

**ANSWERS TO THREE CONJECTURES ON  
CONVEXITY OF THREE FUNCTIONS INVOLVING  
COMPLETE ELLIPTIC INTEGRALS OF THE FIRST  
KIND**

*Miao-Kun Wang, Hong-Hu Chu, Yong-Min Li and Yu-Ming Chu\**

In the article, we prove that the function  $x \rightarrow (1-x)^p \mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x})$  is logarithmically concave on  $(0, 1)$  if and only if  $p \geq 7/32$ , the function  $x \rightarrow \mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x}) / \log(1 + 4/\sqrt{1-x})$  is convex on  $(0, 1)$  and the function

$$x \rightarrow \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \left[ \mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x}) - \log \left( 1 + \frac{4}{\sqrt{1-x}} \right) \right]$$

is absolutely monotonic on  $(0, 1)$ , where  $\mathcal{K}(x) = \int_0^{\pi/2} (1 - x^2 \sin^2 t)^{-1/2} dt$  ( $0 < x < 1$ ) is the complete elliptic integral of the first kind.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

In the past few centuries, the complete elliptic integrals of the first and second kinds  $\mathcal{K}(r)$  and  $\mathcal{E}(r)$ , defined on  $[0, 1]$  by

$$\mathcal{K}(r) = \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{d\theta}{\sqrt{1 - r^2 \sin^2 \theta}}, \quad \mathcal{K}(0) = \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad \mathcal{K}(1) = \infty,$$

$$\mathcal{E}(r) = \int_0^{\pi/2} (1 - r^2 \sin^2 \theta)^{1/2} d\theta, \quad \mathcal{E}(0) = \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad \mathcal{E}(1) = 1,$$

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\*Corresponding author. Yu-Ming Chu.

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have been found that they have many important applications in mathematics as well as in physics and engineering, including the evaluation of the length of curves [1, 5, 9, 10, 22, 28, 39, 42, 46, 55], the algorithm of the circumference ration  $\pi$  [11, 13, 21, 41], the computations of electromagnetic field and the study of the period of the simple pendulum [12, 15, 19, 25, 30].

In 1990s, the complete elliptic integrals  $\mathcal{K}(r)$  and  $\mathcal{E}(r)$  appeared in geometric function theory frequently, especially in conformal and quasiconformal mappings [3, 4, 6, 17, 27, 31, 38, 54, 59]. Many conformal invariants and distortion functions in quasiconformal mappings can be expressed by  $\mathcal{K}(r)$  and  $\mathcal{E}(r)$ . Because of the great importance of these integrals, Vuorinen and his collaborators initiated an independent subject to study the complete elliptic integrals and their related special functions, numerous new properties and inequalities involving  $\mathcal{K}(r)$  and  $\mathcal{E}(r)$  have been obtained in recent years [16, 18, 24, 26, 29, 33, 40, 43, 44, 50, 51, 52, 53].

In 1992, in order to refine the following well-known asymptotic formula [14]

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 1^-} \left[ \mathcal{K}(r) - \log \left( \frac{4}{\sqrt{1-r^2}} \right) \right] = 0,$$

Anderson, Vamanamurthy and Vuorinen [7] conjectured that the inequality

$$\mathcal{K}(r) < \log \left( 1 + \frac{4}{\sqrt{1-r^2}} \right) - \left( \log 5 - \frac{\pi}{2} \right) (1-r)$$

holds for all  $r \in (0, 1)$ . Later, the conjecture was proved by Qiu et al. in [37].

Very recently, Yang and Tian [56] studied the convexity of the function  $x \mapsto \mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x}) - \log(1 + 4/\sqrt{1-x})$  on  $(0, 1)$  and provided a better upper bound for  $\mathcal{K}(r)$ . In fact, the authors proved that

**Theorem 1.1.** (See [56, Theorem 3]) The function

$$(1.1) \quad F(x) = \mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x}) - \log \left( 1 + \frac{4}{\sqrt{1-x}} \right)$$

is strictly convex on  $(0, 1)$ .

**Corollary 1.2.** (See [56, Remark 7]) The function  $x \mapsto [\mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x}) - \log(1 + 4/\sqrt{1-x}) + (\log 5 - \pi/2)]/x$  is strictly increasing from  $(0, 1)$  onto  $(\pi/8 - 2/5, \log 5 - \pi/2)$ . Consequently, the double inequality

$$(1.2) \quad \begin{aligned} & \log \left( 1 + \frac{4}{\sqrt{1-r^2}} \right) - \left( \log 5 - \frac{\pi}{2} \right) + \alpha r^2 < \mathcal{K}(r) \\ & < \log \left( 1 + \frac{4}{\sqrt{1-r^2}} \right) - \left( \log 5 - \frac{\pi}{2} \right) + \beta r^2 \end{aligned}$$

holds for all  $r \in (0, 1)$  with the best possible constants  $\alpha = \pi/8 - 2/5 = -0.0073 \dots$  and  $\beta = \log 5 - \pi/2 = 0.0386 \dots$ .

