



Several Properties of a Class of Generalized Harmonic Mappings

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Abstract

We call the solution of a kind of second order homogeneous partial differential equation as real kernel α -harmonic mappings. In this paper, the representation theorem, the Lipschitz continuity, the univalence and the related problems of the real kernel α -harmonic mappings are explored.

Keywords Weighted Laplacian operator · Univalence · Polyharmonic mappings · Lipschitz continuity · Gauss hypergeometric function

Mathematics Subject Classification Primary 30C45; Secondary 33C05 · 30B10

1 Introduction

Let \mathbb{D} be the open unit disk and \mathbb{T} the unit circle. For $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and $z \in \mathbb{D}$, let

$$T_\alpha = -\frac{\alpha^2}{4}(1 - |z|^2)^{-\alpha-1} + \frac{\alpha}{2}(1 - |z|^2)^{-\alpha-1} \left(z \frac{\partial}{\partial z} + \bar{z} \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} \right) + (1 - |z|^2)^{-\alpha} \Delta$$

be the second order elliptic partial differential operator, where Δ is the usual complex Laplacian operator

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$$\Delta := 4 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z \partial \bar{z}} = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}.$$

The corresponding partial differential equation is

$$T_\alpha(u) = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{D}. \tag{1.1}$$

The associated Dirichlet boundary value problem is

$$\begin{cases} T_\alpha(u) = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{D}, \\ u = u^* & \text{on } \mathbb{T}. \end{cases} \tag{1.2}$$

Here, the boundary data $u^* \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{T})$ is a distribution on the boundary of \mathbb{D} , and the boundary condition in (1.2) is interpreted in the distributional sense that $u_r \rightarrow u^*$ in $\mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{T})$ as $r \rightarrow 1^-$, where

$$u_r(e^{i\theta}) = u(re^{i\theta}), \quad e^{i\theta} \in \mathbb{T},$$

for $r \in [0, 1)$. In [24], Olofsson proved that, for the parameter $\alpha > -1$, if a function $u \in C^2(\mathbb{D})$ satisfies (1.1) with $\lim_{r \rightarrow 1^-} u_r = u^* \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{T})$, then it has the form of Poisson type integral

$$u(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} K_\alpha(z e^{-i\tau}) u^*(e^{i\tau}) d\tau, \quad \text{for } z \in \mathbb{D}, \tag{1.3}$$

where

$$K_\alpha(z) = c_\alpha \frac{(1 - |z|^2)^{\alpha+1}}{|1 - z|^{\alpha+2}}, \tag{1.4}$$

$c_\alpha = \Gamma^2(\alpha/2 + 1) / \Gamma(1 + \alpha)$ and $\Gamma(s) = \int_0^\infty t^{s-1} e^{-t} dt$ for $s > 0$ is the standard Gamma function. If $\alpha \leq -1$, $u \in C^2(\mathbb{D})$ satisfies (1.1), and the boundary limit $u^* = \lim_{r \rightarrow 1^-} u_r$ exists in $\mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{T})$, then $u(z) = 0$ for all $z \in \mathbb{D}$. So, in the following of this paper, we always assume that $\alpha > -1$.

For $c \neq 0, -1, -2, \dots$, the Gauss hypergeometric function is defined by the series

$$F(a, b; c; x) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{(a)_n (b)_n}{(c)_n} \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

for $|x| < 1$, and has a continuation to the complex plane with branch points at 1 and ∞ , where $(a)_0 = 1$ and $(a)_n = a(a + 1) \dots (a + n - 1)$ for $n = 1, 2, \dots$ are the Pochhammer symbols. Obviously, for $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, $(a)_n = \Gamma(a + n) / \Gamma(a)$. It is easily to verified that

$$\frac{d}{dx} F(a, b; c; x) = \frac{ab}{c} F(a + 1, b + 1; c + 1; x). \tag{1.5}$$

Furthermore, it holds that (cf. [3])

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} F(a, b; c; x) = \frac{\Gamma(c)\Gamma(c - a - b)}{\Gamma(c - a)\Gamma(c - b)} \tag{1.6}$$

if $Re(c - a - b) > 0$.

The following Lemma 1.1 involves the determination of monotonicity of Gauss hypergeometric functions.

Lemma 1.1 [24] *Let $c > 0$, $a \leq c$, $b \leq c$ and $ab \leq 0$ ($ab \geq 0$). Then the function $F(a, b; c; x)$ is decreasing (increasing) on $x \in (0, 1)$.*

The following result of [24] is the homogeneous expansion of solutions of (1.1).

