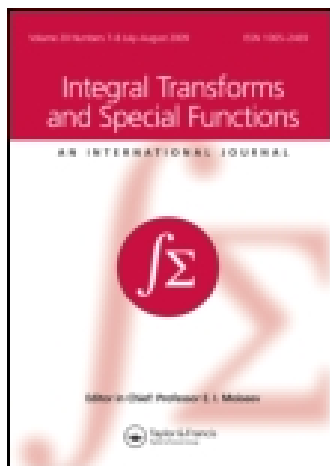


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## Harmonic starlikeness and convexity of integral operators generated by hypergeometric series

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The object of this article is to study harmonic starlikeness and harmonic convexity of integral operators generated by hypergeometric series. We also consider special cases of harmonic starlikeness and convexity of integral operators generated by incomplete beta functions.

**Keywords:** harmonic functions; harmonic starlike; harmonic convex; convolution; integral operators; hypergeometric functions; incomplete beta functions

*AMS Classification:* Primary: 30C45, 30C50; Secondary: 30C55

### 1. Introduction

A continuous complex-valued mapping  $f = u + iv$  is defined as *harmonic* in a simply connected domain  $\mathbb{D}$  in the complex plane if it satisfies  $f_{z\bar{z}} \equiv 0$  on  $\mathbb{D}$ , i.e.,  $u$  and  $v$  are real harmonic functions in  $\mathbb{D}$ . Such a harmonic function  $f$  can be expressed as the canonical representation  $f = h + \bar{g}$ ,  $g(0) = 0$ , where  $h$  and  $g$  are analytic and  $g$  denotes the function  $z \rightarrow \overline{g(z)}$ . Let  $\hat{H}$  denote the class of all harmonic mappings of the form  $f = h + \bar{g}$ , where

$$h(z) = z + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} A_n z^n, \quad g(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n z^n, \quad |B_1| < 1 \quad (1)$$

are analytic functions in the open unit disk  $\Delta$ . A necessary and sufficient condition for  $f$  in the class  $\hat{H}$  to be locally univalent and sense-preserving is that  $|h'(z)| > |g'(z)|$  in  $\Delta$ . Denote by  $HS$  the subclass of  $\hat{H}$  consisting of functions that are univalent and sense-preserving in  $\Delta$ .

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For  $0 \leq \alpha < 1$ , define

$$\begin{aligned}
 HS^*(\alpha) &:= \left\{ f \in \hat{H} : \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}(\arg(f(re^{i\theta}))) > \alpha \right\} \\
 HK(\alpha) &:= \left\{ f \in \hat{H} : \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \arg \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (f(re^{i\theta})) \right) \right) > \alpha \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

for  $z = re^{i\theta}$ ,  $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$  and  $0 \leq r < 1$ . Note that  $HS^* \equiv HS^*(0)$  is the class of all harmonic starlike functions with respect to origin in  $\Delta$ . Likewise  $HK \equiv HK(0)$  is the class of all harmonic convex functions in  $\Delta$ . Thus the parameter  $\alpha$  in  $HS^*(\alpha)$  and  $HK(\alpha)$  defines order  $\alpha$ , respectively, in the classes  $HS^*$  and  $HK$ . Also, let  $K_H^0$  be the subclass of  $HK$  defined by

$$K_H^0 := \{f = h + \bar{g} \in HK : g'(0) = B_1 = 0\}.$$

For additional information about these classes, one may refer to [1,4,5].

Clunie and Sheil-Small [4] in 1984 observed that if  $h$  given by Equation (1) is analytic and univalent in  $\Delta$ , then  $h + \sigma \bar{h}$  for  $|\sigma| < 1$  is harmonic univalent and sense-preserving in  $\Delta$ , that is  $h + \sigma \bar{h} \in HS$ . This observation motivates us to consider the integral operator  $G_1$  defined by

$$G_1(z) := \phi_1(a_1, b_1, c_1; z) + \sigma \overline{\phi_2(a_2, b_2, c_2; z)}, \quad |\sigma| < 1 \tag{2}$$

where

$$\phi_1(a_1, b_1, c_1; z) := \int_0^z F(a_1, b_1, c_1; t) dt, \quad \phi_2(a_2, b_2, c_2; z) := \int_0^z F(a_2, b_2, c_2; t) dt$$

are integral operators associated with the Gauss hypergeometric series (function)

$$F(a, b; c; z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n (b)_n}{(c)_n (1)_n} z^n.$$

Here  $a, b, c$  are complex parameters, and  $c$  is neither zero nor a negative integer. Note that  $F(a, b; c; z)$  is analytic function in  $\Delta$ . Univalence, starlikeness, and convexity properties of normalized hypergeometric function  $zF(a, b; c; z)$  and related convolution operators have been studied extensively by several researchers; for example, in [3,6,9,10,12,13]. We next define the integral operator  $\Lambda : \hat{H} \rightarrow \hat{H}$  by

