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## $p$ -Subordination chains and $p$ -valence integral operators

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**Abstract:** In the present investigation we obtain some sufficient conditions for the analyticity and the  $p$ -valence of an integral operator in the unit disk  $\mathbb{D}$ . Using these conditions we give some applications for a few different integral operators. The significant relationships and relevance to other results are also given. A number of known univalent conditions would follow upon specializing the parameters involved in our main results.

**Key words:** Univalent functions,  $p$ -valent function,  $p$ -subordination chain,  $p$ -valence criterion

### 1. Introduction

Denote by  $\mathbb{D}_r = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < r\}$  ( $0 < r \leq 1$ ) the disk of radius  $r$  and let  $\mathbb{D} = \mathbb{D}_1$ . Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be the class of analytic functions  $f$  in the open unit disk  $\mathbb{D}$  that satisfy the usual normalization conditions  $f(0) = f'(0) - 1 = 0$ . Traditionally, the subclass of  $\mathcal{A}$  consisting of univalent functions is denoted by  $\mathcal{S}$ . Let  $\mathcal{P}$  denote the class of functions  $p(z) = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} p_n z^n$ ,  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  that satisfy the condition  $\Re p(z) > 0$ . Let  $\mathcal{A}_p$  denote the class of analytic functions in the open unit disk  $\mathbb{D}$  that satisfy the normalizations  $f^{(k)}(0) = 0$  for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, p-1$  ( $p \in \mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$ ) and  $f^{(p)}(0) \neq 0$ , and let  $\mathcal{A}_p^*$  be the subclass of  $\mathcal{A}_p$  consisting of functions of the form  $f(z) = z^p + \sum_{n=1+p}^{\infty} a_n z^n$  in  $\mathbb{D}$ . These classes have been one of the most important subjects of research in geometric function theory for a long time (see [22]). For analytic functions  $f$  and  $g$  in  $\mathbb{D}$ ,  $f$  is said to be subordinate to  $g$ , denoted by  $f(z) \prec g(z)$ , if there exists an analytic function  $w$  satisfying  $w(0) = 0$ ,  $|w(z)| < 1$ , such that  $f(z) = g(w(z))$  ( $z \in \mathbb{D}$ ). In particular, if the function  $g$  is univalent in  $\mathbb{D}$ , the above subordination is equivalent to  $f(0) = g(0)$  and  $f(\mathbb{D}) \subset g(\mathbb{D})$ .

### 2. $p$ -Normalized subordination chain and related theorem

Before proving our main theorem we need a brief summary of the method of  $p$ -subordination chains.

**Definition 2.1** (see Hallenbeck and Livingston [8]) Let  $\mathcal{L}(z, t)$  be a function defined on  $\mathbb{D} \times I$ , where  $I := [0, \infty)$ .  $\mathcal{L}(z, t)$  is called a  $p$ -subordination chain if  $\mathcal{L}(z, t)$  satisfies the following conditions:

1.  $\mathcal{L}(z, t)$  is analytic in  $\mathbb{D}$  for all  $t \in I$ ,
2.  $\mathcal{L}^{(k)}(0, t) = 0$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, p-1$ , and  $\mathcal{L}^{(p)}(0, t) \neq 0$ ,
3.  $\mathcal{L}(z, t) \prec \mathcal{L}(z, s)$  for all  $0 \leq t \leq s < \infty$ ,  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ .

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A  $p$ -subordination chain is said to be normalized if  $\mathcal{L}(0, t) = 0$  and  $\mathcal{L}^{(p)}(0, t) = p!e^{pt}$  for all  $t \in I$ .

In order to prove our main results we need the following lemma due to Hallenbeck and Livingston [8].

**Lemma 2.1** *Let  $\mathcal{L}(z, t) = a_p(t)z^p + a_{p+1}(t)z^{p+1} + \dots$ ,  $a_p(t) \neq 0$ , be analytic in  $\mathbb{D}_r$  for all  $t \in I$ . Suppose that:*

- (i)  $\mathcal{L}(z, t)$  is a locally absolutely continuous function in the interval  $I$  and locally uniformly with respect to  $\mathbb{D}_r$ .
- (ii)  $a_p(t)$  is a complex valued continuous function on  $I$  such that  $|a_p(t)| \rightarrow \infty$  for  $t \rightarrow \infty$  and

$$\left\{ \frac{\mathcal{L}(z, t)}{a_p(t)} \right\}_{t \in I}$$

forms a normal family of functions in  $\mathbb{D}_r$ .

