

# Starlikeness of a generalized Bessel function

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## Abstract

This paper investigates three functions  $\mathfrak{f}_{a,\nu}$ ,  $\mathfrak{g}_{a,\nu}$  and  $\mathfrak{h}_{a,\nu}$  in the class  $\mathcal{A}$  consisting of analytic functions  $f$  in the unit disk satisfying  $f(0) = f'(0) - 1 = 0$ . Here  $a \in \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ , and  $\nu$  is real. Each function is related to the generalized Bessel function. The radius of starlikeness of positive order is obtained for each of the three functions. Further, the best range on  $\nu$  is determined for a fixed  $a$  to ensure the functions  $\mathfrak{f}_{a,\nu}$  and  $\mathfrak{g}_{a,\nu}$  are starlike of positive order in the entire unit disk. When  $a = 1$ , the results obtained reduced to earlier known results.

## 1 Introduction

There is a vast literature describing the importance and applications of the Bessel function of the first kind of order  $p$  given by

$$J_p(x) := \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{k! \Gamma(k+p+1)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2k+p},$$

where  $\Gamma$  is the familiar gamma function. Various generalizations of the Bessel function have also been studied. Perhaps a more complete generalization is that given by Baricz in [3]. In this case, the generalized Bessel function takes the form

$${}_aB_{b,p,c}(x) := \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-c)^k}{k! \Gamma\left(ak + p + \frac{b+1}{2}\right)} \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^{2k+p} \quad (1)$$

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for  $a \in \mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ , and  $b, p, c, x \in \mathbb{R}$ . It is evident that the function  ${}_aB_{b,p,c}$  converges absolutely at each  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . This generalized Bessel function was further investigated in [1,2] for  $z \in \mathbb{D} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 1\}$ . It was shown in [2] that the generalized Bessel function  ${}_aB_{b,p,c}$  is a solution of an  $(a+1)$ -order differential equation

$$(D - p) \prod_{j=1}^a \left( D + \frac{2p+b+1-2j}{a} - p \right) y(x) + \frac{cx^2}{a^a 2^{1-a}} y(x) = 0,$$

where the operator  $D$  is given by  $D := x(d/dx)$ . For  $a = 1$ , the differential equation reduces to

$$x^2 y''(x) + bxy'(x) + (cx^2 - p^2 + (1-b)p)y(x) = 0.$$

Thus it yields the classical Bessel differential equation for  $b = c = 1$ . Interesting functional inequalities for  ${}_aB_{b,p,-a^2}$  were obtained in [2], particularly for the case  $a = 2$ .

In [4], Baricz *et. al* investigated geometric properties involving the Bessel function of the first kind in  $\mathbb{D}$  for the following three functions :

$$\begin{aligned} f_\nu(z) &= (2^\nu \Gamma(\nu+1) J_\nu(z))^\frac{1}{\nu}, \\ g_\nu(z) &= 2^\nu \Gamma(\nu+1) z^{1-\nu} J_\nu(z), \\ h_\nu(z) &= 2^\nu \Gamma(\nu+1) z^{1-\frac{\nu}{2}} J_\nu(\sqrt{z}). \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

Each function is suitably normalized to ensure that it belongs to the class  $\mathcal{A}$  consisting of analytic functions  $f$  in  $\mathbb{D}$  satisfying  $f(0) = f'(0) - 1 = 0$ . Here the principal branch is assumed, which is positive for  $z$  positive.

An important geometric feature of a complex-valued function is starlikeness. For  $0 \leq \beta < 1$ , the class of starlike functions of order  $\beta$ , denoted by  $\mathcal{S}^*(\beta)$ , are functions  $f \in \mathcal{A}$  satisfying

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \right) > \beta \quad \text{for all } z \in \mathbb{D}.$$

In the case  $\beta = 0$ , these functions are simply said to be starlike (with respect to the origin). Geometrically  $f \in \mathcal{S}^* := \mathcal{S}^*(0)$  if the linear segment  $tw$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ , lies completely in  $f(\mathbb{D})$  whenever  $w \in f(\mathbb{D})$ . A starlike function is necessarily univalent in  $\mathbb{D}$ .

The three functions given by (2) do not possess the property of starlikeness in the whole disk  $\mathbb{D}$ . Thus it is of interest to find the largest subdisk in  $\mathbb{D}$  that gets mapped by these functions onto starlike domains. In general, the *radius of starlikeness of order  $\beta$*  for a given class  $\mathcal{G}$  of  $\mathcal{A}$ , denoted by  $r_\beta^*$ , is the largest number  $r_0 \in (0, 1)$  such that  $r^{-1}f(rz) \in \mathcal{S}^*(\beta)$  for  $0 < r \leq r_0$  and for all  $f \in \mathcal{G}$ . Analytically,

$$r_\beta^*(\mathcal{G}) := \sup \left\{ r > 0 : \operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{zf'(z)}{f(z)} \right) > \beta, \quad z \in \mathbb{D}_r, f \in \mathcal{G} \right\},$$

where  $\mathbb{D}_r = \{z : |z| < r\}$ .

In [4], Baricz *et. al* obtained the radius of starlikeness of order  $\beta$  for each of the three functions  $f_\nu$ ,  $g_\nu$ , and  $h_\nu$  given by (2). This extends the earlier work of Brown in [7] who obtained the radius of starlikeness (of order 0) for functions  $f_\nu$  and  $g_\nu$ .