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Lambda(f)(z) &:= \Lambda \left[ \begin{matrix} a_1, b_1, c_1 \\ a_2, b_2, c_2 \end{matrix} \right] (f)(z) := f(z) \star \tilde{G}_1(z) \\
 &= h(z) \star \int_0^z F(a_1, b_1, c_1; t) dt + \sigma \overline{g(z) \star \int_0^z F(a_2, b_2, c_2; t) dt}, \quad |\sigma| < 1,
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\star$  denotes the usual Hadamard or convolution product of two harmonic functions and  $f = h + \bar{g}$  is in  $\hat{H}$ . We observe that

$$\Lambda \left[ \begin{matrix} a_1, 2, a_1 \\ a_2, 2, a_2 \end{matrix} \right] f(z) = f(z) = f(z) \star \left( \frac{z}{1-z} + \overline{\frac{z}{1-z}} \right)$$

is the identity mapping. Setting  $a_1 = a_2 = b_1 = b_2 = -m, m \in \mathbb{N}, c_1 = c_2 = c > 0$ , the integral operator  $\Lambda$  reduces to the polynomial

$$\Lambda \begin{bmatrix} -m, -m, c \\ -m, -m, c \end{bmatrix} f(z) = f(z) \tilde{\star} \left( z + \sum_{n=2}^{m+1} \frac{\{(-m)_{n-1}\}^2}{(c)_{n-1}(1)_n} z^n + \sum_{n=1}^{m+1} \frac{\{(-m)_{n-1}\}^2}{(c)_{n-1}(1)_n} \frac{1}{z^n} \right).$$

We also define the integral operator  $L : \hat{H} \rightarrow \hat{H}$  by

$$L(f) \equiv L \begin{bmatrix} b_1, c_1 \\ b_2, c_2 \end{bmatrix} (f)(z) := f(z) \tilde{\star} (\varphi_1(b_1, c_1; z) + \sigma \overline{\varphi_2(b_2, c_2; z)}), \quad |\sigma| < 1$$

where

$$\varphi_1(b_1, c_1; z) := \int_0^z F(1, b_1, c_1; t) dt, \quad \varphi_2(b_2, c_2; z) := \int_0^z F(1, b_2, c_2; t) dt$$

are integral operators associated with incomplete beta functions.

The purpose of the this article is to study harmonic starlikeness and harmonic convexity of the integral operators

$$G_1(z) = \phi_1(a_1, b_1, c_1; z) + \sigma \overline{\phi_2(a_2, b_2, c_2; z)}, \quad G_2(z) = \varphi_1(b_1, c_1; z) + \sigma \overline{\varphi_2(b_2, c_2; z)}$$

$$\Lambda \begin{bmatrix} a_1, b_1, c_1 \\ a_2, b_2, c_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad L \begin{bmatrix} b_1, c_1 \\ b_2, c_2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad |\sigma| < 1.$$

In particular, we determine certain hypergeometric inequalities that ensure membership of functions in various subclasses of harmonic mappings in  $\Delta$ .

Throughout this article, we will frequently use the well-known Gauss summation formula

$$F(a, b, c; 1) = \frac{\Gamma(c - a - b)\Gamma(c)}{\Gamma(c - a)\Gamma(c - b)}, \quad \text{Re}(c - a - b) > 0. \tag{3}$$

### 2. Preliminaries and Lemmas

LEMMA 1 ([2]) *If  $a, b, c > 0$ , then*

- (i)  $F(a + k, b + k; c + k; 1) = (c)_k / (c - a - b - k)_k F(a, b; c; 1)$  for  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , if  $c > a + b + k$
- (ii)  $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n - 1) ((a)_{n-1} (b)_{n-1}) / ((c)_{n-1} (1)_{n-1}) = ab / (c - a - b - 1) F(a, b; c; 1)$ , if  $c > a + b + 1$
- (iii)  $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n - 1)^2 ((a)_{n-1} (b)_{n-1}) / ((c)_{n-1} (1)_{n-1}) = [((a)_2 (b)_2) / ((c - a - b - 2)_2) + ab / (c - a - b - 1)] F(a, b; c; 1)$ , if  $c > a + b + 2$ .

LEMMA 2 ([11]) *Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}, |a| \neq 1, |b| \neq 1, c \in (0, 1) \cup (1, \infty)$ , and  $c > \max\{0, |a| + |b| - 1\}$ . Then*

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \frac{(|a|)_{n-1} (|b|)_{n-1}}{(c)_{n-1} (1)_{n-1}} = \frac{c - |a| - |b|}{(|a| - 1)(|b| - 1)} F(|a|, |b|; c; 1) - \frac{c - 1}{(|a| - 1)(|b| - 1)}.$$

LEMMA 3 ([8]) Let  $f = h + \bar{g} \in \hat{H}$  with  $h$  and  $g$  of the form (1). If for some  $\alpha$  ( $0 \leq \alpha < 1$ ), the inequality

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n - \alpha) |A_n| + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n + \alpha) |B_n| \leq 1 - \alpha \quad (4)$$

is satisfied, then  $f$  is harmonic, sense-preserving, univalent in  $\Delta$ , and  $f \in HS^*(\alpha)$ .

Define  $THS^*(\alpha) := HS^*(\alpha) \cap \check{T}$  and  $THK(\alpha) := HK(\alpha) \cap \check{T}$ , where  $\check{T}$  consists of the functions  $f = h + \bar{g}$  in  $\hat{H}$  so that  $h$  and  $g$  are of the form

$$h(z) = z - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} |A_n| z^n, \quad g(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |B_n| z^n, \quad |B_1| < 1. \quad (5)$$

Remark 1 In [8], it is also shown that the  $f = h + \bar{g}$  given by (5) is in the family  $THS^*(\alpha)$  if and only if the coefficient condition (4) holds. Moreover, if  $f \in THS^*(\alpha)$ , then

$$|A_n| \leq \frac{1 - \alpha}{n - \alpha}, \quad n \geq 2, \quad |B_n| \leq \frac{1 - \alpha}{n + \alpha}, \quad n \geq 1. \quad (6)$$

LEMMA 4 ([13]) Let  $f = h + \bar{g}$  where  $h$  and  $g$  are given by (1). If  $0 \leq \alpha < 1$  and

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n - \alpha) |A_n| + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n(n + \alpha) |B_n| \leq 1 - \alpha, \quad (7)$$

then  $f$  is harmonic, sense-preserving, univalent in  $\Delta$ , and  $f \in HK(\alpha)$ .

