \{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \\ &> \frac{p!}{(p-j+1)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)^2 \{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}}. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, using (3.5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{g^{(j-1)}(z)}{z^{p-j+1}} \right\} &\leq \frac{p!}{(p-j+1)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{r^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)^2 \{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \\ &< \frac{p!}{(p-j+1)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(k-j+1)^2 \{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}}. \end{aligned}$$

The sharpness can be seen from (3.2).

Case II: if  $\alpha = \beta = 1$ , we consider the extreme function  $h(z)$  defined by (3.7). Applying similar technique of  $g(z)$  for the function  $h(z)$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{h^{(j-1)}(z)}{z^{p-j+1}} \right\} &\geq \frac{p!}{(p-j+1)!} + 2 \left( \frac{p!(p-j+1)}{(p-j)!} - \lambda \right) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(-r)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)^2} \\ &> \frac{p!}{(p-j+1)!} + 2 \left( \frac{p!(p-j+1)}{(p-j)!} - \lambda \right) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)^2}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.13)$$

while

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{h^{(j-1)}(z)}{z^{p-j+1}} \right\} &\leq \frac{p!}{(p-j+1)!} + 2 \left( \frac{p!(p-j+1)}{(p-j)!} - \lambda \right) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{r^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)^2} \\ &< \frac{p!}{(p-j+1)!} + 2 \left( \frac{p!(p-j+1)}{(p-j)!} - \lambda \right) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(k-j+1)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

The sharpness can be seen from (3.7). This completes the proof of Theorem 3.6.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.7** *If  $f(z) \in \mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  and  $|z| \leq r$ , where  $j = 0, \dots, p$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} \right\} &\geq \frac{p!}{(p-j-1)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(k-j)(-r)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1) \{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \\ &> \frac{p!}{(p-j-1)!} + \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)(k-j)(-1)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1) \{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \end{aligned} \quad (3.14)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} \right\} &\leq \frac{p!}{(p-j-1)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(k-j)r^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \\ &< \frac{p!}{(p-j-1)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{k-j}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}}. \end{aligned}$$

The inequalities are both sharp.

**Proof** We need only to consider the extreme point  $g(z)$  defined by (3.2).

Case I: if  $p + 1 - j + 2\alpha/(\beta - \alpha) > 0$ , then from (2.7), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{g^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} &= \frac{p!}{(p-j-1)!} + \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)(k-j)z^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}}. \tag{3.15} \\ &= \frac{p!}{(p-j-1)!} + \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)}{\beta - \alpha} \frac{d}{du} \left( \int_0^1 \int_0^1 (us)^{p+1-j} t^{\frac{2\alpha}{\beta-\alpha} + p-j} \frac{z}{1-stuz} ds dt \right) \Big|_{u=1}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{g^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} \right\} = \frac{p!}{(p-j-1)!} + \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)}{\beta - \alpha} \frac{d}{du} \left( \int_0^1 \int_0^1 (us)^{p+1-j} t^{\frac{2\alpha}{\beta-\alpha} + p-j} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{z}{1-stuz} \right\} ds dt \right) \Big|_{u=1}. \tag{3.16}$$

Applying (3.5) into (3.16) and expanding the integrand into a power series gives

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{g^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} \right\} = \frac{p!}{(p-j-1)!} + \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)}{\beta - \alpha} \frac{d}{du} \left( \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} (us)^{k-j} t^{\frac{2\alpha}{\beta-\alpha} + k-j-1} (-r)^{k-p} ds dt \right) \Big|_{u=1}. \tag{3.17}$$

Perform the indicated integration and differentiation yield

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{g^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} \right\} &\geq \frac{p!}{(p-j-1)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(k-j)(-r)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \\ &> \frac{p!}{(p-j-1)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(k-j)(-1)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}}. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, using (3.5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{g^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} \right\} &\leq \frac{p!}{(p-j-1)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(k-j)r^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \\ &< \frac{p!}{(p-j-1)!} + 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{k-j}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}}. \end{aligned}$$

The sharpness can be seen from (3.2).