For  $a \in \mathbb{N}$ , we consider the following extension of the three functions in (2) involving the generalized Bessel function:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{a,\nu}(z) &:= \left( 2^{a\nu-a+1} a^{-\frac{a(a\nu-a+1)}{2}} \Gamma(a\nu+1) {}_aB_{2a-1,a\nu-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}z) \right)^{\frac{1}{a\nu-a+1}}, \\ g_{a,\nu}(z) &:= 2^{a\nu-a+1} a^{-\frac{a}{2}(a\nu-a+1)} \Gamma(a\nu+1) z^{a-a\nu} {}_aB_{2a-1,a\nu-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}z), \\ h_{a,\nu}(z) &:= 2^{a\nu-a+1} a^{-\frac{a}{2}(a\nu-a+1)} \Gamma(a\nu+1) z^{\frac{1}{2}(1+a-a\nu)} {}_aB_{2a-1,a\nu-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}\sqrt{z}). \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Here the function  $f_{a,\nu}$  is taken to be the principal branch (see section 3). Evidently for  $a = 1$ , these functions are those given by (2) treated by Baricz *et. al* in [4]. Denote by  $r_\beta^*(f)$  to be the radius of starlikeness of order  $\beta$  for a given function  $f$ .

In this paper, we find  $r_\beta^*(f_a)$  when  $f_a$  is either one of the three functions in (3). These are given in Theorem 3.7, Theorem 3.9, and Theorem 3.10 in section 3. Section 4 is devoted to finding the best range on  $\nu$  corresponding to a fixed  $a$  to ensure the functions  $f_{a,\nu}$  and  $g_{a,\nu}$  are starlike of order  $\beta$  in the whole unit disk. These are presented in Theorem 4.1 and Theorem 4.2. When  $a = 1$ , the results obtained reduced to earlier known results.

## 2 Preliminaries

The following two results will be required. First, for  $a = 1$ , the generalized Bessel function (1) is simply written as  $B_{b,p,c} := {}_1B_{b,p,c}$ . Thus

$$B_{b,p,c}(z) := \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-c)^k}{k! \Gamma\left(k + p + \frac{b+1}{2}\right)} \left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^{2k+p}. \quad (4)$$

**Proposition 2.1.** [2, Proposition 2.2] Let  $a \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $b, p, c, \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then

$${}_aB_{b,p,c}(z) = (2\pi)^{\frac{a-1}{2}} a^{-p-\frac{b}{2}} \left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^p \prod_{j=1}^a \left(\frac{z}{2a^{a/2}}\right)^{-\frac{p+j-1}{a}} B_{\frac{b+1-a}{a}, \frac{p+j-1}{a}, c} \left(\frac{z}{a^{a/2}}\right),$$

where  $B_{b,p,c}$  is given by (4).

In [2], the generalized Bessel function was also shown to satisfy the following relations:

$$z \frac{d}{dz} {}_aB_{b,p,c}(z) = p {}_aB_{b,p,c}(z) - c \left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^{1-a} {}_aB_{b,p+a,c}(z),$$

and

$$z \frac{d}{dz} {}_aB_{b,p,c}(z) = \frac{z}{a} {}_aB_{b,p-1,c}(z) - \left(\frac{2p+b-1}{a} - p\right) {}_aB_{b,p,c}(z), \quad (5)$$

which together lead to the following result.

**Proposition 2.2.** [2, Proposition 2.3] Let  $a \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $b, p, c \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ . Then

$$\frac{z}{a} {}_aB_{b,p-1,c}(z) + c \left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^{1-a} {}_aB_{b,p+a,c}(z) = \left(\frac{2p+b-1}{a}\right) {}_aB_{b,p,c}(z).$$

### 3 Radius of starlikeness of generalized Bessel functions

The following preliminary result sheds insights into the zeros of the three functions given by (3).

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $\nu > (a-1)/a$ ,  $a \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then all zeros of  ${}_aB_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}z)$  are real. Further the origin is the only zero of  ${}_aB_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}z)$  in the unit disk  $\mathbb{D}$ .

*Proof.* Proposition 2.1 shows that

$$\begin{aligned} {}_aB_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}z) &= (2\pi)^{\frac{a-1}{a}} a^{-(av+\frac{1}{2})} a^{\frac{a}{2}(av-a+1)} \left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^{av-a+1} \\ &\quad \times \prod_{j=1}^a \left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^{-(\nu-1)-\frac{j}{a}} B_{1,(\nu-1)+j/a,1}(z). \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$B_{1,(\nu-1)+j/a,1}(z) = J_{(\nu-1)+j/a}(z),$$

it readily follows that

$$\begin{aligned} {}_aB_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}z) &= (2\pi)^{\frac{a-1}{a}} a^{\frac{1}{2}(a^2\nu-2av-a^2+a-1)} \left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}(a-1)} \\ &\quad \times J_{(\nu-1)+1/a}(z) J_{(\nu-1)+2/a}(z) \dots J_{\nu}(z). \end{aligned}$$

Now,  $\nu-1+(j/a) \geq \nu-1+(1/a) > 0$ ,  $j=1, \dots, a$ . Further for  $p > -1$ , it is known [12, p. 483] that the zeros of  $J_p$  are all real. If  $j_{p,k}$  denotes the  $k$ -th positive zero of  $J_p$ , it is also known [12, p. 508] that when  $p$  is positive, the positive zeros of  $J_p$  increases as  $p$  increases. Thus we infer that the zeros of  ${}_aB_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}z)$  are all real. Since

$$j_{\nu,1} > j_{\nu-1,1} > \dots > j_{\nu-1+(1/a),1} > j_{0,1} \approx 2.40483,$$

the only zero in  $\mathbb{D}$  occurs at the origin. ■

Theorem 3.1 shows that the function

$$f_{a,\nu}(z) = z \left( 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k \Gamma(av+1) a^{ak}}{k! 2^{2k} \Gamma(ak+av+1)} z^{2k} \right)^{\frac{1}{av-a+1}}$$

has only one zero inside  $\mathbb{D}$  whenever  $\nu-1+(1/a) > 0$ . Thus in this instance, we may take the principal branch for  $f_{a,\nu} \in \mathcal{A}$ . It is also readily verified that the functions  $g_{a,\nu}$  and

$$\begin{aligned} h_{a,\nu}(z) &= z - \frac{\Gamma(av+1)}{1! 2^2 \Gamma(a+av+1)} a^a z^2 + \frac{\Gamma(av+1)}{2! 2^4 \Gamma(2a+av+1)} a^{2a} z^3 + \dots \\ &\quad + (-1)^k \frac{\Gamma(av+1)}{k! 2^{2k} \Gamma(ak+av+1)} a^{ak} z^{k+1} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

are both analytic and belong to the normalized class  $\mathcal{A}$ .