Remark 2 In [7], it is also shown that  $f = h + \bar{g}$  given by Equation (5) is in the family  $THK(\alpha)$  if and only if the coefficient condition (7) holds. Moreover, if  $f \in THK(\alpha)$ , then

$$|A_n| \leq \frac{1 - \alpha}{n(n - \alpha)}, \quad n \geq 2, \quad |B_n| \leq \frac{1 - \alpha}{n(n + \alpha)}, \quad n \geq 1. \quad (8)$$

LEMMA 5 ([11]) Let  $b, c > 0$ ,  $b \neq 1$ , and  $c > 1 + b$ . Then

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(b)_n}{(n+1)(c)_n} = \frac{c-1}{b-1} [\zeta(c-1) - \zeta(c-b)],$$

where the function  $\zeta$  is defined by  $\zeta(x) := \Gamma'(x)/\Gamma(x)$ .

LEMMA 6 If  $f = h + \bar{g} \in K_{\hat{H}}^0$  where  $h$  and  $g$  are given by (1) with  $B_1 = 0$ , then

$$|A_n| \leq \frac{n+1}{2}, \quad |B_n| \leq \frac{n-1}{2}. \quad (9)$$

### 3. Harmonic starlikeness

In our first result, we determine conditions which guarantee that the integral operator  $\Lambda$  is harmonic starlike in  $\Delta$ .

**THEOREM 1** Let  $a_j, b_j \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}, c_j > \max\{0, |a_j| + |b_j|\}$  for  $j = 1, 2$  and  $|\sigma| < 1$ . Also, suppose  $f = h + \bar{g} \in \hat{H}$  is given by (1). If the hypergeometric inequalities

- (i)  $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} |A_n| + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |B_n| \leq 1, |B_1| < 1$
- (ii)  $\frac{\Gamma(c_1 - |a_1| - |b_1|)\Gamma(c_1)}{\Gamma(c_1 - |a_1|)\Gamma(c_1 - |b_1|)} + |\sigma| \frac{\Gamma(c_2 - |a_2| - |b_2|)\Gamma(c_2)}{\Gamma(c_2 - |a_2|)\Gamma(c_2 - |b_2|)} \leq 2$

are satisfied, then the integral operator  $\Lambda$  is harmonic, sense-preserving, univalent and maps  $\hat{H}$  into  $HS^*$ .

*Proof* Note that

$$\Lambda(f)(z) = \Lambda \begin{bmatrix} a_1, b_1, c_1 \\ a_2, b_2, c_2 \end{bmatrix} (f)(z) := H(z) + \overline{G(z)},$$

where

$$H(z) = z + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(a_1)_{n-1}(b_1)_{n-1}}{(c_1)_{n-1}(1)_n} A_n z^n, \quad G(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sigma \frac{(a_2)_{n-1}(b_2)_{n-1}}{(c_2)_{n-1}(1)_n} B_n z^n. \quad (10)$$

In order to show that  $\Lambda$  is locally univalent and sense-preserving it suffices to prove that  $|H'(z)| - |G'(z)| > 0$  in  $\Delta$ . Using the condition (i) and Lemma 1, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |H'(z)| - |G'(z)| &> 1 - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n \frac{(|a_1|)_{n-1}(|b_1|)_{n-1}}{(c_1)_{n-1}(1)_n} - |\sigma| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \frac{(|a_2|)_{n-1}(|b_2|)_{n-1}}{(c_2)_{n-1}(1)_n} \\ &= 2 - F(|a_1|, |b_1|; c_1; 1) - |\sigma| F(|a_2|, |b_2|; c_2; 1). \end{aligned}$$

The last inequality is non-negative because of the Gauss summation formula (3) and given condition (ii). To show that  $\Lambda(f)$  is univalent in  $\Delta$ , we follow the method of Theorem 1 in [8]. That is, for  $z_1 \neq z_2$  in  $\Delta$ , it suffices to prove that

$$\operatorname{Re} \frac{f(z_2) - f(z_1)}{z_2 - z_1} > \int_0^1 (\operatorname{Re} H'(z(t)) - |G'(z(t))|) dt. \quad (11)$$

Since from the given condition (i) and  $|\sigma| < 1$ , we have

$$\operatorname{Re} H'(z) - |G'(z)| > 1 - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n \frac{(|a_1|)_{n-1}(|b_1|)_{n-1}}{(c_1)_{n-1}(1)_n} - |\sigma| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \frac{(|a_2|)_{n-1}(|b_2|)_{n-1}}{(c_2)_{n-1}(1)_n},$$

it follows from the given hypothesis that the last inequality is positive. Therefore, from Inequality (11) we have

$$\operatorname{Re} \frac{f(z_2) - f(z_1)}{z_2 - z_1} > 0.$$

This proves the univalence of  $\Lambda(f)$ . In order to prove that  $\Lambda(f) \in HS^* \equiv HS^*(0)$ , it suffices to show that  $S_1 \leq 1$  because of Lemma 3, where

$$S_1 := \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n \left| \frac{(a_1)_{n-1}(b_1)_{n-1}}{(c_1)_{n-1}(1)_n} \right| |A_n| + |\sigma| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \left| \frac{(a_2)_{n-1}(b_2)_{n-1}}{(c_2)_{n-1}(1)_n} \right| |B_n|. \quad (12)$$

