

An Extension of Becker's Univalence Condition*

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Let $f(z) = \sum_1^\infty a_k z^k$, $a_1 = 1$, be analytic in the unit disc $\Delta := \{z \mid |z| < 1\}$. J. Becker [2, 3, 4] and L. V. Ahlfors [1], in connection with their work on quasiconformal extensions of univalent analytic functions, have shown that the condition

$$\left| c|z|^2 + (1 - |z|^2) \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right| \leq 1, \quad z \in \Delta, \quad (1)$$

with a complex constant c is sufficient for the univalence of f in Δ . As a consequence of certain results concerning subordination chains of multivalent functions in Δ D. J. Hallenbeck and A. E. Livingston [6] were able to generalize (1). The aim of the present paper is to further extend this condition.

Theorem 1. Let $s = \alpha + i\beta$, $\alpha > 0$. Let $f(z)$ be analytic in Δ , $f(0) = f'(0) - 1 = 0$. Assume that for a certain $c \in \mathbb{C}$ and all $z \in \Delta$

$$\left| c|z|^2 + s - \alpha(1 - |z|^2) \left\{ s \left(1 + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right) + (1 - s) \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \right\} \right| \leq M \quad (2)$$

with

$$M = \begin{cases} \alpha|s| + |s + c|(\alpha - 1), & 0 < \alpha < 1, \\ |s|, & \alpha \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

Then $f(z)$ is univalent in Δ .

Note that the case $s = 1$ (with c replaced by $-1 - c$) is (1). The cases $s = 1/p$, $p \in \mathbb{N}$, are in [6].

From Theorem 1 we shall deduce the following interesting Corollary.

Corollary 1. Let $f(z)$ be analytic in Δ , $f(0) = f'(0) - 1 = 0$, and let $\gamma, q \in \mathbb{R}$ be related by

$$0 < \cos \gamma \leq \begin{cases} 1/2, & -1 < q \leq 0, \\ 1/(2 + 4q), & q > 0. \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

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Then f is univalent in Δ if

$$\operatorname{Re} e^{i\gamma} \left\{ 1 + z \frac{f''(z)}{f'(z)} + q \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \right\} > 0, \quad z \in \Delta. \tag{4}$$

If, in addition, $f''(0)=0$, (3) can be replaced by

$$0 < \cos \gamma \leq \begin{cases} 1, & -1 < q \leq 0, \\ 1/(1+2q), & q > 0. \end{cases} \tag{5}$$

The sufficiency of (3) and (5) (for $q=0$) has recently been established by J. Pfaltzgraff [7] and V. Singh (unpublished) respectively. The case $q \in \mathbb{N}$ in (3) is due to D. J. Hallenbeck and A. E. Livingston [6].

Although M. S. Robertson [9] has shown that (3) for $q=0$ cannot be improved, the conditions (3), (5) are not best possible in general. This will be discussed in a forthcoming paper of R. Jankovics.

In the last section we shall consider univalence conditions for functions $f(z) = z + \sum_1^\infty a_k z^{-k}$ analytic in $\Delta' := \{z \mid |z| > 1\}$.

Theorem 2. Let $s = \alpha + i\beta$, $\alpha \geq 1$. Let $f(z) = z + \frac{b}{z} + \dots$ be analytic in Δ' and fulfil

$$\left| i\beta + (1 - |z|^2)\alpha \left\{ (1-s) \left(1 - \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \right) - s \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right\} \right| \leq \alpha|s| - |\beta|(\alpha - 1), \tag{6}$$

$z \in \Delta'$. Then f is univalent in Δ' .

The case $s=1$ is due to J. Becker [3]. Theorem 2 has an interesting limiting case which can be shown to represent a univalence condition too¹:

Corollary 2. Let $f(z) = z + \frac{b}{z} + \dots$ be analytic in Δ' and let

$$(|z|^2 - 1) \left| 1 - \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right| \leq 1, \quad z \in \Delta'. \tag{7}$$

Then $f(z)$ is univalent in Δ' .

For the proof of our Theorems we shall use a variant of Becker's method. Hence we could include statements concerning quasiconformal extensions into \mathbb{C} of those functions f which satisfy somewhat stronger conditions than (2) or (6) as long as we use suitable subordination chains. (7), however, does not arise directly from such a chain and thus it remains an open problem whether, for instance, a function $f(z) = z + \frac{b}{z} + \dots$, with

$$(|z|^2 - 1) \left| 1 - \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right| \leq k < 1, \quad z \in \Delta',$$

admits a quasiconformal extension into \mathbb{C} .

¹ I wish to thank the referee for this remark.

Proof of Theorem 1. The main tool in our development is the following Lemma due to Ch. Pommerenke [8]. Δ_ρ denotes the disc $\{z||z|<\rho\}$.

