

# A Generalized Criterion for Starlikeness of Meromorphic Functions

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Received 1 February 2018; Accepted 11 March 2018

## Abstract

*In the present paper, we obtain a generalized criterion for meromorphic starlike functions. We claim that the result obtained here, unifies some known criteria of starlikeness of meromorphic functions.*

**Keywords:** *Analytic function, Meromorphic function, Meromorphic Starlike function.*

**Mathematics Subject Classification:** *Primary 30C45, Secondary 30C80.*

## 1 Introduction

Let  $\Sigma$  be the class of functions of the form

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{z} + \sum_0^{\infty} a_n z^n,$$

which are analytic in the punctured unit disc  $\mathbb{E}_0 = \mathbb{E} \setminus \{0\}$ , where  $\mathbb{E} = \{z : |z| < 1\}$ . A function  $f \in \Sigma$  is said to be meromorphic starlike of order  $\alpha$  if  $f(z) \neq 0$  for  $z \in \mathbb{E}_0$  and

$$-\Re \left( \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \right) > \alpha, \quad (\alpha < 1; z \in \mathbb{E}).$$

The class of such functions is denoted by  $\mathcal{MS}^*(\alpha)$  and write  $\mathcal{MS}^* = \mathcal{MS}^*(0)$  - the class of meromorphic starlike functions.

A function  $f \in \Sigma$  is called meromorphic convex of order  $\alpha$  if  $f'(z) \neq 0$  and

$$-\Re \left( 1 + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right) > \alpha, \quad (\alpha < 1; z \in \mathbb{E}).$$

The class of functions defined above is denoted by  $\mathcal{MC}(\alpha)$ . The class  $\Sigma_\gamma^*(\alpha)$  of  $\gamma$ -meromorphic convex functions of order  $\alpha$  consists of functions  $f(z)$  with  $f(z)f'(z) \neq 0$  satisfying

$$-\Re \left[ (1 - \gamma) \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} + \gamma \left( 1 + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right) \right] > \alpha, \quad (z \in \mathbb{E}),$$

where  $\alpha$  is real number and  $\alpha < 1$ .

Nunokawa and Ahuja [2] have proved the following results.

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $\alpha < 0$ . If*

$$f \in \mathcal{MC} \left( \frac{\alpha(3 - 2\alpha)}{2(1 - \alpha)} \right),$$

then  $f \in \mathcal{MS}^*(\alpha)$

**Theorem 1.2.** *Let  $\alpha < 0$  and  $\gamma \geq 0$ . If*

$$f \in \Sigma_\gamma^* \left( \frac{2\alpha - 2\alpha^2 + \gamma\alpha}{2(1 - \alpha)} \right),$$

then  $f \in \mathcal{MS}^*(\alpha)$

Goyal and Prajapat [3] proved the following results:

**Theorem 1.3.** *If  $f(z) \in \Sigma$  satisfies the following inequality*

$$\left| \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} - \frac{2zf'(z)}{f(z)} \right| < \frac{(1 - \alpha)(3 - \alpha)}{2 - \alpha} \quad (0 \leq \alpha < 1),$$

then  $f(z) \in \mathcal{MS}^*(\alpha)$

**Theorem 1.4.** *If  $f(z) \in \Sigma$  satisfies inequality*

$$\Re \left[ \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \left( \frac{2zf'(z)}{f(z)} - \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} - 1 \right) \right] > -\frac{1}{2},$$

then  $f(z) \in \mathcal{MS}^*$ .

The main objective of the present paper is to obtain a more general criterion for meromorphic starlike functions of certain order  $\lambda$ ,  $0 \leq \lambda < 1$ ,  $\lambda \neq \frac{1}{2}$ . We claim that our main result unifies certain known results implying meromorphic starlikeness.

## 2 Preliminaries

We shall need the following lemma of Miller and Mocanu [1] to prove our main result.