Since

$$|A_n| \leq 1, \quad |B_n| \leq 1, \quad \forall n \geq 2.$$

because of given condition (i), we obtain

$$S_1 \leq \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(|a_1|)_{n-1}(|b_1|)_{n-1}}{(c_1)_{n-1}(1)_{n-1}} + |\sigma| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(|a_2|)_{n-1}(|b_2|)_{n-1}}{(c_2)_{n-1}(1)_{n-1}}$$

$$= F(|a_1|, |b_1|; c_1; 1) + |\sigma| F(|a_2|, |b_2|; c_2; 1) - 1.$$

The last expression is bounded above by one because of Equation (3) and condition (ii). This completes the proof. ■

**COROLLARY 1** Under the parametric constraints and hypergeometric condition (ii) of Theorem 1, the integral operator  $G_1$  defined by (2) is in  $HS^*$ .

**COROLLARY 2** If  $b_j \in \mathbb{C} - \{0\}$ ,  $c_j \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $c_j > 1 + |b_j|$  for  $j = 1, 2$  and  $|\sigma| < 1$  satisfy the hypergeometric inequality

$$\frac{c_1 - 1}{c_1 - |b_1| - 1} + |\sigma| \frac{c_2 - 1}{c_2 - |b_2| - 1} \leq 2,$$

then the integral operator  $G_2$  is harmonic starlike in  $\Delta$ .

**THEOREM 2** If  $b_j \in \mathbb{C} - \{0\}$ ,  $|b_j| \neq 1$ ,  $c_j \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $c_j > |b_j| + 1$  for  $j = 1, 2$  and  $|\sigma| < 1$  satisfy the condition  $(c_1 - 1)[1/(c_1 - |b_1| - 1) - (\alpha(\zeta(c_1 - 1) - \zeta(c_1 - |b_1|)))/(|b_1| - 1)] + (c_2 - 1)|\sigma|[1/(c_2 - |b_2| - 1) + (\alpha(\zeta(c_2 - 1) - \zeta(c_2 - |b_2|)))/(|b_2| - 1)] \leq 2(1 - \alpha)$  then the integral operator  $G_2(z) = \varphi_1(b_1; c_1; z) + \sigma \varphi_2(b_2; c_2; z)$  is in  $HS^*(\alpha)$ , where  $\zeta(x) = \Gamma'(x)/\Gamma(x)$ .

*Proof* Note that

$$G_2(z) = z + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \frac{(b_1)_{n-1}}{(c_1)_{n-1}} z^n + \sigma \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \frac{(b_2)_{n-1}}{(c_2)_{n-1}} z^n.$$

In view of Lemma 2, we need to prove that

$$S_2 := \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n - \alpha) \left| \frac{1}{n} \frac{(b_1)_{n-1}}{(c_1)_{n-1}} \right| + |\sigma| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n + \alpha) \left| \frac{1}{n} \frac{(b_2)_{n-1}}{(c_2)_{n-1}} \right| \leq 1 - \alpha.$$

However,

$$S_2 \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(|b_1|)_n}{(c_1)_n} - \alpha \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{(|b_1|)_n}{(c_1)_n} + |\sigma| \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(|b_2|)_n}{(c_2)_n} + \alpha |\sigma| \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{(|b_2|)_n}{(c_2)_n}$$

$$= F(1, |b_1|, c_1; 1) - 1 - \frac{\alpha(c_1 - 1)}{|b_1| - 1} [\zeta(c_1 - 1) - \zeta(c_1 - |b_1|)] + \alpha$$

$$+ |\sigma| F(1, |b_2|, c_2; 1) + \frac{\alpha|\sigma|(c_2 - 1)}{|b_2| - 1} [\zeta(c_2 - 1) - \zeta(c_2 - |b_2|)]$$

by application of Lemma 5. In view of formula (3) and the hypothesis, the last expression is bounded above by  $1 - \alpha$ . ■

**Remark 3** For  $\alpha = 0$ , previous theorem reduces to Corollary 2.

We next find a hypergeometric condition for which the integral operator  $\Lambda$  maps  $K_{\tilde{H}}^0$  into  $HS^*(\alpha)$ .

**THEOREM 3** Let  $a_j, b_j \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $|a_j| \neq 1$ ,  $|b_j| \neq 1$ ,  $c_j \in \mathbb{R}$ , and  $c_j > |a_j| + |b_j| + 1$  for  $j = 1, 2$ . If for some  $\sigma$  ( $|\sigma| < 1$ ) and  $\alpha$  ( $0 \leq \alpha < 1$ ), the hypergeometric inequality

$$P_1 \frac{\Gamma(c_1 - |a_1| - |b_1|)\Gamma(c_1)}{\Gamma(c_1 - |a_1|)\Gamma(c_1 - |b_1|)} + Q_1 |\sigma| \frac{\Gamma(c_2 - |a_2| - |b_2|)\Gamma(c_1)}{\Gamma(c_2 - |a_2|)\Gamma(c_2 - |b_2|)} + \alpha R_1 \leq 4(1 - \alpha)$$

