

ON A CERTAIN LINEAR OPERATOR DEFINED BY  
USING FRACTIONAL CALCULUS

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## ABSTRACT

For a real number  $\lambda \neq 1, 2, 3, \dots$ , we define, by using fractional calculus, a linear operator  $\Lambda(\lambda)$  on the class  $\mathcal{A}$  of analytic functions  $f(z)$  in the unit disk  $|z| < 1$  satisfying the usual normalization conditions  $f(0) = 0$  and  $f'(0) = 1$ . This operator is related to the linear operator  $\mathcal{L}(a, c)$  introduced by B.C. Carlson and D.B. Shaffer in their study of starlike and prestarlike hypergeometric functions. We prove several interesting starlike and convex properties of the function  $\Lambda(\lambda)f(z)$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND DEFINITIONS

Let  $\mathcal{A}$  denote the class of functions of the form

$$(1.1) \quad f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{n+1} z^{n+1} \quad (a_1 = 1)$$

which are analytic in the unit disk  $\mathcal{U} = \{z: |z| < 1\}$ . We denote by  $\mathcal{S}$  the subclass of  $\mathcal{A}$  consisting of all univalent functions in the unit disk  $\mathcal{U}$ . A function  $f(z)$  belonging to  $\mathcal{S}$  is said to be starlike if and only if

$$(1.2) \quad \operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \right) > 0$$

for all  $z \in \mathcal{U}$ . We denote by  $\mathcal{S}^*$  the subclass of  $\mathcal{S}$  consisting of all starlike functions in the unit disk  $\mathcal{U}$ .

A function  $f(z)$  belonging to  $\mathcal{S}$  is said to be convex if and only if

$$(1.3) \quad \operatorname{Re} \left[ 1 + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right] > 0$$

for all  $z \in \mathcal{U}$ . We use  $\mathcal{K}$  to denote the subclass of  $\mathcal{S}$  consisting of all convex functions in the unit disk  $\mathcal{U}$ . Note that  $f(z) \in \mathcal{K}$  if and only if  $zf'(z) \in \mathcal{S}^*$ , and that  $\mathcal{K} \subset \mathcal{S}^* \subset \mathcal{S}$ .

Many essentially equivalent definitions of fractional calculus (fractional derivatives and fractional integrals) have been given in the literature (cf., e.g., [4], [6], [9], and [11]). For convenience, we recall here the following definitions which were used recently by Owa [5] (and by Srivastava and Owa [10]).

DEFINITION 1. The fractional integral of order  $\lambda$  is defined, for a function  $f(z)$ , by

$$(1.4) \quad D_z^{-\lambda} f(z) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\lambda)} \int_0^z \frac{f(\zeta)}{(z-\zeta)^{1-\lambda}} d\zeta,$$

where  $\lambda > 0$ ,  $f(z)$  is an analytic function in a simply-connected region of the  $z$ -plane containing the origin, and the multiplicity of  $(z-\zeta)^{\lambda-1}$  is removed by requiring  $\log(z-\zeta)$  to be real when  $z - \zeta > 0$ .

DEFINITION 2. The fractional derivative of order  $\lambda$  is defined, for a function  $f(z)$ , by

$$(1.5) \quad D_z^\lambda f(z) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\lambda)} \frac{d}{dz} \int_0^z \frac{f(\zeta)}{(z-\zeta)^\lambda} d\zeta,$$

where  $0 \leq \lambda < 1$ ,  $f(z)$  is an analytic function in a simply-connected region of the  $z$ -plane containing the origin and the multiplicity of  $(z-\zeta)^{-\lambda}$  is removed as in Definition 1 above.

DEFINITION 3. Under the hypotheses of Definition 2, the fractional derivative of order  $n + \lambda$  is defined by

$$(1.6) \quad D_z^{n+\lambda} f(z) = \frac{d^n}{dz^n} D_z^\lambda f(z),$$

where  $0 \leq \lambda < 1$ ,  $n \in \mathcal{N}_0 = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ .

By using the above definitions of fractional calculus, we now introduce the linear operator  $\Lambda(\lambda)$  given by

$$(1.7) \quad \Lambda(\lambda) f \equiv \Lambda(\lambda) f(z) = \Gamma(1-\lambda) z^{1+\lambda} D_z^{1+\lambda} f(z)$$

for  $f(z) \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $\lambda \notin \mathcal{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\} = \mathcal{N}_0 - \{0\}$ .

