

STARLIKENESS OF BESSEL FUNCTIONS AND THEIR DERIVATIVES

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Abstract. In this paper necessary and sufficient conditions are obtained for the starlikeness of Bessel functions of the first kind and their derivatives of the second and third order by using a result of Shah and Trimble about transcendental entire functions with univalent derivatives and Mittag-Leffler expansions for the derivatives of Bessel functions of the first kind, as well as some results on the zeros of these functions.

1. Introduction and the Main Results

Geometric properties of Bessel functions of the first kind J_ν , like univalence, starlikeness, spirallikeness and convexity were studied in the sixties by Brown [10, 11, 12], and also by Kreyszig and Todd [15]. Other geometric properties of Bessel functions of the first kind were studied later in the papers [2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 22, 23]. Very recently, in [9] the close-to-convexity of the derivatives of Bessel functions was considered. Motivated by the above results, in this paper we make a contribution to the subject by obtaining some necessary and sufficient conditions for the starlikeness of Bessel functions of the first kind and second and third order derivatives by using a result of Shah and Trimble [20, Theorem 2] about transcendental entire functions with univalent derivatives and Mittag-Leffler expansions for the derivatives of Bessel functions of the first kind, as well as some results on the zeros of these functions. For more details on Bessel functions of the first kind we refer to the book of Watson [24].

Our first set of sharp results are about the starlikeness of order α of two normalized Bessel functions of the first kind. We note that these results naturally complement the main results of [6, 8, 22].

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THEOREM 1. *The function*

$$z \mapsto f_\nu(z) = (2^\nu \Gamma(\nu + 1) J_\nu(z))^{\frac{1}{\nu}}$$

is starlike of order $\alpha \in [0, 1)$ in $\mathbb{D} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 1\}$ if and only if $\nu > \nu_1(\alpha)$, where $\nu_1(\alpha)$ is the unique root of the equation $(1 - \alpha)\nu J_\nu(1) = J_{\nu+1}(1)$, situated in $(0, \infty)$. In particular, f_ν is starlike in \mathbb{D} if and only if $\nu > \nu_1(0)$, where $\nu_1(0) \simeq 0.390\dots$ is the unique root of the equation $\nu J_\nu(1) = J_{\nu+1}(1)$.

THEOREM 2. *The function*

$$z \mapsto g_\nu(z) = 2^\nu \Gamma(\nu + 1) z^{1-\nu} J_\nu(z)$$

is starlike of order $\alpha \in [0, 1)$ in \mathbb{D} if and only if $\nu > \nu_2(\alpha)$, where $\nu_2(\alpha)$ is the unique root of the equation $(1 - \alpha)J_\nu(1) = J_{\nu+1}(1)$, situated in $(\tilde{\nu}, \infty)$, where $\tilde{\nu} \simeq -0.774\dots$ is the unique root of $j_{\nu,1} = 1$ and $j_{\nu,1}$ is the first positive zero of J_ν . In particular, the function g_ν is starlike in \mathbb{D} if and only if $\nu > \nu_2(0)$, where $\nu_2(0) \simeq -0.339\dots$ is the unique root of the transcendental equation $J_\nu(1) = J_{\nu+1}(1)$.

We note that very recently Antonino and Miller [1, Example 3] as an application of the third-order differential subordinations proved that the function $z \mapsto \int_0^z J_0(t) dt$ is convex (and hence univalent) in \mathbb{D} . If we consider the function $w_\nu : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, defined by

$$w_\nu(z) = 2^\nu \Gamma(\nu + 1) \int_0^z t^{-\nu} J_\nu(t) dt,$$

then in view of the relation

$$1 + \frac{z w_\nu''(z)}{w_\nu'(z)} = \frac{z g_\nu'(z)}{g_\nu(z)}$$

and the analytic characterizations of starlike and convex functions, Theorem 2 can be rewritten as follows: *The function w_ν is convex of order $\alpha \in [0, 1)$ in \mathbb{D} if and only if $\nu > \nu_2(\alpha)$, and in particular, the function w_ν is convex (and hence univalent) in \mathbb{D} if and only if $\nu > \nu_2(0)$.* This generalizes the result of Antonino and Miller [1, Example 3] on w_0 and shows actually that if $\nu < \nu_2(0)$, then the above convexity property is no longer true.