is satisfied, then  $\Lambda(K_{\tilde{H}}^0) \subset HS^*(\alpha)$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} P_1 &:= (2 - \alpha) + \frac{|a_1 b_1|}{c_1 - |a_1| - |b_1| - 1} - \frac{\alpha(c_1 - |a_1| - |b_1|)}{(|a_1| - 1)(|b_1| - 1)}, \\ Q_1 &:= \alpha + \frac{|a_2 b_2|}{c_2 - |a_2| - |b_2| - 1} - \frac{\alpha(c_2 - |a_2| - |b_2|)}{(|a_2| - 1)(|b_2| - 1)}, \\ R_1 &:= \frac{c_1 - 1}{(|a_1| - 1)(|b_1| - 1)} + \frac{c_2 - 1}{(|a_2| - 1)(|b_2| - 1)}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof* Let  $f = h + \bar{g} \in K_{\tilde{H}}^0$  where  $h$  and  $g$  are given by (1) with  $B_1 = 0$ . We need to prove that  $\Lambda(f) = H + \bar{G} \in HS^*(\alpha)$  where  $H$  and  $G$  given by (10) with  $B_1 = 0$  are analytic functions in  $\Delta$ . In view of Lemma 3, we need to prove that  $S_3 \leq 1 - \alpha$ , where

$$S_3 := \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n - \alpha) \left| \frac{(a_1)_{n-1} (b_1)_{n-1}}{(c_1)_{n-1} (1)_n} A_n \right| + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n + \alpha) |\sigma| \left| \frac{(a_2)_{n-1} (b_2)_{n-1}}{(c_2)_{n-1} (1)_n} B_n \right|. \tag{13}$$

Applying Lemma 6, we have

$$S_3 \leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n + 1)(n - \alpha) \frac{(|a_1|)_{n-1} (|b_1|)_{n-1}}{(c_1)_{n-1} (1)_n} + \frac{1}{2} |\sigma| \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n - 1)(n + \alpha) \frac{(|a_2|)_{n-1} (|b_2|)_{n-1}}{(c_2)_{n-1} (1)_n}. \tag{14}$$

Using the identities

$$(n + 1)(n - \alpha) \equiv n(n - 1) + (2 - \alpha)n, \quad (n - 1)(n + \alpha) \equiv n(n - 1) + n\alpha - \alpha \tag{15}$$

and by Lemmas 1 and 2, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} S_3 &\leq \frac{1}{2} \left[ (2 - \alpha) + \frac{|a_1 b_1|}{c_1 - |a_1| - |b_1| - 1} - \frac{\alpha(c_1 - |a_1| - |b_1|)}{(|a_1| - 1)(|b_1| - 1)} \right] F(|a_1|, |b_1|; c_1; 1) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} |\sigma| \left[ \alpha + \frac{|a_2 b_2|}{c_2 - |a_2| - |b_2| - 1} - \frac{\alpha(c_2 - |a_2| - |b_2|)}{(|a_2| - 1)(|b_2| - 1)} \right] F(|a_2|, |b_2|; c_2; 1) \\ &\quad - \frac{2(1 - \alpha)}{2} - \frac{\alpha}{2} \left[ \frac{c_1 - 1}{(|a_1| - 1)(|b_1| - 1)} + \frac{|\sigma|(c_2 - 1)}{(|a_2| - 1)(|b_2| - 1)} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

The last expression is bounded above by  $1 - \alpha$  because of Equation (3) and the given hypothesis. ■

For the special case when  $a_1 = 1$  and  $a_2 = 1$ , next theorem provides a hypergeometric condition for which the integral operator  $L$  maps  $K_{\tilde{H}}^0$  into  $HS^*(\alpha)$ .



**THEOREM 4** If  $b_j \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $|b_2| \neq 1$ ,  $c_j > |b_j| + 2$  for  $j = 1, 2$  and  $|\sigma| < 1$  satisfy the hypergeometric inequality

$$\frac{(c_1 - 1)P_2}{c_1 - |b_1| - 1} + |\sigma| \frac{(c_2 - 1)Q_2}{c_2 - |b_2| - 1} - \alpha R_2 \leq 4 - 3\alpha$$

is satisfied, then  $L(K_{\mathbb{H}}^0) \subset HS^*(\alpha)$ , where

$$P_2 := (2 - \alpha) + \frac{|b_1|}{c_1 - |b_1| - 2}, \quad Q_2 := \alpha + \frac{|b_2|}{c_2 - |b_2| - 2}, \quad R_2 := \frac{\zeta(c_2 - 1) - \zeta(c_2 - |b_2|)}{|b_2| - 1}.$$

*Proof* Letting  $a_1 = 1$  and  $a_2 = 1$  in Equation (13) and using (15), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} S_3 &\leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n-1) \frac{(|b_1|)_{n-1}}{(c_1)_{n-1}} + \frac{2-\alpha}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(|b_1|)_n}{(c_1)_n} \\ &\quad + \frac{|\sigma|}{2} \left[ \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n-1) \frac{(|b_2|)_{n-1}}{(c_2)_{n-1}} + \alpha \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(|b_2|)_n}{(c_2)_n} - \alpha \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{(|b_2|)_n}{(c_2)_n} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Applying Lemmas 1, 5, formula (3) and the given hypergeometric condition, it is now a routine to show that  $S_3 \leq 1 - \alpha$ . In view of Lemma 3, it follows that  $L(f) \in HS^*(\alpha)$  when  $f \in K_{\mathbb{H}}^0$ . ■

In our next result, we impose stronger conditions on the parameters  $a_1, a_2, b_1, b_2, c_1, c_2$  and obtain a hypergeometric characterization for the integral operator  $G_1$ .