Let the functions  $f_j(z)$ ,  $j = 1$  or  $2$ , be defined by

$$(1.8) \quad f_j(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{j,n+1} z^{n+1}.$$

We denote the Hadamard product (or convolution) of two functions  $f_1(z)$  and  $f_2(z)$  by

$$(1.9) \quad f_1 * f_2(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{1,n+1} a_{2,n+1} z^{n+1}.$$

Also, following Carlson and Shaffer [1], we define a linear operator  $\mathcal{L}(a,c)$  on  $\mathcal{A}$  by

$$(1.10) \quad \mathcal{L}(a,c)f(z) = \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n}{(c)_n} z^{n+1} \right) * f(z)$$

for  $f(z) \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $c \neq 0, -1, -2, \dots$ , where  $(\alpha)_n$  is the Pochhammer symbol defined by

$$(1.11) \quad (\alpha)_n = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+n)}{\Gamma(\alpha)} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } n = 0, \\ \alpha(\alpha+1)\dots(\alpha+n-1), & \text{if } n \in \mathcal{N}. \end{cases}$$

We note that  $\mathcal{L}(a,c)$  maps  $\mathcal{A}$  onto itself, and that if  $a \neq 0, -1, -2, \dots$ , then  $\mathcal{L}(c,a)$  is the inverse of  $\mathcal{L}(a,c)$ . This linear operator  $\mathcal{L}(a,c)$  was recently employed by Carlson and Shaffer [1] in their systematic study of starlike and prestarlike hypergeometric functions.

By using the linear operator  $\mathcal{L}(a,c)$ , we observe from (1.7) and (1.1) that

$$(1.12) \quad \begin{aligned} \Lambda(\lambda)f &= \Gamma(1-\lambda) z^{1+\lambda} D_z^{1+\lambda} f(z) \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\Gamma(n+2)\Gamma(1-\lambda)}{\Gamma(n+1-\lambda)} a_{n+1} z^{n+1} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2)_n}{(1-\lambda)_n} a_{n+1} z^{n+1} \\ &= \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2)_n}{(1-\lambda)_n} z^{n+1} \right) * f(z) \\ &= \mathcal{L}(2,1-\lambda)f(z). \end{aligned}$$

which indeed provides an interesting relationship between the operators  $\Lambda(\lambda)$  and  $\mathcal{L}(a,c)$ .

In this paper we aim at presenting a systematic study of the various interesting properties and applications of the operator  $\Lambda(\lambda)$ . We prove several characterization theorems involving starlikeness and convexity of the function  $\Lambda(\lambda)f(z)$ .

2. STARLIKENESS AND CONVEXITY OF  $\Lambda(\lambda)f(z)$ 

In order to prove our main results (Theorem 1 and Theorem 2 below) depicting starlike and convex properties of the function  $\Lambda(\lambda)f(z)$ , we shall need the following lemmas.

LEMMA 1 (Ruscheweyh and Sheil-Smith [7, p. 126, Lemma 2.4]). Let  $h(z)$  and  $g(z)$  be analytic in the unit disk  $\mathcal{U}$  and satisfy

$$h(0) = g(0) = 0, h'(0) \neq 0, g'(0) \neq 0.$$

Suppose that, for each  $\sigma(|\sigma|=1)$  and  $\rho(|\rho|=1)$ , we have

$$(2.1) \quad h(z) * \left( \frac{1+\rho\sigma z}{1-\sigma z} \right) g(z) \neq 0 \quad (z \in \mathcal{U} - \{0\}).$$

Then, for each function  $F(z)$  analytic in the unit disk  $\mathcal{U}$  and satisfying the inequality  $\operatorname{Re}\{F(z)\} > 0$  ( $z \in \mathcal{U}$ ),

$$(2.2) \quad \operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{h(z) * G(z)}{h(z) * g(z)} \right) > 0 \quad (z \in \mathcal{U}),$$

where  $G(z) = F(z)g(z)$ .