The next set of sharp main results are based on a result of Shah and Trimble [20, Theorem 2], see Lemma 1 in the next section, and these results are natural companions of the main results in [5, 9]. We note that it would be interesting to see a common generalization of the next three theorems. Following the proof of these theorems it is clear that *the monotonicity of the zeros (with respect to the order) of the derivative (of arbitrary order greater than three) of Bessel functions of the first kind together with Lemma 1 would be sufficient.*

THEOREM 3. *The function*

$$z \mapsto 2^\nu \Gamma(\nu) z^{\frac{3}{2}-\nu} J'_\nu(\sqrt{z})$$

is starlike and all of its derivatives are close-to-convex (and hence univalent) in \mathbb{D} if and only if $v \geq \hat{v}$, where $\hat{v} \simeq 0.702\dots$ is the unique root on $(0, \infty)$ of the transcendental equation

$$(2v - 1)J_v(1) + (v - 2)J_{v+1}(1) = 0.$$

THEOREM 4. *The function*

$$z \mapsto 2^v \Gamma(v - 1) z^{2 - \frac{v}{2}} J_v''(\sqrt{z})$$

is starlike and all of its derivatives are close-to-convex (and hence univalent) in \mathbb{D} if and only if $v \geq v^*$, where $v^* \simeq 1.905\dots$ is the unique root on $(1, \infty)$ of the transcendental equation

$$(2v^2 - 2v - 3)J_v(1) = (v^2 + v - 3)J_{v+1}(1).$$

THEOREM 5. *The function*

$$z \mapsto 2^v \Gamma(v - 2) z^{\frac{5}{2} - \frac{v}{2}} J_v'''(\sqrt{z})$$

is starlike and all of its derivatives are close-to-convex (and hence univalent) in \mathbb{D} if and only if $v \geq v^*$, where $v^* \simeq 3.077\dots$ is the unique root on $(2, \infty)$ of the transcendental equation

$$(2v^3 - 7v^2 + 3)J_v(1) + (v^3 + v^2 + v - 1)J_{v+1}(1) = 0.$$

The last main result of this paper is a common generalization of Theorems 3 and 4.

THEOREM 6. *Let $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $c = 0$ and $b \neq a$ or $c > 0$ and $b > a$. Moreover, suppose that $v \geq \bar{v}$, where $\bar{v} = \max\{0, v_0\}$ and v_0 is the largest root of the quadratic $Q(v) = av(v - 1) + bv + c$. Assume also that the following inequalities hold*

$$Q(v) + 4av + 2a + 2b > 0, \quad (4v + 3)Q(v) > 4av + 2a + 2b. \quad (1.1)$$

Then the function

$$z \mapsto 2^v [Q(v)]^{-1} \Gamma(v + 1) z^{1 - \frac{v}{2}} (azJ_v''(\sqrt{z}) + b\sqrt{z}J_v'(\sqrt{z}) + cJ_v(\sqrt{z}))$$

is starlike and all of its derivatives are close-to-convex (and hence univalent) in \mathbb{D} if and only if $v \geq v^\circ$, where v° is the unique root on (\bar{v}, ∞) of the transcendental equation

$$(2av^2 - 2av + 2bv - 3a - b + 2c)J_v(1) = (av^2 + av - bv - 3a + 2b + c)J_{v+1}(1).$$

It is worth to mention that when $b = c = 0$ and $a = 1$, then Theorem 6 reduces to Theorem 4. In this case $\bar{v} = 1$, v° becomes v^* and the inequalities (1.1) become $v^2 + 3v + 2 > 0$, and $4v^3 - v^2 - 7v - 2 > 0$. These inequalities give $v > -1$ and $v > 1.568\dots$, which are certainly satisfied for $v > v^*$.