Lemma 1. *Let $0 < \rho_0 \leq 1$. Let $f(z, t) = a_1(t)z + \dots, a_1(t) \neq 0$, be analytic for each $t \in I := [0, \infty)$ in $z \in \Delta_{\rho_0}$ and locally absolutely continuous in I , locally uniformly with respect to Δ_{ρ_0} . For almost all $t \in I$ suppose*

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} f(z, t) = z f'(z, t) h(z, t), \quad z \in \Delta_{\rho_0}, \tag{8}$$

where $h(z, t)$ is analytic in Δ and satisfies $\operatorname{Re} h(z, t) > 0, z \in \Delta$. If $|a_1(t)| \rightarrow \infty$ for $t \rightarrow \infty$ and if $f(z, t)/a_1(t)$ forms a normal family in Δ_{ρ_0} , then for each $t \in I$ $f(z, t)$ can be continued analytically in Δ and gives an univalent function.

In the proof of Theorem 1 we have to treat the case $c=0$ separately. We postpone this and assume $c \neq 0$. It is easily verified that the condition (2) implies $f(z) \cdot f'(z) \neq 0, 0 < |z| < 1$. For $t \in I$ put formally

$$f(z, t) := f(e^{-st}z) \left\{ 1 - \frac{\alpha}{c} (e^{2t} - 1) \frac{e^{-st} f'(e^{-st}z)}{f(e^{-st}z)} \right\}^s.$$

The two relations $|c+s| \leq |s|$, which follows from (2), and $\operatorname{Re} s > 0$ imply $\alpha/c \notin [0, \infty)$. Hence we can find a $\rho_0^* > 0$ such that with $F(z) = z f'(z)/f(z)$

$$1 - \frac{\alpha}{c} (e^{2t} - 1) F(e^{-st}z) \neq 0, \quad z \in \Delta_{\rho_0^*}, \quad t \in I.$$

Furthermore $|f'(0, t)| = \left| \left\{ \left(1 + \frac{\alpha}{c} \right) e^{-t} - \frac{\alpha}{c} e^t \right\}^s \right|$ which is nonvanishing in I and tends to infinity for $t \rightarrow \infty$ once we have chosen a fixed branch for these numbers. Thus $f(z, t)/f'(0, t)$ forms a normal family of analytic functions in $\Delta_{\rho_0}, \rho_0 = \rho_0^*/2$. A straightforward calculation gives

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} f(z, t) / z f'(z, t) = s \frac{1 + P(e^{-st}z, t)}{1 - P(e^{-st}z, t)} := h(z, t),$$

where

$$P(x, t) = \frac{c}{\alpha} e^{-2t} + 1 + (e^{-2t} - 1) H_s(x)$$

and

$$H_s(z) = s \left(1 + z \frac{f''(z)}{f'(z)} \right) + (1-s) \frac{z f'(z)}{f(z)}. \tag{9}$$

Since $P(z, t)$ is analytic in Δ it remains to show $\operatorname{Re} h(z, t) > 0, z \in \Delta$. This condition is equivalent to $|\alpha P(e^{-st}z, t) + i\beta| \leq |s|, z \in \Delta, t \in I$.

We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\alpha P + i\beta| &\leq (1 - e^{-2t}) \left| \frac{ce^{-2\alpha t} + s}{1 - e^{-2\alpha t}} - \alpha H_s(e^{-st}t) \right| \\
 &\quad + \left| (ce^{-2t\alpha} + s) \frac{1 - e^{-2t}}{1 - e^{-2\alpha t}} - (ce^{-2t} + s) \right| \\
 &= m_1 + m_2,
 \end{aligned}$$

say, (2) implies for $|z| \leq 1$

$$\left| \frac{c|e^{-st}z|^2 + s}{1 - |e^{-st}z|^2} - \alpha H_s(e^{-st}z) \right| \leq \frac{M}{1 - |e^{-st}z|^2} \leq \frac{M}{1 - e^{-2\alpha t}}.$$

From the maximum principle, applied to the function

$$\frac{ce^{-2\alpha t} + s}{1 - e^{-2\alpha t}} - \alpha H_s(e^{-st}z),$$

we obtain

$$m_1 \leq \frac{1 - e^{-2t}}{1 - e^{-2\alpha t}} M.$$

On the other hand

$$m_2 = |c + s| \left| 1 - \frac{1 - e^{-2t}}{1 - e^{-2\alpha t}} \right|.$$

Let $h(t) = \frac{1 - e^{-2t}}{1 - e^{-2\alpha t}}$. From the relations ($t \in I$)

$$\frac{1}{\alpha} < h(t) \leq 1, \quad a > 1,$$

$$1 \leq h(t) < \frac{1}{\alpha}, \quad 0 < \alpha \leq 1,$$

we conclude $m_1 + m_2 \leq |s|$ which is our assertion.

It remains to consider (2) for $c = 0$ which may happen for $\text{Re } s \geq 1$ only. In this case (2) implies

$$\text{Re} \left\{ 1 + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} + \left(\frac{1}{s} - 1 \right) \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \right\} > 0, \quad z \in \Delta.$$

By a theorem of P.J.Eenigenburg *et al.* [5] this condition is sufficient for the univalence (in fact spirallikeness) of f .