Besides, Yang and Tian [56] also investigated the monotonicity of the function  $x \mapsto \mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x})/\log(1 + 4/\sqrt{1-x})$  on  $(0, 1)$ , established Theorem 1.3 and proposed Conjectures 1.4-1.6 as follows.

**Theorem 1.3.** (See [56, Theorem 2]) The function

$$G(x) = \frac{\mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x})}{\log(1 + 4/\sqrt{1-x})}$$

is strictly increasing from  $(0, 1)$  onto  $(\pi/(2 \log 5), 1)$ . In particular, the double inequality

$$\frac{\pi}{2 \log 5} \log\left(1 + \frac{4}{\sqrt{1-r^2}}\right) < \mathcal{K}(r) < \log\left(1 + \frac{4}{\sqrt{1-r^2}}\right)$$

holds for all  $r \in (0, 1)$ .

**Conjecture 1.4.** (See [56, Conjecture 1]) The function  $H(x) = (1-x)^p \mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x})$  is logarithmically concave on  $(0, 1)$  if and only if  $p \geq 7/32$ .

**Conjecture 1.5.** (See [56, Conjecture 2]) The function  $G(x) = \mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x})/\log(1 + 4/\sqrt{1-x})$  is convex on  $(0, 1)$ .

**Conjecture 1.6.** (See [56, Conjecture 3]) Let  $F(x)$  be defined by (1.1). Then  $F''(x)$  is absolutely monotonic on  $(0, 1)$ .

The main purpose of this paper is to give positive answers to Conjectures 1.4-1.6. Our results are the following Theorems 1.7-1.9.

**Theorem 1.7.** *The function  $H(x) = (1-x)^p \mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x})$  is logarithmically concave on  $(0, 1)$  if and only if  $p \leq 0$  and logarithmically concave on  $(0, 1)$  if and only if  $p \geq 7/32$ .*

**Theorem 1.8.** *The function  $G(x) = \mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x})/\log(1 + 4/\sqrt{1-x})$  is convex on  $(0, 1)$ . In particular, the inequality*

$$\mathcal{K}(r) < \log\left(1 + \frac{4}{\sqrt{1-r^2}}\right) \left[ \frac{\pi}{2 \log 5} + \left(1 - \frac{\pi}{2 \log 5}\right) r^2 \right]$$

holds for all  $r \in (0, 1)$ .

**Theorem 1.9.** *Let  $F(x)$  be defined by (1.1). Then  $F''(x)$  is absolutely monotonic on  $(0, 1)$ .*

**Remark 1.10.** According to Theorem 1.9, we can find better bounds for  $\mathcal{K}(r)$  than (1.2). For example, Theorem 1.9 implies that the function  $x \mapsto [\mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x}) - \log(1 + 4/\sqrt{1-x}) - (\pi/2 - \log 5) - (\pi/8 - 2/5)x]/x^2$  is strictly increasing from  $(0, 1)$  onto  $(9\pi/128 - 11/50, 2/5 + \log 5 - 5\pi/8)$ . Consequently, the inequality

$$(1.3) \quad \begin{aligned} & \log\left(1 + \frac{4}{\sqrt{1-r^2}}\right) - \left(\log 5 - \frac{\pi}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{\pi}{8} - \frac{2}{5}\right) r^2 + \alpha^* r^4 < \mathcal{K}(r) \\ & < \log\left(1 + \frac{4}{\sqrt{1-r^2}}\right) - \left(\log 5 - \frac{\pi}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{\pi}{8} - \frac{2}{5}\right) r^2 + \beta^* r^4 \end{aligned}$$

holds for all  $r \in (0, 1)$  with the best possible constants  $\alpha^* = 9\pi/128 - 11/50 = 0.000893\dots$  and  $\beta^* = 2/5 + \log 5 - 5\pi/8 = 0.0459\dots$ .

Throughout this paper, for convenience, we denote  $r' = \sqrt{1-r^2}$  for  $r \in (0, 1)$ . The following formulas involving  $\mathcal{K}(r)$  and  $\mathcal{E}(r)$  can be found in [8, (3.13), Appendix E]:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\mathcal{K}(r)}{dr} &= \frac{\mathcal{E}(r) - r'^2\mathcal{K}(r)}{rr'^2}, & \frac{d\mathcal{E}(r)}{dr} &= \frac{\mathcal{E}(r) - \mathcal{K}(r)}{r}, \\ \frac{d[\mathcal{E}(r) - r'^2\mathcal{K}(r)]}{dr} &= r\mathcal{K}(r), & \frac{d[\mathcal{K}(r) - \mathcal{E}(r)]}{dr} &= \frac{r\mathcal{E}(r)}{r'^2}, \\ \mathcal{K}(r) &= \frac{\pi}{2}F\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; 1; r^2\right), & \mathcal{E}(r) &= \frac{\pi}{2}F\left(-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; 1; r^2\right), \end{aligned}$$

where  $F(a, b; c; x)$  is the Gaussian hypergeometric function [2, 47, 48] given by

$$F(a, b; c; x) = {}_2F_1(a, b; c; x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n(b)_n}{(c)_n} \frac{x^n}{n!} \quad (-1 < x < 1)$$

with the Pochhammer symbol  $(a)_0 = 1$ ,  $(a)_n = \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} (a+k)$  for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ .