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $\Omega$  be a subset of  $\mathbb{C}^2 \times \mathbb{E}$  ( $\mathbb{C}$  is the complex plane) and let  $\psi : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be a complex function. For  $u = u_1 + iu_2$ ,  $v = v_1 + iv_2$  ( $u_1, u_2, v_1, v_2$  are reals), let  $\psi$  satisfy the following conditions:*

(i)  $\psi(u, v)$  is continuous in  $\Omega$ ;

(ii)  $(1, 0) \in \Omega$  and  $\Re\psi(1, 0) > 0$ ; and

(iii)  $\Re\{\psi(iu_2, v_1)\} \leq 0$  for all  $(iu_2, v_1) \in \Omega$  such that  $v_1 \leq -(1 + u_2^2)/2$ .

Let  $p(z) = 1 + p_1z + p_2z^2 + \dots$ , be regular in the unit disc  $\mathbb{E}$ , such that  $(p(z), zp'(z); z) \in \Omega$ , for all  $z \in \mathbb{E}$ . If

$$\Re[\psi(p(z), zp'(z))] > 0, z \in \mathbb{E},$$

then  $\Re p(z) > 0, z \in \mathbb{E}$ .

## 3 Main Theorem

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $\alpha, \alpha \geq 0, \lambda, 0 \leq \lambda < 1, \lambda \neq \frac{1}{2}$  and  $\beta, 0 \leq \beta \leq 1$ , be given real numbers.*

(i) For  $0 \leq \lambda < \frac{1}{2}$ , if a function  $f \in \Sigma$ ,  $\frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \neq 0$  in  $\mathbb{E}$ , satisfies

$$-\Re \left[ \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \left( 1 + \frac{\alpha zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right) + \alpha\beta \left( 1 - \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right) \right] > M(\alpha, \beta, \lambda), \quad (1)$$

then  $f \in \mathcal{MS}^*(\lambda)$ .

(ii) For  $\frac{1}{2} < \lambda < 1$ , let  $f \in \Sigma$ ,  $\frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \neq 0$  in  $\mathbb{E}$ , satisfy

$$-\Re \left[ \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \left( 1 + \frac{\alpha zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right) + \alpha\beta \left( 1 - \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right) \right] > N(\alpha, \beta, \lambda), \quad (2)$$

then  $f \in \mathcal{MS}^*(\lambda)$ . Here

$$M(\alpha, \beta, \lambda) = [1 - \alpha + \alpha\beta]\lambda - \frac{\alpha(1 - \beta)(1 - \lambda)}{2} - \frac{\alpha(1 - \beta)(\frac{3}{2} - 2\lambda)\lambda^2}{1 - \lambda} - \frac{2\alpha(\frac{1}{2} - \lambda)}{1 - \lambda} [\sqrt{\beta\lambda(1 - \beta)}] + \frac{\alpha\beta\lambda}{2(1 - \lambda)} \quad (3)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 N(\alpha, \beta, \lambda) = & [1 - \alpha + \alpha\beta]\lambda - \frac{\alpha(1 - \beta)(1 - \lambda)}{2} - \frac{\alpha(1 - \beta)(\frac{3}{2} - 2\lambda)\lambda^2}{1 - \lambda} \\
 & + \frac{2\alpha(\frac{1}{2} - \lambda)}{1 - \lambda} [\sqrt{\beta\lambda(1 - \beta)}] + \frac{\alpha\beta\lambda}{2(1 - \lambda)}
 \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

**Proof.** Define a function  $p$  by

$$-\frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} = \lambda + (1 - \lambda)p(z). \tag{5}$$

Then  $p$  is analytic in  $\mathbb{E}$  and  $p(0) = 1$ . A simple calculation yields

$$\begin{aligned}
 & - \left[ \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \left( 1 + \frac{\alpha zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right) + \alpha\beta \left( 1 - \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right) \right] \\
 & = (1 - \alpha + \alpha\beta)[\lambda + (1 - \lambda)p(z)] - \alpha(1 - \beta)[\lambda + (1 - \lambda)p(z)]^2 \\
 & \quad + \alpha(1 - \beta)(1 - \lambda)zp'(z) - \alpha\beta \frac{(1 - \lambda)zp'(z)}{\lambda + (1 - \lambda)p(z)} \\
 & = \psi(p(z), zp'(z); z)
 \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

where,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \psi(u, v; z) = & (1 - \alpha + \alpha\beta)[\lambda + (1 - \lambda)u] - \alpha(1 - \beta)[\lambda + (1 - \lambda)u]^2 \\
 & + \alpha(1 - \beta)(1 - \lambda)v - \alpha\beta \frac{(1 - \lambda)v}{\lambda + (1 - \lambda)u}
 \end{aligned}$$