Case II: if  $\alpha = \beta = 1$ , we consider the extreme function  $h(z)$  defined by (3.7). Applying similar technique of

$g(z)$  for the function  $h(z)$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{h^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} \right\} &\geq \frac{p!}{(p-j-1)!} + 2 \left( \frac{p!(p-j+1)}{(p-j)!} - \lambda \right) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(k-j)(-r)^{k-p}}{k-j+1} \\ &> \frac{p!}{(p-j-1)!} + 2 \left( \frac{p!(p-j+1)}{(p-j)!} - \lambda \right) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(k-j)(-1)^{k-p}}{k-j+1}, \end{aligned}$$

while

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{h^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} \right\} &\leq \frac{p!}{(p-j-1)!} + 2 \left( \frac{p!(p-j+1)}{(p-j)!} - \frac{\lambda}{\alpha} \right) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(k-j)r^{k-p}}{k-j+1} \\ &< \frac{p!}{(p-j-1)!} + 2 \left( \frac{p!(p-j+1)}{(p-j)!} - \frac{\lambda}{\alpha} \right) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{k-j}{k-j+1}. \end{aligned}$$

The sharpness can be seen from (3.7). This completes the proof of Theorem 3.7. □

For  $j = \alpha = 0$  and  $p = \beta = 1$  in Theorem 3.7, we have

**Corollary 3.8** *If  $\operatorname{Re}\{f'(z) + (1/2)zf''(z)\} > \lambda$ , ( $0 \leq \lambda < 1$ ), then*

$$\operatorname{Re}\{f'(z)\} > 1 + 2(1 - \lambda)(1 - 2 \log 2).$$

This result was obtained in [4], for the class  $R(\lambda, 1/2)$ .

If  $p = 1$  and  $j = 0$  in Theorem 3.7, then

**Corollary 3.9**  $\mathcal{B}_1(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; 0) \subset \mathcal{S}$  for  $\lambda \geq \lambda_1$ , where

$$\lambda_1 = \alpha + \beta + \frac{1}{4} \left( \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k-1}k}{(k+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)k + 2\alpha\}} \right)^{-1}. \tag{3.18}$$

The result cannot be extended to  $\lambda < \lambda_1$ .

**Proof** Let  $f \in \mathcal{B}_1(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; 0)$ . From (3.14), we know that if

$$1 + 4(\alpha + \beta - \lambda) \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k-1}k}{(k+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)k + 2\alpha\}} \geq 0,$$

then  $f \in \mathcal{S}$ , that is, if  $\lambda \geq \lambda_1$ , we have  $\mathcal{B}_1(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; 0) \subset \mathcal{S}$ . The result cannot be extended to  $\lambda < \lambda_1$  because  $g'(-1) = 0$  at  $\lambda = \lambda_1$ . Thus,  $g'(-r) = 0$  for some  $r = r(\lambda) < 1$  when  $\lambda < \lambda_1$ . □

**Example 3.10** (i)  $\mathcal{B}_1(-1, 1, \lambda; 0) \subset \mathcal{S}$ , for  $\lambda \geq 2/(1 - 4 \ln 2) \approx -1.1283$ .

(ii)  $\mathcal{B}_1(0, 1, \lambda; 0) \subset \mathcal{S}$ , for  $\lambda \geq (3 - 4 \ln 2)/(2 - 4 \ln 2) \approx -0.295$ . The bounds of  $\lambda$  in (i) and (ii) are the best possible ones for univalence.

#### 4. Inclusion properties

We need the following lemma by Jack [7] in investigating inclusion properties related to  $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  and  $\mathcal{A}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$ . An application of these inclusions will appear in the next section.