## 2. LEMMAS

In order to prove our main results in the next section, we need several lemmas which we present in this section. For the sake of simplification, in what follows we use  $\mathcal{K}$  and  $\mathcal{E}$  to represent  $\mathcal{K}(r)$  and  $\mathcal{E}(r)$ , respectively.

**Lemma 2.11.** [8, 34, 35] Let  $-\infty < a < b < \infty$ ,  $f, g : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be continuous on  $[a, b]$  and be differentiable on  $(a, b)$  such that  $g'(x) \neq 0$  on  $(a, b)$ . Then both the functions  $[f(x) - f(a)]/[g(x) - g(a)]$  and  $[f(x) - f(b)]/[g(x) - g(b)]$  are (strictly) increasing (decreasing) on  $(a, b)$  if  $f'(x)/g'(x)$  is (strictly) increasing (decreasing) on  $(a, b)$ .

The following Lemma 2.12 can be found in the literatures [8, Theorem 3.21(1), (7), (8), Exercises 3.43(32), (46)] and [45, Lemma 2.4].

**Lemma 2.12.** The following statements are true:

- (1) The function  $r \mapsto r'^c\mathcal{K}$  is strictly decreasing from  $(0, 1)$  onto  $(0, \pi/2)$  if  $c \in [1/2, +\infty)$ ;
- (2) The function  $r \mapsto r'^c\mathcal{E}$  is strictly increasing from  $(0, 1)$  onto  $(\pi/2, +\infty)$  if and only if  $c \leq -1/2$ ;
- (3) The function  $r \mapsto (\mathcal{E} - r'^2\mathcal{K})/r^2$  is strictly increasing from  $(0, 1)$  onto  $(\pi/4, 1)$ ;
- (4) The function  $r \mapsto (\mathcal{K} - \mathcal{E})/(r^2\mathcal{K})$  is strictly increasing from  $(0, 1)$  onto  $(1/2, 1)$ ;

(5) The function  $r \mapsto (\mathcal{E} - r'^2\mathcal{K})/(r^2\mathcal{K})$  is strictly decreasing from  $(0, 1)$  onto  $(0, 1/2)$ ;

(6) The function  $r \mapsto [\mathcal{E} - r'^2\mathcal{K} - r'^2(\mathcal{K} - \mathcal{E})]/(\mathcal{E} - r'^2\mathcal{K})^2$  is strictly increasing from  $(0, 1)$  onto  $(3/\pi, 1)$ .

**Lemma 2.13.** *The function*

$$f(r) = \frac{4r^2r'^2\mathcal{K} - (r'^2 - r^2)(\mathcal{E} - r'^2\mathcal{K})}{r^2(\mathcal{E} + r'^2\mathcal{K})}$$

is strictly decreasing from  $(0, 1)$  onto  $(1, 7/4)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $f_1(r) = 4r^2r'^2\mathcal{K} - (r'^2 - r^2)(\mathcal{E} - r'^2\mathcal{K})$  and  $f_2(r) = r^2(\mathcal{E} + r'^2\mathcal{K})$ . Then elaborated computations lead to

$$\begin{aligned} f_1'(r) &= 8rr'^2\mathcal{K} - 8r^3\mathcal{K} + 4r^2r'^2 \left( \frac{\mathcal{E} - r'^2\mathcal{K}}{rr'^2} \right) + 4r(\mathcal{E} - r'^2\mathcal{K}) - (r'^2 - r^2)r\mathcal{K} \\ &= 7r(r'^2 - r^2)\mathcal{K} + 8r(\mathcal{E} - r'^2\mathcal{K}) = r[7(r'^2 - r^2)\mathcal{K} + 8(\mathcal{E} - r'^2\mathcal{K})], \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_2'(r) &= 2r(\mathcal{E} + r'^2\mathcal{K}) + r^2 \left( -\frac{\mathcal{K} - \mathcal{E}}{r} - 2r\mathcal{K} + \frac{\mathcal{E} - r'^2\mathcal{K}}{r} \right) \\ &= 2r(\mathcal{E} + r'^2\mathcal{K}) - r(\mathcal{K} - \mathcal{E}) - 2r^3\mathcal{K} + r(\mathcal{E} - r'^2\mathcal{K}) \\ &= r(4\mathcal{E} - 3r^2\mathcal{K}) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} r^3(\mathcal{E} + r'^2\mathcal{K})^2 f'(r) &= [7(r'^2 - r^2)\mathcal{K} + 8(\mathcal{E} - r'^2\mathcal{K})]r^2(\mathcal{E} + r'^2\mathcal{K}) \\ &\quad - [4r^2r'^2\mathcal{K} - (r'^2 - r^2)(\mathcal{E} - r'^2\mathcal{K})](4\mathcal{E} - 3r^2\mathcal{K}) \\ &= 7r^2(1 - 2r^2)\mathcal{K}(\mathcal{E} + r'^2\mathcal{K}) + 8r^2(\mathcal{E}^2 - r'^4\mathcal{K}^2) \\ &\quad - 4r^2(1 - r^2)\mathcal{K}(4\mathcal{E} - 3r^2\mathcal{K}) + (1 - 2r^2)(\mathcal{E} - r'^2\mathcal{K})(4\mathcal{E} - 3r^2\mathcal{K}) \\ &= -2(-r^2r'^2\mathcal{K}^2 - 2\mathcal{E}^2 + 2\mathcal{K}\mathcal{E}) \\ &= -2[2\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{K} - \mathcal{E}) - r^2r'^2\mathcal{K}^2] \\ &= -2r^2r'^2\mathcal{K}^2 \left[ 2 \left( \frac{\mathcal{E}}{r'} \right) \left( \frac{1}{r'\mathcal{K}} \right) \left( \frac{\mathcal{K} - \mathcal{E}}{r^2\mathcal{K}} \right) - 1 \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 2.12(1), (2) and (4) imply that the function  $r \mapsto 2\mathcal{E}(\mathcal{K} - \mathcal{E})/(r^2r'^2\mathcal{K}^2)$  is strictly increasing from  $(0, 1)$  onto  $(1, +\infty)$ . Hence  $f'(r) < 0$  for all  $r \in (0, 1)$ , so that  $f(r)$  is strictly decreasing on  $(0, 1)$ . Clearly  $f(1^-) = 1$ , and by Lemma 2.12(3),