LEMMA 2 (Twomey [12, p. 95, Equation (3)]). Let the function  $f(z)$  defined by (1.1) be in the class  $\mathcal{S}^*$ . Then

$$(2.3) \quad \left| \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \right| \leq 1 + \frac{|z| \log \left( \frac{(1+|z|)^2 |f(z)|}{|z|} \right)}{(1-|z|) \log \left( \frac{1+|z|}{1-|z|} \right)}$$

for  $z \in \mathcal{U}$ . Equality in (2.3) holds true for the Koebe function

$$(2.4) \quad f(z) = \frac{z}{(1-z)^2}.$$

LEMMA 3 (Singh [8, p. 133, Theorem IV]). Let the function  $f(z)$  defined by (1.1) be in the class  $\mathcal{S}^*$ . Then

$$(2.5) \quad \operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \right) \cong \frac{1 - |z|^2}{|z|} |f(z)|$$

and

$$(2.6) \quad \operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \right) \cong \frac{1 + |z|}{1 - |z|} + \frac{2|z| \log \left( \frac{(1 - |z|)^2 |f(z)|}{|z|} \right)}{(1 - |z|^2) \log \left( \frac{1 + |z|}{1 - |z|} \right)}$$

for  $z \in \mathcal{U}$ . Equality in (2.5) is attained for a function of the form

$$(2.7) \quad f(z) = \frac{z}{(1 - ze^{i\gamma})^{2\delta} (1 - ze^{-i\gamma})^{2(1-\delta)}} \quad (0 \leq \delta \leq 1; \gamma \text{ real})$$

and equality in (2.6) is attained for a function of the form

$$(2.8) \quad f(z) = \frac{z}{(1-z)^{2\delta} (1+z)^{2(1-\delta)}} \quad (0 \leq \delta \leq 1),$$

where  $\delta$  satisfies

$$(2.9) \quad 2\delta \log \left( \frac{1 + |z|}{1 - |z|} \right) = \log \left( \frac{(1 + |z|)^2 |f(z)|}{|z|} \right).$$

Applying Lemma 1, we now prove

THEOREM 1. Let the function  $f(z)$  defined by (1.1) be in the class  $\mathcal{S}^*$  and let

$$(2.10) \quad \mathcal{L}(2, 1-\lambda)f(z) \neq 0 \quad (z \in \mathcal{U} - \{0\})$$

for  $\lambda \in \mathcal{N}$ . Then  $\Lambda(\lambda)f(z)$  is also in the class  $\mathcal{S}^*$ .

PROOF. It is sufficient to show that

$$(2.11) \quad \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{z(\Lambda(\lambda)f)'}{\Lambda(\lambda)f} \right\} > 0$$

for  $z \in \mathcal{U}$ . By virtue of (1.12), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.12) \quad \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{z(\Lambda(\lambda)f)' }{\Lambda(\lambda)f} \right\} &= \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{z(\mathcal{L}(2,1-\lambda)f(z))'}{\mathcal{L}(2,1-\lambda)f(z)} \right\} \\
 &= \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{\mathcal{L}(2,1-\lambda)(zf'(z))}{\mathcal{L}(2,1-\lambda)f(z)} \right\} \\
 &= \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{\left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2)_n}{(1-\lambda)_n} z^{n+1} \right) * (zf'(z))}{\left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2)_n}{(1-\lambda)_n} z^{n+1} \right) * f(z)} \right\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Setting  $\sigma = 1$ ,  $\rho = -1$ ,

$$h(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2)_n}{(1-\lambda)_n} z^{n+1},$$

$$F(z) = \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)},$$

and  $g(z) = f(z)$  in Lemma 1, we conclude from (2.12) that  $\Lambda(\lambda)f(z)$  satisfies the inequality (2.11), that is, that  $\Lambda(\lambda)f(z) \in \mathcal{S}^*$ .

This evidently completes the proof of Theorem 1.

