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# complex analysis

proceedings of the s.u.n.y. brockport conference

edited by  
Sanford S. Miller

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# Complex Analysis

Proceedings of the S.U.N.Y. Brockport Conference

*Edited by*

**Sanford S. Miller**

*State University of New York  
Brockport, New York*



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## PREFACE

The State University of New York Conference on Complex Function Theory was held on June 7, 8, and 9, 1976 at the State University College at Brockport, New York. The main emphasis of the conference was on recent developments in the fields of univalent function theory and the theory of entire functions.

The principal lecturer at the conference was Malcolm S. Robertson, former Unidel Professor of Mathematics at the University of Delaware. Professor Robertson gave two talks on complex powers of univalent functions and an application of subordination theory. There were a total of nineteen other invited lecturers who discussed their recent research in complex function theory.

This volume contains a collection of the papers presented at the conference plus a collection of unsolved problems in function theory that were proposed by the participants.

Funding for this conference was supported by a grant from the State University of New York Conversations in the Disciplines Program and from the Department of Mathematics at the State University College at Brockport. Special thanks are due K. Thomas Finley, Dean of the Division of Science and Mathematics, for his administrative help, and Marie Bell for her secretarial assistance.

Sanford S. Miller

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Convolutions of univalent functions with negative coefficients.

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Approximation of a class of meromorphic functions by rational functions  
on the positive real axis, and error estimates.

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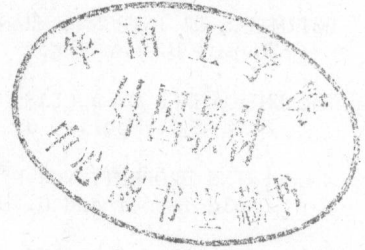
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## COMPLEX POWERS OF $p$ -VALENT FUNCTIONS AND SUBORDINATION

Malcolm S. Robertson

Let  $F(z)$  be regular, univalent and non-vanishing in  $D \{z: |z| < 1\}$  with the normalization  $F(0) = 1$ . Let  $X$  be a set of complex numbers  $x$ . By bounding the argument of  $F(z)$  a suitable set  $X$  is obtained so that  $f(z) = [F(z)]^x$  is univalent in  $D$ . The order  $p = p(x)$  of the circumferentially mean  $p$ -valent function  $f$  is obtained. Properties of the functions  $f(z)$  such as rate of growth, coefficient estimates are studied. Applications are made to functions  $f$  when  $F(z) = \left[ \frac{s(z)}{K(z)} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$ , where  $s(z)$  is starlike and  $K(z)$  is the Koebe function  $z(1-z)^{-2}$ . Application is also made to obtain new results for spirallike functions. The theory of subordination and quasi-subordination is used extensively.

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $S$  denote the class of analytic functions

$g(z) = z + c_2 z^2 + \dots + c_n z^n + \dots$  that are univalent in the unit disk  $D$   $\{z: |z| < 1\}$  and normalized so that  $g(0) = 0, g'(0) = 1$ . By  $S_\beta, S^*$  and  $C$  we denote the sub-classes of  $S$  whose elements  $g(z)$  are respectively  $\beta$ -spirallike, starlike, close-to-convex in  $D$ . In particular  $g \in S_\beta$  if, and only if,  $g$  is analytic in  $D, g(0) = 0, g'(0) = 1$ , and for some real  $\beta$

$$\operatorname{Re} \left[ e^{i\beta} \frac{z g'(z)}{g(z)} \right] > 0, \quad z \in D.$$

Then  $S^* = S_0$ . Furthermore,  $g \in C$  if, and only if, there exists a function  $s(z) \in S^*$  and a complex constant  $a$  such that

$$\operatorname{Re} \left[ a \frac{z g'(z)}{s(z)} \right] > 0, \quad z \in D, \quad g(0) = 0, \quad g'(0) = 1.$$

For each of these subclasses of  $S$  it is well known that the Bieberbach coefficient inequalities hold:

$$|c_n| \leq n, \quad n = 2, 3, \dots \quad (1.1)$$

In this paper we introduce a new class of univalent functions for which the inequalities that correspond to (1.1) are a matter of conjecture.

We shall be concerned with analytic functions  $f(z)$  that can be represented as a complex power,  $f(z) = [F(z)]^x$ , of an analytic function  $F(z)$  that is univalent and does not vanish in  $D$ . We normalize  $F(z)$  so that  $F(0) = 1$  and choose for  $f(z)$  the branch for which  $\log F(0) = 0$ . We seek sufficient conditions on  $F(z)$  and the complex constant  $x$  so that  $f(z) = [F(z)]^x = \exp[x \log F(z)]$  is also univalent or  $p$ -valent in  $D$ .



If  $x$  is real and  $|x| > 1$  there exist univalent functions  $F(z)$  for which  $f(z) = [F(z)]^x$  is not univalent in  $D$ . For example,  $F(z) = (1+z)^2$  is univalent and does not vanish in  $D$ , but for  $x > 1$   $f(z) = (1+z)^{2x}$  is not univalent in  $D$ , nor is  $(1+z)^{-2x}$ . When  $x$  is not real more can be claimed as the following theorem illustrates.

Theorem A. Let  $x$  be any non-real complex constant. Then there exists an analytic function  $F(z)$ , dependent on  $\arg x$  with  $F(0) = 1$ , univalent and not zero in  $D$ , such that  $f(z) = [F(z)]^x$ ,  $f(0) = 1$ , is not  $p$ -valent in  $D$  for any positive integer  $p$ .

Proof: We make use of the fact that the function  $W(z) = (1+z)^{bi}$ ,  $W(0) = 1$ ,  $b$  real, has infinite valency in  $D$ . Indeed,  $W(z)$  takes on the value 1 at the points  $z = \exp(-\frac{2n\pi}{|b|}) - 1$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , which are in  $D$ . If  $b = 0$ ,  $W(z) = 1$  constantly.

Let  $x$  be a fixed complex number with  $\Im x > 0$ . We write  $x = i|x|e^{\gamma i}$ ,  $-\frac{\pi}{2} < \gamma < \frac{\pi}{2}$ . The function  $F(z) = (1+z)^\mu$  is univalent in  $D$  when  $\mu = 1 + e^{-2\gamma i}$  since by Royster's test [19]  $|\mu - 1| = 1$  and  $\mu \neq 0$ . The function  $f(z) = [F(z)]^x = (1+z)^{\mu x}$  has  $\Re(\mu x) = 0$ . Thus  $f(z)$  has infinite valency in  $D$ . If  $\Im x < 0$  we have only to replace  $x$  by  $-x$  and  $\mu$  by  $-\mu$  in this example.  $F(z)$  obviously satisfies all the conditions of the theorem. It depends on  $\mu$  which depends only on the argument of  $x$ . This completes the proof.

At the other extreme there are functions  $F(z)$ , dependent on  $x$  with  $F(0) = 1$ , univalent and not zero in  $D$ , such that  $f(z) = [F(z)]^x$  is also univalent in  $D$  for every  $x$  for which  $\Re x \neq 0$ . For example, if  $F(z) = (1+z)^{\frac{1}{n}}$ ,  $n > 1$ ,  $f(z) = (1+z)^{\frac{x}{n}}$ , then  $f(z)$  is univalent in  $D$  for  $|x - n| \leq n$  and  $n$  may be taken arbitrarily large.