**Lemma 4.1** *Let  $w(z)$  be analytic in  $\mathbb{U}$  with  $w(0) = 0$ . If there are  $z_0 \in \mathbb{U}$  such that*

$$\max_{|z| \leq |z_0|} |w(z)| = |w(z_0)|,$$

*then  $z_0 w'(z_0) = k w(z_0)$ , ( $k \geq 1$ ).*

**Theorem 4.2** *If  $f(z) \in \mathcal{A}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j+1)$ , for  $j = 0, 1, \dots, p-1$ , then*

$$f(z) \in \mathcal{A}_p\left(\alpha - \beta, \beta, \frac{\lambda}{p-j} - \frac{1}{2}; j\right),$$

*for  $\sigma - (p-j)/2 - 1/4 \leq \lambda < \sigma$ , where  $\sigma = p![\alpha + \beta(p-j-1)]/(p-j-1)!$ .*

**Proof** For  $f(z) \in \mathcal{A}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j+1)$ , we define  $w(z)$  by

$$(\alpha - \beta) \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} + \beta \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} = \frac{w(z)}{1-w(z)} + \frac{\sigma}{p-j}, \quad (w(z) \neq 1). \quad (4.1)$$

Then, we have

$$(\alpha - \beta) f^{(j)}(z) + \beta z f^{(j+1)}(z) = \frac{z^{p-j} w(z)}{1-w(z)} + \frac{\sigma}{p-j} z^{p-j}. \quad (4.2)$$

By differentiating both sides of (4.2), we obtain

$$\alpha f^{(j+1)}(z) + \beta z f^{(j+2)}(z) = \sigma z^{p-j-1} + \frac{(p-j)z^{p-j-1}w(z)}{1-w(z)} + \frac{z^{p-j}w'(z)}{(1-w(z))^2}.$$

It follows that

$$\alpha \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} + \beta \frac{f^{(j+2)}(z)}{z^{p-j-2}} = \sigma + \frac{(p-j)w(z)}{1-w(z)} + \frac{zw'(z)}{(1-w(z))^2}.$$

Therefore,  $f(z) \in \mathcal{A}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j+1)$  satisfies

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \alpha \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} + \beta \frac{f^{(j+2)}(z)}{z^{p-j-2}} \right\} = \sigma + (p-j) \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{w(z)}{1-w(z)} \right\} + \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{zw'(z)}{(1-w(z))^2} \right\} > \lambda$$

for  $z \in \mathbb{U}$ . Since  $w(z)$  is analytic in  $\mathbb{U}$  and  $w(0) = 0$ , if there are  $z_0 \in \mathbb{U}$  such that

$$\max_{|z| \leq |z_0|} |w(z)| = |w(z_0)| = 1,$$

then, by Lemma 4.1, we can write

$$w(z_0) = e^{i\theta}, \quad z_0 w'(z_0) = k w(z_0) = k e^{i\theta}, \quad (k \geq 1).$$

For such a point  $z_0 \in \mathbb{U}$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \alpha \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j-1}} + \beta \frac{f^{(j+2)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j-2}} \right\} &= \sigma + (p-j) \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{e^{i\theta}}{1-e^{i\theta}} \right\} + \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{ke^{i\theta}}{(1-e^{i\theta})^2} \right\} \\ &= \sigma - \frac{p-j}{2} - \frac{k}{2(1-\cos\theta)} \leq \sigma - \frac{p-j}{2} - \frac{1}{2(1-\cos\theta)} \leq \sigma - \frac{p-j}{2} - \frac{1}{4} \leq \lambda \end{aligned}$$

which contradicts our assumption. Hence, there is no  $z_0 \in \mathbb{U}$  such that  $|w(z_0)| = 1$ , which means that  $|w(z)| < 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{U}$ . Note that

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{w(z)}{1-w(z)} \right\} > -\frac{1}{2}, \quad (z \in \mathbb{U})$$

for  $|w(z)| < 1$ . Therefore, by (4.1), we obtain

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ (\alpha - \beta) \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} + \beta \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} \right\} > -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sigma}{p-j} > -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\lambda}{p-j}$$

which shows that

$$f(z) \in \mathcal{A}_p \left( \alpha - \beta, \beta, \frac{\lambda}{p-j} - \frac{1}{2}; j \right).$$

□

**Remark 4.3** Theorem 4.2 corrects some errors appeared in [11, Theorem 3.2].

Setting  $p = 1$  and  $j = 0$  in Theorem 4.2, we get

**Corollary 4.4**  $\mathcal{A}_1(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; 1) \subseteq \mathcal{A}_1(\alpha - \beta, \beta, \lambda - 1/2; 0)$ , for  $\alpha - 3/4 \leq \lambda < \alpha$  and  $\alpha/\beta > -1$ .