- (iii) There exists an analytic function  $h : \mathbb{D} \times I \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  satisfying  $\Re h(z, t) > 0$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ ,  $t \in I$  and

$$p \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(z, t)}{\partial t} = z \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(z, t)}{\partial z} h(z, t), \quad z \in \mathbb{D}_r, \quad t \in I. \tag{2.1}$$

Then, for each  $t \in I$ , the function  $\mathcal{L}(z, t)$  is the  $p$ th power of a univalent function in  $\mathbb{D}$ .

Pommerenke’s theory of subordination chains (see [18, 19]) corresponds to  $p = 1$ .

The 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 obtained different types of sufficient conditions of univalence or not. Pommerenke [18, 19] and Becker [2] used the idea of normalized 1-subordination chains to obtain sufficient conditions for univalence. Two of the most important conditions of univalence are the well-known criteria of Becker [2] and Ahlfors [1], which were obtained by a clever use of the theory of 1-subordination chains and the generalized Loewner differential equation. Detailed information about 1-subordination chains can be found in Hotta’s works (see [10] and [9]). Furthermore, Pascu [15] and Pescar [16] obtained some extensions of Becker and Ahlfors’ univalence criteria for an integral operator, respectively, using 1-subordination chains.

For further results we refer to the recent papers [3–6, 9–12, 14, 20, 21] where, among other things, some interesting univalence criteria and quasiconformal extensions were established.

It is the purpose of this paper to use  $p$ -subordination chains to obtain conditions for an integral operator to be the  $p$ th power of a univalent function where  $p = 1, 2, \dots$ . In special cases our results contain the results obtained by some of the authors cited in the references. We also extend the aforementioned results of Hallenbeck and Livingston [8]. Our considerations are based on the theory of  $p$ -subordination chains.

### 3. $p$ -Valence criteria

Making use of Lemma 2.1 we can prove now our main results.

**Theorem 3.1** *Let  $\alpha$  and  $c$  be complex numbers such that  $\Re(\alpha) > 0$ ,  $|c| < p$  and  $f \in \mathcal{A}_p^*$ . If the inequality*

$$\left| c|z|^{2\alpha p} + \frac{(1 - |z|^{2\alpha p})}{\alpha} \left[ 1 - p + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right] \right| \leq p \tag{3.1}$$

holds true for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ , then the integral operator

$$F_\alpha(z) = \left[ \alpha \int_0^z u^{p(\alpha-1)} f'(u) du \right]^{1/\alpha} \quad (3.2)$$

is the  $p$ th power of a univalent function in  $\mathbb{D}$ , where the principal branch is considered.

**Proof** We will prove that there exists a real number  $r \in (0, 1]$  such that the function  $\mathcal{L} : \mathbb{D}_r \times I \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , defined formally by

$$\mathcal{L}(z, t) = \left( \alpha \int_0^{e^{-t}z} u^{p(\alpha-1)} f'(u) du + \frac{1}{p+c} (e^{2\alpha pt} - 1) (e^{-t}z)^{(p(\alpha-1)+1)} f'(e^{-t}z) \right)^{1/\alpha} \quad (3.3)$$

is analytic in  $\mathbb{D}_r$  for all  $t \in I$ .

Consider the function

$$\phi_1(z, t) = \alpha \int_0^{e^{-t}z} u^{p(\alpha-1)} f'(u) du = e^{-\alpha pt} z^{\alpha p} + \dots,$$

and then we have

$$\phi_1(z, t) = (e^{-t}z)^{\alpha p} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha(n+p)}{\alpha p+n} a_{n+p} (e^{-t}z)^{\alpha p+n}.$$

Let the function  $\phi_2(z, t)$  be such that

$$\phi_1(z, t) = z^{\alpha p} \phi_2(z, t).$$

It is easy to check that  $\phi_2(z, t)$  is analytic in  $\mathbb{D}$  for all  $t \in I$  and

$$\phi_2(z, t) = (e^{-t})^{\alpha p} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha(n+p)e^{-(\alpha p+n)t}}{\alpha p+n} a_{n+p} z^n.$$

Since the function  $f(z)$  is analytic in  $\mathbb{D}$ , it follows that the function

$$\phi_3(z, t) = (e^{2\alpha pt} - 1) e^{-t(p(\alpha-1)+1)} z^{1-p} f'(e^{-t}z)$$

is an analytic function in  $\mathbb{D}$  for all  $t \in I$ . Then the function  $\phi_4(z, t)$  given by

$$\phi_4(z, t) = \phi_2(z, t) + \frac{1}{p+c} \phi_3(z, t)$$

is also analytic in  $\mathbb{D}$ .