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} f(r) = \lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{4r'^2\mathcal{K} - (r'^2 - r^2)(\mathcal{E} - r'^2\mathcal{K})/r^2}{\mathcal{E} + r'^2\mathcal{K}} = \frac{4 \cdot \pi/2 - \pi/4}{\pi} = \frac{7}{4}.$$

□

**Lemma 2.14.** *The function*

$$g(r) = \frac{r^2 r'^2 \mathcal{K}^2 - (\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})^2 - 2(r'^2 - r^2) \mathcal{K}(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})}{r^4 \mathcal{K}^2}$$

is strictly decreasing from  $(0, 1)$  onto  $(0, 7/8)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $g_1(r) = r^2 r'^2 \mathcal{K}^2 - (\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})^2 - 2(r'^2 - r^2) \mathcal{K}(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})$  and  $g_2(r) = r^4 \mathcal{K}^2$ . Then  $g(r) = g_1(r)/g_2(r)$  and  $g_1(0) = g_2(0) = 0$ . Differentiations lead to

$$\begin{aligned} g_1'(r) &= 2r r'^2 \mathcal{K}^2 - 2r^3 \mathcal{K}^2 + 2r \mathcal{K}(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K}) - 2(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K}) r \mathcal{K} \\ &\quad + 8r \mathcal{K}(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K}) - 2(r'^2 - r^2) \frac{(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})^2}{r r'^2} - 2(r'^2 - r^2) r \mathcal{K}^2 \\ &= 8r \mathcal{K}(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K}) - 2(r'^2 - r^2) \frac{(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})^2}{r r'^2} \\ &= \frac{2(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})}{r r'^2} \left[ 4r^2 r'^2 \mathcal{K} - (r'^2 - r^2)(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K}) \right] \end{aligned}$$

and

$$g_2'(r) = 4r^3 \mathcal{K}^2 + 2r^3 \mathcal{K} \left( \frac{\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K}}{r'^2} \right) = \frac{2r^3 \mathcal{K}}{r'^2} (\mathcal{E} + r'^2 \mathcal{K}).$$

Thus we derive that

$$(2.4) \quad \frac{g_1'(r)}{g_2'(r)} = \left( \frac{\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K}}{r^2 \mathcal{K}} \right) \left[ \frac{4r^2 r'^2 \mathcal{K} - (r'^2 - r^2)(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})}{r^2 (\mathcal{E} + r'^2 \mathcal{K})} \right].$$

It follows from (2.4), Lemma 2.12(5) and Lemma 2.13 that  $g_1'(r)/g_2'(r)$  is strictly decreasing on  $(0, 1)$ , and so is  $g(r)$  by application of Lemma 2.11. The limiting value  $g(1^-)$  is clear, and making use of l'Hôpital's rule, Lemma 2.12(5) and Lemma 2.13, one has

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} g(r) &= \lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{g_1'(r)}{g_2'(r)} = \lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \left( \frac{\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K}}{r^2 \mathcal{K}} \right) \\ &\quad \times \lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \left[ \frac{4r^2 r'^2 \mathcal{K} - (r'^2 - r^2)(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})}{r^2 (\mathcal{E} + r'^2 \mathcal{K})} \right] = \frac{7}{8}. \end{aligned}$$

□

**Lemma 2.15.** *Let  $p \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $r \in (0, 1)$  and the function  $J_p(r)$  be defined by*

$$(2.5) \quad J_p(r) = \frac{\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K}}{2r^2 r'^2 \mathcal{K}(r)} - \frac{p}{r'^2}.$$

Then  $J_p$  is strictly increasing on  $(0, 1)$  if and only if  $p \leq 0$  and strictly decreasing on  $(0, 1)$  if and only if  $p \geq 7/32$ . If  $0 < p < 7/32$ , then  $J_p$  is piecewise monotone on  $(0, 1)$ .