Choosing  $\alpha = 0$  and  $\beta = 1$  in the previous corollary yields

**Example 4.5** If  $f \in \mathcal{A}_1$  satisfies  $\operatorname{Re}\{f''(z)\} > \lambda$ , ( $-3/4 \leq \lambda < 0$ ), then  $\operatorname{Re}\{-f(z)/z + f'(z)\} > \lambda - 1/2$ .

**Theorem 4.6** If  $f(z) \in \mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$ , for  $j = 0, 1, \dots, p$ , then

$$f(z) \in \mathcal{A}_p \left( \alpha, \frac{\beta - \alpha}{2}, \frac{\lambda}{p-j+1} - \frac{1}{2}; j \right),$$

for  $\sigma - (p-j+1)/2 - 1/4 \leq \lambda < \sigma$ , where  $\sigma$  is defined by (2.2).

**Proof** For  $f(z) \in \mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$ , we define  $w(z)$  by

$$\alpha \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} + \left( \frac{\beta - \alpha}{2} \right) \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} = \frac{w(z)}{1-w(z)} + \frac{\sigma}{p-j+1}, \quad (w(z) \neq 1). \quad (4.3)$$

Then, we have

$$\alpha z f^{(j)}(z) + \left( \frac{\beta - \alpha}{2} \right) z^2 f^{(j+1)}(z) = \frac{z^{p-j+1} w(z)}{1-w(z)} + \frac{\sigma}{p-j+1} z^{p-j+1}. \quad (4.4)$$

By differentiating both sides of (4.4), we obtain

$$\alpha f^{(j)}(z) + \beta z f^{(j+1)}(z) + \left(\frac{\beta - \alpha}{2}\right) z^2 f^{(j+2)}(z) = (p - j + 1) z^{p-j} \left(\frac{\sigma}{p - j + 1} + \frac{w(z)}{1 - w(z)}\right) + \frac{z^{p-j+1} w'(z)}{(1 - w(z))^2}.$$

It follows that

$$\alpha \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} + \beta \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} + \left(\frac{\beta - \alpha}{2}\right) \frac{f^{(j+2)}(z)}{z^{p-j-2}} = (p - j + 1) \left(\frac{\sigma}{p - j + 1} + \frac{w(z)}{1 - w(z)}\right) + \frac{z w'(z)}{(1 - w(z))^2}.$$

Therefore,  $f(z) \in \mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  satisfies

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \alpha \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} + \beta \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} + \left(\frac{\beta - \alpha}{2}\right) \frac{f^{(j+2)}(z)}{z^{p-j-2}} \right\} = \sigma + (p - j + 1) \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{w(z)}{1 - w(z)} \right\} + \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{z w'(z)}{(1 - w(z))^2} \right\} > \lambda$$

for  $z \in \mathbb{U}$ . Since  $w(z)$  is analytic in  $\mathbb{U}$  and  $w(0) = 0$ , if there are  $z_0 \in \mathbb{U}$  such that

$$\max_{|z| \leq |z_0|} |w(z)| = |w(z_0)| = 1,$$

then, by Lemma 4.1, we can write

$$w(z_0) = e^{i\theta}, \quad z_0 w'(z_0) = k w(z_0) = k e^{i\theta}, \quad (k \geq 1).$$