**THEOREM 5** If  $a_1, b_1 \in (-1, 1) \cup (1, \infty)$ ,  $a_1 b_1 < 0$ ,  $a_2, b_2 \in (0, 1) \cup (1, \infty)$ ,  $c_j \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $c_j > \max\{0, a_j + b_j - 1\}$  for  $j = 1, 2$ , and  $|\sigma| < 1$ , then the integral operator

$$G_1(z) = \int_0^z F(a_1, b_1; c_1; t) dt + \sigma \overline{\int_0^z F(a_2, b_2; c_2; t) dt}$$

is in the class  $THS^*(\alpha)$  if and only if the hypergeometric inequality

$$\begin{aligned} &\left[ \frac{\alpha(c_1 - a_1 - b_1)}{(a_1 - 1)(b_1 - 1)} - 1 \right] \frac{\Gamma(c_1 - a_1 - b_1) \Gamma(c_1)}{\Gamma(c_1 - a_1) \Gamma(c_1 - b_1)} + |\sigma| \left[ \frac{\alpha(c_2 - a_2 - b_2)}{(a_2 - 1)(b_2 - 1)} + 1 \right] \\ &\quad \times \frac{\Gamma(c_2 - a_2 - b_2) \Gamma(c_2)}{\Gamma(c_2 - a_2) \Gamma(c_2 - b_2)} \leq \alpha \left[ \frac{c_1 - 1}{(a_1 - 1)(b_1 - 1)} + \frac{c_2 - 1}{(a_2 - 1)(b_2 - 1)} \right] \end{aligned}$$

is satisfied.

*Proof* We observe that the integral operator  $G_1$  defined by Equation (2) may be expressed as

$$G_1(z) = z + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(a_1)_{n-1} (b_1)_{n-1}}{(c_1)_{n-1} (1)_n} z^n + \sigma \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\overline{(a_2)_{n-1} (b_2)_{n-1}}}{(c_2)_{n-1} (1)_n} z^n, \quad (16)$$

which in view of the given parametric constraints can be rewritten as

$$\Omega(z) = z - \frac{|a_1 b_1|}{c_1} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(a_1 + 1)_{n-2} (b_1 + 1)_{n-2}}{(c_1 + 1)_{n-2} (1)_n} z^n + \sigma \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\overline{(a_2)_{n-1} (b_2)_{n-1}}}{(c_2)_{n-1} (1)_n} z^n.$$

In view of Remarks 1 and 4,  $G_1$  is in  $THS^*(\alpha)$  if and only if  $S_4 \leq 1 - \alpha$ , where

$$S_4 := \frac{|a_1 b_1|}{c_1} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n - \alpha) \left| \frac{(a_1 + 1)_{n-2} (b_1 + 1)_{n-2}}{(c_1 + 1)_{n-2} (1)_n} \right| \tag{17}$$

$$+ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n + \alpha) |\sigma| \left| \frac{(a_2)_{n-1} (b_2)_{n-1}}{(c_2)_{n-1} (1)_n} \right|. \tag{18}$$

Using Lemma 2, it is easy to show that

$$\begin{aligned} S_4 \leq & \left[ \frac{|a_1 b_1|}{c_1} + \frac{\alpha(c_1 - a_1 - b_1)}{(a_1 - 1)(b_1 - 1)} \right] F(a_1, b_1; c_1; 1) \\ & + |\sigma| \left[ 1 + \frac{\alpha(c_2 - a_2 - b_2)}{(a_2 - 1)(b_2 - 1)} \right] F(a_2, b_2; c_2; 1) \\ & + 1 - \alpha - \alpha \left[ \frac{c_1 - 1}{(a_1 - 1)(b_1 - 1)} + |\sigma| \frac{c_2 - 1}{(a_2 - 1)(b_2 - 1)} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

The last inequality is bounded above by  $1 - \alpha$  by the formula (3) and the given hypergeometric condition. This completes the proof. ■

**COROLLARY 3** Let  $b_1 \in (-1, 0)$ ,  $b_2 \in (0, 1) \cup (1, \infty)$ ,  $c_j \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $c_j > |b_j| + 1$  for  $j = 1, 2$ ,  $|\sigma| < 1$ . Then the integral operator  $G_2(z) = \varphi_1(b_1; c_1; z) + \sigma \varphi_2(b_2; c_2; z) \in THS^*(\alpha)$  if and only if the hypergeometric inequality

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{c_1 - 1}{c_1 - b_1 - 1} - |\sigma| \frac{c_2 - 1}{c_2 - b_2 - 1} \\ & \geq \alpha \left[ \frac{(c_1 - 1)(\zeta(c_1 - 1) - \zeta(c_1 - b_1))}{b_1 - 1} + \frac{|\sigma|(c_2 - 1)(\zeta(c_2 - 1) - \zeta(c_2 - b_2))}{b_2 - 1} \right] \end{aligned}$$

is satisfied.

*Proof* Letting  $a_1 = 1$  and  $a_2 = 1$  in the definition of  $S_4$  in the previous Theorem, it reduces to

$$S_4 \leq \frac{|b_1|}{b_1} \left[ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(b_1)_n}{(c_1)_n} - \alpha \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{(b_1)_n}{(c_1)_n} \right] + |\sigma| \left[ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(b_2)_n}{(c_2)_n} + \alpha \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{(b_2)_n}{(c_2)_n} \right].$$

Using Lemma 5, formula (3), and given hypothesis, it follows that  $S_4 \leq 1 - \alpha$ . This completes the proof. ■

Under some stronger parametric conditions, we next determine a hypergeometric inequality when  $\sigma = 1$ , which guarantees that  $\Lambda$  maps  $THS^*(\alpha)$  into  $THS^*(\alpha)$  and conversely. Taking  $\sigma = 1$  in next theorem and its Corollary does not hurt because  $|B_1| < 1$  by equations given by (5).