Theorem 1.2 [24] *Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and $u \in C^2(\mathbb{D})$. Then u satisfies (1.1) if and only if it has a series expansion of the form*

$$u(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k F\left(-\frac{\alpha}{2}, k - \frac{\alpha}{2}; k + 1; |z|^2\right) z^k + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_{-k} F\left(-\frac{\alpha}{2}, k - \frac{\alpha}{2}; k + 1; |z|^2\right) \bar{z}^k, \quad z \in \mathbb{D}, \tag{1.7}$$

for some sequence $\{c_k\}_{-\infty}^{\infty}$ of complex number satisfying

$$\limsup_{|k| \rightarrow \infty} |c_k|^{\frac{1}{|k|}} \leq 1. \tag{1.8}$$

In particular, the expansion (1.7), subject to (1.8), converges in $C^\infty(\mathbb{D})$, and every solution u of (1.1) is C^∞ -smooth in \mathbb{D} .

Let

$$v(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k z^k + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_{-k} \bar{z}^k, \quad z \in \mathbb{D}. \tag{1.9}$$

It is obvious that $v(z)$ is a harmonic mapping, i.e., $\Delta v = 0$. We observe that $u(z)$ of (1.7) and $v(z)$ have same coefficient sequence $\{c_k\}_{-\infty}^{\infty}$. Actually, if $\alpha = 0$, then $u(z) = v(z)$.

Observe that the kernel K_α in (1.4) is real. We call u of (1.3) or (1.7) as **real kernel α -harmonic mappings**. Furthermore, suppose $u(z)$ and $v(z)$ have the expansions of (1.7) and (1.9), respectively. We call $v(z)$ as **the corresponding harmonic mapping** of $u(z)$. Conversely, we call $u(z)$ as **the corresponding real kernel α -harmonic mapping** of $v(z)$.

If we take $\alpha = 2(p - 1)$, then a real kernel α -harmonic mapping u is polyharmonic (or p -harmonic), where $p \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$ (cf. [1, 2, 5, 6, 11, 13, 15, 27]). In particular, if $\alpha = 0$, then u is harmonic (cf. [10, 18–20]). Thus, the real kernel α -harmonic

mapping is a kind of generalization of classical harmonic mapping. Furthermore, by Olofsson [25], we know that it is related to standard weighted harmonic mappings. For the related discussion on standard weighted harmonic mappings, see [8, 16, 17, 23].

For the real kernel α -harmonic mappings, the Schwarz–Pick type estimates and coefficient estimates are obtained in [7]; the starlikeness, convexity and Landau type theorem are studied in [22]; the sharp Heinz type inequality is established and the extremal functions of Schwartz type lemma are explored in [21]; the Lipschitz continuity with respect to the distance ratio metric is proved in [14]. In [12], using the properties of the real kernel α -harmonic mappings, the authors established some Schwarz type lemmas for mappings satisfying a class of inhomogeneous biharmonic Dirichlet problem.

In this paper, we continue to study the properties of the real kernel α -harmonic mappings. The main idea of this paper is that by establishing the relationship between harmonic mapping and the corresponding real kernel α -harmonic mapping, we use the harmonic mapping to characterize the corresponding real kernel α -harmonic mapping. In Sect. 2, for a nonnegative even number α , we get an explicit representation theorem which determines the relation between the real kernel α -harmonic mapping and the corresponding harmonic mapping. As its application, in Sect. 3, we show that the Lipschitz continuity of a real kernel α -harmonic mapping is determined by the corresponding harmonic mapping. In Sect. 4, for a subclass of the real kernel α -harmonic mappings, we discuss its univalence and explore its Radó–Kneser–Choquet type theorem. In Sect. 5, we explore the influence of parameters α on the image area of the real kernel α -harmonic mappings.

2 Representation Theorem

Theorem 2.1 *Let $v(z) = h(z) + \overline{g(z)} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k z^k + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_{-k} \bar{z}^k$ be a harmonic mapping defined on the unit disk \mathbb{D} . If $\frac{\alpha}{2} = p - 1$ is a nonnegative integer, then the corresponding real kernel α -harmonic mapping of $v(z)$ can be represented by*

$$u(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} |z|^{2n} \frac{(1-p)_n}{n!} (I_n + \overline{J_n}), \quad (2.1)$$

where I_n and J_n satisfy the recurrence formulas

$$I_n = I_{n-1} - p \frac{\int_0^z z^{n-1} I_{n-1} dz}{z^n}, \quad (2.2)$$

$$J_n = J_{n-1} - p \frac{\int_0^z z^{n-1} J_{n-1} dz}{z^n} \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, p-1, \quad (2.3)$$

$I_0 = h(z)$, and $J_0 = g(z)$.