We have

$$\phi_4(0, t) = \phi_2(0, t) + \frac{1}{p+c} \phi_3(0, t) = e^{\alpha pt} \left[ \frac{p + ce^{-2\alpha pt}}{p+c} \right].$$

The conditions  $|c| < p$  and  $\Re(\alpha) > 0$  yield  $\phi_4(0, t) \neq 0$  for all  $t \in I$ . Therefore, there is a disk  $\mathbb{D}_{r_1}$ ,  $r_1 \in (0, 1]$ , in which  $\phi_4(z, t) \neq 0$  for all  $t \in I$ . Then we can choose a uniform branch of  $[\phi_4(z, t)]^{1/\alpha}$  analytic in  $\mathbb{D}_{r_1}$ , denoted by  $\phi_5(z, t)$ .

It follows from (3.3) that

$$\mathcal{L}(z, t) = z^p \phi_5(z, t) = a_p(t)z^p + a_{p+1}(t)z^{p+1} + \dots$$

and thus the function  $\mathcal{L}(z, t)$  is analytic in  $\mathbb{D}_{r_1}$ .

We have

$$a_p(t) = e^{pt} \left[ \frac{p + ce^{-2\alpha pt}}{p + c} \right]^{1/\alpha}.$$

From  $|c| < p$  and  $\Re(\alpha) > 0$ , we obtain

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

Moreover,  $a_p(t) \neq 0$  for all  $t \in I$ .

From the analyticity of  $\mathcal{L}(z, t)$  in  $\mathbb{D}_{r_1}$ , it follows that there exists a number  $r_2$ ,  $0 < r_2 < r_1$  where  $\mathcal{L}(z, t)/a_p(t)$  is analytic in disk  $\mathbb{D}_{r_2}$  and a constant  $K = K(r_2)$  such that

$$\left| \frac{\mathcal{L}(z, t)}{a_p(t)} \right| < K, \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{D}_{r_2}, t \in I.$$

Then, by Montel's theorem,  $\left\{ \frac{\mathcal{L}(z, t)}{a_p(t)} \right\}_{t \in I}$  is a normal family in  $\mathbb{D}_{r_2}$ . From the analyticity of  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(z, t)}{\partial t}$ , we obtain that for all fixed numbers  $T > 0$  and  $r_3$ ,  $0 < r_3 < r_2$ , there exists a constant  $K_1 > 0$  (that depends on  $T$  and  $r_3$ ) such that

$$\left| \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(z, t)}{\partial t} \right| < K_1, \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{D}_{r_3}, t \in [0, T].$$

Therefore, the function  $\mathcal{L}(z, t)$  is locally absolutely continuous in  $I$ , locally uniform with respect to  $\mathbb{D}_{r_3}$ .

Let  $h : \mathbb{D} \times I \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be the function defined by

$$h(z, t) = p \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(z, t)}{\partial t} / z \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(z, t)}{\partial z}.$$

If the function

$$w(z, t) = \frac{h(z, t) - 1}{h(z, t) + 1} = \frac{p \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(z, t)}{\partial t} - \frac{z \partial \mathcal{L}(z, t)}{\partial z}}{p \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(z, t)}{\partial t} + \frac{z \partial \mathcal{L}(z, t)}{\partial z}} \tag{3.4}$$

is analytic in  $\mathbb{D} \times I$  and  $|w(z, t)| < 1$ , for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $t \in I$ , then  $h(z, t)$  is an analytic function with positive real part in  $\mathbb{D}$ , for all  $t \in I$ .

From equality (3.4), we have

$$w(z, t) = \frac{(p + 1)\Psi(z, t) - 2p^2}{(p - 1)\Psi(z, t) - 2p^2}, \tag{3.5}$$

where

$$\Psi(z, t) = ce^{-2\alpha pt} + \frac{(1 - e^{-2\alpha pt})}{\alpha} \left[ 1 - p + \frac{e^{-t} z f''(e^{-t} z)}{f'(e^{-t} z)} \right] + p \tag{3.6}$$

for  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $t \in I$ .