The following is another preliminary result required in the sequel.

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $a \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\nu > -1/a$ . Then*

$$\frac{z {}_aB'_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}z)}{{}_aB_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}z)} = \frac{zJ_{\nu-1}(z)}{J_{\nu}(z)} - (2-a)\nu + 1 - a.$$

*Proof.* Since

$$B_{b,p,1}(z) = \left(\frac{2}{z}\right)^{\frac{b-1}{2}} J_{p+\frac{b-1}{2}}(z),$$

it follows from Proposition 2.1 that

$$\begin{aligned} {}_aB_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(z) = \\ (2\pi)^{\frac{a-1}{a}} a^{-\frac{2av+1}{2}} \left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^{av-a+1} \prod_{j=1}^a a^{\frac{av-a+j}{2}} \left(\frac{2}{z}\right)^{\frac{av-a+j}{a}} J_{\frac{av-a+j}{a}}\left(\frac{z}{a^{a/2}}\right), \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} {}_aB'_{2a-1,av-a,1}(z) = \\ (2\pi)^{\frac{a-1}{a}} a^{-\frac{2av-1}{2}} \left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^{av-a} \prod_{j=1}^a a^{\frac{av-a+j-1}{2}} \left(\frac{2}{z}\right)^{\frac{av-a+j-1}{a}} J_{\frac{av-a+j-1}{a}}\left(\frac{z}{a^{a/2}}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Expanding the above products, a routine calculation shows that

$$\frac{{}_aB'_{2a-1,av-a,1}(z)}{{}_aB_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(z)} = a^{1-\frac{a}{2}} \frac{J_{\nu-1}\left(\frac{z}{a^{a/2}}\right)}{J_{\nu}\left(\frac{z}{a^{a/2}}\right)}.$$

With  $b = 2a - 1$  and  $p = av - a + 1$ , the recurrence relation (5) gives

$$z \frac{d}{dz} {}_aB_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(z) = \frac{z}{a} {}_aB_{2a-1,av-a,1}(z) - (\nu(2-a) + a - 1) {}_aB_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(z).$$

Replacing  $z$  by  $a^{a/2}z$  leads to

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{z {}_aB'_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}z)}{{}_aB_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}z)} &= \frac{a^{a/2}z}{{}_aB_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}z)} \frac{{}_aB'_{2a-1,av-a,1}(a^{a/2}z)}{a} - (2-a)\nu + 1 - a \\ &= \frac{zJ_{\nu-1}(z)}{J_{\nu}(z)} - (2-a)\nu + 1 - a, \end{aligned}$$

which proves the assertion. ■

A result on the modified Bessel function of order  $p$  given by

$$I_p(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k! \Gamma(k+p+1)} \left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^{2k+p}$$

is the final preliminary result required in the sequel.

**Proposition 3.3.** *Let  $\alpha, \nu \in \mathbb{R}$  satisfy  $-1 < \nu < -\alpha$ . Then the equation  $rI'_\nu(r) + \alpha I_\nu(r) = 0$  has a unique root in  $(0, \infty)$ .*

*Proof.* Consider the function

$$q(r) := \frac{rI'_\nu(r)}{I_\nu(r)} + \alpha.$$

It is known from [2, Theorem 3.1(c)] that  $rI'_\nu(r)/I_\nu(r)$  is increasing on  $(0, \infty)$ . Further, the asymptotic properties show that  $rI'_\nu(r)/I_\nu(r) \rightarrow \nu$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$ , and  $rI'_\nu(r)/I_\nu(r) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ . This implies that  $q(r) \rightarrow \nu + \alpha < 0$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$ , and  $q(r) \rightarrow \infty$  for  $r \rightarrow \infty$ . Thus  $q$  has exactly one zero. ■

We also recall additional facts on the zeros of the Dini functions.

**Lemma 3.4.** [12, p. 482] *If  $\nu > -1$  and  $\alpha, \gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ , then the Dini function  $z \mapsto \alpha J_\nu(z) + \gamma zJ'_\nu(z)$  has all its zeros real whenever  $((\alpha/\gamma) + \nu) \geq 0$ . In the case  $((\alpha/\gamma) + \nu) < 0$ , it also has two purely imaginary zeros.*

**Lemma 3.5.** [9, Theorem 6.1] *Let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}, \nu > -1$  and  $\nu + \alpha > 0$ . Further let  $x_{\nu,1}$  be the smallest positive root of  $\alpha J_\nu(z) + zJ'_\nu(z) = 0$ . Then  $x_{\nu,1}^2 < j_{\nu,1}^2$ .*

**Lemma 3.6.** [8, p. 78] *Let  $-1 < \nu < -\alpha$ , and  $\pm i\zeta$  be the single pair of conjugate purely imaginary zeros of the Dini function  $z \mapsto \alpha J_\nu(z) + zJ'_\nu(z)$ . Then*

$$\zeta^2 < -\frac{\alpha + \nu}{2 + \alpha + \nu} j_{\nu,1}^2.$$

We are now ready to present the radius of starlikeness for each function given in (3).

