

The Bieberbach Conjecture for Restricted Initial Coefficients[★]

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1. Introduction

Let S denote the class of functions $f(z) = z + a_2 z^2 + \dots$, analytic and univalent in the unit disk. The Bieberbach conjecture states that for functions $f(z)$ in S , $|a_n| \leq n$. Many methods of univalent function theory have been developed to tackle this conjecture, the latest of which, due to FitzGerald, was found to give the best global estimate [6, 9]

$$|a_n| \leq \left(\frac{1,659,164,137}{681,080,400} \right)^{1/14} n < 1.0657n. \quad (1)$$

FitzGerald's idea of exponentiating the Grunsky inequalities, led him to inequalities involving the absolute values of the coefficients (Main lemma). Upon the investigation of these inequalities, various results were obtained (see [2–5]), in particular if either $|a_2| < 1.55$ [3] or $|a_1| < 2.04$ [2] then $|a_n| < n$ for each n . For these results only 2×2 submatrices of the main lemma were considered. In what follows, we first improve the estimate on $|a_3|$ by a modification of the method in [2, 3] up to 2.15. We then proceed to improve the results using 3×3 submatrices of the main lemma, thus obtaining the final estimates: If $|a_2| < 1.596$ then $|a_n| < n$. If $|a_3| < 2.15$ then $|a_n| < n$. If $|a_3| < 2.51$ then $|a_n| < n$, n sufficiently large independent of $f(z)$.

2. Main Lemma and Inequalities

The following lemma of FitzGerald [6] is given in another formulation [11, Section 3.4].

Main Lemma (FitzGerald). *Let $f(z)$ be in S , then for any natural number l , and arbitrary real numbers x_1, x_2, \dots, x_l , we have*

[★] Based in part on the author's doctoral dissertation in the Technion, Haifa

$$\left(\sum_{p=1}^l |a_p|^2 x_p\right)^2 \leq \sum_{p=1}^l \sum_{q=1}^l \left(\sum_{k=1}^{p+q-1} \beta_k(p, q) |a_k|^2\right) x_p x_q$$

where $\beta_k(p, q) = \beta_k(q, p)$ and for $p \leq q$

$$\beta_k(p, q) = \begin{cases} p - |k - q| & \text{for } |k - q| < p \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Denoting

$$a_{p,q} = \sum_{k=1}^{p+q-1} \beta_k(p, q) b_k^2 - b_p^2 b_q^2, \quad \text{where } b_k = |a_k| \tag{2}$$

we have $a_{p,q} = a_{q,p}$ and the lemma takes the form

$$Q(x) = \sum_{p=1}^l \sum_{q=1}^l a_{p,q} x_p x_q \geq 0,$$

which means that $(a_{p,q})_1^l$ is a real symmetric positive semi-definite matrix. A well known property of such a matrix is that all its principal determinants are non-negative (cf. [7, p. 307]). We immediately deduce that for $n > 2$

$$\begin{aligned} a_{2,2} &\geq 0 & a_{2,2} a_{n,n} - a_{2,n}^2 &\geq 0 \\ a_{3,3} &\geq 0 & a_{3,3} a_{n,n} - a_{3,n}^2 &\geq 0 \\ a_{2,2} a_{3,3} - a_{2,3}^2 &\geq 0, & \det(a_{p,q})_{2,3,n} &\geq 0. \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

Moreover, $a_{p,q}$ are given explicitly by (2), namely

$$\begin{aligned} a_{2,2} &= 1 + 2b_2^2 + b_3^2 - b_2^4 \equiv A \\ a_{3,3} &= 1 + 2b_2^2 + 3b_3^2 + 2b_4^2 + b_5^2 - b_3^4 \equiv C \\ a_{2,3} &= b_2^2 + 2b_3^2 + b_4^2 - b_2^2 b_3^2 \equiv B \\ a_{2,n} &= b_{n-1}^2 + 2b_n^2 + b_{n+1}^2 - b_2^2 b_n^2 \equiv D_n \\ a_{3,n} &= b_{n-2}^2 + 2b_{n-1}^2 + 3b_n^2 + 2b_{n+1}^2 + b_{n+2}^2 - b_3^2 b_n^2 \equiv E_n \\ a_{n,n} &= \sum_{k=1}^n k b_k^2 + \sum_{k=n+1}^{2n-1} (2n-k) b_k^2 - b_n^4 \equiv F_n - b_n^4. \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