For such a point  $z_0 \in \mathbb{U}$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \alpha \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} + \beta \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} + \left(\frac{\beta - \alpha}{2}\right) \frac{f^{(j+2)}(z)}{z^{p-j-2}} \right\} &= \sigma + (p - j + 1) \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{e^{i\theta}}{1 - e^{i\theta}} \right\} + \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{k e^{i\theta}}{(1 - e^{i\theta})^2} \right\} \\ &= \sigma - \frac{p - j + 1}{2} - \frac{k}{2(1 - \cos \theta)} \leq \sigma - \frac{p - j + 1}{2} - \frac{1}{2(1 - \cos \theta)} \leq \sigma - \frac{p - j + 1}{2} - \frac{1}{4} \leq \lambda \end{aligned}$$

which contradicts our assumption. Hence, there is no  $z_0 \in \mathbb{U}$  such that  $|w(z_0)| = 1$ , which means that  $|w(z)| < 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{U}$ . Note that

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{w(z)}{1 - w(z)} \right\} > -\frac{1}{2}, \quad (z \in \mathbb{U})$$

for  $|w(z)| < 1$ . Therefore, by (4.3), we obtain

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \alpha \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} + \left(\frac{\beta - \alpha}{2}\right) \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} \right\} > -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sigma}{p - j + 1} > -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\lambda}{p - j + 1}$$

which shows that

$$f(z) \in \mathcal{A}_p \left( \alpha, \frac{\beta - \alpha}{2}, \frac{\lambda}{p - j + 1} - \frac{1}{2}; j \right).$$

□

Taking  $p = 1$  and  $j = 0$  in Theorem 4.6, we obtain that



**Corollary 4.7** If  $f(z) \in \mathcal{B}_1(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; 0)$ , then

$$f(z) \in \mathcal{A}_1 \left( \alpha, \frac{\beta - \alpha}{2}, \frac{\lambda - 1}{2}; 0 \right),$$

for  $\alpha + \beta - 5/4 \leq \lambda < \alpha + \beta$ .

**Theorem 4.8** If  $f(z) \in \mathcal{A}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j + 1)$ , for  $j = 0, 1, \dots, p - 1$ , then

$$f(z) \in \mathcal{B}_p \left( \alpha - \beta, \alpha + \beta, \frac{p - j + 1}{p - j} \lambda - \frac{1}{2}; j \right),$$

where  $\delta - (p - j)/2 - 1/4 \leq \lambda < \delta$  and  $\delta = p! \{ \alpha + (p - j - 1)\beta \} / (p - j - 1)!$ .

**Proof** From Theorem 4.2, we have that if

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \alpha \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} + \beta \frac{f^{(j+2)}(z)}{z^{p-j-2}} \right\} > \lambda, \quad (4.5)$$

then

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ (\alpha - \beta) \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} + \beta \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} \right\} > \frac{\lambda}{p - j} - \frac{1}{2}. \quad (4.6)$$

Combining inequality (4.5) along with inequality (4.6), we obtain

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ (\alpha - \beta) \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} + (\alpha + \beta) \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} + \beta \frac{f^{(j+2)}(z)}{z^{p-j-2}} \right\} > \frac{p - j + 1}{p - j} \lambda - \frac{1}{2}.$$

That is

$$f(z) \in \mathcal{B}_p \left( \alpha - \beta, \alpha + \beta, \frac{p - j + 1}{p - j} \lambda - \frac{1}{2}; j \right).$$

□

Taking  $p = 1$  and  $j = 0$  in Theorem 4.8, we obtain that

**Corollary 4.9** If  $f(z) \in \mathcal{A}_1(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; 1)$ , then

$$f(z) \in \mathcal{B}_1 \left( \alpha - \beta, \alpha + \beta, 2\lambda - \frac{1}{2}; 0 \right),$$

where  $\alpha - 3/4 \leq \lambda < \alpha$ .

## 5. Criteria for $p$ -valent starlike functions in $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$

To investigate sufficient conditions for functions in  $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$  to be in  $\mathcal{S}_p^*(j)$ , we need the following lemma.

**Lemma 5.1** [10] If  $f \in \mathcal{A}_p$  satisfies

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{z f^{(j)}(z)}{f^{(j-1)}(z)} \right\} > 0, \quad (j = 1, \dots, p; z \in \mathbb{U}),$$

then  $f \in \mathcal{S}_p^*(j - 1)$ .