*Proof.* It follows from (2.5) that

$$(2.6) \quad J'_p(r) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{r^3 r'^2 \mathcal{K}^2 - (\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K}) [2r r'^2 \mathcal{K} - 2r^3 \mathcal{K} + r(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})]}{r^4 r'^4 \mathcal{K}^2} \right) - \frac{2pr}{r'^4} \\ = \frac{2r}{r'^4} \left[ \frac{r^2 r'^2 \mathcal{K}^2 - (\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})^2 - 2(r'^2 - r^2) \mathcal{K} (\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})}{4r^4 \mathcal{K}^2} - p \right].$$

Combining Lemma 2.14 and (2.6), we clearly see that Lemma 2.15 holds true.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.16.** *The function*

$$h(r) = \frac{(4 + r') \log(1 + 4/r') - 4r^2 \mathcal{K} / (\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})}{r'}$$

*is strictly increasing and positive on  $(0, 1)$ .*

*Proof.* Differentiations yield

$$\frac{d[(4 + r') \log(1 + 4/r')]}{dr} = \frac{r}{r'^2} [4 - r' \log(1 + 4/r')], \\ \frac{d[r^2 \mathcal{K} / (\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})]}{dr} = \frac{\left( 2r \mathcal{K} + r^2 \cdot \frac{\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K}}{r r'^2} \right) (\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K}) - r^2 \mathcal{K} \cdot r \mathcal{K}}{(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})^2} \\ = \frac{r[(\mathcal{E} + r'^2 \mathcal{K})(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K}) - r^2 r'^2 \mathcal{K}^2]}{r'^2 (\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})^2} = \frac{r(\mathcal{E}^2 - r'^2 \mathcal{K}^2)}{r'^2 (\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})^2},$$

and thereby

$$(2.7) \quad r'^2 h'(r) = \frac{r}{r'} \left[ 4 - r' \log\left(1 + \frac{4}{r'}\right) \right] - \frac{4r(\mathcal{E}^2 - r'^2 \mathcal{K}^2)}{r'(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})^2} + \frac{r}{r'} \left[ (4 + r') \log\left(1 + \frac{4}{r'}\right) - \frac{4r^2 \mathcal{K}}{\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K}} \right] \\ = \frac{4r}{r'} + \frac{4r}{r'} \log\left(1 + \frac{4}{r'}\right) - \frac{4r(\mathcal{E}^2 - r'^2 \mathcal{K}^2)}{r'(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})^2} - \frac{4r^3 \mathcal{K}}{r'(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})} \\ = \frac{4r}{r'(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})^2} \left[ (\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})^2 \log\left(1 + \frac{4}{r'}\right) + (\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})^2 - (\mathcal{E}^2 - r'^2 \mathcal{K}^2) \right. \\ \left. - r^2 \mathcal{K} (\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K}) \right] \\ = \frac{4r}{r'(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})^2} \left[ (\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})^2 \log\left(1 + \frac{4}{r'}\right) + 2r'^2 \mathcal{K}^2 - 2r'^2 \mathcal{K} \mathcal{E} - r^2 \mathcal{K} \mathcal{E} \right] \\ = \frac{4r}{r'(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})^2} \left[ (\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})^2 \log\left(1 + \frac{4}{r'}\right) - \mathcal{K} [\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K} - r'^2 (\mathcal{K} - \mathcal{E})] \right] \\ = \frac{4r \mathcal{K}}{r'} \left[ \frac{\log(1 + 4/r')}{\mathcal{K}} - \frac{\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K} - r'^2 (\mathcal{K} - \mathcal{E})}{(\mathcal{E} - r'^2 \mathcal{K})^2} \right].$$

Theorem 1.3 and Lemma 2.12(6) show that the function  $r \mapsto \log(1 + 4/r')/\mathcal{K} - [\mathcal{E} - r'^2\mathcal{K} - r'^2(\mathcal{K} - \mathcal{E})]/(\mathcal{E} - r'^2\mathcal{K})^2$  is strictly decreasing from  $(0, 1)$  onto  $(0, (2 \log 5 - 3)/\pi)$ . This in conjunction with (2.7) leads to the conclusion that  $h'(r) > 0$  for all  $r \in (0, 1)$ , so that  $h(r)$  is strictly increasing on  $(0, 1)$ . Since  $h(0^+) = 5 \log 5 - 8 = 0.0471 \dots > 0$ , we clearly see that  $h(r) > 0$  for all  $r \in (0, 1)$ , which completes the proof.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.17.** *Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $W_n$  be the Wallis ratio defined by*

$$(2.8) \quad W_n = \frac{(\frac{1}{2})_n}{n!} = \frac{\Gamma(n + 1/2)}{\Gamma(1/2)\Gamma(n + 1)},$$

where  $\Gamma(x) = \int_0^\infty t^{x-1} e^{-t} dt$  is the Euler gamma function [23, 36, 49, 60]. Then one has

$$(2.9) \quad \frac{\pi}{8} \frac{(2n + 1)^2}{n + 1} W_n^2 + \frac{1}{8} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{15(2n - 1)} \right] W_n - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{9}{16 \cdot 15^{n+1}} > 0$$

for all  $n \geq 5$ .