Similarly, we note that when $a = c = 0$ and $b = 1$, then Theorem 6 reduces to Theorem 3. In this case $\bar{v} = 0$, v° becomes \hat{v} and the inequalities (1.1) become $v + 2 > 0$, and $4v^2 + 3v - 2 > 0$. These inequalities give $v > -2$ and $v > 0.425\dots$, which are certainly satisfied for $v > \hat{v}$.

2. Proofs of the main results

In this section we present the proof of the main results of this paper. The proof of Theorems 1 and 2 are mainly based on the Mittag-Leffler expansions and some inequalities from the proof of the main result from [6].

Proof of Theorem 1. Let us denote by $j_{\nu,n}$ the n th positive zero of the function J_ν . From the proof of [6, Theorem 1] we know that for $\nu > 0$ and $r = |z| < j_{\nu,1}$ we have

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

Since $j_{\nu,1} > j_{0,1} \simeq 2.404\dots > 1$ when $\nu > 0$, the above inequality is clearly valid when $|z| < 1$. On the other hand, the function $r \mapsto rf'_\nu(r)/f_\nu(r)$ is clearly decreasing on $(0, 1) \subset (0, j_{\nu,1})$, and consequently for all $z \in \mathbb{D}$ and $\nu > 0$ we have

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

Since the function $\nu \mapsto j_{\nu,n}$ is increasing on $(0, \infty)$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ fixed (see [19, p. 236]), it follows that the function $\nu \mapsto f'_\nu(1)/f_\nu(1)$ is increasing on $(0, \infty)$, and thus $f'_\nu(1)/f_\nu(1) > \alpha$ if and only if $\nu > \nu_1(\alpha)$, where $\nu_1(\alpha)$ is the unique root of the equation

$$f'_\nu(1) = \alpha f_\nu(1) \iff \nu \alpha J_\nu(1) = J'_\nu(1) \iff (1 - \alpha) \nu J_\nu(1) = J_{\nu+1}(1).$$

Here we used that

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

since J_ν satisfies the recurrence relation

$$zJ'_\nu(z) = \nu J_\nu(z) - zJ_{\nu+1}(z). \quad (2.1)$$

Taking into account the fact that all of the above inequalities are sharp it follows that indeed the function f_ν is starlike of order $\alpha \in [0, 1)$ in \mathbb{D} if and only if $\nu > \nu_1(\alpha)$. \square

Proof of Theorem 2. From the proof of [6, Theorem 1] we know that for $\nu > -1$ and $r = |z| < j_{\nu,1}$ we have

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

Since $\nu \mapsto j_{\nu,1}$ is increasing on $(-1, \infty)$, it follows that $j_{\nu,1} > 1$ when $\nu > \tilde{\nu}$, and thus in this case the above inequality is clearly valid when $|z| < 1$. On the other hand, the function $r \mapsto rg'_\nu(r)/g_\nu(r)$ is clearly decreasing on $(0, 1) \subset (0, j_{\nu,1})$, and consequently for all $z \in \mathbb{D}$ and $\nu > \tilde{\nu}$ we have

$$\operatorname{Re} \left(\frac{zg'_\nu(z)}{g_\nu(z)} \right) \geq 1 - \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{2}{j_{\nu,n}^2 - 1} = \frac{g'_\nu(1)}{g_\nu(1)}.$$

Since the function $v \mapsto j_{v,n}$ is increasing on $(-1, \infty)$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ fixed (see [19, p. 236]), it follows that the function $v \mapsto g'_v(1)/g_v(1)$ is increasing on (\tilde{v}, ∞) , and thus $g'_v(1)/g_v(1) > \alpha$ if and only if $v > v_2(\alpha)$, where $v_2(\alpha)$ is the unique root of the equation

$$g'_v(1) = \alpha g_v(1) \iff (1 - v - \alpha)J_v(1) + J'_v(1) = 0 \iff (1 - \alpha)J_v(1) = J_{v+1}(1).$$