**Theorem 5.2**  $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j) \subset \mathcal{S}_p^*(j)$  for  $j = 0, 1, \dots, p-1$  and  $\lambda \geq \lambda^*$ , where  $\lambda^*$  is the solution of the equation

$$\frac{p!}{(p-j)!} \left( \frac{(\beta + 3\alpha)(p-j) + 4\alpha}{4} \right) = \lambda^* + (\sigma - \lambda^*) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{[(\beta - \alpha)(p-j) - 4\alpha - 2(\beta + \alpha)(k-j)](-1)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}}, \quad (5.1)$$

such that  $\alpha \leq 0$  and  $-\alpha \geq \beta > (p-1-j)\alpha/(p+1-j)$ .

**Proof** For  $f \in \mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j)$ , we have

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \alpha \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} + \beta \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} + \left( \frac{\beta - \alpha}{2} \right) \frac{f^{(j+2)}(z)}{z^{p-j-2}} \right\} > \lambda, \quad (z \in \mathbb{U}).$$

Obviously,

$$\begin{aligned} (\beta - \alpha) \left( \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} + \frac{f^{(j+2)}(z)}{z^{p-j-2}} \right) &= -(\beta + \alpha) \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} - 2\alpha \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} \\ &+ 2 \left( \alpha \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} + \beta \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} + \left( \frac{\beta - \alpha}{2} \right) \frac{f^{(j+2)}(z)}{z^{p-j-2}} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (5.2)$$

Therefore, by (5.2), (3.1), and (3.14), we have

$$\begin{aligned} &(\beta - \alpha) \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} + \frac{f^{(j+2)}(z)}{z^{p-j-2}} \right\} - 2\lambda = -(\beta + \alpha) \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} \right\} - 2\alpha \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} \right\} \\ &\geq -(\beta + \alpha) \left( \frac{p!}{(p-j-1)!} + \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)(k-j)(-1)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \right) \\ &- 2\alpha \left( \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} + \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{4(\sigma - \lambda)(-1)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}} \right) \\ &= [-(\beta + \alpha)(p-j) - 2\alpha] \frac{p!}{(p-j)!} - 4(\sigma - \lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{[(\beta + \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha](-1)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta - \alpha)(k-j) + 2\alpha\}}. \end{aligned} \quad (5.3)$$

Now, let

$$\frac{zf^{(j+1)}(z)}{f^{(j)}(z)} = (p-j) \frac{1+w(z)}{1-w(z)}.$$

Then

$$\frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} + \frac{f^{(j+2)}(z)}{z^{p-j-2}} = (p-j) \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} \left[ \left( \frac{1+w(z)}{1-w(z)} \right)^2 (p-j) + \frac{2zw'(z)}{(1-w(z))^2} \right].$$

To deduce the result, we claim that  $|w(z)| < 1$ . If not, then using Lemma 4.1, there exists  $z_0 \in \mathbb{U}$  with  $\max_{|z| \leq |z_0|} |w(z)| = |w(z_0)| = 1$ , such that  $z_0 w'(z_0) = kw(z_0) = ke^{i\theta}$ , where  $k \geq 1$  and  $0 < \theta < 2\pi$ . It follows

that

$$\begin{aligned}
\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j-1}} + \frac{f^{(j+2)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j-2}} \right\} &= (p-j) \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j}} \left[ \left( \frac{1+e^{i\theta}}{1-e^{i\theta}} \right)^2 (p-j) + \frac{2ke^{i\theta}}{(1-e^{i\theta})^2} \right] \right\} \\
&= (p-j) \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j}} \left[ \frac{-\cos^2(\theta/2)}{\sin^2(\theta/2)} (p-j) - \frac{k}{2\sin^2(\theta/2)} \right] \right\} \\
&= -\frac{p-j}{2\sin^2(\theta/2)} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j}} [2\cos^2(\theta/2)(p-j) + k] \right\} \\
&\leq -\frac{(p-j)k}{2\sin^2(\theta/2)} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j}} \right\} \\
&\leq -\frac{p-j}{2} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j}} \right\}.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence, by (3.14), we obtain