For the proof of Corollary 1 we require the following well-known Lemma.

Lemma 2. *Let $p(z) = 1 + a_n z^n + \dots$ be analytic in Δ and let $\text{Re } p(z) > 0, z \in \Delta$. Then*

$$\left| p(z) - 1 - \frac{2|z|^{2n}}{1 - |z|^{2n}} \right| \leq \frac{2|z|^n}{1 - |z|^{2n}}, \quad z \in \Delta.$$

Proof of Corollary 1. Let $s = 1/(q + 1)$ and $H_s(z)$ as in (9). Let $f(z) = z + a_2z^2 + \dots$. Then for

$$p(z) := \frac{e^{i\gamma}H_s(z) - i \sin \gamma}{\cos \gamma} = 1 + \frac{e^{i\gamma}}{\cos \gamma} a_2(s+1)z + \dots$$

we have $p'(0) = 0$ if and only if $f''(0) = 0$. Condition (4) implies that $p(z)$ is analytic in Δ and fulfils $\operatorname{Re} p(z) > 0, z \in \Delta$. With $(c + s) := \frac{2}{n} se^{-i\gamma} \cos \gamma, n = 1, 2$, we obtain from Lemma 2

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \frac{(c + s)|z|^2}{1 - |z|^2} - s(H_s(z) - 1) \right| \\ & \leq s|\cos \gamma| \left\{ \left| \frac{2|z|^{2n}}{1 - |z|^{2n}} - (p(z) - 1) \right| + \left| \frac{2|z|^{2n}}{1 - |z|^{2n}} - \frac{2}{n} \frac{|z|^2}{1 - |z|^2} \right| \right\} \\ & \leq \frac{2s}{n} \frac{|\cos \gamma|}{1 - |z|^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $f(z)$ is univalent in Δ whenever

$$\frac{2}{n} s|\cos \gamma| \leq \begin{cases} s^2 + \frac{2}{n} s|\cos \gamma|(s - 1), & 0 < s \leq 1, \\ s, & s > 1, \end{cases}$$

which is equivalent to (3) and (5) respectively.

Proof of Theorem 2. For $z \in \Delta, t \in I$, let formally

$$\begin{aligned} f(z, t) & := \frac{1}{f(e^{st}/z)} \left\{ 1 - (1 - e^{-2t}) \frac{e^{st}}{z} \frac{f'(e^{st}/z)}{f(e^{st}/z)} \right\}^{-s} \\ & = e^{st} z \{ 1 - 2sbe^{2t(1-s)}z^2 + (2s-1)be^{-2st}z^2 + \dots \} \end{aligned}$$

such that $f(z, t)/f'(0, t)$ can be defined as a normal family of analytic functions in a small disc Δ_{ϵ_0} . We use Lemma 1 to show that $f(z, 0) = \frac{1}{f\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)}$ is univalent

in Δ . Since

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} f(z, t) = s \frac{1 + P(e^{st}/z, t)}{zf'(z, t)} = s \frac{1 - P(e^{st}/z, t)}{1 - P(e^{st}/z, t)}$$

with

$$P(x, t) = (e^{2t} - 1) \left\{ (1 - s) \left(\frac{xf'(x)}{f(x)} - 1 \right) + s \frac{xf''(x)}{f'(x)} \right\}$$

we are left with the inequality

$$|\alpha P(e^{st}/z, t) + i\beta| \leq |s|, \quad z \in \Delta, \quad t \in I. \tag{10}$$

Following the lines of the proof of Theorem 1 one can deduce that (6) implies (10).

Proof of Corollary 2. (7) implies $f(z) \cdot f'(z) \neq 0$, $z \in \Delta'$. Let $\varrho > 1$ be arbitrary but fixed. It will be enough to show that $f_\varrho(z) := f(\varrho z)/\varrho$ is univalent in Δ' . The entity

$$(|z|^2 - 1) \left| 1 - \frac{zf'_\varrho(z)}{f_\varrho(z)} \right|$$

remains bounded for $|z| \rightarrow \infty$ and vanishes on $|z|=1$. Hence it is bounded by a certain constant $M < \infty$ on Δ' . Also

$$\left| 1 - \frac{zf'_\varrho(z)}{f_\varrho(z)} + \frac{zf''_\varrho(z)}{f'_\varrho(z)} \right| \leq \frac{1}{|\varrho z|^2 - 1}, \quad z \in \Delta',$$

by (7). With $s := \varrho^2 M / (\varrho^2 - 1)$ we obtain for $z \in \Delta'$

$$(|z|^2 - 1) \left| \frac{1}{s} \left(1 - \frac{zf'_\varrho(z)}{f_\varrho(z)} \right) - 1 - \frac{zf''_\varrho(z)}{f'_\varrho(z)} + \frac{zf'_\varrho(z)}{f_\varrho(z)} \right| \leq \frac{M}{s} + \frac{|z|^2 - 1}{|\varrho z|^2 - 1} \leq 1$$

which, by Theorem 2, proves the univalence of $f_\varrho(z)$ in Δ' .

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