Proof Let $H(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k F(-\frac{\alpha}{2}, k - \frac{\alpha}{2}; k + 1; |z|^2)z^k$ and $G(z) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \overline{c_{-k}} F(-\frac{\alpha}{2}, k - \frac{\alpha}{2}; k + 1; |z|^2)z^k$. Then by the assumption and (1.7), we have

$$u(z) = H(z) + \overline{G(z)}. \tag{2.4}$$

When $\frac{\alpha}{2} = p - 1$, rewrite $H(z)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} H(z) &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k F(1 - p, k + 1 - p; k + 1; |z|^2)z^k \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k z^k \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - p)_n (k + 1 - p)_n}{(k + 1)_n} \frac{|z|^{2n}}{n!} \right) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k z^k \left(\sum_{n=0}^{p-1} \frac{(1 - p)_n (k + 1 - p)_n}{(k + 1)_n} \frac{|z|^{2n}}{n!} \right) \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} |z|^{2n} \frac{(1 - p)_n}{n!} I_n, \end{aligned} \tag{2.5}$$

where

$$I_n = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(k + 1 - p)_n}{(k + 1)_n} c_k z^k.$$

Because

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{(k + 1 - p)_n}{(k + 1)_n} &= \frac{(k + 1 - p)_{n-1} (k + n - p)}{(k + 1)_{n-1} (k + n)} \\ &= \frac{(k + 1 - p)_{n-1}}{(k + 1)_{n-1}} - \frac{p}{k + n} \frac{(k + 1 - p)_{n-1}}{(k + 1)_{n-1}}, \end{aligned}$$

we can get

$$\begin{aligned} I_n &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(k + 1 - p)_{n-1}}{(k + 1)_{n-1}} c_k z^k - \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{p}{k + n} \frac{(k + 1 - p)_{n-1}}{(k + 1)_{n-1}} c_k z^k \\ &= I_{n-1} - p \frac{\int_0^z z^{n-1} I_{n-1} dz}{z^n}. \end{aligned}$$

This is (2.2).

Similarly, we can get

$$G(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{p-1} |z|^{2n} \frac{(1 - p)_n}{n!} J_n, \tag{2.6}$$

where J_n is defined as in (2.3). Therefore, Eq. (2.1) follows from Eqs. (2.4)–(2.6). \square

Example 2.1 From the recurrence formula (2.1), we have the following:

(i) When $\alpha = 0$, i.e. $p = 1$,

$$u(z) = v(z);$$

(ii) When $\alpha = 2$, i.e. $p = 2$,

$$\begin{aligned} u(z) &= h + \bar{g} - |z|^2 \left(h - 2 \frac{\int_0^z h(z) dz}{z} + \overline{g - 2 \frac{\int_0^z g(z) dz}{z}} \right) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k z^k + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_{-k} \bar{z}^k - |z|^2 \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k \frac{k-1}{k+1} z^k + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_{-k} \frac{k-1}{k+1} \bar{z}^k \right); \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

(iii) When $\alpha = 4$, i.e. $p = 3$,

$$\begin{aligned} u(z) &= h + \bar{g} - 2|z|^2 \left(h - 3 \frac{\int_0^z h(z) dz}{z} + \overline{g - 3 \frac{\int_0^z g(z) dz}{z}} \right) \\ &\quad + |z|^4 \left(h - 3 \frac{\int_0^z h(z) dz}{z} - 3 \frac{\int_0^z zh(z) dz}{z^2} + 9 \frac{\int_0^z \int_0^z h(z) dz dz}{z^2} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \overline{g - 3 \frac{\int_0^z g(z) dz}{z} - 3 \frac{\int_0^z zg(z) dz}{z^2} + 9 \frac{\int_0^z \int_0^z g(z) dz dz}{z^2}} \right) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k z^k + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_{-k} \bar{z}^k - 2|z|^2 \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k \frac{k-2}{k+1} z^k + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_{-k} \frac{k-2}{k+1} \bar{z}^k \right) \\ &\quad + |z|^4 \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k \frac{(k-1)(k-2)}{(k+1)(k+2)} z^k + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_{-k} \frac{(k-1)(k-2)}{(k+1)(k+2)} \bar{z}^k \right). \end{aligned}$$

3 Lipschitz Continuity

Theorem 3.1 *Let $u(z)$ be the corresponding real kernel α -harmonic mapping of $v(z) = h + \bar{g}$ on the unit disk \mathbb{D} . If $v(z)$ is Lipschitz continuous on the unit disk \mathbb{D} and $\frac{\alpha}{2} = p - 1$ is a nonnegative integer, then u is Lipschitz continuous on the unit disk \mathbb{D} as well.*

Proof By the assumption and (2.1), it is sufficient to prove that I_n and J_n are Lipschitz continuous on the unit disk \mathbb{D} for $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, p - 1$. In the following, we just prove the Lipschitz continuity of I_n . The case of J_n is similar.