COROLLARY 1. Under the hypotheses of Theorem 1,

$$(2.13) \quad \left| \frac{\Lambda(\lambda)zf'(z)}{\Lambda(\lambda)f(z)} \right| \leq 1 + \frac{|z| \log \left\{ \frac{(1+|z|)^2 |\Lambda(\lambda)f(z)|}{|z|} \right\}}{(1-|z|) \log \left\{ \frac{1+|z|}{1-|z|} \right\}}$$

for  $z \in \mathcal{U}$ . Equality in (2.13) holds true for the function  $f(z)$  given by

$$(2.14) \quad f(z) = \mathcal{L}(1-\lambda, 2) \left( \frac{z}{(1-z)^2} \right).$$

PROOF. The assertion of Corollary 1 follows immediately upon applying Lemma 2 to Theorem 1.

Furthermore, by applying Lemma 3 to Theorem 1, we have

COROLLARY 2. Under the hypotheses of Theorem 1,

$$(2.15) \quad \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{\Lambda(\lambda) z f'(z)}{\Lambda(\lambda) f(z)} \right\} \cong \frac{1 - |z|^2}{|z|} |\Lambda(\lambda) f(z)|$$

and

$$(2.16) \quad \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{\Lambda(\lambda) z f'(z)}{\Lambda(\lambda) f(z)} \right\} \cong \frac{1 + |z|}{1 - |z|} + \frac{2|z| \log \left\{ \frac{(1 - |z|)^2 |\Lambda(\lambda) f(z)|}{|z|} \right\}}{(1 - |z|^2) \log \left\{ \frac{1 + |z|}{1 - |z|} \right\}}$$

for  $z \in \mathcal{U}$ . Equality in (2.15) holds true for the function  $f(z)$  given by

$$(2.17) \quad f(z) = \mathcal{L}(1-\lambda, 2) \left( \frac{z}{(1 - ze^{i\gamma})^{2\delta} (1 - ze^{-i\gamma})^{2(1-\delta)}} \right),$$

and equality in (2.16) holds true for the function  $f(z)$  given by

$$(2.18) \quad f(z) = \mathcal{L}(1-\lambda, 2) \left( \frac{z}{(1-z)^{2\delta} (1+z)^{2(1-\delta)}} \right),$$

where  $0 \leq \delta \leq 1$ ,  $\gamma$  is real, and  $\delta$  satisfies (2.9).

Next we prove

THEOREM 2. Let the function  $f(z)$  defined by (1.1) be in the class  $\mathcal{K}$  and let

$$(2.19) \quad \mathcal{L}(2, 1) \mathcal{L}(2, 1-\lambda) f(z) \neq 0 \quad (z \in \mathcal{U} - \{0\})$$



for  $\lambda \notin \mathcal{N}$ . Then  $\Lambda(\lambda)f(z)$  is also in the class  $\mathcal{K}$ .

PROOF. Note that  $f(z) \in \mathcal{K}$  if and only if  $zf'(z) \in \mathcal{S}^*$ . By using Theorem 1, we know that

$$\begin{aligned} f(z) \in \mathcal{K} &\Leftrightarrow zf'(z) \in \mathcal{S}^* \\ &\Rightarrow \Lambda(\lambda)zf'(z) \in \mathcal{S}^* \\ &\Rightarrow z(\Lambda(\lambda)f)' \in \mathcal{S}^* \\ &\Leftrightarrow \Lambda(\lambda)f(z) \in \mathcal{K}, \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof of Theorem 2.

### 3. FURTHER APPLICATIONS OF THE OPERATOR $\Lambda(\lambda)$

In order to derive some further results involving the operator  $\Lambda(\lambda)$ , we recall here the following lemmas.

LEMMA 4 (Ruscheweyh and Sheil-Small [7]; see also Duren [2, Theorem 8.6']). If  $f(z) \in \mathcal{S}^*$  and  $g(z) \in \mathcal{K}$ , then  $f * g(z) \in \mathcal{S}^*$ .

LEMMA 5 (Lewis [3, p. 435, Theorem 1]). Given  $\mu$ , with  $-\infty < \mu < \infty$ , let

$$(3.1) \quad f_{\mu}(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(n+1)^{\mu}} z^{n+1}$$

for  $z \in \mathcal{U}$ . Then  $f_{\mu}(z)$  is in the class  $\mathcal{K}$  whenever  $\mu \geq 0$ .