Here we used that

$$\frac{zg'_v(z)}{g_v(z)} = 1 - v + \frac{zJ'_v(z)}{J_v(z)} = 1 - \frac{zJ_{v+1}(z)}{J_v(z)}.$$

Taking into account the fact that all of the above inequalities are sharp it follows that indeed the function g_v is starlike of order $\alpha \in [0, 1)$ in \mathbb{D} if and only if $v > v_2(\alpha)$. \square

Now, for the proof of the remaining theorems we will use the following result of Shah and Trimble [20, Theorem 2] about transcendental entire functions with univalent derivatives, which was the key tool in the proof of the main results of [5, 8].

LEMMA 1. *Let $f : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a transcendental entire function of the form*

$$f(z) = z \prod_{n \geq 1} \left(1 - \frac{z}{z_n} \right),$$

where all z_n have the same argument and satisfy $|z_n| > 1$. If f is univalent in \mathbb{D} , then

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{|z_n| - 1} \leq 1.$$

Moreover, the above inequality holds if and only if f is starlike in \mathbb{D} and all of its derivatives are close-to-convex there.

As we can see below the next proofs are very similar and all of them use the monotonicity of the zeros with respect to the order of the derivatives of Bessel functions of the first kind.

Proof of Theorem 3. Let us denote by $j'_{v,n}$ the n th positive zero of the function J'_v . From the infinite product representation [21, p. 340]

$$J'_v(z) = \frac{\left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^{v-1}}{2\Gamma(v)} \prod_{n \geq 1} \left(1 - \frac{z^2}{j'^2_{v,n}} \right)$$

it follows that

$$2^v \Gamma(v) z^{\frac{3}{2}-\frac{v}{2}} J'_v(\sqrt{z}) = z \prod_{n \geq 1} \left(1 - \frac{z}{j'^2_{v,n}} \right)$$

and

$$-\frac{1}{2} \left(1 - v + \frac{zJ''_v(z)}{J'_v(z)} \right) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{z^2}{j'^2_{v,n} - z^2}.$$

On the other hand, applying the inequality [13, Theorem 6.3]

$$j_{\nu,1}^2 > \frac{4\nu(\nu+1)}{\nu+2},$$

where $\nu > 0$, it follows that for $n \in \{2, 3, \dots\}$ we have $j'_{\nu,n} > j'_{\nu,1} > 1$ if $\nu > \frac{-3+\sqrt{41}}{8} \simeq 0.425\dots$. Moreover, we know that $\nu \mapsto j'_{\nu,n}$ is increasing on $(0, \infty)$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ fixed (see [19, p. 236]), and thus the function

$$\nu \mapsto \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{j_{\nu,n}^2 - 1} = -\frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \nu + \frac{J''_{\nu}(1)}{J'_{\nu}(1)} \right)$$

is decreasing on $(0, \infty)$. Consequently, the inequality

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{j_{\nu,n}^2 - 1} \leq 1$$

is valid if and only if $\nu \geq \dot{\nu}$, where $\dot{\nu}$ is the unique root on $(0, \infty)$ of the equation

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{j_{\dot{\nu},n}^2 - 1} = 1 \iff (3 - \nu)J'_{\nu}(1) + J''_{\nu}(1) = 0. \tag{2.2}$$

Since J_{ν} satisfies the Bessel differential equation, it follows that

$$z^2 J''_{\nu}(z) + zJ'_{\nu}(z) + (z^2 - \nu^2)J_{\nu}(z) = 0,$$

and then

$$J''_{\nu}(1) = (\nu^2 - 1)J_{\nu}(1) - J'_{\nu}(1) = (\nu^2 - \nu - 1)J_{\nu}(1) + J_{\nu+1}(1),$$

where we used the recurrence relation (2.1). Consequently, equation (2.2) is equivalent to