Observe that $I_0 = h(z)$ is holomorphic on \mathbb{D} . Then by the recurrence formula (2.2), it is easy to see that all I_n are holomorphic on \mathbb{D} . It follows that all I'_n are holomorphic

on \mathbb{D} too, where

$$I'_n = I'_{n-1} - p \frac{z^n I_{n-1} - n \int_0^z z^{n-1} I_{n-1} dz}{z^{n+1}}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, p - 1. \tag{3.1}$$

Taking account of the maximum modulus principle of holomorphic functions, from Eqs. (2.2) and (3.1), we get

$$\sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I_n| \leq \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I_{n-1}| + p \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I_{n-1}| = (p + 1) \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I_{n-1}|$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I'_n| &\leq \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I'_{n-1}| + p \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I_{n-1}| + np \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I_{n-1}| \\ &= \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I'_{n-1}| + (n + 1)p \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I_{n-1}|, \end{aligned}$$

respectively. It follows that

$$\sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I_n| \leq (p + 1)^n \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I_0|$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I'_n| &\leq \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I'_{n-1}| + (n + 1)p \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I_{n-1}| \\ &\leq \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I'_{n-2}| + np \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I_{n-2}| + (n + 1)p \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I_{n-1}| \\ &\leq \dots \\ &\leq \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I'_0| + p \sum_{i=1}^n (i + 1) \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I_{i-1}| \\ &\leq \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I'_0| + p \sum_{i=1}^n (i + 1)(p + 1)^{i-1} \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I_0|. \end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

Because $v = h + \bar{g}$ is Lipschitz, there exists a constant M such that

$$|h'| = |I'_0| \leq M \tag{3.3}$$

for $z \in \mathbb{D}$. It follows that

$$\sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I_0| = \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |h| \leq M. \tag{3.4}$$

Therefore, by inequalities (3.2)–(3.4), we get that there exists a constant $C = C(M, p, n)$, such that

$$\sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |I'_n| \leq \left(1 + p \sum_{i=1}^n (i+1)(p+1)^{i-1} \right) M =: C$$

for $n = 1, 2, \dots, p - 1$. It means that I_n is Lipschitz continuous on \mathbb{D} . □

4 Univalence of a Subclass of Real Kernel α -Harmonic Mappings

In the rest of this paper, we use the following notations. Let $\alpha > -1$, $z = re^{i\theta}$, and

$$\begin{aligned} t &= |z|^2 = r^2, \\ F &= F_k = F\left(-\frac{\alpha}{2}, k - \frac{\alpha}{2}; k + 1; t\right), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, \\ F_t &= F_{k,t} = F_{k,t}\left(-\frac{\alpha}{2}, k - \frac{\alpha}{2}; k + 1; t\right) = \frac{dF_k}{dt} = \frac{dF}{dt}. \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, let

$$F_k(1) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 1^-} F\left(-\frac{\alpha}{2}, k - \frac{\alpha}{2}; k + 1; t\right).$$

Then by (1.6), we have

$$F_k(1) = \frac{\Gamma(k+1)\Gamma(1+\alpha)}{\Gamma(k+1+\frac{\alpha}{2})\Gamma(1+\frac{\alpha}{2})}. \tag{4.1}$$

Lemma 4.1 *Let r_n and s_n ($n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$) be real numbers, and let the power series*

$$R(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_n x^n \quad \text{and} \quad S(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} s_n x^n$$

be convergent for $|x| < r$, ($r > 0$) with $s_n > 0$ for all n . If the non-constant sequence $\{r_n/s_n\}$ is increasing (decreasing) for all n , then the function $x \mapsto R(x)/S(x)$ is strictly increasing (resp. decreasing) on $(0, r)$.

Lemma 4.1 is basically due to [4] (see also [28]) and in this form with a general setting was stated in [26] along with many applications which were later adopted by a number of researchers.

Lemma 4.2 [22] *Let $\frac{\alpha}{2} \in (0, 1)$. Then it holds that*

$$(1) \quad \frac{F_k}{F_1} \leq 1 \text{ for } k = 1, 2, 3, \dots \text{ and } t \in [0, 1);$$

$$(2) \frac{|F_{k,t}|}{F_1} < \frac{(k - \frac{\alpha}{2}) \Gamma(k + 1) \Gamma(2 + \frac{\alpha}{2})}{2\Gamma(k + 1 + \frac{\alpha}{2})} \text{ for } k = 1, 2, 3, \dots \text{ and } t \in (0, 1).$$

Theorem 4.3 If $\alpha \in (0, 2]$, $c_{-k} \in (-N, N)$, where

$$N = \frac{\alpha}{2 \left(\frac{(k - \frac{\alpha}{2}) \Gamma(k + 1) \Gamma(2 + \frac{\alpha}{2})}{\Gamma(k + 1 + \frac{\alpha}{2})} + k \right)}, \tag{4.2}$$

then the real kernel α -harmonic mapping

$$u(z) = F_1 z + c_{-k} F_k \bar{z}^k, \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, \tag{4.3}$$

is sense-preserving univalent in \mathbb{D} .

Proof We divide the proof into two steps.