**Theorem 3.7.** *Let  $0 \leq \beta < 1$ , and  $a \in \mathbb{N}$ . If  $\nu > (a-1)/a$ , then  $r_\beta^*(f_{a,\nu}) = j_{\nu,\beta,1}^{a,f}$ , where  $j_{\nu,\beta,1}^{a,f}$  is the smallest positive root of the equation*

$$ra^{a/2}J'_\nu(r) - \left((\nu-1)(1-a)a^{a/2} + \beta(av-a+1)\right)J_\nu(r) = 0. \quad (6)$$

*If  $\nu \in (-1/a, (a-1)/a)$  and*

$$\frac{(av-a+1)(a^{a/2}-\beta)}{2a^{a/2}+(av-a+1)(a^{a/2}-\beta)} > -1, \quad (7)$$

*then  $r_\beta^*(f_{a,\nu}) = i_{\nu,\beta}^{a,f}$ , where  $i_{\nu,\beta}^{a,f}$  is the unique positive root of the equation*

$$ra^{a/2}I'_\nu(r) - \left((\nu-1)(1-a)a^{a/2} + \beta(av-a+1)\right)I_\nu(r) = 0. \quad (8)$$

*Proof.* Differentiating logarithmically, Lemma 3.2 shows that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{zf'_{a,\nu}(z)}{f_{a,\nu}(z)} &= \frac{a^{a/2}}{av-a+1} \frac{z {}_aB'_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}z)}{{}_aB_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}z)} \\ &= \frac{a^{a/2}}{av-a+1} \left( \frac{zJ_{\nu-1}(z)}{J_\nu(z)} - \nu(2-a) + 1 - a \right). \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Since  ${}_1B_{1,\nu,1}(z) = J_\nu(z)$ , the relation (5) leads to the well-known recurrence relation

$$zJ'_\nu(z) = zJ_{\nu-1}(z) - \nu J_\nu(z),$$

and whence (9) reduces to

$$\frac{zf'_{a,\nu}(z)}{f_{a,\nu}(z)} = \frac{a^{a/2}}{a\nu - a + 1} \left( \frac{zJ'_\nu(z)}{J_\nu(z)} - (\nu - 1)(1 - a) \right). \quad (10)$$

With  $j_{\nu,n}$  as the  $n$ -th positive zero of the Bessel function  $J_\nu$ , the Bessel function  $J_\nu$  admits the Weierstrassian decomposition [12, p.498]

$$J_\nu(z) = \frac{z^\nu}{2^\nu \Gamma(\nu + 1)} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( 1 - \frac{z^2}{j_{\nu,n}^2} \right).$$

Thus

$$\frac{zJ'_\nu(z)}{J_\nu(z)} = \nu - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2z^2}{j_{\nu,n}^2 - z^2},$$

which reduces (10) to

$$\frac{zf'_{a,\nu}(z)}{f_{a,\nu}(z)} = a^{a/2} - \frac{a^{a/2}}{a\nu - a + 1} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2z^2}{j_{\nu,n}^2 - z^2}. \quad (11)$$

For  $\nu > (a - 1)/a$  and  $|z| < j_{\nu,n}$ , evidently

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \frac{zf'_{a,\nu}(z)}{f_{a,\nu}(z)} &= a^{a/2} - \frac{a^{a/2}}{a\nu - a + 1} \operatorname{Re} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2z^2}{j_{\nu,n}^2 - z^2} \\ &\geq a^{a/2} - \frac{a^{a/2}}{a\nu - a + 1} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2|z|^2}{j_{\nu,n}^2 - |z|^2} = \frac{|z|f'_{a,\nu}(|z|)}{f_{a,\nu}(|z|)}. \end{aligned}$$

Equality holds for  $|z| = r$ , and by the minimum principle for harmonic functions,

$$\operatorname{Re} \frac{zf'_\nu(z)}{f_\nu(z)} \geq \beta \iff |z| \leq j_{\nu,\beta,1}^{\mathbf{a},\mathbf{f}},$$

where  $j_{\nu,\beta,1}^{\mathbf{a},\mathbf{f}}$  is the smallest positive root of equation (6). Since

$$\nu - \left( (\nu - 1)(1 - a) + \frac{\beta(a\nu - a + 1)}{a^{a/2}} \right) = (a\nu - a + 1) \left( 1 - \frac{\beta}{a^{a/2}} \right) > 0$$

for all  $\nu > (a - 1)/a$ , we infer from Lemma 3.4 and Lemma 3.5 that  $j_{\nu,\beta,1}^{\mathbf{a},\mathbf{f}} < j_{\nu,1} < j_{\nu,n}$ .

Consider next the case  $-1/a < \nu < (a - 1)/a$ . It is known from [4, p. 2023] that for  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $\alpha \geq |z|$ , then

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{z}{\alpha - z} \right) \geq -\frac{|z|}{\alpha + |z|},$$

which in turn implies that

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{z^2}{j_{v,n}^2 - z^2} \right) \geq -\frac{|z|^2}{j_{v,n}^2 + |z|^2}$$

whenever  $|z| < j_{v,1} < j_{v,n}$ .