The inequality  $|w(z, t)| < 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $t \in I$ , where  $w(z, t)$  is defined by (3.5), is equivalent to

$$|\Psi(z, t) - p| < p, \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{D}, t \in I. \tag{3.7}$$

From the hypothesis of the theorem and (3.6), we have

$$|\Psi(z, 0) - p| = |c| < p, \quad \text{for all } z \in \mathbb{D} \tag{3.8}$$

and

$$|\Psi(0, t) - p| = |ce^{-2\alpha pt}| = |c|e^{-2pt\Re(\alpha)} < p, \quad \text{for all } t \in I. \tag{3.9}$$

Let  $t > 0$  and let  $z \in \mathbb{D} \setminus \{0\}$ . Since  $|e^{-t} z| \leq e^{-t} < 1$  for all  $z \in \overline{\mathbb{D}} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| \leq 1\}$  we find that  $\Psi(z, t) - p$  is an analytic function in  $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$ . Using the maximum modulus principle it follows that for all  $z \in \mathbb{D} \setminus \{0\}$  and each  $t > 0$  arbitrarily fixed there exists  $\theta = \theta(t) \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$|\Psi(z, t) - p| < \lim_{|z|=1} |\Psi(z, t) - p| = |\Psi(e^{i\theta}, t) - p|. \tag{3.10}$$

Denote  $u = e^{-t} e^{i\theta}$ . Then  $|u| = e^{-t}$ , and from (3.6), we have

$$|\Psi(e^{i\theta}, t) - p| = \left| c|u|^{2\alpha p} + \frac{(1 - |u|^{2\alpha p})}{\alpha} \left[ 1 - p + \frac{u f''(u)}{f'(u)} \right] \right|.$$

Since  $u \in \mathbb{D}$ , the inequality (3.1) implies that

$$|\Psi(e^{i\theta}, t) - p| \leq p,$$

and from (3.8), (3.9), and (3.10), we conclude that

$$|\Psi(e^{i\theta}, t) - p| < p$$

for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $t \in I$ . Therefore,  $|w(z, t)| < 1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  and  $t \in I$ .

Since all the conditions of Lemma 2.1 are satisfied, we obtain that the function  $\mathcal{L}(z, t)$  is the  $p$ th power of a univalent function whole unit disk  $\mathbb{D}$ , for all  $t \in I$ . For  $t = 0$  we have  $\mathcal{L}(z, 0) = F_\alpha(z)$ , for  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  and therefore the function  $F_\alpha(z)$  is the  $p$ th power of a univalent function in  $\mathbb{D}$ . □

For  $p = 1$ , condition (3.1) is a well-known sufficient condition of univalence given by Pescar [16].

Condition (3.1) of Theorem 3.1 can be replaced with a simpler one.

**Theorem 3.2** *Let  $f \in \mathcal{A}_p^*$  and let  $\alpha$  be a complex number such that  $\Re(\alpha) > 0$ . Supposing that*

$$\left| 1 - p + \frac{z f''(z)}{f'(z)} \right| \leq p \Re(\alpha) \tag{3.11}$$

*is true for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ , then the integral operator  $F_\alpha(z)$  defined by (3.2) is the  $p$ th power of a univalent function in  $\mathbb{D}$ , where the principal branch is considered.*

**Proof** It is known (see [15]) that for all  $z \in \mathbb{D} \setminus \{0\}$  and  $\Re(\alpha) > 0$ ,

$$\left| \frac{1 - |z|^{2\alpha p}}{\alpha} \right| \leq \frac{1 - |z|^{2p\Re(\alpha)}}{\Re(\alpha)}. \tag{3.12}$$

Making use of (3.11), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| c|z|^{2\alpha p} + \frac{(1 - |z|^{2\alpha p})}{\alpha} \left[ 1 - p + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right] \right| \\ & \leq |c| |z|^{2p\Re(\alpha)} + \frac{1 - |z|^{2p\Re(\alpha)}}{\Re(\alpha)} \left| 1 - p + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right| \\ & \leq p|z|^{2p\Re(\alpha)} + \frac{1 - |z|^{2p\Re(\alpha)}}{\Re(\alpha)} p\Re(\alpha) = p. \end{aligned}$$

Since the conditions of Theorem 3.1 are satisfied, it follows that the function  $F_\alpha(z)$  defined by (3.2) is the  $p$ th power of a univalent function in  $\mathbb{D}$ . □

We now give some results that follow from Theorem 3.1. If we set  $c = 0$ , then by Theorem 3.1 we obtain the following:

**Corollary 3.3** *Let  $f \in \mathcal{A}_p^*$  and let  $\alpha$  be a complex number such that  $\Re(\alpha) > 0$ . Supposing that*

$$\left| \frac{(1 - |z|^{2\alpha p})}{\alpha} \left[ 1 - p + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right] \right| \leq p$$