First step: Formula (4.3) implies that

$$u_z = F_1 + F_{1,t} t + c_{-k} F_{k,t} \bar{z}^{k+1}, \quad u_{\bar{z}} = F_{1,t} z^2 + c_{-k} (F_{k,t} z \bar{z}^k + k F_k \bar{z}^{k-1}).$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} |u_z| - |u_{\bar{z}}| &\geq F_1 - |F_{1,t} t| - |c_{-k} F_{k,t} \bar{z}^{k+1}| \\ &\quad - |F_{1,t} z^2| - |c_{-k} F_{k,t} z \bar{z}^k| - k |c_{-k} F_k \bar{z}^{k-1}| \\ &> F_1 - |F_{1,t}| - |c_{-k}| |F_{k,t}| - |F_{1,t}| - |c_{-k}| |F_{k,t}| - k |c_{-k}| |F_k| \\ &= F_1 \left[1 - \frac{2|F_{1,t}|}{F_1} - |c_{-k}| \left(\frac{2|F_{k,t}|}{F_1} + k \frac{|F_k|}{F_1} \right) \right] \\ &> F_1 \left[1 - \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2} \right) - |c_{-k}| \left(\frac{(k - \frac{\alpha}{2}) \Gamma(k + 1) \Gamma(2 + \frac{\alpha}{2})}{\Gamma(k + 1 + \frac{\alpha}{2})} + k \right) \right] > 0 \end{aligned}$$

for $c_{-k} \in (-N, N)$. The third inequality of the above holds because of Lemma 4.2. Therefore, $u(z)$ is sense-preserving.

Second step: Let $c_{-k} = |c_{-k}| e^{i\beta}$. By assumption, we have $\beta = 0$ or π . Let $z = r e^{i\theta}$ and $u(z) = R e^{i\varphi}$. Rewrite $u(z)$ of (4.3) as

$$\begin{aligned} u(z) &= F_1 r e^{i\theta} + |c_{-k}| F_k r^k e^{i(\beta - k\theta)} \\ &= F_1 r \cos \theta + |c_{-k}| F_k r^k \cos(\beta - k\theta) + i(F_1 r \sin \theta + |c_{-k}| F_k r^k \sin(\beta - k\theta)). \end{aligned} \tag{4.4}$$

Then

$$\tan \varphi = \frac{F_1 r \sin \theta + |c_{-k}| F_k r^k \sin(\beta - k\theta)}{F_1 r \cos \theta + |c_{-k}| F_k r^k \cos(\beta - k\theta)}, \tag{4.5}$$

where φ is the argument of $u(z)$. It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{d\theta}(\tan \varphi) &= \frac{d}{d\theta} \left(\frac{F_1 r \sin \theta + |c_{-k}| F_k r^k \sin(\beta - k\theta)}{F_1 r \cos \theta + |c_{-k}| F_k r^k \cos(\beta - k\theta)} \right) \\ &= \frac{F_1^2 - |c_{-k}|^2 F_k^2 r^{2(k-1)} k - (k-1) |c_{-k}| F_1 F_k r^{k-1} \cos(\beta - (k+1)\theta)}{[F_1 \cos \theta + |c_{-k}| F_k r^{k-1} \cos(\beta - k\theta)]^2} \\ &\geq \frac{F_1^2 - |c_{-k}|^2 F_k^2 r^{2(k-1)} k - (k-1) |c_{-k}| F_1 F_k r^{k-1}}{[F_1 \cos \theta + |c_{-k}| F_k r^{k-1} \cos(\beta - k\theta)]^2} \\ &= \frac{(F_1 + |c_{-k}| F_k r^{k-1})(F_1 - |c_{-k}| k F_k r^{k-1})}{[F_1 \cos \theta + |c_{-k}| F_k r^{k-1} \cos(\beta - k\theta)]^2} > 0 \end{aligned} \quad (4.6)$$

for $|c_{-k}| < \frac{1}{k}$. The last inequality of the above holds because of Lemma 4.2(1). That is to say, $\tan \varphi$ is strictly increasing with respect to θ . So is φ , too.

In the following we divide into two cases to discuss.

Case 1 $\beta = 0$. It follows from (4.5) that

$$\cot \varphi = \frac{\cos \theta + |c_{-k}| \frac{F_k}{F_1} r^{k-1} \cos k\theta}{\sin \theta - |c_{-k}| \frac{F_k}{F_1} r^{k-1} \sin k\theta}. \quad (4.7)$$

Let's take a close look at the changes in the value of the function $\cot \varphi$. Firstly, as is well-known, it is easy to verify by mathematical induction that

$$\left| \frac{\sin k\theta}{\sin \theta} \right| \leq k \quad (4.8)$$

for $k = 1, 2, \dots$ and $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$. If $|c_{-k}| < \frac{1}{k}$, $\alpha \in (0, 2]$ and $\sin \theta \neq 0$, then Lemma 4.2(1) and inequality (4.8) imply that $|\sin \theta| > |c_{-k}| \frac{F_k}{F_1} r^{k-1} |\sin k\theta|$. So, $\sin \theta \neq 0$ implies $\sin \theta - |c_{-k}| \frac{F_k}{F_1} r^{k-1} \sin k\theta \neq 0$. In another words, the zero of the denominator of the right side of equation (4.7) comes only from the zero of $\sin \theta$. Secondly, $\sin \theta$ only have two zeros in the intervals $[0, 2\pi)$. That is $\theta = 0$ and π . By (4.7), we have that if $\theta = 0^+$, then $\cot \varphi = +\infty$; if $\theta = \pi^-$, then $\cot \varphi = -\infty$; if $\theta = \pi^+$, then $\cot \varphi = +\infty$; if $\theta = 2\pi^-$, then $\cot \varphi = -\infty$. Therefore, considering the continuity and monotonicity of $\cot \varphi$, we can get that the $u(re^{i\theta})$ maps every circle $|z| = r < 1$ in a one-to-one manner onto a closed Jordan curve.