The expression (11) yields

$$\operatorname{Re} \frac{zf'_{a,v}(z)}{f_{a,v}(z)} \geq a^{a/2} + \frac{a^{a/2}}{av - a + 1} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2|z|^2}{j_{v,n}^2 + |z|^2} = \frac{i|z|f'_{a,v}(i|z|)}{f_{a,v}(i|z|)}.$$

Equality holds for  $|z| = i|z| = ir$ . Hence

$$\operatorname{Re} \frac{zf'_{a,v}(z)}{f_{a,v}(z)} \geq \beta$$

if  $|z| \leq i_{v,\beta}^{a,f}$ , where  $i_{v,\beta}^{a,f}$  is a root of  $i|z|f'_{a,v}(i|z|) = \beta f_{a,v}(i|z|)$ , that is,  $i_{v,\beta}^{a,f}$  is a root of

$$\frac{a^{a/2}}{av - a + 1} \left( \frac{i|z|J'_v(i|z|)}{J_v(i|z|)} - (v-1)(1-a) \right) = \beta.$$

Since  $I_v(z) = i^{-v} J_v(iz)$ , the above equation is equivalent to (8). It also follows from Proposition 3.3 that the root  $i_{v,\beta}^{a,f}$  is unique. Finally, that  $i_{v,\beta}^{a,f} < j_{v,n}$  is a consequence of Lemma 3.6 and assumption (7). Indeed,

$$\left( i_{v,\beta}^{a,f} \right)^2 < -\frac{(av - a + 1)(a^{a/2} - \beta)}{2a^{a/2} + (av - a + 1)(a^{a/2} - \beta)} j_{v,1}^2 < j_{v,1}^2 < j_{v,n}^2,$$

which completes the proof. ■

Interestingly, Theorem 3.7 reduces to earlier known result for  $a = 1$ .

**Corollary 3.8.** [4, Theorem 1(a)] Let  $0 \leq \beta < 1$ . If  $v > 0$ , then  $r_{\beta}^*(f_{1,v})$  is the smallest positive root  $j_{v,\beta,1}^{1,f}$  of the equation

$$rJ'_v(r) - \beta v J_v(r) = 0.$$

In the case  $v \in (-1, 0)$ , then  $r_{\beta}^*(f_{1,v})$  is the unique positive root  $i_{v,\beta}^{1,f}$  of the equation

$$rI'_v(r) - \beta v I_v(r) = 0.$$

The next two results find the radius of starlikeness of order  $\beta$  for the functions  $g_{a,v}$  and  $h_{a,v}$  given in (3).

**Theorem 3.9.** Let  $\beta \in [0, 1)$ ,  $a \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $v > -1/a$ . If  $a(v-1)(a^{a/2} - 1) + a^{a/2} - \beta \geq 0$ , then  $r_{\beta}^*(g_{a,v}) = j_{v,\beta,1}^{a,g}$ , where  $j_{v,\beta,1}^{a,g}$  is the smallest positive root of the equation

$$ra^{a/2} J'_v(r) - \left( (v-1)(1-a)a^{a/2} - a(1-v) + \beta \right) J_v(r) = 0. \quad (12)$$



*Proof.* It follows from (3) that

$$\frac{zg'_{a,\nu}(z)}{g_{a,\nu}(z)} = a(1-\nu) + a^{a/2} \frac{z {}_aB'_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}z)}{{}_aB_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}z)}.$$

As in the proof of Theorem 3.7 (see (9) and (10)), it is readily shown that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{zg'_{a,\nu}(z)}{g_{a,\nu}(z)} &= a(1-\nu) + a^{a/2} \left( \frac{zJ_{\nu-1}(z)}{J_{\nu}(z)} - \nu(2-a) + 1-a \right) \\ &= a(1-\nu) + a^{a/2} \left( \frac{zJ'_{\nu}(z)}{J_{\nu}(z)} - (\nu-1)(1-a) \right) \\ &= a(1-\nu) + a^{a/2} \left[ av + 1 - a - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2z^2}{j_{\nu,n}^2 - z^2} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

This implies that

$$\operatorname{Re} \frac{zg'_{a,\nu}(z)}{g_{a,\nu}(z)} \geq a(1-\nu) + a^{a/2} \left[ av + 1 - a - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2|z|^2}{j_{\nu,n}^2 - |z|^2} \right] = \frac{|z|g'_{a,\nu}(|z|)}{g_{a,\nu}(|z|)}$$

provided  $|z| < j_{\nu,n}$ . Equality holds at  $|z| = r$ . The minimum principle for harmonic functions leads to

$$\operatorname{Re} \frac{zg'_{a,\nu}(z)}{g_{a,\nu}(z)} \geq \beta \iff |z| \leq r_{\beta}^*(g_{a,\nu}).$$

The exact value of  $r_{\beta}^*(g_{a,\nu})$  is obtained from the equation  $rg'_{a,\nu}(r) = \beta g_{a,\nu}(r)$ . From (13), this is equivalent to determining the root of (12).

If  $a(\nu-1)(a^{a/2}-1) + a^{a/2} - \beta \geq 0$ , then Lemma 3.4 shows that all roots of (12) are real. In this case,  $r_{\beta}^*(g_{a,\nu})$  is its smallest positive root  $j_{\nu,\beta,1}^{a,g}$ . Finally, Lemma 3.5 shows that  $j_{\nu,\beta,1}^{a,g} < j_{\nu,1}$ , and whence  $|z| < r_{\beta}^*(g_{a,\nu}) < j_{\nu,1}$ . ■

**Theorem 3.10.** Let  $\beta \in [0, 1)$ ,  $a \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $\nu > -1/a$ . If  $(a^{a/2}-1)(1-a+av) + 2(1-\beta) > 0$ , then  $r_{\beta}^*(h_{a,\nu}) = j_{\nu,\beta,1}^{a,h}$ , where  $j_{\nu,\beta,1}^{a,h}$  is the smallest positive root of the equation

$$a^{a/2}rJ'_{\nu}(r) + \left( (a^{a/2}-1)(1-a+av) - a^{a/2}\nu + 2(1-\beta) \right) J_{\nu}(r) = 0. \quad (14)$$