$$(2\nu - 1)J_{\nu}(1) + (\nu - 2)J_{\nu+1}(1) = 0.$$

Thus, by applying Lemma 1 the assertion of the theorem follows. \square

Proof of Theorem 4. Let us denote by $j''_{\nu,n}$ the n th positive zero of the function J''_{ν} . By using the infinite product representation [21, p. 340]

$$J''_{\nu}(z) = \frac{\left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^{\nu-2}}{4\Gamma(\nu-1)} \prod_{n \geq 1} \left(1 - \frac{z^2}{j''_{\nu,n}{}^2} \right)$$

it follows that

$$2^{\nu}\Gamma(\nu-1)z^{2-\frac{\nu}{2}}J''_{\nu}(\sqrt{z}) = z \prod_{n \geq 1} \left(1 - \frac{z}{j''_{\nu,n}{}^2} \right)$$

and

$$-\frac{1}{2} \left(2 - \nu + \frac{zJ'''_{\nu}(z)}{J''_{\nu}(z)} \right) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{z^2}{j''_{\nu,n}{}^2 - z^2}.$$

On the other hand, applying the inequality [13, Theorem 8.1]

$$j_{\nu,1}^{\prime\prime 2} > \frac{4\nu(\nu-1)}{\nu+2},$$

where $\nu > 1$, it follows that for $n \in \{2, 3, \dots\}$ we have $j_{\nu,n}^{\prime\prime} > j_{\nu,1}^{\prime\prime} > 1$ if $\nu > \frac{5+\sqrt{57}}{8} \simeq 1.568\dots$. Moreover, we know that $\nu \mapsto j_{\nu,n}^{\prime\prime}$ is increasing on $(1, \infty)$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ fixed (see [18, 25]), and thus the function

$$\nu \mapsto \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{j_{\nu,n}^{\prime\prime 2} - 1} = -\frac{1}{2} \left(2 - \nu + \frac{J_{\nu}^{\prime\prime\prime}(1)}{J_{\nu}^{\prime\prime}(1)} \right)$$

is decreasing on $(1, \infty)$. Consequently, the inequality

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{j_{\nu,n}^{\prime\prime 2} - 1} \leq 1$$

is valid if and only if $\nu \geq \nu^*$, where ν^* is the unique root in $(1, \infty)$ of the equation

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{j_{\nu,n}^{\prime\prime 2} - 1} = 1 \iff (4 - \nu)J_{\nu}^{\prime\prime}(1) + J_{\nu}^{\prime\prime\prime}(1) = 0. \quad (2.3)$$

Since J_{ν} satisfies the Bessel differential equation, it follows that

$$z^2 J_{\nu}^{\prime\prime\prime}(z) + 3z J_{\nu}^{\prime\prime}(z) + (z^2 + 1 - \nu^2) J_{\nu}^{\prime}(z) + 2z J_{\nu}(z) = 0,$$

and then

$$J_{\nu}^{\prime\prime\prime}(1) = (1 - 3\nu^2)J_{\nu}(1) + (\nu^2 + 1)J_{\nu}^{\prime}(1) = (\nu^3 - 3\nu^2 + \nu + 1)J_{\nu}(1) - (\nu^2 + 1)J_{\nu+1}(1),$$

where we used the recurrence relation $zJ_{\nu}^{\prime}(z) = \nu J_{\nu}(z) - zJ_{\nu+1}(z)$. Consequently, equation (2.3) is equivalent to

$$(2\nu^2 - 2\nu - 3)J_{\nu}(1) = (\nu^2 + \nu - 3)J_{\nu+1}(1).$$

Thus, by applying Lemma 1 the assertion of the theorem follows. \square

Proof of Theorem 5. Let us denote by $j_{\nu,n}^{\prime\prime\prime}$ the n th positive zero of the function $J_{\nu}^{\prime\prime\prime}$. From the infinite product representation [21, p. 340]

$$J_{\nu}^{\prime\prime\prime}(z) = \frac{\left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^{\nu-3}}{8\Gamma(\nu-2)} \prod_{n \geq 1} \left(1 - \frac{z^2}{j_{\nu,n}^{\prime\prime\prime 2}}\right)$$