*is true for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ , then the integral operator  $F_\alpha(z)$  defined by (3.2) is the  $p$ th power of a univalent function in  $\mathbb{D}$ , where the principal branch is considered.*

Becker’s univalence criterion can also be obtained from Corollary 3.3 for  $\alpha = p = 1$ . Using the inequality (3.12) in Corollary 3.3, we obtain the following result:

**Corollary 3.4** *Let  $f \in \mathcal{A}_p^*$  and let  $\alpha$  be a complex number such that  $\Re(\alpha) > 0$ . Supposing that*

$$\frac{1 - |z|^{2p\Re(\alpha)}}{\Re(\alpha)} \left| 1 - p + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right| \leq p$$

*is true for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ , then the integral operator  $F_\alpha(z)$  defined by (3.2) is the  $p$  power of a univalent function in  $\mathbb{D}$ , where the principal branch is considered.*

**Example 3.1** *Let  $\alpha$  be complex number such that  $\Re(\alpha) > 1 - \frac{1}{p}$ . Then the integral operator*

$$E_\alpha(z) = \left[ \alpha p \int_0^z u^{p\alpha-1} e^{u(p-1)} du \right]^{1/\alpha} \tag{3.13}$$

*is the  $p$ th power of a univalent function in  $\mathbb{D}$ , where the principal branch is considered.*

**Proof** In the integral operator (3.2) we get  $f'(z) = p(ze^z)^{p-1}$ . Then we have

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

From Corollary 3.4 we see that  $E_\alpha$  given by (3.13) is the  $p$ th power of a univalent function in  $\mathbb{D}$ . □

For  $p = 1$ , Corollary 3.4 in turn implies the well-known univalence criterion of Pascu [15].

**Theorem 3.5** Let  $\alpha$  and  $c$  be complex numbers such that  $\Re(\alpha) > 0$ ,  $|c| < p$  and  $g \in \mathcal{A}$ . Supposing that

$$\left| c|z|^{2\alpha p} + \frac{(1-|z|^{2\alpha p})}{\alpha} \left[ (1-\alpha p) \left( 1 - \frac{zg'(z)}{g(z)} \right) + \frac{zg''(z)}{g'(z)} \right] \right| \leq p$$

is true for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ , then the function  $g$  is univalent in  $\mathbb{D}$ .

**Proof** Let  $F_\alpha(z) = [g(z)]^p$ . Thus, we obtain

$$f'(z) = pg'(z)(g(z))^{\alpha p-1} z^{p(1-\alpha)}.$$

It is easy to see that  $F_\alpha$  satisfies the assumption of Theorem 3.1 if it satisfies the assumption of this theorem. Thus,  $g$  is a univalent function in  $\mathbb{D}$  because  $F_\alpha$  in view of Theorem 3.1 is the  $p$ th power of a univalent function. □

Reasoning along the same lines as in the proof of the Theorem 3.1 for the  $p$ -subordination chain

$$\mathcal{L}(z, t) = \left( \alpha \int_0^{e^{-t}z} u^{p(\alpha-1)} f'(u) du + \frac{\alpha}{p+c} (e^{2pt} - 1) (e^{-t}z)^{(p(\alpha-1)+1)} f'(e^{-t}z) \right)^{1/\alpha}, \tag{3.14}$$

we obtain the following theorem. We omit the details.

**Theorem 3.6** Let  $\alpha$  and  $c$  be complex numbers such that  $|\alpha - 1| < 1$ ,  $|c| < p$  and  $f \in \mathcal{A}_p^*$ . If the inequality

$$\left| c|z|^{2p} + (1-|z|^{2p}) \left[ p(\alpha-2) + 1 + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right] \right| \leq p \tag{3.15}$$

holds true for all  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ , then the integral operator  $F_\alpha(z)$  defined by (3.2) is the  $p$ th power of a univalent function in  $\mathbb{D}$ , where the principal branch is considered.

#### 4. Applications

The problem of the univalence of integral operators in  $\mathbb{D}$  was discussed by many authors. For example, Pfaltzgraß [17] proved that for  $f \in \mathcal{S}$  the integral operator

$$G_\beta(z) = \int_0^z (f'(u))^\beta du$$

is in the class  $\mathcal{S}$  if  $|\beta| \leq \frac{1}{4}$ . He showed that the bound  $\frac{1}{4}$  is sharp.



On the other hand, Kim and Merkes [13] showed that for  $f \in \mathcal{S}$  the integral operator

$$G_\gamma(z) = \int_0^z \left( \frac{f(u)}{u} \right)^\gamma du$$

is in the class  $\mathcal{S}$  if  $|\gamma| \leq \frac{1}{4}$ .