Case 2 $\beta = \pi$. Considering (4.5), we have

$$\cot \varphi = \frac{\cos \theta - |c_{-k}| \frac{F_k}{F_1} r^{k-1} \cos k\theta}{\sin \theta + |c_{-k}| \frac{F_k}{F_1} r^{k-1} \sin k\theta}.$$

Follow the discussion of Case 1. We omit the further details.

It is easy to see that $N < \frac{1}{k}$, where N defined by (4.2). Therefore, considering the above two steps of the proof, by degree principle [9], we can get that $u(z)$ is univalent in \mathbb{D} . □

The following is the well known Radó–Kneser–Choquet theorem, which can be seen in the page 29 of [10].

Theorem 4.4 *If $\Omega \in \mathbb{C}$ is a bounded convex domain whose boundary is a Jordan curve γ and f is a homeomorphism of the unit circle \mathbb{T} onto γ , then its harmonic extension*

$$u(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1 - |z|^2}{|e^{it} - z|^2} f(e^{it}) dt$$

is univalent in \mathbb{D} and defines a harmonic mapping of \mathbb{D} onto Ω .

Next, we want to explore the Radó–Kneser–Choquet type theorem for real kernel α -harmonic mappings. We need the following Proposition at first.

Proposition 4.5 *Suppose $\alpha > -1$ and $c_{-k} \in \mathbb{R}$. Let*

$$f(e^{i\theta}) = F_1(1)e^{i\theta} + c_{-k}F_k(1)e^{-ik\theta}, \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots \tag{4.9}$$

Then f maps the unit circle \mathbb{T} onto a convex Jordan curve if and only if $c_{-k} \in (-M, M)$, where

$$M = \frac{\Gamma(k + 1 + \frac{\alpha}{2})}{k^2\Gamma(k + 1)\Gamma(2 + \frac{\alpha}{2})}. \tag{4.10}$$

Proof Direct computation leads to

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} (f(e^{i\theta})) = -F_1(1) \sin \theta - kc_{-k}F_k(1) \sin k\theta + i(F_1(1) \cos \theta - kc_{-k}F_k(1) \cos k\theta).$$

Let $\psi = \psi(\theta) = \arg\{\frac{d}{d\theta} f(e^{i\theta})\}$. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{d\theta} (\tan \psi(\theta)) &= \frac{(F_1(1))^2 - k^3(c_{-k}F_k(1))^2 + k(k-1)c_{-k}F_1(1)F_k(1) \cos((k+1)\theta)}{(F_1(1) \sin \theta + kc_{-k}F_k(1) \sin k\theta)^2} \\ &\geq \frac{(F_1(1))^2 - k^3(c_{-k}F_k(1))^2 - k(k-1)|c_{-k}|F_1(1)F_k(1)}{(F_1(1) \sin \theta + kc_{-k}F_k(1) \sin k\theta)^2} \\ &= \frac{(F_1(1) + k|c_{-k}|F_k(1))(F_1(1) - k^2|c_{-k}|F_k(1))}{(F_1(1) \sin \theta + kc_{-k}F_k(1) \sin k\theta)^2} \end{aligned}$$

Hence, $\frac{d}{d\theta} (\tan \psi(\theta)) \geq 0$ if and only if $|c_{-k}| \leq \frac{F_1(1)}{k^2F_k(1)} = \frac{\Gamma(k+1+\frac{\alpha}{2})}{k^2\Gamma(k+1)\Gamma(2+\frac{\alpha}{2})}$. □

Now let $f(e^{i\theta})$ be defined as in (4.9) with $\alpha \in (0, 2]$, $c_{-k} \in (-L, L)$, where $L = \min\{M, N\}$. Observe that $\lim_{r \rightarrow 1} u(z) := u^*(e^{i\theta}) = f(e^{i\theta})$, where $u(z)$ are defined by (4.3). Similar to the second step of the proof of Theorem 4.3, we can verify

that $f(e^{i\theta})$ maps unit circle \mathbb{T} onto a closed Jordan curve in a one-to-one manner, too. Therefore, considering Theorem 3.3 of [24] and Theorem 4.3 of the above, we actually get a Radó–Kneser–Choquet type theorem as follows:

Proposition 4.6 *Let $u^*(e^{i\theta}) = f(e^{i\theta})$ be defined by (4.9) with $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots, \alpha \in (0, 2]$, $c_{-k} \in (-L, L)$, where $L = \min\{M, N\}$, N and M are defined by (4.2) and (4.10), respectively. Then $u^*(e^{i\theta})$ is a homeomorphism of the unit circle \mathbb{T} onto a convex Jordan curve γ which is a boundary of a bounded convex domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$. Furthermore, $u(z)$ defined by (1.3) defines a univalent real kernel α -harmonic mapping of \mathbb{D} onto Ω .*

Let us have a look at some special cases of Theorem 4.3 or Proposition 4.6.

