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# Geometric properties of certain analytic functions associated with generalized fractional integral operators

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# Abstract

Let  $\mathcal A$  be the class of normalized analytic functions in the unit disk  $\mathcal U$  and define the class  $\mathcal P(\beta)=\{f\in\mathcal A:\exists\varphi\in\mathbb R\text{ such that }\mathrm{Re}[e^{i\varphi}(f'(z)-\beta)]>0,z\in\mathcal U\}.$  In this paper we find conditions on the number  $\beta$  and the non-negative weight function  $\lambda(t)$  such that the integral transform  $V_\lambda(f)(z)=\int_0^1\lambda(t)\frac{f(tz)}{t}\,dt$  is convex of order  $\gamma$  ( $0\leq\gamma\leq1/2$ ) when  $f\in\mathcal P(\beta)$ . Some interesting further consequences are also considered.

MSC: Primary 30C45; secondary 33C50

**Keywords:** Gaussian hypergeometric function; integral transform; convex function; starlike function; fractional integral operator

# 1 Introduction and definitions

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

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

which are analytic in the open unit disk  $\mathcal{U} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 1\}$ . Also let  $\mathcal{S}$ ,  $\mathcal{S}^*(\gamma)$  and  $\mathcal{K}(\gamma)$  denote the subclasses of  $\mathcal{A}$  consisting of functions which are univalent, starlike of order  $\gamma$  and convex of order  $\gamma$  in  $\mathcal{U}$ , respectively. In particular, the classes  $\mathcal{S}^*(0) = \mathcal{S}^*$  and  $\mathcal{K}(0) = \mathcal{K}$  are the familiar ones of starlike and convex functions in  $\mathcal{U}$ , respectively.

We note that

$$f(z) \in \mathcal{K}(\gamma) \iff zf'(z) \in \mathcal{S}^*(\gamma)$$
 (1.2)

for  $0 \le \gamma < 1$ .

Let a, b, and c be complex numbers with  $c \neq 0, -1, -2, ...$  Then the *Gaussian hypergeometric function*  ${}_2F_1$  is defined by

$${}_{2}F_{1}(a,b;c;z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n}(b)_{n}}{(c)_{n}} \frac{z^{n}}{n!},$$
(1.3)



where  $(\lambda)_n$  is the Pochhammer symbol defined, in terms of the Gamma function, by

$$(\lambda)_n = \frac{\Gamma(\lambda + n)}{\Gamma(\lambda)} = \begin{cases} 1 & (n = 0), \\ \lambda(\lambda + 1) \cdots (\lambda + n - 1) & (n \in \mathbb{N}). \end{cases}$$

For functions  $f_i(z)$  (i = 1, 2) of the forms

$$f_j(z) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{j,n+1} z^{n+1}$$
  $(a_{j,1} := 1; j = 1, 2),$ 

let  $(f_1 * f_2)(z)$  denote the *Hadamard product* or *convolution* of  $f_1(z)$  and  $f_2(z)$ , defined by

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

By using (1.3), Hohlov [1] introduced the convolution operator  $H_{a,b,c}$  by

$$H_{a,b,c}(f)(z) := z_2 F_1(a,b;c;z) * f(z)$$
 (1.4)

for  $f \in \mathcal{A}$ . The three-parameter family of operators given by (1.4) contains as special cases several of the known linear integral or differential operators studied by a number of authors. This operator has been studied extensively by Ponnusamy [2], Kim and Rønning [3] and many others [4, 5]. In particular, if a = 1 in (1.4), then  $H_{1,b,c}$  is the operator  $\mathcal{L}(b,c)$  due to Carlson and Shaffer [6] which was defined by

$$\mathcal{L}(b,c)f(z) = z_2F_1(1,b;c;z) * f(z).$$

Clearly,  $\mathcal{L}(b,c)$  maps  $\mathcal{A}$  onto itself, and  $\mathcal{L}(c,b)$  is the inverse of  $\mathcal{L}(b,c)$ , provided that  $b \neq 0,-1,-2,\ldots$  Furthermore,  $\mathcal{L}(b,b)$  is the unit operator and

$$\mathcal{L}(b,c) = \mathcal{L}(b,e)\mathcal{L}(e,c) = \mathcal{L}(e,c)\mathcal{L}(b,e) \quad (c,e \neq 0,-1,-2,\ldots). \tag{1.5}$$

Also, we note that

$$\mathcal{K}(\gamma) = \mathcal{L}(1,2)\mathcal{S}^*(\gamma) \quad (0 \le \gamma < 1)$$

and

$$S^*(\gamma) = \mathcal{L}(2,1)\mathcal{K}(\gamma) \quad (0 \le \gamma < 1). \tag{1.6}$$

Various definitions of fractional calculus operators are given by many authors. We use here the following definition due to Saigo [7] (see also [5, 8]).