*Proof.* It was proved in [58] that inequality

$$W_n > \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi n \left( 1 + \frac{2}{8n-1} \right)}}$$

holds for all  $n \geq 1$ . Hence it is enough to prove that

$$\frac{(2n + 1)^2(8n - 1)}{8n(n + 1)(8n + 1)} + \frac{1}{8} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{15(2n - 1)} \right] \sqrt{\frac{(8n - 1)}{n\pi(8n + 1)}} - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{9}{16 \cdot 15^{n+1}} > 0$$

for all  $n \geq 5$ , which is equivalent to

$$(2.10) \quad \frac{1}{8} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{15(2n - 1)} \right] \sqrt{\frac{(8n - 1)}{n\pi(8n + 1)}} > \frac{1}{2} + \frac{9}{16 \cdot 15^{n+1}} - \frac{(2n + 1)^2(8n - 1)}{8n(n + 1)(8n + 1)}.$$

Taking the squares of two sides of inequality (2.10) leads to

$$(2.11) \quad \frac{1}{64} \left[ \frac{30n - 16}{15(2n - 1)} \right]^2 \frac{(8n - 1)}{n\pi(8n + 1)} - \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{9}{16 \cdot 15^{n+1}} - \frac{(2n + 1)^2(8n - 1)}{8n(n + 1)(8n + 1)} \right]^2 \\ = \frac{(15n - 8)^2(8n - 1)}{3600\pi n(8n + 1)(2n - 1)^2} \\ - \left[ \frac{40 \cdot 15^n \cdot n(n + 1)(8n + 1) + 3n(n + 1)(8n + 1) - 10 \cdot 15^n(2n + 1)^2(8n - 1)}{80 \cdot 15^n \cdot n(n + 1)(8n + 1)} \right]^2$$



$$= \frac{D_n}{57600\pi n^2(2n-1)^2(n+1)^2(8n+1)^2 15^{2n}},$$

where

$$(2.12) \quad D_n = 16n(8n-1)(8n+1)(n+1)^2(15n-8)^2 15^{2n} - 9\pi(2n-1)^2 \\ \times [10(8n^2+1)15^n + 3n(n+1)(8n+1)]^2.$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} & [16n(8n-1)(8n+1)(n+1)^2(15n-8)^2 15^{2n}]^{1/2} \\ & - \left\{ 9\pi(2n-1)^2 [10(8n^2+1)15^n + 3n(n+1)(8n+1)]^2 \right\}^{1/2} \\ & > 4 \cdot 16n \cdot (n+1)(15n-8)15^n - 3\sqrt{\pi}(2n-1) [10(8n^2+1)15^n + 3n(n+1)(8n+1)] \\ & = 64n(n+1)(15n-8)15^n - 30\sqrt{\pi}(2n-1)(8n^2+1)15^n - 9\sqrt{\pi}n(n+1)(8n+1)(2n-1) \\ & > 64n(n+1)(15n-8)15^n - 54(2n-1)(8n^2+1)15^n - 18n(n+1)(8n+1)(2n-1) \\ & = (96n^3 + 880n^2 - 620n + 54)15^n - 18n(n+1)(8n+1)(2n-1) \\ & > (96n^3 + 880n^2 - 620n + 54) \cdot 2n^2 - 18n(n+1)(8n+1)(2n-1) \\ & = 2n(96n^4 + 736n^3 - 710n^2 + 117n + 9) > 0 \end{aligned}$$

for  $n \geq 5$ . Hence we get  $D_n \geq 0$  for  $n \geq 5$  by (2.12).

Therefore, inequality (2.9) holds for each  $n \geq 5$  follows easily from (2.10) and (2.11).  $\square$

### 3. PROOFS OF THEOREMS 1.7-1.9

**Proof of Theorem 1.7.** Logarithmical differentiating  $H$  gives

$$\frac{H'(x)}{H(x)} = -\frac{p}{1-x} + \frac{\mathcal{E}(\sqrt{x}) - (1-x)\mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x})}{2x(1-x)\mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x})} = J_p(\sqrt{x}),$$

where  $J_p$  is defined by Lemma 2.15.