Example 4.1 Let $\alpha = 2$. Then $M = \frac{k+1}{2k^2}$ and $N = \frac{k+1}{k^2+3k-2}$. Formula (4.9) deduces to

$$f(e^{i\theta}) = e^{i\theta} + \frac{2}{k+1}c_{-k}e^{-ik\theta}.$$

Furthermore, let $u^*(e^{i\theta}) = f(e^{i\theta})$. Then (1.3), or (2.7), implies that the corresponding real kernel α -harmonic mapping is

$$u(z) = F_1z + c_{-k}F_k\bar{z}^k = z + c_{-k}\left(1 - \frac{k-1}{k+1}|z|^2\right)\bar{z}^k. \tag{4.11}$$

Actually, it is biharmonic.

- (1) If $k = 1$ or $k = 2$, then $L = M = N$. If $c_{-k} \in (-L, L)$, then Proposition 4.6 says that the $u(z)$ given by (4.11) is univalent, and $u(\mathbb{D}) = \Omega$ is a convex domain.
- (2) If $k = 3, 4, 5, \dots$, then a direct computation leads to $N > M$. Taking $c_{-k} \in (M, N)$, Theorem 4.3 and Proposition 4.5 imply that the above $u(z)$ is still univalent, but $u(\mathbb{D}) = \Omega$ is not a convex domain.

5 Area S_u

Let $S_u(\alpha)$ denote the area of the Riemann surface of real kernel α -harmonic mapping u . Then we have the following results.

Theorem 5.1 *Let u be a sense-preserving real kernel α -harmonic mapping that has the series expansion of the form (1.7) with $c_0 = 0$, continuous on $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$. Let v be the corresponding sense-preserving harmonic mapping that has the series expansion of the form (1.9), continuous on $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$. If $|c_k| \geq |c_{-k}|$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots$, then*

- (1) $S_u(\alpha) < S_u(0)$ for $\alpha \in (0, 2)$ and $S_u > S_u(0)$ for $\alpha \in (-1, 0)$;
- (2) $S_u(\alpha)$ is strictly decreasing with respect to $\alpha \in (-1, \alpha_0)$, where α_0 is the unique solution of equation

$$\psi(1 + \alpha) - \psi\left(1 + \frac{\alpha}{2}\right) - \frac{1}{2 + \alpha} = 0$$

in the interval $(0.8, 1)$, ψ is the digamma function. Furthermore, the constant α_0 is sharp.

Proof By (1.7), direct computation leads to

$$\begin{aligned} u_z &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k \left[F_t \bar{z} z^k + k F z^{k-1} \right] + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_{-k} F_t \bar{z}^{k+1} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k \left[F_t r^{k+1} + k F r^{k-1} \right] e^{i(k-1)\theta} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_{-k} F_t r^{k+1} e^{-i(k+1)\theta} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} u_{\bar{z}} &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k F_t z^{k+1} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_{-k} \left[F_t z \bar{z}^k + k F \bar{z}^{k-1} \right] \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_{-k} \left[F_t r^{k+1} + k F r^{k-1} \right] e^{-i(k-1)\theta} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k F_t r^{k+1} e^{i(k+1)\theta}. \end{aligned}$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned} S_u(\alpha) &= \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^1 J_u(z) r dr d\theta \\ &= 2\pi \int_0^1 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left[\left| c_k \left(F_t r^{k+1} + k F r^{k-1} \right) \right|^2 + \left| c_{-k} F_t r^{k+1} \right|^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \left| c_{-k} \left(F_t r^{k+1} + k F r^{k-1} \right) \right|^2 - \left| c_k F_t r^{k+1} \right|^2 \right] r dr \\ &= 2\pi \int_0^1 \left[\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(|c_k|^2 - |c_{-k}|^2 \right) \left(k^2 F^2 r^{2k-1} + 2k F F_t r^{2k+1} \right) \right] dr \\ &= 2\pi \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left[\left(|c_k|^2 - |c_{-k}|^2 \right) k \int_0^1 \left(k F^2 r^{2k-1} + 2 F F_t r^{2k+1} \right) dr \right] \\ &= \pi \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left[\left(|c_k|^2 - |c_{-k}|^2 \right) k \int_0^1 d(F^2 r^{2k}) \right] \\ &= \pi \frac{\Gamma^2(1 + \alpha)}{\Gamma^2\left(1 + \frac{\alpha}{2}\right)} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left[k \left(|c_k|^2 - |c_{-k}|^2 \right) \frac{\Gamma^2(k + 1)}{\Gamma^2\left(k + 1 + \frac{\alpha}{2}\right)} \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{5.1}$$

The last equality holds because of (1.6).