Inequalities (3) reduce respectively to

$$b_n^4 \leq -\frac{[(4-b_2^2)b_n^2 + t_n]^2}{1 + 2b_2^2 + b_3^2 - b_2^4} + F_n, \quad \text{if } A > 0 \tag{5}$$

$$b_n^4 \leq -\frac{[(9-b_3^2)b_n^2 + f_n]^2}{1 + 2b_2^2 + 3b_3^2 + 2b_4^2 + b_5^2 - b_3^4} + F_n, \quad \text{if } C > 0 \tag{6}$$

$$b_n^4 \leq -\frac{2BD_n E_n - AE_n^2 - CD_n^2}{AC - B^2} + F_n, \quad \text{if } AC - B^2 > 0 \tag{7}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} t_n &= b_{n-1}^2 - 2b_n^2 + b_{n+1}^2 \\ f_n &= b_{n-2}^2 + 2b_{n-1}^2 - 6b_n^2 + 2b_{n+1}^2 + b_{n+2}^2. \end{aligned}$$

From (5) and (6), one already sees the need of good lower bounds for t_n, f_n , and upper bounds for F_n . Appropriate bounds for t_n, f_n are taken from the main lemma.

In [3, 2] the following inequalities are checked

$$\begin{aligned} t_n^2 &\leq 6 + 4(b_2^2 + b_3^2 + \dots + b_{n-1}^2) + 2b_n^2 + t_{2n} \\ f_n^2 &\leq 46 + 52b_2^2 + 42b_3^2 + 40(b_4^2 + \dots + b_{n-2}^2) + 38b_{n-1}^2 + 20b_n^2 + 2b_{n+1}^2 + h_n \end{aligned}$$

in term, where

$$h_n = b_{2n-3}^2 + 6b_{2n-2}^2 + 3b_{2n-1}^2 - 20b_{2n}^2 + 3b_{2n+1}^2 + 6b_{2n+2}^2 + b_{2n+3}^2.$$

The bounds for f_n in [2] could be significantly improved. To do so we proceed as in [2, 3] to find bounds for h_n . Lengthy but elementary calculations finally give

$$\begin{aligned} h_n^2 &\leq 492 + 840b_2^2 + 738b_3^2 + 628b_4^2 + 602b_5^2 + 600(b_6^2 + \dots + b_{2n-3}^2) \\ &\quad + 598b_{2n-2}^2 + 500b_{2n-1}^2 + 300b_{2n}^2 + 100b_{2n+1}^2 + 2b_{2n+2}^2 + g_n, \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} g_n &= b_{4n-5}^2 + b_{4n+5}^2 + 14(b_{4n-4}^2 + b_{4n+4}^2) + 69(b_{4n-3}^2 + b_{4n+3}^2) \\ &\quad + 120(b_{4n-2}^2 + b_{4n+2}^2) - 54(b_{2n-1}^2 + b_{4n+1}^2) - 300b_{4n}^2 \\ &\equiv h_{2n-2} + h_{2n+2} + 8(h_{2n-1} + h_{2n+1}) + 18h_{2n}. \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

3. Improved Estimates for b_2, b_3

Theorem 1. *There exist two non-decreasing sequences $\{T_k\}_1^\infty, \{M_k\}_1^\infty$, such that for any $f(z)$ in S :*

- (a) T_n is largest number ≤ 2 such that if $b_2 < T_n$ then $b_k < k$ for all $k \geq n$.
- (b) M_n is the largest number ≤ 2 such that if $b_2 < M_n$ then $b_k < k$ for all $k \geq n$.