The following lemma is of fundamental importance in our investigation.

**Lemma 4.1** (Wesolowski [23]). *For each function  $f \in \mathcal{S}$  and a fixed  $z$ ,  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ , the inequality*

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

holds.

**Proof** By using a rotation of the form  $f_\lambda(z) = \bar{\lambda}f(\lambda z)$ ,  $|\lambda| = 1$ , if needed, we see that it is enough to prove the inequality

$$\left| \frac{r}{f(r)} - 1 + r^2 \right| \leq 2(1 + r), \quad |z| = r.$$

Grunsky [7, p. 323] proved that the domain of variability in  $\frac{z}{f(z)}$  is the closed disk

$$\left| \ln \frac{z}{f(z)} - \ln(1 - r^2) \right| \leq \ln \frac{1+r}{1-r}, \quad |z| = r, \quad z \in \mathbb{D}.$$

Hence, arguing as in [7, pp. 323-326] and denoting  $\frac{1+r}{1-r} = a$ , for any  $\theta$ ,  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{r}{f(r)} - 1 + r^2 \right| &= \left| (1 - r^2)a^{e^{i\theta}} - 1 + r^2 \right| \\ &= (1 - r^2) \sqrt{a^{2 \cos \theta} - 2a^{\cos \theta} \cos(\sin \theta \ln a) + 1} \\ &\leq (1 - r^2) \left( \frac{1+r}{1-r} \right)^{\cos \theta} + 1 - r^2 \leq 2(1 + r). \end{aligned}$$

□

**Theorem 4.1** *Let  $f \in \mathcal{S}$ . If  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are any complex numbers such that  $|\alpha - 1| < 1$  and*

$$|\beta| \leq \frac{p(1 - |\alpha - 1|)}{6p - 2},$$

then the integral operator

$$G_{\alpha,\beta}(z) = \left[ \alpha p \int_0^z u^{\alpha p - 1} (f'(u))^\beta du \right]^{1/\alpha} \tag{4.1}$$

is the  $p$ th power of a univalent function in  $\mathbb{D}$ , where the principal branch is considered.

**Proof** We begin by setting

$$F(z) = \int_0^z pu^{p-1}(f'(u))^\beta du \tag{4.2}$$

so that, obviously,

$$F'(z) = pz^{p-1}(f'(z))^\beta, \tag{4.3}$$

and from (4.3), we obtain

$$\frac{zF''(z)}{F'(z)} = p - 1 + \beta \left( \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right). \tag{4.4}$$

It is well known that for any arbitrary point  $z_0 \in \mathbb{D}$ , the function  $f \in \mathcal{S}$  can be written as

$$f(z) = \frac{k\left(\frac{z+z_0}{1+z\bar{z}_0}\right) - k(z_0)}{k'(z_0)(1-|z_0|^2)}, \quad z \in \mathbb{D}, \tag{4.5}$$

where  $k$  is a function in the class  $\mathcal{S}$ .

Therefore, we get that for all such  $z_0$ ,

$$\frac{-z_0f''(-z_0)}{f'(-z_0)} = \frac{2|z_0|^2 - 2a_2z_0}{1-|z_0|^2} \tag{4.6}$$

where  $a_2 = a_2(z_0)$  is the second coefficient in the Taylor series expansion of the function  $k$ . The classical Bieberbach theorem states that  $|a_2(z_0)| \leq 2$  for every  $z_0 \in \mathbb{D}$ .

From (4.4) and (4.6), putting  $z_0 = -z$ , we have

$$\frac{zF''(z)}{F'(z)} = p - 1 + \beta \frac{2|z|^2 + 2a_2(-z)z}{1-|z|^2},$$

where  $|a_2| = |a_2(-z)| \leq 2$ .