Let  $u = u_1 + iu_2, v = v_1 + iv_2$ , where  $u_1, u_2, v_1, v_2$  are all real with  $v_1 \leq -(1 + u_2^2)/2$ . Then, we have

$$\Re \psi(iu_2, v_1; z)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= (1 - \alpha + \alpha\beta)\lambda - \alpha(1 - \beta)[\lambda^2 - (1 - \lambda)^2 u_2^2] \\
&\quad + \alpha(1 - \beta)(1 - \lambda)v_1 - \alpha\beta \frac{\lambda(1 - \lambda)v_1}{\lambda^2 + (1 - \lambda)^2 u_2^2} \\
&\leq (1 - \alpha + \alpha\beta)\lambda - \alpha(1 - \beta)[\lambda^2 - (1 - \lambda)^2 u_2^2] \\
&\quad - \frac{\alpha(1 - \beta)(1 - \lambda)(1 + u_2^2)}{2} + \alpha\beta \frac{\lambda(1 - \lambda)(1 + u_2^2)}{2(\lambda^2 + (1 - \lambda)^2 u_2^2)} \\
&= (1 - \alpha + \alpha\beta)\lambda - \alpha(1 - \beta)\lambda^2 - \frac{\alpha(1 - \beta)(1 - \lambda)}{2} \\
&\quad + \alpha(1 - \beta)(1 - \lambda) \left( \frac{1}{2} - \lambda \right) u_2^2 + \alpha\beta \frac{\lambda(1 - \lambda)(1 + u_2^2)}{2(\lambda^2 + (1 - \lambda)^2 u_2^2)} \\
&= (1 - \alpha + \alpha\beta)\lambda - \alpha(1 - \beta)\lambda^2 - \frac{\alpha(1 - \beta)(1 - \lambda)}{2} \\
&\quad + \alpha(1 - \beta)(1 - \lambda) \left( \frac{1}{2} - \lambda \right) t + \alpha\beta \frac{\lambda(1 - \lambda)(1 + t)}{2(\lambda^2 + (1 - \lambda)^2 t)} \\
&= \phi(t) \quad (\text{say}), \quad \text{where } u_2^2 = t \\
&\leq \max \phi(t). \tag{7}
\end{aligned}$$

Writing

$$\begin{aligned}
(1 - \alpha + \alpha\beta)\lambda - \alpha(1 - \beta)\lambda^2 - \frac{\alpha(1 - \beta)(1 - \lambda)}{2} &= a, \\
(1 - \beta)(1 - \lambda) \left( \frac{1}{2} - \lambda \right) &= b
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\frac{\lambda}{1 - \lambda} = c,$$

we have

$$\phi(t) = a + \alpha b t + \frac{\alpha\beta c}{2} \left( \frac{1 + t}{c^2 + t} \right).$$

Clearly,  $\phi(t)$  is continuous at  $t = 0$ . A simple calculation gives

$$\phi'(t) = \alpha b + \frac{\alpha\beta c}{2} \left( \frac{c^2 - 1}{(c^2 + t)^2} \right).$$

and

$$\phi''(t) = \frac{\alpha\beta c(1 - c^2)}{(c^2 + t)^3}$$

Now,  $\phi'(t) = 0$  implies

$$\alpha b + \frac{\alpha\beta c}{2} \left( \frac{c^2 - 1}{(c^2 + t)^2} \right) = 0$$

which gives

$$t = -c^2 \pm \left( \sqrt{\frac{\beta c(1-c^2)}{2b}} \right).$$

Writing  $-c^2 - \sqrt{\frac{\beta c(1-c^2)}{2b}} = t_1$  and  $-c^2 + \sqrt{\frac{\beta c(1-c^2)}{2b}} = t_2$ , we observe that  $t_1 < 0$  and also,  $t_1 < t_2$ .