*Proof.* It follows from (3) that

$$\frac{h'_{a,\nu}(z)}{h_{a,\nu}(z)} = \frac{1+a-av}{2z} + \frac{a^{a/2}}{2\sqrt{z}} \frac{{}_aB'_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}\sqrt{z})}{{}_aB_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}\sqrt{z})},$$

and thus Lemma 3.2 yields

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{zh'_{a,\nu}(z)}{h_{a,\nu}(z)} &= \frac{1+a-av}{2} + \frac{a^{a/2}\sqrt{z}}{2} \frac{{}_aB'_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}\sqrt{z})}{{}_aB_{2a-1,av-a+1,1}(a^{a/2}\sqrt{z})} \\ &= \frac{1+a-av}{2} + \frac{a^{a/2}}{2} \left( \frac{\sqrt{z}J'_{\nu}(\sqrt{z})}{J_{\nu}(\sqrt{z})} - (\nu-1)(1-a) \right) \\ &= 1 - \frac{(av+1-a)(1-a^{a/2})}{2} - a^{a/2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{z}{j_{\nu,n}^2 - z}. \end{aligned}$$

Proceeding similarly as in the proof of Theorem 3.7, it is readily shown that

$$\operatorname{Re} \frac{zh'_{a,\nu}(z)}{h_{a,\nu}(z)} \geq 1 - \frac{(av + 1 - a)(1 - a^{a/2})}{2} - a^{a/2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{|z|}{j_{\nu,n}^2 - |z|} = \frac{|z|h'_{a,\nu}(|z|)}{h_{a,\nu}(|z|)} = \beta$$

if and only if  $|z| \leq r^*(h_{\nu,\beta}) < j_{\nu,n}$ . Here  $r^*(h_{\nu,\beta})$  is the smallest root of the equation  $rh'_{a,\nu}(r)/h_{a,\nu}(r) = \beta$ , that is, a root of

$$\frac{1 + a - av}{2} + \frac{a^{a/2}}{2} \left( \frac{\sqrt{r}J'_\nu(\sqrt{r})}{J_\nu(\sqrt{r})} - (\nu - 1)(1 - a) \right) = \beta,$$

or equivalently, of the equation

$$a^{a/2}rJ'_\nu(r) + \left( (a^{a/2} - 1)(1 - a + av) - a^{a/2}\nu + 2(1 - \beta) \right) J_\nu(r) = 0.$$

Thus by Lemma 3.4,  $r^*(h_{\nu,\beta})$  is the smallest positive root  $j_{\nu,\beta,1}^{a,h}$  of (14) when  $(a^{a/2} - 1)(1 - a + av) + 2(1 - \beta) > 0$ . ■

*Remark 1.* In the case  $a = 1$ , the condition  $a(\nu - 1)(a^{a/2} - 1) + a^{a/2} - \beta = 1 - \beta > 0$  and  $(a^{a/2} - 1)(1 - a + av) + 2(1 - \beta) = 2(1 - \beta) > 0$  both hold trivially for all  $\beta \in [0, 1)$ . Both theorems therefore coincide with the earlier results in [4].

Further, it is of interest to determine the radius of starlikeness  $r_\beta^*(g_{a,\nu})$  in Theorem 3.9 in the event that  $a(\nu - 1)(a^{a/2} - 1) + a^{a/2} - \beta < 0$ , as well as that of  $r_\beta^*(h_{a,\nu})$  in Theorem 3.10 when  $(a^{a/2} - 1)(1 - a + av) + 2(1 - \beta) < 0$ .

## 4 Starlikeness of the generalized Bessel function

In this final section, the best range on  $\nu$  is obtained for a fixed  $a \in \mathbb{N}$  to ensure the functions  $f_{a,\nu}$  and  $g_{a,\nu}$  given by (3) are starlike of order  $\beta$  in  $\mathbb{D}$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** For a fixed  $a \in \mathbb{N}$ , the function  $f_{a,\nu}$  given by (3) is starlike of order  $\beta \in [0, 1)$  in  $\mathbb{D}$  if and only if  $\nu \geq \nu_f(a, \beta)$ , where  $\nu_f(a, \beta)$  is the unique root of

$$(av - a + 1)(a^{a/2} - \beta)J_\nu(1) = a^{a/2}J_{\nu+1}(1)$$

in  $((a - 1)/a, \infty)$ .

*Proof.* For  $\nu > (a - 1)/a$  and  $|z| = r \in [0, 1)$ , it follows from (11) that

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{zf'_{a,\nu}(z)}{f_{a,\nu}(z)} \right) \geq \frac{rf'_{a,\nu}(r)}{f_{a,\nu}(r)} = a^{a/2} - \frac{a^{a/2}}{av - a + 1} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2r^2}{j_{\nu,n}^2 - r^2}.$$

The above inequality holds since  $r < 1$  and it is known ([12, p. 508], [11, p. 236]) that the function  $\nu \mapsto j_{\nu,n}$  is increasing on  $(0, \infty)$  for each fixed  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and whence  $j_{\nu,1} \geq j_{(a-1)/a,1} \geq j_{0,1} \approx 2.40483 \dots$

A computation yields

$$\frac{d}{dr} \left( \frac{rf'_{a,\nu}(r)}{f_{a,\nu}(r)} \right) = -\frac{2a^{a/2}}{av - a + 1} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2rj_{\nu,n}^2}{(j_{\nu,n}^2 - r^2)^2} \leq 0.$$

Hence

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{z f'_{a,\nu}(z)}{f_{a,\nu}(z)} \right) \geq a^{a/2} - \frac{a^{a/2}}{a\nu - a + 1} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{j_{\nu,n}^2 - 1} = \frac{f'_{a,\nu}(1)}{f_{a,\nu}(1)}.$$