In particular $T_7 > 1.584, M_7 > 2.15$.

Proof. a) The proof goes along the same lines as in [3] except for the use of a new bound for I_k , now using (1) instead of (17) in [3].

b) The proof goes along the same lines as in [2] except for the following improved bounds for f_n, b_4, b_5 given below.

Lemma 1. *A decreasing bound δ_n for f_n/n^2 exists for which $\delta_7 < 1.546$.*

Proof. First, a crude estimate for g_n is achieved using Milin's estimate [11, p. 81]

$$|b_k - b_{k+1}| < 4.18.$$

We write

$$\begin{aligned} g_n &= (b_{4n-5}^2 - b_{4n-4}^2) + 15(b_{4n-4}^2 - b_{4n-3}^2) + 84(b_{4n-3}^2 b_{4n-2}^2) + 204(b_{4n-2}^2 - b_{4n-1}^2) \\ &\quad + 150(b_{4n-1}^2 - b_{4n}^2) + 150(b_{4n+1}^2 - b_{4n}^2) + 204(b_{4n+2}^2 - b_{4n+1}^2) \\ &\quad + 84(b_{4n+3}^2 - b_{4n+2}^2) + 15(b_{4n+4}^2 - b_{4n+3}^2) + (b_{4n+5}^2 - b_{4n+4}^2). \end{aligned}$$

By the assumption of the theorem, and for $n \geq 7$ we have

$$|g_n| \leq 4.18 \{ (8n-9) + 15(8n-7) + 84(8n-5) + 204(8n-3) + 150(8n-1) \\ + 150(8n+1) + 204(8n+3) + 84(8n+5) + 15(8n+7) + (8n+9) \} \\ \leq 4.18(454)(16n) \leq 619.67n^3.$$

Now using (9) and (1), a crude estimate for h_n is

$$h_n^2 \leq 600 \left(\sum_{i=1}^{2n} b_i^2 \right) + |g_n| \\ \leq 100(1.0657)^2 2n(2n+1)(4n+1) + 619.67n^3 \\ \leq 2,664n^3, \quad \text{i.e. } |h_n| < 51.62n^{3/2}. \tag{11}$$

A better estimate for g_n is now available by inserting this into (10). One is led to

$$|g_n| \leq 2,654.9n^{3/2} < 143.4n^3. \tag{12}$$

Using (12) one can improve the estimate in (11) recursively. This procedure, applied twice, gives rise to

$$|h_n| \leq 46.62n^{3/2}.$$

Finally (see [2, Equation 3.17])

$$|f_n|^2 \leq (40/3)(1.0657)^2 n^3 + \{2 - 2(1.0657)^2\} n^2 + [(32/3)(1.0657)^2 + 4] \cdot n \\ - 3,462(1.0657)^2 + 3,714 + 46.62n^{3/2} \equiv n^4 \delta_n^2$$

for which δ_n is monotonic decreasing in n , and moreover $\delta_7 < 1.546$.

We next look for good upper bounds for b_4 and b_5 in terms of b_3 . We have no intention to look for sharp bounds, but for good local estimates in the restricted region of b_3 to be considered. The following lemma illustrates such a result.

Lemma 2. For $f(z) = z + a_2 z^2 + \dots$ in S we have

$$b_4 \leq 2.4787 - b_2^2/36 + b_2 b_3/3 \tag{13}$$

$$b_5 \leq 4.090 + b_3^2/6 + b_2^4/18 - b_2^2/4. \tag{14}$$

Proof. When considering good estimates of coefficients, it is quite natural to look for a representation of these coefficients in terms of “smaller” coefficients which can be well estimated. Such a representation is available by the so-called logarithmic coefficients.