Particularly, we have

$$S_u(0) = \pi \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k \left(|c_k|^2 - |c_{-k}|^2 \right). \quad (5.2)$$

(1) Recall that the digamma function is defined as $\psi(x) = \Gamma'(x)/\Gamma(x)$. It is well known that (cf. [3]) $\psi(x)$ is strictly increasing on $(0, +\infty)$.

Let

$$f(x) = \frac{\Gamma(1+\alpha)\Gamma(x+1)}{\Gamma\left(1+\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)\Gamma\left(x+1+\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)}.$$

Then we have

$$(\log f(x))' = \psi(x+1) - \psi\left(x+1+\frac{\alpha}{2}\right).$$

It follows that $(\log f(x))' < 0$ provided $\alpha > 0$, and $(\log f(x))' > 0$ provided $\alpha < 0$. Observe that

$$f(\alpha/2) = 1.$$

Therefore, for $k = 1, 2, \dots$, we have $f(k) < 1$ if $\alpha \in (0, 2)$ as well as $f(k) > 1$ if $\alpha \in (-1, 0)$. Taking account of (5.1) and (5.2), we can get Theorem 5.1(1).

(2) As to digamma function $\psi(x)$, we have (cf. [3])

$$\psi(1+x) = \frac{1}{x} + \psi(x), \quad (5.3)$$

$$\psi(x) = -\gamma + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{n+1} - \frac{1}{n+x} \right), \quad (5.4)$$

and

$$\psi'(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(x+n)^2} \quad (5.5)$$

for any $x \in (0, +\infty)$, where γ is the Euler–Mascheroni constant.

Let

$$h(\alpha) = \psi(1+\alpha) - \psi\left(1+\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) - \frac{1}{2+\alpha}.$$

Using (5.4), direct computation or numerical computation lead to

$$h(1) = \psi(2) - \psi\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) - \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= -\gamma + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{n+1} - \frac{1}{n+2} \right) - \left[-\gamma + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{n+1} - \frac{1}{n+3/2} \right) \right] - \frac{1}{3} \\
 &= 2 \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2N+1} - \frac{1}{2N+2} \right) - \frac{1}{3} \\
 &= 2 \left(\log 2 - \frac{1}{2} \right) - \frac{1}{3} > 0
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$h(0.8) = -0.0108 < 0.$$

Furthermore, (5.5) implies that

$$\begin{aligned}
 h'(\alpha) &= \psi'(1+\alpha) - \frac{1}{2}\psi'\left(1+\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{(2+\alpha)^2} \\
 &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{(1+\alpha+n)^2} - \frac{1}{2\left(1+\frac{\alpha}{2}+n\right)^2} \right) + \frac{1}{(2+\alpha)^2} \\
 &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(n+1)^2 - \frac{\alpha^2}{2}}{2\left(1+\frac{\alpha}{2}+n\right)^2(1+\alpha+n)^2} + \frac{1}{(2+\alpha)^2} > 0
 \end{aligned}$$

for $\alpha \in (-1, 1]$. Thus, there exists a unique $\alpha_0 \in (0.8, 1)$, such that $h(\alpha_0) = 0$ and $h(\alpha) < 0$ for $\alpha \in (-1, \alpha_0)$. Let

$$g(\alpha) = \frac{\Gamma(1+\alpha)}{\Gamma(1+\frac{\alpha}{2})\Gamma(k+1+\frac{\alpha}{2})}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

Then it follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{d \log g(\alpha)}{d\alpha} &= \psi(1+\alpha) - \frac{1}{2}\psi\left(1+\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) - \frac{1}{2}\psi\left(k+1+\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) \\
 &< \psi(1+\alpha) - \frac{1}{2}\psi\left(1+\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) - \frac{1}{2}\psi\left(2+\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) \\
 &= h(\alpha).
 \end{aligned}$$

That is to say $g(\alpha)$ is strictly decreasing on $(-1, \alpha_0)$. Therefore, (5.1) implies that $S_u(\alpha)$ is strictly decreasing with respect to $\alpha \in (-1, \alpha_0)$.

Let

$$u(z) = F\left(-\frac{\alpha}{2}, 1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}; 2; |z|^2\right) z.$$

Obviously, it satisfies the conditions of Theorem 5.1. Thus

$$S_u(\alpha) = \pi \left(\frac{\Gamma(1 + \alpha)}{\Gamma(1 + \frac{\alpha}{2}) \Gamma(2 + \frac{\alpha}{2})} \right)^2.$$

It follows that $\frac{d \log S_u(\alpha)}{d\alpha} = h(\alpha)$. Considering the positivity and negativity of function $h(\alpha)$, we have that $S_u(\alpha)$ is strictly decreasing with respect to α in $(-1, \alpha_0)$ and strictly increasing in $(\alpha_0, 1)$. Therefore, the constant α_0 is sharp. \square

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