Putting  $c = p(\alpha - 1) - 2\beta$  and  $F$  instead of  $f$  in (3.15) and using the above equality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| (p(\alpha - 1) - 2\beta)|z|^{2p} + (1 - |z|^{2p}) \left[ p(\alpha - 1) + \beta \frac{2|z|^2 + 2a_2z}{1 - |z|^2} \right] \right| \\ &= \left| -2\beta|z|^{2p} + p(\alpha - 1) + 2\beta(1 - |z|^{2p}) \left[ \frac{|z|^2 + a_2z}{1 - |z|^2} \right] \right| \\ &\leq p|\alpha - 1| + 2|\beta| \left| a_2z \left( 1 + |z|^2 + \dots + |z|^{2(p-1)} \right) + |z|^2 \left( 1 + |z|^2 + \dots + |z|^{2(p-2)} \right) \right| \\ &\leq p|\alpha - 1| + 2|\beta|(3p - 1). \end{aligned}$$

Finally, in view of the assumption  $|\beta| \leq \frac{p(1-|\alpha-1|)}{6p-2}$  and Theorem 3.6, we conclude that the function  $G_{\alpha,\beta}$  defined by (4.1) is the  $p$ th power of a univalent function in  $\mathbb{D}$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

For  $p = \alpha = 1$  in Theorem 4.1 we obtain the following result of Pfaltzgraff [17].

**Corollary 4.2** Let  $f \in \mathcal{S}$ . If  $\beta \in \mathbb{C}$  satisfies  $|\beta| \leq 1/4$ , then the integral operator

$$G_\beta(z) = \int_0^z (f'(u))^\beta du \tag{4.7}$$

is univalent in  $\mathbb{D}$ , where the principal branch is considered.

**Theorem 4.3** Let  $f \in \mathcal{S}$ . If  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$  are any complex numbers such that  $|\alpha - 1| < 1$  and

$$|\gamma| \leq \frac{1 - |\alpha - 1|}{4},$$

then the integral operator

$$G_{\alpha,\gamma}(z) = \left[ \alpha p \int_0^z u^{\alpha p - 1} \left( \frac{f(u)}{u} \right)^\gamma du \right]^{1/\alpha} \tag{4.8}$$

is the  $p$ th power of a univalent function in  $\mathbb{D}$ , where the principal branch is considered.

**Proof** We begin by setting

$$F(z) = \int_0^z p u^{p-1} \left( \frac{f(u)}{u} \right)^\gamma dt \tag{4.9}$$

so that, obviously,

$$F'(z) = pz^{p-1} \left( \frac{f(z)}{z} \right)^\gamma, \tag{4.10}$$

and from (4.10), we obtain

$$\frac{zF''(z)}{F'(z)} = p - 1 + \gamma \left( \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} - 1 \right). \tag{4.11}$$

For the class of univalent functions  $\mathcal{S}$  we use the well-known Koebe transformation defined by (4.5) and we have

$$\frac{-z_0 f'(-z_0)}{f(-z_0)} = \frac{z_0}{k(z_0)(1 - |z_0|^2)}, \quad k \in \mathcal{S}. \tag{4.12}$$

From (4.11) and (4.12), putting  $z_0 = -z$ , we have

$$\frac{zF''(z)}{F'(z)} = p - 1 + \gamma \left( \frac{z}{-k(-z)(1 - |z|^2)} - 1 \right).$$

Putting  $c = p(\alpha - 1)$  in (3.15) and using the above equality and Lemma 4.1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| p(\alpha - 1)|z|^{2p} + (1 - |z|^{2p}) \left[ p(\alpha - 1) + \gamma \left( \frac{z}{-k(-z)(1 - |z|^2)} - 1 \right) \right] \right| \\ &= \left| p(\alpha - 1) + \gamma \frac{(1 - |z|^{2p})}{1 - |z|^2} \left[ \frac{z}{-k(-z)} - 1 + |z|^2 \right] \right| \\ &\leq p|\alpha - 1| + 2|\gamma|(1 + |z|)(1 + |z|^2 + \dots + |z|^{2(p-1)}) \\ &\leq p|\alpha - 1| + 4p|\gamma|. \end{aligned}$$

In view of the assumption  $|\gamma| \leq \frac{1-|\alpha-1|}{4}$  and Theorem 3.6, we obtain the assertion of the theorem.  $\square$

For  $p = \alpha = 1$  in Theorem 4.3, we obtain the following result of Kim and Merkes [13].

**Corollary 4.4** *Let  $f \in \mathcal{S}$ . If  $\gamma \in \mathbb{C}$  satisfies  $|\gamma| \leq 1/4$  then the integral operator*

$$G_\gamma(z) = \int_0^z \left( \frac{f(u)}{u} \right)^\gamma du \tag{4.13}$$

*is univalent in  $\mathbb{D}$ , where the principal branch is considered.*

Another application is as follows.