With the notation

$$\log \frac{f(z)}{z} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \gamma_k z^k$$

one has the following identities:

$$a_2 = 2\gamma_1; \quad a_3 = 2(\gamma_2 + \gamma_1^2); \quad a_4 = 2\gamma_3 + 4\gamma_1\gamma_2 + 4\gamma_1^3/3; \\ a_5 = 2\gamma_4 + 2\gamma_2^2 + 4\gamma_1\gamma_3 + 4\gamma_1^2\gamma_2 + 2\gamma_1^4/3.$$

We conclude that:

$$\begin{aligned} a_4 &= 2\gamma_3 + 8\gamma_1\gamma_2/3 + 2\gamma_1a_3/3 \\ a_5 &= 2\gamma_4 + a_3^2/6 + 4\gamma_2^2/3 + 4\gamma_1\gamma_3 + 8\gamma_1^2\gamma_2/3, \end{aligned}$$

and thus, denoting $\beta_i = |\gamma_i|$ for $i = 1, \dots, 4$, we have respectively

$$b_4 \leq 2\beta_3 + 4b_2\beta_2/3 + b_2b_3/3 \leq (1/3 + 3\beta_3^2) + (2\beta_2^2 + 2b_2^2/9) + b_2b_3/3 \quad (15)$$

$$\begin{aligned} b_5 &\leq 2\beta_4 + 4\beta_2^2/3 + 2b_2\beta_3 + 2b_2^2\beta_2/3 + b_3^2/6 \\ &\leq ((1/4) + 4\beta_4^2) + 4\beta_2^2/3 + (b_2^2/4 + 4\beta_3^2) + (b_2^4/18 + 2\beta_2^2) + b_3^2/6 \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

as a consequence of the Schwarz inequality.

Now, recalling Milin's estimate [10, 1, p. 51]

$$\sum_{k=1}^n k\beta_k^2 \leq \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k} + 0.312 \quad (n=2, 3, \dots) \quad (17)$$

for $n=3$, then (13) follows immediately from (15). To deduce (14) we need the inequality [8]

$$\beta_1^2 + 4\beta_2^2/3 + \beta_3^2 \leq 13/9.$$

From (16) we get

$$b_4 \leq b_3^2/6 + 1/4 + 13/9 + 4\beta_4^2 + 3\beta_3^2 + 2\beta_2^2 + b_2^4/18, \quad (18)$$

and finally using (17) for $n=4$, the result follows.

Note that the right handside of (13), (14), attains its maximum, as a function of b_2 , when b_2 is maximal (for instance when $b_2 > 1.5$ and $b_3 > 1$). Consequently upper bounds for b_4 and b_5 in terms of b_3 are obtained under the substitution of $(b_3 + 1)^{1/2}$ for b_2 .

4. Improvement of Earlier Results

A further step for the improvement of the estimates in Theorem 1 is to consider the inequality (7) for $n \geq 7$. More precisely the positive semi-definiteness of

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & B & D_n \\ B & C & E_n \\ D_n & E_n & F_n - b_n^4 \end{pmatrix}$$

This property is preserved under the increase of any diagonal element or the division of a row and same column by a fixed number.

We now assume, as before, that $b_n > n$, $b_k < k$ for $k > n$. Dividing the last row and column by b_n^2 , and using the estimate

$$F_n/b_n^4 - 1 < 0.1632 \quad (n > 7)$$

we conclude that

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & B & D \\ B & C' & E \\ D & E & 0.1632 \end{pmatrix}$$

is positive semi-definite, where

$$\begin{aligned} D &= 4 - b_2^2 + \alpha, & |\alpha| &= \left| \frac{t_n}{b_n^2} \right| \leq 0.478, \\ E &= 9 - b_3^2 + 2\alpha + \beta, & |2\alpha + \beta| &= \left| \frac{f_n}{b_n^2} \right| \leq 1.546 \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

and $C' \geq C$ to be fixed later.