**Definition 1** For  $\lambda > 0$ ,  $\mu, \nu \in \mathbb{R}$ , the fractional integral operator  $\mathcal{I}_{0,z}^{\lambda,\mu,\nu}$  is defined by

$$\mathcal{I}_{0,z}^{\lambda,\mu,\nu}f(z) = \frac{z^{-\lambda-\mu}}{\Gamma(\lambda)} \int_0^z (z-\zeta)^{\lambda-1} {}_2F_1\bigg(\lambda+\mu,-\nu;\lambda;1-\frac{\zeta}{z}\bigg) f(\zeta) d\zeta,$$

where f(z) is taken to be an analytic function in a simply connected region of the z-plane containing the origin with the order

$$f(z) = \mathcal{O}(|z|^{\epsilon}) \quad (z \to 0)$$

for  $\epsilon > \max\{0, \mu - \nu\} - 1$ , and the multiplicity of  $(z - \zeta)^{\lambda - 1}$  is removed by requiring  $\log(z - \zeta)$  to be real when  $z - \zeta > 0$ . With the aid of the above definition, Owa *et al.* [9] defined a modification of the fractional integral operator  $\mathcal{J}_{0,z}^{\lambda,\mu,\nu}$  by

$$\mathcal{J}_{0,z}^{\lambda,\mu,\nu}f(z) = \frac{\Gamma(2-\mu)\Gamma(2+\lambda+\nu)}{\Gamma(2-\mu+\nu)}z^{\mu}\mathcal{I}_{0,z}^{\lambda,\mu,\nu}f(z)$$

for  $f(z) \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $\min\{\lambda + \nu, -\mu + \nu, -\mu\} > -2$ . Then it is observed that  $\mathcal{J}_{0,z}^{\lambda,\mu,\nu}$  also maps  $\mathcal{A}$  onto itself and

$$\mathcal{J}_{0,z}^{\lambda,\mu,\nu}f(z) = \mathcal{L}(2,2-\mu)\mathcal{L}(2-\mu+\nu,2+\lambda+\nu)f(z). \tag{1.7}$$

The function

$$s_{\alpha}(z) = \frac{z}{(1-z)^{2(1-\alpha)}} \quad (0 \le \alpha < 1)$$

is the well-known extremal function for the class  $S^*(\alpha)$ . A function  $f(z) \in A$  is said to be in the class  $\mathcal{R}(\alpha, \gamma)$  if

$$(f * s_{\alpha})(z) \in \mathcal{S}^*(\gamma) \quad (0 \le \alpha < 1; 0 \le \gamma < 1).$$

Note that

$$\mathcal{R}(\alpha, \gamma) = \mathcal{L}(1, 2 - 2\alpha)\mathcal{S}^*(\gamma) \tag{1.8}$$

and  $\mathcal{R}(\alpha,\alpha) \equiv \mathcal{R}(\alpha)$  is the subclass of  $\mathcal{A}$  consisting of *prestarlike functions of order*  $\alpha$  which was introduced by Suffridge [10]. In [11], it is shown that  $\mathcal{R}(\alpha) \subset \mathcal{S}$  if and only if  $\alpha \leq 1/2$ . For  $\beta < 1$  we denote the class

$$\mathcal{P}(\beta) = \{ f \in \mathcal{A} : \exists \varphi \in \mathbb{R} \text{ such that } \operatorname{Re} \left[ e^{i\varphi} \left( f'(z) - \beta \right) \right] > 0, z \in \mathcal{U} \}.$$