**THEOREM 6** Let  $a_j, b_j \in (0, 1) \cup (1, \infty)$ ,  $c_j > \max\{0, a_j + b_j - 1\}$  for  $j = 1, 2$ ,  $0 \leq \alpha < 1$ , and  $\sigma = 1$ . Then  $\Lambda(THS^*(\alpha)) \subset THS^*(\alpha)$  if and only if the hypergeometric inequality

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{c_1 - a_1 - b_1}{(a_1 - 1)(b_1 - 1)} \frac{\Gamma(c_1 - a_1 - b_1)\Gamma(c_1)}{\Gamma(c_1 - a_1)\Gamma(c_1 - b_1)} + \frac{(c_2 - a_2 - b_2)}{(a_2 - 1)(b_2 - 1)} \frac{\Gamma(c_2 - a_2 - b_2)\Gamma(c_2)}{\Gamma(c_2 - a_2)\Gamma(c_2 - b_2)} \\ & \leq 2 + \frac{c_1 - 1}{(a_1 - 1)(b_1 - 1)} + \frac{c_2 - 1}{(a_2 - 1)(b_2 - 1)} \end{aligned}$$

is satisfied.

*Proof* Let  $f = h + \bar{g} \in THS^*(\alpha)$  with  $h$  and  $g$  of the form (5). In view of Remarks 1 and 4, the integral operator

$$\Lambda(f)(z) = z - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(a_1)_{n-1}(b_1)_{n-1}}{(c_1)_{n-1}(1)_n} |A_n| z^n + \overline{\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(a_2)_{n-1}(b_2)_{n-1}}{(c_2)_{n-1}(1)_n} |B_n| z^n}$$

is in  $THS^*(\alpha)$  if and only if  $S_5 \leq 1 - \alpha$  where

$$S_5 := \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n - \alpha) \frac{(a_1)_{n-1}(b_1)_{n-1}}{(c_1)_{n-1}(1)_n} |A_n| + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (n + \alpha) \frac{(a_2)_{n-1}(b_2)_{n-1}}{(c_2)_{n-1}(1)_n} |B_n|.$$

Using Inequalities given by (6), we get

$$S_5 \leq (1 - \alpha) \left[ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \frac{(a_1)_{n-1}(b_1)_{n-1}}{(c_1)_{n-1}(1)_{n-1}} - 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \frac{(|a_2|)_{n-1}(|b_2|)_{n-1}}{(c_2)_{n-1}(1)_{n-1}} \right]. \quad (19)$$

Applying Lemma 2, formula (3), and given hypergeometric inequality, it follows that  $S_5$  is bounded above by  $1 - \alpha$ . ■

For the special case when  $a_1 = 1$  and  $a_2 = 1$ , next theorem provides a hypergeometric characterization for which the integral operator  $L$  maps  $THS^*(\alpha)$  into  $THS^*(\alpha)$ .

**COROLLARY 4** *If  $b_j \in (0, 1) \cup (1, \infty)$ ,  $c_j > b_j$  for  $j = 1, 2$ ,  $0 \leq \alpha < 1$ , then  $L(THS^*(\alpha)) \subset THS^*(\alpha)$  for  $\sigma = 1$  if and only if the hypergeometric inequality*

$$\frac{(c_1 - 1)[\zeta(c_1 - 1) - \zeta(c_1 - b_1)]}{b_1 - 1} + \frac{(c_2 - 1)[\zeta(c_2 - 1) - \zeta(c_2 - b_2)]}{b_2 - 1} \leq 2$$

is satisfied.

*Proof* Letting  $a_1 = 1$  and  $a_2 = 1$  in Inequality (19) and using Lemma 5, it is now a routine process to prove that  $L(f) \in THS^*(\alpha)$  when  $f \in THS^*(\alpha)$ . ■

#### 4. Harmonic convexity

We next explore a sufficient hypergeometric condition, which ensures that  $\Lambda$  maps  $K_{\tilde{H}}^0$  into  $HK(\alpha)$ .

**THEOREM 7** *Let  $a_j, b_j \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $c_j \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $c_j > |a_j| + |b_j| + 2$  for  $j = 1, 2$  and  $|\sigma| < 1$ . If the inequality*

$$P_3 \frac{\Gamma(c_1 - |a_1| - |b_1|)\Gamma(c_1)}{\Gamma(c_1 - |a_1|)\Gamma(c_1 - |b_1|)} + Q_3 |\sigma| \frac{\Gamma(c_2 - |a_2| - |b_2|)\Gamma(c_2)}{\Gamma(c_2 - |a_2|)\Gamma(c_2 - |b_2|)} \leq 4(1 - \alpha)$$

holds true, then  $\Lambda(K_{\hat{H}}^0) \subset HK(\alpha)$ , where

$$P_3 := \frac{(|a_1|)_2(|b_1|)_2}{(c_1 - |a_1| - |b_1| - 2)_2} + \frac{(4 - \alpha)|a_1 b_1|}{c_1 - |a_1| - |b_1| - 1} + 2(1 - \alpha),$$

$$Q_3 := \frac{(|a_2|)_2(|b_2|)_2}{(c_2 - |a_2| - |b_2| - 2)_2} + \frac{(2 + \alpha)|a_2 b_2|}{c_2 - |a_2| - |b_2| - 1}.$$