Next, it is shown that

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & B & D \\ B & C' & E \\ D & E & 0.1632 \end{pmatrix} \equiv H(b_2^2, b_3^2, b_4^2, \alpha, \beta) \tag{20}$$

is monotonic decreasing in α if we just restrict the region of variability of the coefficients b_i .

Let us then confine ourselves to the region $1.58 \leq b_2 \leq 1.65$, then by a result of Fekete and Szegö (see Eq. (26)), $b_3 < 2.62$ and by Theorem 1 we need only consider the case where $b_3 > 2.15$. Another result of Ahlfors shows that $b_4 < 3.54$ (see [2, p. 15]) and if we consider similar methods as of Theorem 1, one can see that it would be enough to consider the case where $b_4 > 2.89$. Finally, a result of Aharonov [1, Lemma 2.4] shows that $b_5 < 4.78$, so that we may choose for C' the following

$$C \leq C' \equiv 1 + 4.78^2 + 2b_2^2 + 3b_3^2 + 2b_4^2 - b_4^4.$$

Similar methods as of Lemma 1 shows that

$$|2\alpha - \beta| < 0.71, \quad |\beta| < 0.69. \tag{21}$$

(19) and (21) describes the region of variability of α, β .

Now we consider

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial H}{\partial \alpha} = BE - C'D - 2(AE - BD) \equiv G(b_2^2, b_3^2, b_4^2, \alpha, \beta)$$

which satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial G}{\partial \alpha} &= (2B - C') + 2(B - 2A) < -45.28 + 2b_4^2 < 0 \\ \frac{\partial G}{\partial (b_4^2)} &= E > 0 \end{aligned}$$

so that

$$G(b_2^2, b_3^2, b_4^2, \alpha, \beta) \leq G(b_2^2, b_3^2, 3.54^2, (0.71 + \beta)/2, \beta) \equiv J.$$

One verifies that $\partial^2 J / \partial (b_2^2)^2 = 4(9 - 2\alpha - \beta) > 0$, $\partial^2 J / \partial (b_3^2)^2 = 2(4 + \alpha) > 0$ so that the maximum of J as a function of b_2^2, b_3^2 is attained at one of the four corners of the region of variability of b_2, b_3 . Moreover J is linear in β so that its maximum is attained at either $\beta = \pm 0.69$, and hence

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial \alpha} \leq G(1.59^2, 2.62^2, 3.54^2, -70, -0.69) < 0.$$

We conclude that (considering the region of variability of α, β)

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq H(b_2^2, b_3^2, b_4^2, \alpha, \beta) \\ &\leq \begin{cases} H_1 \equiv H(b_2^2, b_3^2, b_4^2, (-0.71 + \beta)/2, \beta); & -0.246 < \beta < 0.69 \\ H_2 \equiv H(b_2^2, b_3^2, b_4^2, -0.478, \beta); & -0.59 \leq \beta \leq -0.246 \\ H_3 \equiv H(b_2^2, b_3^2, b_4^2, (-\beta - 1.546)/2, \beta); & -0.69 \leq \beta \leq -0.59. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Now

$$\frac{\partial H_1}{\partial \beta} = (BE - C'D) - 4(AE - BD) \equiv G_1(b_2^2, b_3^2, b_4^2, \beta)$$

satisfies

$$\frac{\partial G_1}{\partial \beta} < 0, \quad \frac{\partial G_1}{\partial (b_4^2)} > 0, \quad \frac{\partial^2 G_1}{\partial (b_2^2)^2} > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial^2 G_1}{\partial (b_3^2)^2} > 0$$

so that

$$\frac{\partial H_1}{\partial \beta} \leq G_1(1.59^2, 2.62^2, 3.54^2, -0.69) < 0. \quad (22)$$