**Theorem 4.5** *Let  $f \in \mathcal{A}_p^*$  be the  $p$ th power of a univalent function in  $\mathbb{D}$ . If  $\alpha$  and  $\mu$  are any complex numbers such that  $|\alpha - 1| < 1$  and*

$$|\mu| \leq \frac{p(1 - |\alpha - 1|)}{4p^2 + 2p - 2},$$

*then the integral operator*

$$H_{\alpha,\mu}(z) = \left[ \alpha p \int_0^z u^{\alpha p - 1} \left( \frac{f'(u)}{pu^{p-1}} \right)^\mu du \right]^{1/\alpha} \tag{4.14}$$

*is the  $p$ th power of a univalent function in  $\mathbb{D}$ , where the principal branch is considered.*

**Proof** We begin by setting

$$F(z) = \int_0^z pu^{p-1} \left( \frac{f'(u)}{pu^{p-1}} \right)^\mu dt$$

so that, obviously,

$$F'(z) = pz^{p-1} \left( \frac{f'(z)}{pz^{p-1}} \right)^\mu, \tag{4.15}$$

and from (4.15), we obtain

$$\frac{zF''(z)}{F'(z)} = (p - 1)(1 - \mu) + \mu \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)}. \tag{4.16}$$

Let  $f(z) = (h(z))^p$  where  $h \in \mathcal{S}$ . Thus, we have

$$\frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} = (p-1)\frac{zh'(z)}{h(z)} + \frac{zh''(z)}{h'(z)}. \tag{4.17}$$

Now, from (4.16) and (4.17), we rewrite

$$\frac{zF''(z)}{F'(z)} = (p-1)(1-\mu) + \mu \left( (p-1)\frac{zh'(z)}{h(z)} + \frac{zh''(z)}{h'(z)} \right). \tag{4.18}$$

By using the identities (4.6) and (4.12) for  $h$  instead of  $f$ , putting  $c = p(\alpha - 1) - 2\mu$  in (3.15) and Lemma 4.1, we find that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| (p(\alpha - 1) - 2\mu)|z|^{2p} + (1 - |z|^{2p}) [p(\alpha - 1) \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \mu(p-1) \left( \frac{z}{-k(-z)(1 - |z|^2)} - 1 \right) + \mu \frac{2|z|^2 + 2a_2z}{1 - |z|^2} \right] \Big| \\ &= \left| p(\alpha - 1) - 2\mu|z|^{2p} + \frac{(1 - |z|^{2p})}{(1 - |z|^2)} \left[ \mu(p-1) \left( \frac{z}{-k(-z)} - 1 + |z|^2 \right) + \mu(2|z|^2 + 2a_2z) \right] \right| \\ &= \left| p(\alpha - 1) + 2\mu \left( -|z|^{2p} + \frac{1 - |z|^{2p}}{1 - |z|^2} |z|^2 \right) + 2\mu a_2z \frac{1 - |z|^{2p}}{1 - |z|^2} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \mu(p-1) \frac{1 - |z|^{2p}}{1 - |z|^2} \left( \frac{z}{-k(-z)} - 1 + |z|^2 \right) \right| \\ &\leq p|\alpha - 1| + 2|\mu| \left| -|z|^{2p} + |z|^2 \frac{1 - |z|^{2p}}{1 - |z|^2} \right| + 2|\mu| \frac{1 - |z|^{2p}}{1 - |z|^2} (|a_2||z| + (p-1)(1 + |z|)) \\ &= p|\alpha - 1| + 2|\mu||z|^2 (1 + |z|^2 + \dots + |z|^{2(p-2)}) \\ & \quad + 2|\mu| (|a_2||z| + (p-1)(1 + |z|)) [1 + |z|^2 + \dots + |z|^{2(p-1)}] \\ &\leq p|\alpha - 1| + |\mu| [4p^2 + 2p - 2]. \end{aligned}$$

In view of the assumption  $|\mu| \leq \frac{p(1-|\alpha-1|)}{4p^2+2p-2}$  and Theorem 3.6, the proof is completed. □

For  $\alpha = 1$  in Theorem 4.5 we obtain the following result of Hallenbeck and Livingston [8].

**Corollary 4.6** *Let  $f \in \mathcal{A}_p^*$  be the  $p$ th power of a univalent function in  $\mathbb{D}$ . If  $\mu$  is any complex number such that*

$$|\mu| \leq \frac{p}{4p^2 + 2p - 2}, \tag{4.19}$$

*then the integral operator*

$$H_\mu(z) = p \int_0^z u^{p-1} \left( \frac{f'(u)}{pu^{p-1}} \right)^\mu du \tag{4.20}$$

*is the  $p$ th power of a univalent function in  $\mathbb{D}$ , where the principal branch is considered.*

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