**Case (i).** When  $0 \leq \lambda < \frac{1}{2}$ , then  $c = \frac{\lambda}{1-\lambda} < 1$ . Since  $\alpha \geq 0$ ,  $0 \leq \beta \leq 1$ , therefore,  $b \geq 0$ . Hence,

$$\phi''(t_1) = -\alpha\beta c(1-c^2) \left( \frac{2b}{\beta c(1-c^2)} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \leq 0$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \max \phi(t) &= \phi(t_1) \\ &= M(\alpha, \beta, \lambda). \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

Let

$$\Omega = \{w : \Re w > M(\alpha, \beta, \lambda)\}.$$

Then from (1) and (6), we have  $\psi(p(z), zp'(z); z) \in \Omega$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{E}$ , but in view of (7) and (8),  $\psi(iu_2, v_1; z) \notin \Omega$ . In the light of Lemma 2.1, from (5), we conclude that  $f \in \mathcal{MS}^*(\lambda)$ .

**Case (ii).** When  $\frac{1}{2} < \lambda < 1$ , we get  $c = \frac{\lambda}{1-\lambda} > 1$ .

$$\phi''(t_2) = \alpha\beta c(1-c^2) \left( \frac{2b}{\beta c(1-c^2)} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \leq 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \max \phi(t) &= \phi(t_2) \\ &= N(\alpha, \beta, \lambda). \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

Let

$$\Omega_1 = \{w : \Re w > N(\alpha, \beta, \lambda)\}.$$

Then from (2) and (6), we have  $\psi(p(z), zp'(z); z) \in \Omega_1$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{E}$ , but in view of (7) and (9),  $\psi(iu_2, v_1; z) \notin \Omega_1$ . By the use of Lemma 2.1, from (5), we obtain that  $f \in \mathcal{MS}^*(\lambda)$ .

## 4 Deductions

Selecting  $\beta = 1$  in Theorem 3.1, we obtain the following result:

**Corollary 4.1.** *For a real number  $\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \geq 0$ , let  $f \in \Sigma$ ,  $\frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \neq 0$  in  $\mathbb{E}$  satisfy the differential inequality*

$$-\Re \left[ (1 - \alpha) \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} + \alpha \left( 1 + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right) \right] > \lambda + \frac{\alpha\lambda}{2(1 - \lambda)}, \quad z \in \mathbb{E},$$

then  $f \in \mathcal{MS}^*(\lambda)$ ,  $0 \leq \lambda < 1$ ,  $\lambda \neq \frac{1}{2}$ .

Taking  $\beta = 0$  in Theorem 3.1, we get the following result:

**Corollary 4.2.** *Suppose that  $\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \geq 0$ ,  $0 \leq \lambda < 1$ ,  $\lambda \neq \frac{1}{2}$  are real numbers and if  $f \in \Sigma$ ,  $\frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \neq 0$  in  $\mathbb{E}$  satisfies the condition*

$$-\Re \left[ \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \left( 1 + \alpha \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right) \right] > (1 - \alpha)\lambda - \alpha \frac{(1 - \lambda)}{2} - \frac{\alpha(\frac{3}{2} - 2\lambda)\lambda^2}{1 - \lambda}, \quad z \in \mathbb{E},$$

then  $f \in \mathcal{MS}^*(\lambda)$ .

Selecting  $\alpha = \beta = 1$  in Theorem 3.1, we obtain the following result:

**Corollary 4.3.** *If  $f \in \Sigma$ ,  $\frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \neq 0$  in  $\mathbb{E}$ , satisfies*

$$-\Re \left( 1 + \frac{zf''(z)}{f'(z)} \right) > \lambda + \frac{\lambda}{2(1 - \lambda)}, \quad z \in \mathbb{E},$$

then  $f \in \mathcal{MS}^*(\lambda)$ ,  $0 \leq \lambda < 1$ ,  $\lambda \neq \frac{1}{2}$ .

## 5 Open Problem

In the present paper, we obtain the sufficient conditions for starlikeness of order  $\lambda$ , ( $0 \leq \lambda < 1$ ,  $\lambda \neq \frac{1}{2}$ ) of meromorphic functions. The problem is yet open for starlikeness of order  $\lambda = \frac{1}{2}$  of meromorphic functions.

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