Throughout this paper we let  $\lambda:[0,1]\to\mathbb{R}$  be a non-negative function with

$$\int_0^1 \lambda(t) dt = 1. \tag{1.9}$$

For certain specific subclasses of  $f \in \mathcal{A}$ , many authors considered the geometric properties of the integral transform of the form

$$V_{\lambda}(f)(z) = \int_{0}^{1} \lambda(t) \frac{f(tz)}{t} dt. \tag{1.10}$$

More recently, starlikeness of this general operator  $V_{\lambda}(f)$  was discussed by Fournier and Ruscheweyh [12] by assuming that  $f \in \mathcal{P}(\beta)$ . The method of proof is the duality principle

developed mainly by Ruscheweyh [13]. This result was later extended by Ponnusamy and Rønning [14] by means of finding conditions such that  $V_{\lambda}(f)$  carries  $\mathcal{P}(\beta)$  into starlike functions of order  $\gamma$ ,  $0 \le \gamma \le 1/2$ .

In this paper, we find conditions on  $\beta$  and the function  $\lambda(t)$  such that  $V_{\lambda}(f)$  carries  $\mathcal{P}(\beta)$  into  $\mathcal{K}(\gamma)$ . As a consequence of this investigation, a number of new results are established.

# 2 Preliminaries

We begin by recalling the following results.

**Lemma 1** ([15]; see also [5]) *If*  $f \in A$  *and* c - a + 1 > b > 0, *then* 

$$H_{a,b,c}(f)(z) = \frac{\Gamma(c)}{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)} \int_0^1 \frac{(1-t)^{c-a-b}}{\Gamma(c-a-b+1)} t^{b-2} {}_2F_1(c-a,1-a;c-a-b+1;1-t) f(tz) dt.$$

**Remark 1** In view of Lemma 1, we see that the convolution operator (1.4) is an integral operator of the form (1.10) with

$$\lambda(t) = \frac{\Gamma(c)t^{b-1}(1-t)^{c-a-b}}{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)\Gamma(c-a-b+1)} {}_2F_1(c-a,1-a;c-a-b+1;1-t).$$

For  $\Lambda:[0,1]\to\mathbb{R}$  being integrable and positive on (0,1), we define

$$L_{\Lambda}(h_{\gamma}) = \inf_{z \in \mathcal{U}} \int_{0}^{1} \Lambda(t) \left[ \operatorname{Re} \frac{h_{\gamma}(zt)}{zt} - \frac{1 - \gamma(1 + t)}{(1 - \gamma)(1 + t)^{2}} \right] dt$$

and

$$M_{\Lambda}(h_{\gamma}) = \inf_{z \in \mathcal{U}} \int_0^1 \Lambda(t) \left[ \operatorname{Re} h_{\gamma}'(zt) - \frac{1 - t - \gamma(1 + t)}{(1 - \gamma)(1 + t)^3} \right] dt,$$

where  $0 \le \gamma < 1$  and

$$h_{\gamma}(z) = \frac{z(1 + \frac{\epsilon + 2\gamma - 1}{2 - 2\gamma}z)}{(1 - z)^2}, \quad |\epsilon| = 1.$$
 (2.1)

In [16], Ponnusamy and Rønning proved the following lemmas.

**Lemma 2** Let  $\Lambda(t)$  be integrable on [0,1] and positive on (0,1). If  $\Lambda(t)/(1+t)(1-t)^{1+2\gamma}$  is decreasing on (0,1), then for  $0 \le \gamma \le 1/2$  we have  $L_{\Lambda}(h_{\gamma}) \ge 0$ .

**Lemma 3** Let  $0 \le \gamma < 1$  and let  $\lambda(t)$  be given by (1.9). Define  $\beta < 1$  by

$$\frac{\beta}{1-\beta} = -\int_0^1 \lambda(t) \left[ \frac{1+\gamma-(1-\gamma)t}{(1-\gamma)(1+t)} - \frac{2\gamma}{1-\gamma} \frac{\log(1+t)}{t} \right] dt.$$

Assume that  $\lim_{t\to 0+} t\Lambda(t) = 0$ , where

$$\Lambda(t) = \int_{t}^{1} \lambda(s) \, ds/s.$$

Then  $V_{\lambda}(\mathcal{P}(\beta)) \subset \mathcal{S}^*(\gamma)$  if and only if  $L_{\Lambda}(h_{\gamma}) \geq 0$ .

We now find conditions on  $\beta$  and the non-negative weight function  $\lambda(t)$  such that  $V_{\lambda}(\mathcal{P}(\beta)) \subset \mathcal{K}(\gamma)$ .