Next

$$\frac{H_2}{\partial \beta} = -2(AE - BD) \equiv G_2(b_2^2, b_3^2, b_4^2, \beta)$$

satisfies

$$\frac{\partial G_2}{\partial \beta} < 0, \quad \frac{\partial G_2}{\partial (b_4^2)} > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial G_2}{\partial (b_3^2)} < 0$$

so that

$$\frac{\partial H_2}{\partial \beta} > G_2(b_2^2, 2.62^2, 2.89^2, -0.246) \equiv K_2(b_2^2),$$

and since

$$\frac{\partial K_2}{\partial (b_2^2)} < 0$$

we finally get

$$\frac{\partial H_2}{\partial \beta} > G_2(1.65^2, 2.62^2, 2.89^2, -0.246) > 0. \quad (23)$$

Also

$$\frac{\partial H_3}{\partial \beta} = CD - BE \equiv G_3(b_2^2, b_3^2, b_4^2, \beta)$$

satisfies

$$\frac{\partial G_3}{\partial \beta} < 0, \quad \frac{\partial G_3}{\partial (b_2^2)} > 0, \quad \frac{\partial^2 G_3}{\partial (b_3^2)^2} < 0$$

and G_3 is linear in b_4^2 so that

$$\frac{\partial H_3}{\partial \beta} > G_3(1.59^2, 2.15^2, 3.54^2, -0.59) \tag{24}$$

Finally (22), (23) and (24) show that

$$0 \leq H(b_2^2, b_3^2, b_4^2, -0.478, -0.246) \equiv S(b_2^2, b_3^2, b_4^2).$$

Similar techniques show that S is decreasing in b_3^2 so that

$$H(b_2^2(\lambda), v^2(\lambda), b_4^2, -0.478, -0.246) \geq 0 \tag{25}$$

where

$$b_2(\lambda) = \frac{2}{1-\lambda} \exp\left(\frac{-\lambda}{1-\lambda}\right), \quad 0 < \lambda < 1$$

and

$$v(\lambda) = 1 + \lambda b_2^2(\lambda) + 2 \exp\left(\frac{-2\lambda}{1-\lambda}\right) \tag{26}$$

is the maximum value of b_3 for fixed b_2 [11, p. 120]. We fix λ and run over all values of b_4^2 [2, p. 15]

$$2.89^2 \leq b_4^2 \leq \frac{16}{15} + \frac{339}{135} b_2^2 + \frac{23}{18} b_2^4 - \frac{35}{144} b_2^6 = \mu^2(b_2), \tag{26}$$

it is then seen that for all values of b_4 this inequality is violated unless $b_2 > 1.596$. Thus $T_7 > 1.596$ as claimed in the introduction.

The use of inequality (7) for $n \geq 7$ did not greatly improve the estimate of T_7 . Similarly the use of the inequality does not greatly improve the estimate of M_7 . On the other hand the inequality does lead to significant results for large n . In what follows we prove that

$$M^* = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} M_n \geq 2.526.$$

For the equivalent T^* a better result already exists in [4].

We introduce the following notations

$$S[\alpha] = \{f \text{ in } S; b_2(f) \leq \alpha\}, \quad d_\alpha = \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\sup_{f \in S[\alpha]} \frac{b_n(f)}{n} \right). \tag{27}$$

Fix α , and let $c > d_\alpha$ be given, then there exists $n_0 = n_0(c)$ such that for $n > n_0$

$$b_n(f)/n < c \quad \text{for every } f(z) \text{ in } S[\alpha]. \tag{28}$$

Since $\sum_{k=1}^{2n-1} \beta_k(n, n) \cdot k^2 = (7n^4 - n^2)/6 < 7n^4/6$, (28) and (7) give

$$b_n^4 \leq -\frac{AE_n^2 + CD_n^2 - 2BD_nE_n}{AC - B^2} + \sum_{k=1}^{n_0} \beta_k(n, n) b_k^2 + 7c^2 n^4/6, \tag{29}$$

for every $f(z)$ in $S[\alpha]$ and $n > n_0$.