it follows that

$$2^{\nu}\Gamma(\nu-2)z^{\frac{5}{2}-\frac{\nu}{2}}J_{\nu}^{\prime\prime\prime}(\sqrt{z}) = z \prod_{n \geq 1} \left(1 - \frac{z}{j_{\nu,n}^{\prime\prime\prime 2}}\right)$$

and

$$-\frac{1}{2} \left(3 - \nu + \frac{zJ_\nu''''(z)}{J_\nu'''(z)} \right) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{z^2}{j_{\nu,n}''^2 - z^2}.$$

On the other hand, taking into account that the function $\nu \mapsto j_{\nu,1}''''$ is increasing on $(2, \infty)$ (see [14, 17]) it follows that for $\nu > 3$ we have $j_{\nu,1}'''' > j_{3,1}'''' \simeq 1.376\dots > 1$. Thus, for $n \in \{2, 3, \dots\}$ we have $j_{\nu,n}'''' > j_{\nu,1}'''' > 1$ if $\nu > 3$. We would like to mention here that we approximated the zero $j_{3,1}''''$ by using the mathematical software Matlab by taking into account that $j_{3,1}''''$ is actually the first positive zero of the equation

$$((1 - \nu)z^2 + \nu^3 - 3\nu^2 + 2\nu)J_\nu(z) = ((2 + \nu^2)z - z^3)J_{\nu+1}(z)$$

when $\nu = 3$. Appealing again to the fact that $\nu \mapsto j_{\nu,n}''''$ is increasing on $(2, \infty)$ for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ fixed (see [14, 17]), we obtain that the function

$$\nu \mapsto \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{j_{\nu,n}''^2 - 1} = -\frac{1}{2} \left(3 - \nu + \frac{J_\nu''''(1)}{J_\nu'''(1)} \right)$$

is decreasing on $(2, \infty)$. Consequently, the inequality

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{j_{\nu,n}''^2 - 1} \leq 1$$

is valid if and only if $\nu \geq \nu^*$, where ν^* is the unique root on $(2, \infty)$ of the equation

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{j_{\nu,n}''^2 - 1} = 1 \iff (5 - \nu)J_\nu''''(1) + J_\nu''''(1) = 0. \tag{2.4}$$

Since J_ν satisfies the Bessel differential equation, it follows that

$$z^2 J_\nu''''(z) + 5z J_\nu'''(z) + (z^2 + 4 - \nu^2) J_\nu''(z) + 4z J_\nu'(z) + 2J_\nu(z) = 0,$$

and then

$$\begin{aligned} J_\nu''''(1) &= (\nu^4 + 9\nu^2 - 2)J_\nu(1) - (6\nu^2 + 4)J_\nu'(1) \\ &= (\nu^4 - 6\nu^3 + 9\nu^2 - 4\nu - 2)J_\nu(1) + (6\nu^2 + 4)J_{\nu+1}(1). \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, equation (2.4) is equivalent to

$$(2\nu^3 - 7\nu^2 + 3)J_\nu(1) + (\nu^3 + \nu^2 + \nu - 1)J_{\nu+1}(1) = 0.$$

Applying again Lemma 1 the assertion of the theorem follows. \square

Proof of Theorem 6. Let us consider the power series

$$\begin{aligned} &2^\nu \Gamma(\nu + 1) z^{-\nu} (az^2 J_\nu''(z) + bz J_\nu'(z) + cJ_\nu(z)) \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(2n + \nu)(2n + \nu - 1)a + (2n + \nu)b + c}{4^n n! (\nu + 1)_n} (-1)^n z^{2n}, \end{aligned}$$

where $(a)_n = a(a + 1) \dots (a + n - 1) = \Gamma(a + n)/\Gamma(a)$. Using the fact that for $\tau > 0$ the quotient $\log \Gamma(n + \tau)/(n \log n)$ tends to 1 as n tends to infinity, we obtain that the growth order of the above entire function is