**Lemma 4** (i) Let  $\Lambda(t)$  be monotone decreasing on [0,1] satisfying  $\Lambda(1)=0$  and  $\lim_{t\to 0+} t\Lambda(t)=0$ . For  $0\leq \gamma\leq 1/2$  if  $t\Lambda'(t)/(1+t)(1-t)^{1+2\gamma}$  is increasing on (0,1), then  $M_{\Lambda}(h_{\gamma})\geq 0$ .

(ii) Let  $0 \le \gamma \le 1/2$  and let  $\lambda(t)$  and  $\Lambda(t)$  be as in Lemma 3. Define  $\beta < 1$  by

$$\frac{\beta - \frac{1}{2}}{1 - \beta} = -\int_0^1 \lambda(t) \frac{1 - \gamma(1 + t)}{(1 - \gamma)(1 + t)^2} dt.$$

Then  $V_{\lambda}(\mathcal{P}(\beta)) \subset \mathcal{K}(\gamma)$  if and only if  $M_{\Lambda}(h_{\gamma}) \geq 0$ .

*Proof* (i) Let  $M_{\Lambda}(h_{\gamma}) = \inf_{z \in \mathcal{U}} I_{\gamma}$ . Then, by using the conditions  $\Lambda(1) = 0$  and  $\lim_{t \to 0+} t\Lambda(t) = 0$ , an integration by parts yields

$$\begin{split} I_{\gamma} &= \int_0^1 \Lambda(t) \left[ \operatorname{Re} h_{\gamma}'(zt) - \frac{1 - t - \gamma(1 + t)}{(1 - \gamma)(1 + t)^3} \right] dt \\ &= \int_0^1 \Lambda(t) \frac{d}{dt} \left[ \operatorname{Re} \frac{h_{\gamma}(zt)}{z} - \frac{t(1 - \gamma(1 + t))}{(1 - \gamma)(1 + t)^2} \right] dt \\ &= -\int_0^1 t \Lambda'(t) \left[ \operatorname{Re} \frac{h_{\gamma}(zt)}{zt} - \frac{1 - \gamma(1 + t)}{(1 - \gamma)(1 + t)^2} \right] dt. \end{split}$$

Since  $t\Lambda'(t)/(1+t)(1-t)^{1+2\gamma}$  is increasing on (0,1), by Lemma 2,  $\inf_{z\in\mathcal{U}}I_{\gamma}\geq 0$ , which evidently completes the proof of (i).

(ii) We state this proof only in outline here because the proof is similar to that of [3, Theorem 2.1]. Let  $F(z) = V_{\lambda}(f)(z)$ . Then, by convolution theory [13, p.94] and (1.2), we have

$$F(z) \in \mathcal{K}(\gamma) \iff \frac{1}{z} (zF'(z) * h_{\gamma}(z)) \neq 0,$$
 (2.2)

where  $h_{\gamma}(z)$  is given by (2.1). Since  $f \in \mathcal{P}(\beta)$ , by the duality principle [13, p.23], it is enough to verify this with f given by

$$f'(z) = (1 - \beta) \frac{1 - xz}{1 - yz} + \beta \quad (|x| = |y| = 1).$$

In the same way as in [3, Theorem 2.1], we conclude that (2.2) holds if and only if

$$\operatorname{Re} \int_{0}^{1} \lambda(t) \left[ \frac{h_{\gamma}(zt)}{zt} - \frac{1 - \gamma(1+t)}{(1-\gamma)(1+t)^{2}} \right] dt > 0.$$
 (2.3)

Integrating by parts, we find that the inequality (2.3) is equivalent to

$$\operatorname{Re} \int_0^1 \Lambda(t) \left[ h_{\gamma}'(zt) - \frac{1 - t - \gamma(1 + t)}{(1 - \gamma)(1 + t)^3} \right] dt \ge 0,$$

which again is equivalent to  $M_{\Lambda}(h_{\gamma}) \geq 0$ .