It follows from Lemma 2.15 that  $H'(x)/H(x)$  is strictly increasing if and only if  $p \leq 0$  and strictly decreasing if and only if  $p \geq 7/32$ . Consequently,  $H(x)$  is logarithmically convex on  $(0, 1)$  if and only if  $p \leq 0$  and logarithmically concave on  $(0, 1)$  if and only if  $p \geq 7/32$ . This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 1.8.** By differentiation, one has

$$\begin{aligned}
 G'(x) &= \frac{\frac{\mathcal{E}(\sqrt{x}) - (1-x)\mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x})}{2x(1-x)} [\log(1 + 4/\sqrt{1-x})] - \mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x}) \frac{2}{(4 + \sqrt{1-x})(1-x)}}{[\log(1 + 4/\sqrt{1-x})]^2} \\
 &= \frac{[\mathcal{E}(\sqrt{x}) - (1-x)\mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x})] \log(1 + 4/\sqrt{1-x}) - \frac{4x\mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x})}{4 + \sqrt{1-x}}}{2x(1-x)[\log(1 + 4/\sqrt{1-x})]^2} \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{\mathcal{E}(\sqrt{x}) - (1-x)\mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x})}{x} \right] \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x}(4 + \sqrt{1-x})[\log(1 + 4/\sqrt{1-x})]^2} \right] \\
 &\quad \times \left[ \frac{(4 + \sqrt{1-x}) \log(1 + 4/\sqrt{1-x}) - \frac{4x\mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x})}{\mathcal{E}(\sqrt{x}) - (1-x)\mathcal{K}(\sqrt{x})}}{\sqrt{1-x}} \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

It is not difficult to check that the function  $x \mapsto x(4+x)[\log(1+4/x)]^2$  is strictly increasing and positive on  $(0, 1)$ . Applying Lemma 2.12 and Lemma 2.16 we conclude that  $G'(x)$  is strictly increasing on  $(0, 1)$ . Therefore,  $G(x)$  is convex on  $(0, 1)$  and the desired inequality follows from the convexity of  $G(x)$  immediately.  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 1.9.** Employing Gaussian hypergeometric series, we get

$$F(x) = \frac{\pi}{2} F\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; 1; x\right) - \log\left(1 + \frac{4}{\sqrt{1-x}}\right)$$

and

$$F'(x) = \frac{\pi}{8} F\left(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}; 2; x\right) - \frac{2(4 - \sqrt{1-x})}{(15+x)(1-x)}.$$

Let

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.13) \quad F_1(x) &= F'(x) - F'(0) = \frac{\pi}{8} F\left(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}; 2; x\right) - \frac{2(4 - \sqrt{1-x})}{(15+x)(1-x)} - \left(\frac{\pi}{8} - \frac{2}{5}\right) \\
 &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n x^n.
 \end{aligned}$$

Then it suffices to prove that  $F_1(x)$  has non-negative Maclaurin series, that is,  $C_n \geq 0$  for all  $n \geq 1$ . Note that

$$\frac{\pi}{8} F\left(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}; 2; x\right) = \frac{\pi}{8} + \frac{\pi}{8} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{[(\frac{3}{2})_n]^2}{(2)_n n!} x^n$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{2(4 - \sqrt{1-x})}{(15+x)(1-x)} = \frac{1}{8}(4 - \sqrt{1-x}) \left( \frac{1}{1-x} + \frac{1}{x+15} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \left( 4 - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-\frac{1}{2})_n}{n!} x^n \right) \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n + \frac{1}{15} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^n}{15^n} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \left( 4 - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-\frac{1}{2})_n}{n!} x^n \right) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left[ 1 + (-1)^n \frac{1}{15^{n+1}} \right] x^n \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left[ 1 + (-1)^n \frac{1}{15^{n+1}} \right] x^n - \frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{k=0}^n \left[ 1 + (-1)^k \frac{1}{15^{k+1}} \right] \frac{(-\frac{1}{2})_{n-k}}{(n-k)!} \right) x^n \\ &= \frac{2}{5} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{2} + (-1)^n \frac{1}{2 \cdot 15^{n+1}} - \frac{1}{8} \left( \sum_{k=0}^n \left[ 1 + (-1)^k \frac{1}{15^{k+1}} \right] \frac{(-\frac{1}{2})_{n-k}}{(n-k)!} \right) \right) x^n. \end{aligned}$$

It follows from (3.13) that

$$\begin{aligned} (3.14) \quad C_n &= \frac{\pi}{8} \frac{[(\frac{3}{2})_n]^2}{(2)_n n!} - \frac{1}{2} - (-1)^n \frac{1}{2 \cdot 15^{n+1}} + \frac{1}{8} \left( \sum_{k=0}^n \left[ 1 + (-1)^k \frac{1}{15^{k+1}} \right] \frac{(-\frac{1}{2})_{n-k}}{(n-k)!} \right) \\ &= \frac{\pi}{8} \frac{[(\frac{1}{2})_n]^2}{(n!)^2} \frac{(2n+1)^2}{(n+1)} - \frac{1}{2} - (-1)^n \frac{1}{2 \cdot 15^{n+1}} + \frac{1}{8} \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(-\frac{1}{2})_{n-k}}{(n-k)!} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{8} \left( \sum_{k=0}^{n-2} (-1)^k \frac{1}{15^{k+1}} \frac{(-\frac{1}{2})_{n-k}}{(n-k)!} + (-1)^n \frac{1}{15^{n+1}} + (-1)^n \frac{1}{2 \cdot 15^n} \right) \\ &= \frac{\pi}{8} \frac{(2n+1)^2}{(n+1)} W_n^2 - \frac{1}{2} + (-1)^n \frac{9}{16 \cdot 15^{n+1}} + \frac{1}{8} W_n - \frac{1}{16} \sum_{k=0}^{n-2} (-1)^k \frac{1}{15^{k+1}} \frac{(\frac{1}{2})_{n-k-1}}{(n-k)!}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $W_n = (1/2)_n/n!$  is the Wallis ratio defined in Lemma 2.17. Note that