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j-1}} + \frac{f^{(j+2)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j-2}} \right\} \leq -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{p!}{(p-j-1)!} + 4(\sigma-\lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(p-j)(-1)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta-\alpha)(k-j)+2\alpha\}} \right]. \quad (5.4)$$

If  $\lambda$  satisfies the inequality

$$\frac{p!}{(p-j)!} \left( \frac{(\beta+3\alpha)(p-j)+4\alpha}{4} \right) \leq \lambda + (\sigma-\lambda) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{[(\beta-\alpha)(p-j)-4\alpha-2(\beta+\alpha)(k-j)](-1)^{k-p}}{(k-j+1)\{(\beta-\alpha)(k-j)+2\alpha\}} \quad (5.5)$$

then we have a contradiction to (5.4) at  $z = z_0$ . The smallest  $\lambda$  that satisfies inequality (5.5) is  $\lambda^*$ , which is the solution of (5.1). Thus, if  $\lambda \geq \lambda^*$ , we see  $|w(z)| < 1$  and hence by Lemma 5.1, we obtain  $f \in \mathcal{S}_p^*(j)$ . This completes the proof of Theorem 5.2.  $\square$

Setting  $p = 1$ ,  $j = 0$ ,  $\alpha = \alpha^* - \beta^*$ , and  $\beta = \alpha^* + \beta^*$  in Theorem 5.2 would ensure by Corollary 4.9 that

**Corollary 5.3**  $\mathcal{A}_1(\alpha^*, \beta^*, \lambda; 1) \subset \mathcal{S}^*$ , for  $\alpha^* > \lambda \geq (2\lambda^* + 1)/4$ , such that  $\lambda^*$  is the solution of the equation

$$\frac{4\alpha^* - 3\beta^*}{2} = \lambda^* + (2\alpha^* - \lambda^*) \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k-1} [3\beta^* - 2\alpha^*(k+1)]}{(k+1)(\beta^*k + \alpha^*)}.$$

where  $\beta^* > \alpha^* > -\beta^*$  and  $\beta^* - \alpha^* \geq \alpha^* + \beta^* > \alpha^* - \beta^*$ .

If  $(\alpha^* = 0, \beta^* = 1)$  or  $(\alpha^* = -1, \beta^* = 2)$  in Corollary 5.3, then we have the following interesting example

**Example 5.4**  $f \in \mathcal{S}^*$  if it satisfies one of the following conditions:

- (i)  $\operatorname{Re}\{zf''(z)\} > \frac{5-12\ln 2}{44-48\ln 2} \approx -0.309$ , ( $z \in \mathbb{U}$ ),
- (ii)  $\operatorname{Re}\{-f'(z) + 2zf''(z)\} > \frac{-60+12\ln 2+9\pi}{64-16\ln 2-12\pi} \approx -1.539$ , ( $z \in \mathbb{U}$ ).

**Theorem 5.5**  $\mathcal{B}_p(1, 1, \lambda; j) \subset \mathcal{S}_p^*(j - 1)$ , for  $j = 1, \dots, p$  and  $\lambda \geq \lambda^*$ , where  $\lambda^*$  is the solution of the equation

$$\frac{p!}{(p - j)!} + 2 \left( \frac{p!(p - j + 1)}{(p - j)!} - \lambda^* \right) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(p - j + 1)(-1)^{k-p}}{(k - j + 1)^2} = -2\lambda^*. \tag{5.6}$$

**Proof** If  $f \in \mathcal{B}_p(1, 1, \lambda; j)$ , then

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} + \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} \right\} > \lambda.$$

Now, let

$$\frac{zf^{(j)}(z)}{f^{(j-1)}(z)} = (p - j + 1) \frac{1 + w(z)}{1 - w(z)}, \quad w(z) \neq 1.$$

Then

$$\frac{f^{(j)}(z)}{z^{p-j}} + \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} = (p - j + 1) \frac{f^{(j-1)}(z)}{z^{p-j-1}} \left[ \left( \frac{1 + w(z)}{1 - w(z)} \right)^2 (p - j + 1) + \frac{2zw'(z)}{(1 - w(z))^2} \right].$$