**Remark 2** In particular, taking  $\gamma = 0$  in Lemma 4, we obtain the result due to Ali and Singh [17, Theorem 1].

# 3 Main results

We define

$$\varphi(1-t) = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n (1-t)^n \quad (b_n \ge 0)$$
(3.1)

and

$$\lambda(t) = Ct^{b-1}(1-t)^{c-a-b}\varphi(1-t),\tag{3.2}$$

where C is a constant satisfying the condition (1.9). For  $f \in A$  Balasubramanian  $et\ al.$  [4] defined the operator  $P_{a,b,c}$  by

$$P_{a,b,c}(f)(z) = \int_0^1 \lambda(t) \frac{f(tz)}{t} dt,$$

where  $\lambda(t)$  is given by (3.2). Special choices of  $\varphi(1-t)$  and C led to various interesting geometric properties concerning certain linear operators. For example, if we take  $\varphi(1-t) = {}_2F_1(c-a,1-a;c-a-b+1;1-t)$  and

$$C = \frac{\Gamma(c)}{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)\Gamma(c-a-b+1)},$$

by virtue of Remark 1,

$$P_{a,b,c}(f)(z) = H_{a,b,c}(f)(z).$$
 (3.3)

First, by applying Lemma 4, we prove the following.

**Theorem 1** Let  $0 \le \gamma \le 1/2$ , a > 0,  $0 < b \le 1$ , and  $c \ge a + b + 2\gamma + 1$ , and let  $\lambda(t)$  be given by (3.2). Define  $\beta = \beta(a, b, c, \gamma)$  by

$$\frac{\beta - \frac{1}{2}}{1 - \beta} = -\int_0^1 \lambda(t) \frac{1 - \gamma(1 + t)}{(1 - \gamma)(1 + t)^2} dt.$$

If  $f(z) \in \mathcal{P}(\beta)$ , then  $P_{a,b,c}(f)(z) \in \mathcal{K}(\gamma)$ . The value of  $\beta$  is sharp.

*Proof* Let C > 0 and

$$\Lambda(t) = \int_{t}^{1} \frac{\lambda(s)}{s} ds,$$

where  $\lambda(t)$  is given by (3.2). Then it is easily seen that  $\Lambda(t)$  is monotone decreasing on [0,1] and  $\lim_{t\to 0+} t\Lambda(t) = 0$ . In order to apply Lemma 4, we want to prove that the function

$$u(t) = \frac{\lambda(t)}{(1+t)(1-t)^{1+2\gamma}} \tag{3.4}$$

is decreasing on (0,1), where  $\lambda(t)$  is given by (3.2). Making use of the logarithmic differentiation of both sides in (3.4), we have

$$\frac{u'(t)}{u(t)} = \frac{\lambda'(t)}{\lambda(t)} + \frac{2(\gamma + (1+\gamma)t)}{1-t^2}.$$
(3.5)

Since

$$\lambda'(t) = Ct^{b-2}(1-t)^{c-a-b-1} \left[ \varphi(1-t) \left\{ (b-1)(1-t) - t(c-a-b) \right\} - t(1-t)\varphi'(1-t) \right],$$

from (3.4) and (3.5) we find that  $u'(t) \le 0$  on (0,1) is equivalent to

$$(c-a-3-2\gamma)t^2 + (c-a-b-2\gamma)t + 1 - b \ge -t(1-t^2)\frac{\varphi'(1-t)}{\varphi(1-t)} \quad (0 < t < 1).$$
 (3.6)

In view of (3.1),  $\varphi(1-t) > 0$  and  $\varphi'(1-t) \ge 0$  on (0,1), so that the right hand side of the inequality (3.6) is non-positive for all  $t \in (0,1)$ . If we assume that  $0 \le \gamma \le 1/2$ , a > 0,  $0 < b \le 1$ , and  $c \ge a + b + 2\gamma + 1$ , then  $(c - a - 3 - 2\gamma)t^2 + (c - a - b - 2\gamma)t + 1 - b \ge 0$  for  $t \in (0,1)$ . Thus, the inequality (3.6) holds for all  $t \in (0,1)$ . Hence, from Lemma 4 we obtain  $P_{a,b,c}(f)(z) \in \mathcal{K}(\gamma)$ .

The same techniques as in the proof of [5, Theorem 1] show that the value  $\beta$  is sharp. By using (3.3) and Theorem 1, we have the following.