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(-\frac{1}{2})_{n-k}}{(n-k)!} = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(-\frac{1}{2})_k}{(k)!} = W_n,$$

which can be obtained by comparing the coefficients of two sides of the following identity

$$\frac{1}{1-x} \cdot (1-x)^{1/2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-\frac{1}{2})_n}{n!} x^n = (1-x)^{-1/2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\frac{1}{2})_n}{n!} x^n.$$

We claim that

$$(3.15) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{n-2} (-1)^k \frac{1}{15^{k+1}} \frac{(\frac{1}{2})_{n-k-1}}{(n-k)!} < \frac{1}{15} \frac{(\frac{1}{2})_{n-1}}{n!}$$

for  $n \geq 2$ . Indeed, for fixed  $n \geq 2$ , if we let  $I(k) = (1/2)_{n-k-1}/[15^{k+1}(n-k)!]$  for  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-2$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{I(k+1)}{I(k)} &= \frac{1}{15} \left( \frac{n-k}{n-k-3/2} \right) = \frac{1}{15} \left( 1 + \frac{3/2}{n-k-3/2} \right) \\ &< \frac{1}{15} \left( 1 + \frac{3/2}{2-3/2} \right) = \frac{4}{15} < 1. \end{aligned}$$

So that

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n-2} (-1)^k I(k) < I(0) = \frac{1}{15} \frac{(\frac{1}{2})_{n-1}}{n!}.$$

From (3.14), (3.15) and Lemma 2.17 we clearly see that

$$\begin{aligned} C_n &> \frac{\pi}{8} \frac{(2n+1)^2}{(n+1)} W_n^2 - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{9}{16 \cdot 15^{n+1}} + \frac{1}{8} W_n - \frac{1}{240} \frac{(\frac{1}{2})_{n-1}}{n!} \\ &= \frac{\pi}{8} \frac{(2n+1)^2}{(n+1)} W_n^2 + \frac{1}{8} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{15(2n-1)} \right] W_n - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{9}{16 \cdot 15^{n+1}} > 0 \end{aligned}$$

for  $n \geq 5$ .

Finally, it is not difficult to verify that  $C_1 = 9\pi/64 - 11/25 = 0.00178 \dots > 0$ ,  $C_2 = 75\pi/512 - 227/500 = 0.00619 \dots > 0$ ,  $C_3 = 1225\pi/8192 - 2307/5000 = 0.00838 \dots > 0$ ,  $C_4 = 19845\pi/131073 - 93223/200000 = 0.00953 \dots > 0$ . Therefore the proof of Theorem 1.9 is complete.  $\square$

**Remark 3.18.** In [20, 32, 57], the authors provided the upper bounds for  $\mathcal{K}(r)$  as follows:

$$(3.16) \quad \mathcal{K}(r) \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \frac{\arctan \frac{\sqrt{1-r'}}{\sqrt{r'}}}{\sqrt{r^2 + r' - 1}},$$

$$(3.17) \quad \mathcal{K}(r) < \frac{\pi}{4r} \log \left( \frac{1+r}{1-r} \right),$$

$$(3.18) \quad \mathcal{K}(r) \leq \frac{\pi \sqrt{r^4 - 32r^2 + 32}}{8\sqrt{2} \sqrt[4]{(1-r^2)^3}}.$$

Computer simulation and experiments show that the upper bound for  $\mathcal{K}(r)$  given in (1.3) is better than that given in (3.16), (3.17) and (3.18).

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**Miao-Kun Wang**

Department of Mathematics  
Huzhou University, Huzhou 313000  
China  
E-mail: *wmk000@126.com*,  
*wangmiaokun@zjhu.edu.cn*

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**Hong-Hu Chu**

College of Civil Engineering  
Hunan University, Changsha 410082  
China  
E-mail: *chuhonghu2005@126.com*

**Yong-Min Li**

Department of Mathematics  
Huzhou University, Huzhou 313000  
China  
E-mail: *ymlwww@163.com*

**Yu-Ming Chu**

College of Science  
Hunan City University, Yiyang 413000  
China  
School of Mathematics and Statistics  
Changsha University of Science & Technology,  
Changsha 410114  
China  
E-mail: *chuyuming@zjhu.edu.cn*  
*chuyuming2005@126.com*