Now we state and prove

THEOREM 3. Let the function  $f(z)$  defined by (1.1) be in the class  $\mathcal{A}$  and let

$$(3.2) \quad \mathcal{L}(2, 1-\lambda) \{f_{\mu} * f(z)\} \neq 0 \quad (z \in \mathcal{U} - \{0\})$$

for  $\mu \geq 0$  and  $\lambda \notin \mathcal{H}$ , with the function  $f_\mu(z)$  being given by (3.1). Then  $\Lambda(\lambda)(f_\mu * f(z))$  is in the class  $\mathcal{S}^*$ .

PROOF. Note that

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.3) \quad \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{z \left[ \Lambda(\lambda) (f_\mu * f(z)) \right]'}{\Lambda(\lambda) (f_\mu * f(z))} \right\} &= \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{\mathcal{L}(2, 1-\lambda) (f * z f'_\mu(z))}{\mathcal{L}(2, 1-\lambda) (f * f_\mu(z))} \right\} \\
 &= \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{\mathcal{L}(2, 1-\lambda) f(z) * z f'_\mu(z)}{\mathcal{L}(2, 1-\lambda) f(z) * f_\mu(z)} \right\} \\
 &= \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{\left[ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2)_n}{(1-\lambda)_n} a_{n+1} z^{n+1} \right] * (z f'_\mu(z))}{\left[ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2)_n}{(1-\lambda)_n} a_{n+1} z^{n+1} \right] * f_\mu(z)} \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

and that, by Lemma 5,  $f_\mu(z) \in \mathcal{H} \subset \mathcal{S}^*$  for  $\mu \geq 0$ .

Putting  $\sigma = 1$ ,  $\rho = -1$ ,

$$h(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2)_n}{(1-\lambda)_n} a_{n+1} z^{n+1},$$

$$F(z) = \frac{z f'_\mu(z)}{f_\mu(z)},$$

and  $g(z) = f_\mu(z)$  in Lemma 1, we observe that  $\Lambda(\lambda)(f_\mu * f(z)) \in \mathcal{S}^*$ , which completes the proof of Theorem 3.

**COROLLARY 3.** Let the function  $f(z)$  defined by (1.1) be in the class  $\mathcal{S}^*$  and satisfy the condition (3.2) for  $\mu \geq 0$ , and let  $f_\mu(z)$  be given by (3.1). Then  $\Lambda(\lambda)(f_\mu * f(z))$  is also in the class  $\mathcal{S}^*$ .

**REMARK 1.** Letting  $f(z) \in \mathcal{S}^*$  and  $\mu = 0$  in Theorem 3, we have Theorem 1.

Finally, we prove

THEOREM 4. Let the function  $f(z)$  defined by (1.1) be in the class  $\mathcal{K}$  and let

$$(3.4) \quad \mathcal{L}(2,1)\mathcal{L}(2,1-\lambda)\{f_{\mu} * f(z)\} \neq 0 \quad (z \in \mathcal{U} - \{0\})$$

for  $\mu \geq 0$  and  $\lambda \notin \mathcal{N}$ , with the function  $f_{\mu}(z)$  being given by (3.1). Then  $\Lambda(\lambda)\{f_{\mu} * f(z)\}$  is also in the class  $\mathcal{K}$ .

PROOF. Since  $f(z) \in \mathcal{K}$  if and only if  $zf'(z) \in \mathcal{S}^*$ , it follows from Lemma 4 and Lemma 5 that

$$f_{\mu} * (zf'(z)) \in \mathcal{S}^*$$

for  $\mu \geq 0$ . Hence, with the aid of Corollary 3, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} f(z) \in \mathcal{K} &\Leftrightarrow zf'(z) \in \mathcal{S}^* \\ &\Rightarrow f_{\mu} * (zf'(z)) \in \mathcal{S}^* \\ &\Rightarrow \Lambda(\lambda)\{f_{\mu} * zf'(z)\} \in \mathcal{S}^* \\ &\Rightarrow z\left\{\Lambda(\lambda)\{f_{\mu} * f(z)\}\right\}' \in \mathcal{S}^* \\ &\Leftrightarrow \Lambda(\lambda)\{f_{\mu} * f(z)\} \in \mathcal{K}, \end{aligned}$$

thus completing the proof of Theorem 4.

REMARK 2. Letting  $\mu = 0$  in Theorem 4, we have Theorem 2.

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