To deduce the result, we claim that  $|w(z)| < 1$ . If not, then using Lemma 4.1, there exists  $z_0 \in \mathbb{U}$  with  $\max_{|z| \leq |z_0|} |w(z)| = |w(z_0)| = 1$ , such that  $z_0 w'(z_0) = kw(z_0) = ke^{i\theta}$ , where  $k \geq 1$  and  $0 < \theta < 2\pi$ . It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j}} + \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j-1}} \right\} &= (p - j + 1) \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j-1)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j+1}} \left[ \left( \frac{1 + e^{i\theta}}{1 - e^{i\theta}} \right)^2 (p - j + 1) + \frac{2ke^{i\theta}}{(1 - e^{i\theta})^2} \right] \right\} \\ &= (p - j + 1) \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j-1)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j+1}} \left[ \frac{-\cos^2(\theta/2)}{\sin^2(\theta/2)} (p - j + 1) - \frac{k}{2\sin^2(\theta/2)} \right] \right\} \\ &= -\frac{p - j + 1}{2\sin^2(\theta/2)} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j-1)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j+1}} [2\cos^2(\theta/2)(p - j + 1) + k] \right\} \\ &\leq -\frac{(p - j + 1)k}{2\sin^2(\theta/2)} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j-1)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j+1}} \right\} \\ &\leq -\frac{p - j + 1}{2} \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j-1)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j+1}} \right\}. \end{aligned} \tag{5.7}$$

Hence, by (5.7) and (3.13), we obtain

$$\operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{f^{(j)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j}} + \frac{f^{(j+1)}(z_0)}{z_0^{p-j-1}} \right\} \leq -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{p!}{(p - j)!} + 2 \left( \frac{p!(p - j + 1)}{(p - j)!} - \lambda \right) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(p - j + 1)(-1)^{k-p}}{(k - j + 1)^2} \right]. \tag{5.8}$$

If  $\lambda$  satisfies the inequality

$$\frac{p!}{(p - j)!} + 2 \left( \frac{p!(p - j + 1)}{(p - j)!} - \lambda \right) \sum_{k=p+1}^{\infty} \frac{(p - j + 1)(-1)^{k-p}}{(k - j + 1)^2} \geq -2\lambda \tag{5.9}$$

then we have a contradiction to (5.8) at  $z = z_0$ . The smallest  $\lambda$  that satisfies inequality (5.9) is  $\lambda^*$ , which is the solution of (5.6). Thus, if  $\lambda \geq \lambda^*$ , we see  $|w(z)| < 1$  and hence by Lemma 5.1,  $f \in \mathcal{S}_p^*(j-1)$ .  $\square$

For  $p = j = 1$  in Theorem 5.5, we have

**Corollary 5.6** For  $f \in \mathcal{A}_1$ , if

$$\operatorname{Re}\{f'(z) + zf''(z)\} > \frac{6 - \pi^2}{24 - \pi^2},$$

then  $f \in \mathcal{S}^*$ .

This result was obtained by many authors, see [10, 12]. By the aid of the Alexander's relation ( $f(z) \in \mathcal{CV} \iff zf'(z) \in \mathcal{S}^*$ ), we have the following consequence result from Theorem 5.5 and Lemma 1.1.

**Corollary 5.7**  $\mathcal{B}_p(j, j+2, \lambda; j) \subset \mathcal{CV}_p(j-1)$ , for  $j = 1, \dots, p$  and  $\lambda \geq \lambda^*$ , where  $\lambda^*$  is defined by (5.6). In particular, if

$$\operatorname{Re}\{f'(z) + 3zf''(z) + z^2f'''(z)\} > \frac{6 - \pi^2}{24 - \pi^2},$$

then  $f \in \mathcal{CV}$ .

We end this paper by posing the following problem:

**Problem 5.8** Find the least possible value of  $\lambda(\alpha, \beta)$  such that  $\mathcal{B}_p(\alpha, \beta, \lambda; j) \subset \mathcal{S}_p^*(j)$ .

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