The monotonicity property of  $\nu \mapsto j_{\nu,n}$  leads to

$$\frac{f'_{a,\mu}(1)}{f_{a,\mu}(1)} = a^{a/2} - \frac{a^{a/2}}{a\mu - a + 1} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{j_{\mu,n}^2 - 1} \geq a^{a/2} - \frac{a^{a/2}}{a\nu - a + 1} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{j_{\nu,n}^2 - 1} = \frac{f'_{a,\nu}(1)}{f_{a,\nu}(1)},$$

$\mu \geq \nu > -1$ . Since  $\nu \mapsto f'_{a,\nu}(1)/f_{a,\nu}(1)$  is increasing in  $((a-1)/a, \infty)$ , and from consideration of the asymptotic behavior of  $f'_{a,\nu}(1)/f_{a,\nu}(1)$ , evidently  $f'_{a,\nu}(1)/f_{a,\nu}(1) \geq \beta$  if and only if  $\nu \geq \nu_f(a, \beta)$ , where  $\nu_f(a, \beta)$  is the unique root of the equation  $f'_{a,\nu}(1) = \beta f_{a,\nu}(1)$ . From (9), the latter equation is equivalent to

$$a^{a/2} J_{\nu-1}(1) = \left( a^{a/2} (\nu(2-a) + a - 1) + \beta(a\nu - a + 1) \right) J_{\nu}(1).$$

The recurrence relation in Proposition 2.2 now shows that  $\nu_f(a, \beta)$  is a unique root of  $(a\nu - a + 1)(a^{a/2} - \beta)J_{\nu}(1) = a^{a/2} J_{\nu+1}(1)$ . Since all inequalities are sharp, it follows that the value  $\nu_f(a, \beta)$  is best. ■

*Remark 2.* With regards to Theorem 4.1, we tabulate the best value  $\nu$  for a fixed  $\beta$  and  $a$  for which  $f_{a,\nu}$  is starlike of order  $\beta$ . These values are given in Table 1.

	$\beta = 0$	$\beta = 0.5$	$\beta = 0.95$
$a = 1$	$\nu = 0.39001$	$\nu = 0.645715$	$\nu = 2.72421$
$a = 2$	$\nu = 0.659908$	$\nu = 0.706779$	$\nu = 0.781815$
$a = 3$	$\nu = 0.766251$	$\nu = 0.776181$	$\nu = 0.786989$

Table 1 Values of  $\nu$  for  $f_{a,\nu}$  to be starlike

Using (6), we tabulate the radius of starlikeness for  $f_{a,\nu}$  in Theorem 3.7 for a fixed  $\nu = 0.7$ ,  $a = 1, 2, 3$ , and respectively  $\beta = 0$ ,  $\beta = 0.5$ , and  $\beta = 0.95$ . These are given in Table 2. Here the value of  $j_{\nu,1}$  at  $\nu = 0.7$  is  $j_{0.7,1} = 3.42189$ . With reference to Table 1, we expect the radius of starlikeness to be less than 1 whenever  $\nu = 0.7$  is less than the given values of  $\nu$  in Table 1.

	$\beta = 0$	$\beta = 0.5$	$\beta = 0.95$
$a = 1$	$r_0^*(f_{1,0.7}) = 1.44678$	$r_{1/2}^*(f_{1,0.7}) = 1.05621$	$r_{0.95}^*(f_{1,0.7}) = 0.343848$
$a = 2$	$r_0^*(f_{2,0.7}) = 1.12397$	$r_{1/2}^*(f_{2,0.7}) = 0.982365$	$r_{0.95}^*(f_{2,0.7}) = 0.828745$
$a = 3$	$r_0^*(f_{3,0.7}) = 0.577726$	$r_{1/2}^*(f_{3,0.7}) = 0.549716$	$r_{0.95}^*(f_{3,0.7}) = 0.523133$

Table 2 Radius of starlikeness for  $f_{a,\nu}$  when  $\nu = 0.7$

Letting

$$F(r) := \frac{r J'_{\nu}(r)}{J_{\nu}(r)},$$

then (6) takes the form  $F(r) = -\alpha$ , where

$$\alpha := \alpha(a, \beta, \nu) = - \left( (\nu - 1)(1 - a) + \frac{\beta(av - a + 1)}{a^{a/2}} \right).$$

For  $\nu > 0$ , it is known [6] that  $F(r)$  is strictly decreasing on  $(0, \infty)$  except at the zeros of  $J_\nu(r)$ . Differentiating with respect to  $\beta$ , it is clear that  $\alpha$  is decreasing with respect to  $\beta$  so long as  $av - a + 1 > 0$ , and thus  $r_\beta^*$  is decreasing. Further, for a fixed  $\nu < 1$  and  $\beta = 0$ , then  $\alpha$  is monotonically decreasing with respect to  $a$ , that is,  $r_0^*$  is decreasing as a function of  $a$ . However, for  $\beta$  near 1, then  $\alpha$  is no longer monotonic. For instance, choosing  $\nu = 0.7$  and  $\beta = 0.95$ , Table 2 illustrates the fact that  $r_{0.95}^*$  is not monotonic with respect to the parameter  $a$ .

**Theorem 4.2.** Let  $a \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\nu > -1/a$ , and  $j_{\nu,1}$  be the first positive zero of  $J_\nu$ . Then the function  $g_{a,\nu}$  given by (3) is starlike of order  $\beta \in [0, 1)$  in  $\mathbb{D}$  if and only if  $\nu \geq \nu_g(a, \beta)$ , where  $\nu_g(a, \beta)$  is the unique root in  $(\max\{\tilde{\nu}, -1/a\}, \infty)$  of

$$(a(\nu - 1)(a^{a/2} - 1) + a^{a/2} - \beta)J_\nu(1) = a^{a/2}J_{\nu+1}(1),$$

and  $\tilde{\nu} \simeq -0.7745 \dots$  is the unique root of  $j_{\nu,1} = 1$ .