*Proof* Let  $f = h + \bar{g} \in K_{\hat{H}}^0$  with  $h$  and  $g$  of the form (1) with  $B_1 = 0$ . We need to show that  $\Lambda(f) = H + \bar{G} \in HK(\alpha)$ , where  $H$  and  $G$  are defined by (10) with  $B_1 = 0$ . In view of Lemma 4, it suffices to prove that  $S_6 \leq 1 - \alpha$ , where

$$S_6 := \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n - \alpha) \left| \frac{(a_1)_{n-1}(b_1)_{n-1}}{(c_1)_{n-1}(1)_n} A_n \right| + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n + \alpha) |\sigma| \left| \frac{(a_2)_{n-1}(b_2)_{n-1}}{(c_2)_{n-1}(1)_n} B_n \right|.$$

As an application of Lemma 6, we get

$$S_6 \leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n + 1)(n - \alpha) \frac{(|a_1|)_{n-1}(|b_1|)_{n-1}}{(c_1)_{n-1}(1)_{n-1}} + \frac{1}{2} |\sigma| \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n - 1)(n + \alpha) \frac{(|a_2|)_n(|b_2|)_n}{(c_2)_n(1)_{n-1}}.$$

Using the identities

$$(n + 1)(n - \alpha) \equiv (n - 1)^2 + (n - 1)(3 - \alpha) + 2(1 - \alpha)$$

$$(n - 1)(n + \alpha) \equiv (n - 1)^2 + (1 + \alpha)(n - 1),$$

and Lemma 1, we obtain

$$S_6 \leq \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{(|a_1|)_2(|b_1|)_2}{(c_1 - |a_1| - |b_1| - 2)_2} + \frac{(4 - \alpha)|a_1 b_1|}{c_1 - |a_1| - |b_1| - 1} + 2(1 - \alpha) \right] F(|a_1|, |b_1|; c_1; 1)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} |\sigma| \left[ \frac{(|a_2|)_2(|b_2|)_2}{(c_2 - |a_2| - |b_2| - 2)_2} + \frac{(2 + \alpha)|a_2 b_2|}{c_2 - |a_2| - |b_2| - 1} \right] F(|a_2|, |b_2|; c_2; 1) - (1 - \alpha).$$

The result follows by applying formula (3) and given hypergeometric condition. ■

**THEOREM 8** Let  $a_j, b_j \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $c_j \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $c_j > |a_j| + |b_j| + 1$  for  $j = 1, 2$  and  $|\sigma| < 1$ . If the hypergeometric inequality

$$\left[ \frac{|a_1||b_1|}{c_1 - |a_1| - |b_1| - 1} + (1 - \alpha) \right] \frac{\Gamma(c_1 - |a_1| - |b_1|)\Gamma(c_1)}{\Gamma(c_1 - |a_1|)\Gamma(c_1 - |b_1|)}$$

$$+ |\sigma| \left[ \frac{|a_2||b_2|}{c_2 - |a_2| - |b_2| - 1} + (1 + \alpha) \right] \frac{\Gamma(c_2 - |a_2| - |b_2|)\Gamma(c_2)}{\Gamma(c_2 - |a_2|)\Gamma(c_2 - |b_2|)} \leq 2(1 - \alpha)$$

is satisfied, then the integral operator  $G_1$  given by Equation (2) is in  $HK(\alpha)$ .

*Proof* It follows from Lemma 4 that  $G_1$  is in  $HK(\alpha)$  when

$$S_7 := \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-\alpha) \left| \frac{(a_1)_{n-1}(b_1)_{n-1}}{(c_1)_{n-1}(1)_n} \right| + |\sigma| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n(n+\alpha) \left| \frac{(a_2)_{n-1}(b_2)_{n-1}}{(c_2)_{n-1}(1)_n} \right| \leq 1-\alpha.$$

Using Lemma 1, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} S_7 &\leq \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n-1) \frac{(|a_1|)_{n-1}(|b_1|)_{n-1}}{(c_1)_{n-1}(1)_{n-1}} + (1-\alpha) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(|a_1|)_n(|b_1|)_n}{(c_1)_n(1)_n} \\ &\quad + |\sigma| \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (n-1) \frac{(|a_2|)_{n-1}(|b_2|)_{n-1}}{(c_2)_{n-1}(1)_{n-1}} + |\sigma|(1+\alpha) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(|a_2|)_n(|b_2|)_n}{(c_2)_n(1)_n} \\ &= \left[ \frac{|a_1||b_1|}{c_1 - |a_1| - |b_1| - 1} + (1-\alpha) \right] F(|a_1|, |b_1|; c_1; 1) - (1-\alpha) \\ &\quad + |\sigma| \left[ \frac{|a_2||b_2|}{c_2 - |a_2| - |b_2| - 1} + (1+\alpha) \right] F(|a_2|, |b_2|; c_2; 1). \end{aligned}$$

The result follows by an application of Equation (3) and the given hypergeometric inequality. ■

**COROLLARY 5** *If  $b_j \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $c_j \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $c_j > |b_j| + 2$  for  $j = 1, 2$  and  $|\sigma| < 1$ , then the integral operator  $G_2$  is harmonic convex in  $\Delta$  if the hypergeometric inequality*

$$\left[ \frac{|b_1|}{c_1 - |b_1| - 2} + 1 \right] \frac{c_1 - 1}{c_1 - |b_1| - 1} + |\sigma| \left[ \frac{|b_2|}{c_2 - |b_2| - 2} + 1 \right] \frac{c_2 - 1}{c_2 - |b_2| - 1} \leq 2$$

holds true.

The proof of the next theorem is similar to that of Theorem 7 and hence it is omitted.

**THEOREM 9** *If all the parametric restrictions in Theorem 7 are satisfied, then  $\Lambda(THK(\alpha)) \subset THK(\alpha)$  when  $\sigma = 1$  if and only if the hypergeometric inequality in Theorem 7 holds true.*

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