**Corollary 1** *Let*  $0 \le \gamma \le 1/2$ ,  $0 < a \le 1$ ,  $0 < b \le 1$ , and  $c \ge a + b + 2\gamma + 1$ . Define  $\beta = \beta(a, b, c, \gamma)$  by

$$\frac{\beta - \frac{1}{2}}{1 - \beta} = -\frac{\Gamma(c)}{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)} \int_0^1 \frac{(1 - t)^{c - a - b} t^{b - 1}}{\Gamma(c - a - b + 1)} \frac{1 - \gamma(1 + t)}{(1 - \gamma)(1 + t)^2} \times {}_2F_1(c - a, 1 - a; c - a - b + 1; 1 - t) dt.$$

If  $f(z) \in \mathcal{P}(\beta)$ , then  $H_{a,b,c}(f)(z) \in \mathcal{K}(\gamma)$ . The value of  $\beta$  is sharp.

Proof If we put

$$\lambda(t) = \frac{\Gamma(c)t^{b-1}(1-t)^{c-a-b}}{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)\Gamma(c-a-b+1)} {}_{2}F_{1}(c-a,1-a;c-a-b+1;1-t),$$

then, by applying (3.3) and Theorem 1, we obtain the desired result.

Setting a = 1 in Corollary 1, we obtain the following.

**Corollary 2** Let  $0 \le \gamma \le 1/2$ ,  $0 < b \le 1$ , and  $c \ge b + 2\gamma + 2$ . Also let

$$\beta(1,b,c,\gamma) = 1 - \frac{1 - \gamma}{2[1 - {}_2F_1(2,b;c;-1) - \gamma(1 - {}_2F_1(1,b;c;-1))]}.$$

If  $\beta(1, b, c, \gamma) < \beta < 1$  and  $f(z) \in \mathcal{P}(\beta)$ , then  $\mathcal{L}(b, c)f(z) \in \mathcal{K}(\gamma)$ .

Next we find a univalence criterion for the operator  $\mathcal{J}_{0,z}^{\lambda,\mu,\nu}$ .

**Theorem 2** *Let*  $0 \le \gamma \le 1/2$ ,  $0 \le \mu < 2$ ,  $\lambda \ge 2(1 + \gamma) - \mu$ , and  $\mu - 2 < \nu \le \mu - 1$ . *Define*  $\beta = \beta(\lambda, \mu, \nu, \gamma)$  *by* 

$$\beta = 1 - \frac{1 - \gamma}{2[1 - {}_2F_1(2, 2 - \mu + \nu; 2 + \lambda + \nu; -1) - \gamma(1 - {}_2F_1(1, 2 - \mu + \nu; 2 + \lambda + \nu; -1))]}.$$

If 
$$f(z) \in \mathcal{P}(\beta)$$
, then  $\mathcal{J}_{0,z}^{\lambda,\mu,\nu} f(z) \in \mathcal{R}(\mu/2,\gamma)$ .

Proof Making use of (1.5) and (1.7), we note that

$$\mathcal{J}_{0,z}^{\lambda,\mu,\nu}f(z) = \mathcal{L}(2,2-\mu)\mathcal{L}(2-\mu+\nu,2+\lambda+\nu)f(z)$$
  
=  $\mathcal{L}(1,2-\mu)\mathcal{L}(2,1)\mathcal{L}(2-\mu+\nu,2+\lambda+\nu)f(z)$ . (3.7)

By using Corollary 2, we obtain

$$\mathcal{L}(2 - \mu + \nu, 2 + \lambda + \nu) f(z) \in \mathcal{K}(\gamma).$$

Since  $0 \le \mu < 2$ , from (1.6), (1.8) and (3.7) we have  $\mathcal{J}_{0,z}^{\lambda,\mu,\nu}f(z) \in \mathcal{R}(\mu/2,\gamma)$ , which completes the proof of Theorem 2.

Taking  $\mu = 2\gamma$  in Theorem 2, we get the following.

**Corollary 3** *Let*  $0 \le \gamma \le 1/2$ ,  $\lambda \ge 2$ , and  $2(\gamma - 1) < \nu \le 2\gamma - 1$ . Define  $\beta = \beta(\lambda, \nu, \gamma)$  by

$$\beta = 1 - \frac{1 - \gamma}{2[1 - {}_{2}F_{1}(2, 2(1 - \gamma) + \nu; 2 + \lambda + \nu; -1) - \gamma(1 - {}_{2}F_{1}(1, 2(1 - \gamma) + \nu; 2 + \lambda + \nu; -1))]}$$

If 
$$f(z) \in \mathcal{P}(\beta)$$
, then  $\mathcal{J}_{0,z}^{\lambda,2\gamma,\nu} f(z) \in \mathcal{R}(\gamma) \subset \mathcal{S}$ .