$S[\alpha]$ is normal and compact. We deduce the existence of $f_k(z) = z + d_{2,k}z^2 + \dots$ in $S[\alpha]$ such that

$$\sup_{f \in S[\alpha]} \frac{b_n(f)}{n} = \frac{d_{n,n}}{n}. \tag{30}$$

Applying (29) to $f_n(z)$ and dividing both sides by n^4 we conclude

$$\left(\frac{d_{n,n}}{n}\right)^4 \leq -\frac{A\mathcal{E}_n^2 + CD_n^2 - 2B\mathcal{D}_n\mathcal{E}_n}{AC - B^2} + V/n^4 + 7c^2/6.$$

where $\mathcal{D}_n = (4 - b_2^2)(d_{n,n}/n^2) + O(n^{-1/2})$, $\mathcal{E}_n = (9 - b_3^2)(d_{n,n}/n^2) + O(n^{-1/2})$.

Passing to the limit, bearing in mind the notations in (27) and (30) we deduce

$$d_\alpha^4 \leq -\frac{(A\mathcal{E}^2 + C\mathcal{D}^2 - 2B\mathcal{D}\mathcal{E})d_\alpha^4}{AC - B^2} + 7c^2/6, \quad \text{where } \mathcal{D} = 4 - b_2^2; \mathcal{E} = 9 - b_3^2;$$

which holds true for every $c > d_\alpha$, and thus for $c = d_\alpha$. Consequently

$$d_\alpha^2 \leq -\frac{(A\mathcal{E}^2 + C\mathcal{D}^2 - 2B\mathcal{D}\mathcal{E})d_\alpha^2}{AC - B^2} + 7/6$$

and thus $d < 1$ if and only if

$$\frac{A\mathcal{E}^2 + C\mathcal{D}^2 - 2B\mathcal{D}\mathcal{E}}{AC - B^2} > \frac{1}{6}.$$

equivalently if and only if

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} A & B & \mathcal{D} \\ B & C & \mathcal{E} \\ \mathcal{D} & \mathcal{E} & 1/6 \end{pmatrix} \leq 0.$$

Again it is enough to have

$$K(b_2^2, b_3^2, b_4^2) \equiv \det \begin{pmatrix} A & B & D \\ B & C' & \mathcal{E} \\ \mathcal{D} & \mathcal{E} & 1/6 \end{pmatrix} \leq 0$$

for

$$C \leq C' \equiv 1 + 2b_2^2 + 3b_3^2 + 2b_4^2 + 25 - b_3^2.$$

One now verifies that for $b_3 < 2.60$, $b_2 < (b_3 + 1)^{1/2}$ and $b_4 < \mu(b_2)$

$$\frac{\partial K}{\partial (b_4^2)} > 0$$

so that it would be enough to have

$$K(b_2^2, b_3^2, \kappa^2) \leq 0 \tag{31}$$

where κ denotes the maximum of b_4 for fixed b_2 and b_3 . κ is certainly restricted by $\mu(b_2)$ yet for larger values of b_2 it is restricted by the condition

$$AC' - B^2 \geq 0.$$

Taking this into account, we fix a value for $b_3 > 2.4$ (see [5]) and run over all values of b_2 ranging between ($T^* > 1.78$ [4])

$$1.78 < b_2 < (b_{3+1})^{1/2}$$

and finally get that (31) holds for $b_3 < 2.526$.

We conclude with the following theorem which sums up the best known results.

Theorem 2. *With the notations of Theorem 1 we have the following*

$$\begin{aligned} T_7 > 1.596, \quad T^* = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T_n \geq 1.78 \\ M_7 > 2.15, \quad M^* = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} M_n \geq 2.526. \end{aligned}$$

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Note Added in Proof

D. Hamilton has improved the bound for T^* to 1.8