*Proof.* It follows from (13) that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{zg'_{a,\nu}(z)}{g_{a,\nu}(z)} &= a(1 - \nu) + a^{a/2} \left( \frac{zJ'_\nu(z)}{J_\nu(z)} - (\nu - 1)(1 - a) \right) \\ &= a(1 - \nu) + a^{a/2} \left( av - a + 1 - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2z^2}{j_{\nu,n}^2 - z^2} \right), \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{zg'_{a,\nu}(z)}{g_{a,\nu}(z)} \right) \geq \frac{rg'_{a,\nu}(r)}{g_{a,\nu}(r)} = a(1 - \nu) + a^{a/2} \left( av - a + 1 - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2r^2}{j_{\nu,n}^2 - r^2} \right)$$

for  $|z| < j_{\nu,1}$ . The function  $r \mapsto rg'_{a,\nu}(r)/g_{a,\nu}(r)$  is decreasing on  $[0, 1)$ . Since  $j_{\nu,1} > 1$  for  $\nu > \max\{\tilde{\nu}, -1/a\}$ , it follows that  $j_{\nu,n} > 1$  for each  $n$ , and consequently

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{zg'_{a,\nu}(z)}{g_{a,\nu}(z)} \right) &\geq \frac{rg'_{a,\nu}(r)}{g_{a,\nu}(r)} > \frac{g'_{a,\nu}(1)}{g_{a,\nu}(1)} = \\ &= a(1 - \nu) + a^{a/2} \left( av - a + 1 - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{j_{\nu,n}^2 - 1} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Further, for  $\mu \geq \nu > \max\{\tilde{\nu}, -1/a\}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{g'_{a,\mu}(1)}{g_{a,\mu}(1)} &= a \left( a^{a/2} - 1 \right) (\mu - 1) + a^{a/2} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2a^{a/2}}{j_{\mu,n}^2 - 1} \\ &\geq a \left( a^{a/2} - 1 \right) (\nu - 1) + a^{a/2} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2a^{a/2}}{j_{\nu,n}^2 - 1} = \frac{g'_{a,\nu}(1)}{g_{a,\nu}(1)}. \end{aligned}$$

This implies that  $\nu \mapsto g'_{a,\nu}(1)/g_{a,\nu}(1)$  is increasing on  $(\max\{\tilde{\nu}, -1/a\}, \infty)$ .

Thus

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{zg'_{a,\nu}(z)}{g_{a,\nu}(z)} \right) > \frac{g'_{a,\nu}(1)}{g_{a,\nu}(1)} \geq \beta$$

if and only if  $\nu \geq \nu_g(a, \beta)$ , where  $\nu_g(a, \beta)$  is the unique root of  $g'_{a,\nu}(1) = \beta g_{a,\nu}(1)$ , or equivalently,

$$a(1 - \nu) + a^{a/2} \left( \frac{J'_\nu(1)}{J_\nu(1)} - (\nu - 1)(1 - a) \right) = \beta.$$

Finally, Proposition 2.2 implies that  $\nu_g(a, \beta)$  is a unique root of

$$(a(\nu - 1)(a^{a/2} - 1) + a^{a/2} - \beta)J_\nu(1) = a^{a/2}J_{\nu+1}(1). \quad \blacksquare$$

*Remark 3.* The best value  $\nu$  obtained from Theorem 4.2 for a fixed  $\beta$  and  $a$  for which  $g_{a,\nu}$  is starlike of order  $\beta$  is given in Table 3.

	$\beta = 0$	$\beta = 0.5$	$\beta = 0.95$
$a = 1$	$\nu = -0.340092$	$\nu = 0.122499$	$\nu = 9.02272$
$a = 2$	$\nu = 0.39002$	$\nu = 0.586273$	$\nu = 0.772587$
$a = 3$	$\nu = 0.714616$	$\nu = 0.751407$	$\nu = 0.784626$

Table 3 Values of  $\nu$  for  $g_{a,\nu}$  to be starlike

The radius of starlikeness for  $g_{a,\nu}$  drawn from Theorem 3.9 is tabulated in Table 4 for a fixed  $\nu = 0.7$ ,  $a = 1, 2, 3$ , and respectively  $\beta = 0$ ,  $\beta = 0.5$  and  $\beta = 0.95$ . Here the radius of starlikeness is expectedly less than 1 whenever  $\nu = 0.7$  is less than the given values of  $\nu$  in Table 3. A similar situation occurs as for the function  $f_{a,\nu}$  with regard to the monotonicity of the radius of starlikeness with respect to either parameter  $\beta$  or  $a$ .

	$\beta = 0$	$\beta = 0.5$	$\beta = 0.95$
$a = 1$	$r_0^*(g_{1,0.7}) = 1.68326$	$r_{1/2}^*(g_{1,0.7}) = 1.24519$	$r_{0.95}^*(g_{1,0.7}) = 0.410407$
$a = 2$	$r_0^*(g_{2,0.7}) = 1.44678$	$r_{1/2}^*(g_{2,0.7}) = 1.1867$	$r_{0.95}^*(g_{2,0.7}) = 0.856647$
$a = 3$	$r_0^*(g_{3,0.7}) = 0.939782$	$r_{1/2}^*(g_{3,0.7}) = 0.763126$	$r_{0.95}^*(g_{3,0.7}) = 0.549716$

Table 4 The radius of starlikeness for  $g_{a,\nu}$  when  $\nu = 0.7$

*Remark 4.* For  $a = 1$ , Theorem 4.1 and Theorem 4.2, respectively reduces to Theorem 1 and Theorem 2 in [5].

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