*Proof* If we put  $\mu = 2\gamma$  in Theorem 2, then

$$\mathcal{J}_{0,z}^{\lambda,2\gamma,\nu}f(z)\in\mathcal{R}(\gamma,\gamma)=\mathcal{R}(\gamma).$$

Since  $\gamma \leq 1/2$ ,  $\mathcal{R}(\gamma) \subset \mathcal{S}$ , so that the proof is completed.

**Remark 3** In [4], Balasubramanian *et al.* found the conditions on the number  $\beta$  and the function  $\lambda(t)$  such that  $P_{a,b,c}(f)(z) \in \mathcal{S}^*(\gamma)$  ( $0 \le \gamma \le 1/2$ ). Since  $\mathcal{J}_{0,z}^{\lambda,\mu,\nu}f(z) = P_{1-\nu,2,\lambda-\nu+2}(f)(z)$  with  $\varphi(1-t) = {}_2F_1(\lambda + \mu, -\nu; \lambda; 1-t)$  and

$$C = \frac{\Gamma(2-\mu)\Gamma(2+\lambda+\nu)}{\Gamma(\lambda)\Gamma(2-\mu+\nu)},$$

the condition on  $\beta$  and  $\lambda(t)$  is easily found such that  $\mathcal{J}_{0,z}^{\lambda,\mu,\nu}f(z)\in\mathcal{S}^*(\gamma)$ .

Finally, by using Lemma 4 again, we investigate convexity of the operator  $\mathcal{J}_{0,z}^{\lambda,\mu,\nu}$ .

**Theorem 3** *Let*  $0 \le \gamma \le 1/2$ ,  $0 < \lambda \le 1 + 2\gamma$ ,  $2 < \mu < 3$ ,  $0 < \nu \le 1$ , and  $\nu > \mu - 2$ . Define  $\beta = \beta(\lambda, \mu, \nu, \gamma)$  by

$$\frac{\beta - \frac{1}{2}}{1 - \beta} = -\frac{\Gamma(2 - \mu)\Gamma(2 + \lambda + \nu)}{\Gamma(\lambda)\Gamma(2 - \mu + \nu)} \int_0^1 \frac{t(1 - t)^{\lambda - 1}(1 - \gamma(1 + t))}{(1 - \gamma)(1 + t)^2} {}_2F_1(\lambda + \mu, -\nu; \lambda; 1 - t) dt.$$

If  $f(z) \in \mathcal{P}(\beta)$ , then  $\mathcal{J}_{0,z}^{\lambda,\mu,\nu} f(z) \in \mathcal{K}(\gamma)$ . The value of  $\beta$  is sharp.

*Proof* Let  $0 \le \gamma \le 1/2$ ,  $0 < \lambda \le 1 + 2\gamma$ ,  $2 < \mu < 3$ , and  $\nu > \mu - 2$ , and let

$$\lambda(t) = \frac{\Gamma(2-\mu)\Gamma(2+\lambda+\nu)}{\Gamma(\lambda)\Gamma(2-\mu+\nu)} t(1-t)^{\lambda-1} {}_2F_1(\lambda+\mu,-\nu;\lambda;1-t). \tag{3.8}$$

Then we can easily see that  $\int_0^1 \lambda(t) dt = 1$ ,  $\Lambda(t) = \int_t^1 \lambda(s) ds/s$  is monotone decreasing on [0,1] and  $\lim_{t\to 0+} t\Lambda(t) = 0$ . Also we find that the function  $u(t) = \lambda(t)/(1+t)(1-t)^{1+2\gamma}$  is decreasing on (0,1), where  $\lambda(t)$  is given by (3.8). Hence,  $t\Lambda'(t)/(1+t)(1-t)^{1+2\gamma} = -u(t)$  is increasing on (0,1). From Lemma 4, we obtain the desired result.

# **Competing interests**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

#### Authors' contributions

All authors contributed equally to the writing of this paper. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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