$$\rho = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n \log n}{n \log 4 + \log \Gamma(n + 1) + \log \Gamma(n + \nu + 1) - \log Q_n(\nu)} = \frac{1}{2},$$

where $Q_n(\nu) = (2n + \nu)(2n + \nu - 1)a + (2n + \nu)b + c$. Thus, if $\lambda_{\nu,n}$ denotes the n th positive zero of the function $z \mapsto az^2 J''_\nu(z) + bz J'_\nu(z) + c J_\nu(z)$, then by applying Hadamard's theorem [16, p. 26] we obtain

$$az^2 J''_\nu(z) + bz J'_\nu(z) + c J_\nu(z) = \frac{Q(\nu)z^\nu}{2^\nu \Gamma(\nu + 1)} \prod_{n \geq 1} \left(1 - \frac{z^2}{\lambda_{\nu,n}^2} \right),$$

and consequently

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2^\nu \Gamma(\nu + 1)}{Q(\nu)} z^{1-\frac{\nu}{2}} (az J''_\nu(\sqrt{z}) + b\sqrt{z} J'_\nu(\sqrt{z}) + c J_\nu(\sqrt{z})) &= z \prod_{n \geq 1} \left(1 - \frac{z}{\lambda_{\nu,n}^2} \right), \\ -\frac{1}{2} \left(-\nu + z \cdot \frac{az^2 J'''_\nu(z) + (2a + b)z J''_\nu(z) + (b + c) J'_\nu(z)}{az^2 J''_\nu(z) + bz J'_\nu(z) + c J_\nu(z)} \right) &= \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{z^2}{\lambda_{\nu,n}^2 - z^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Here we used the fact that when $\nu \geq \bar{\nu}$, where $\bar{\nu} = \max\{0, \nu_0\}$ and ν_0 is the largest root of the quadratic $Q(\nu) = a\nu(\nu - 1) + b\nu + c$, the zeros of the function $z \mapsto az^2 J''_\nu(z) + bz J'_\nu(z) + c J_\nu(z)$ are real, according to [13, Theorem 7.1].

On the other hand, by using the inequalities in (1.1) together with [13, Eq. (8.2)]

$$\lambda_{\nu,1} > \frac{4(\nu + 1)Q(\nu)}{Q(\nu) + 4a\nu + 2a + 2b},$$

it follows that for $n \in \{2, 3, \dots\}$ we have $\lambda_{\nu,n} > \lambda_{\nu,1} > 1$. Moreover, we know [18, Theorem 1] that for $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $c = 0$ and $b \neq a$ or $c > 0$ and $b > a$ we have that $\nu \mapsto \lambda_{\nu,n}$ is increasing on $(0, \infty)$ for fixed $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Consequently, under the assumptions, the function

$$\nu \mapsto -\frac{1}{2} \left(-\nu + \frac{aJ'''_\nu(1) + (2a + b)J''_\nu(1) + (b + c)J'_\nu(1)}{aJ''_\nu(1) + bJ'_\nu(1) + cJ_\nu(1)} \right) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{\lambda_{\nu,n}^2 - 1}$$

is decreasing on $(0, \infty)$. Thus, the inequality

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{\lambda_{\nu,n}^2 - 1} \leq 1$$

is valid if and only if $\nu \geq \nu^\circ$, where ν° is the unique root on $(\bar{\nu}, \infty)$ of the equation

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{\lambda_{\nu,n}^2 - 1} = 1,$$

or equivalently

$$aJ_v'''(1) + (4a - av + b)J_v''(1) + (3b + c - bv)J_v'(1) - (v - 2)cJ_v(1) = 0.$$

Using the expressions for $J_v'''(1)$, $J_v''(1)$ and $J_v'(1)$ from the above proofs, the above equation is equivalent to

$$(2av^2 - 2av + 2bv - 3a - b + 2c)J_v(1) = (av^2 + av - bv - 3a + 2b + c)J_{v+1}(1).$$

Applying Lemma 1 completes the proof. \square

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