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ON CONVOLUTION EQUATIONS WITH RESTRICTIONS ON SUPPORTS

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Let X be a Banach space of sequences $\{a_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$, and let X^* be its dual space. Denote

$$X_{\pm} = \{ \{a_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \in X : a_n = 0 \text{ for } n \leq 0 \}.$$

Suppose that the shift operator S , $S\{a_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} = \{a_{n-1}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$, and its inverse S^{-1} act continuously on X . We are interested in the structure of (closed) biinvariant (that is, S, S^{-1} -invariant) subspaces of X . By the Hahn–Banach theorem, X has proper biinvariant subspaces if and only if the convolution equation

$$u * v = \{ \langle S^n u, v \rangle \}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} = 0 \tag{1}$$

has solutions $u \in X \setminus \{0\}$, $v \in X^* \setminus \{0\}$. Finding solutions of this equation becomes much more difficult if some restrictions are imposed on the supports of u and v . For example, an interesting question is whether (1) has solutions $u \in X_+ \setminus \{0\}$, $v \in (X^*)_+ \setminus \{0\}$. In this case, for every Banach space of sequences \tilde{X} with $\tilde{X}_+ = X_+$, u generates a proper biinvariant subspace \tilde{E} of \tilde{X} , and $\tilde{E} \cap X_+$ is a proper S -invariant subspace of X_+ .

Consider a weight σ , that is, a function $\sigma : \mathbb{Z}_+ \rightarrow (0, +\infty)$ such that

$$0 < \inf_{n \geq 0} \frac{\sigma(n+1)}{\sigma(n)} \leq \sup_{n \geq 0} \frac{\sigma(n+1)}{\sigma(n)} < \infty,$$

and $\sigma(0) = 1$. We set $\sigma(-n) = 1/\sigma(n)$, $n > 0$, and define

$$\ell_{\sigma}^2(\mathbb{Z}) = \left\{ \{a_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} : \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} |a_n|^2 \sigma^2(n) < \infty \right\}, \quad \ell_{\sigma}^2(\mathbb{Z}_{\pm}) = (\ell_{\sigma}^2(\mathbb{Z}))_{\pm}.$$

In [12], Jean Esterle produced solutions of the convolution equation

$$u * v = 0, \quad u \in \ell_{\sigma}^2(\mathbb{Z}_+) \setminus \{0\}, \quad v \in \ell_{\sigma}^2(\mathbb{Z}_-) \setminus \{0\}, \tag{2}$$

for some weights σ of arbitrarily slow growth. These weights σ are monotonic, but not too far more regular than that.

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A. In the first part of the present paper we show that some mild regularity conditions on σ guarantee the absence of solutions to equation (2).

Clearly, (2) has no solutions in the usual ℓ^2 case where $\sigma \equiv 1$.

A1. Suppose that $\ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_+)$ is a convolution Banach algebra, that is, for some $c > 0$ we have $\|u * v\| \leq c\|u\|\|v\|$, $u, v \in \ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_+)$. (This is so, for instance, if the weight σ satisfies the condition

$$\sup_{n \geq 0} \sum_{0 \leq k \leq n} \left(\frac{\sigma(n)}{\sigma(k)\sigma(n-k)} \right)^2 < \infty.)$$

Then equation (2) has no solutions.

Proof. Clearly, the weight function σ satisfies the inequality

$$\sigma(n) \leq c\sigma(k)\sigma(n-k), \quad 0 \leq k \leq n, n \geq 0.$$

Hence, $\sigma(n) \leq \|S^n\|_{\ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_+)} \leq c\sigma(n)$, and the following limit exists:

$$0 < \delta = \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \sigma^{-1/n}(n) < \infty.$$

Without loss of generality, we assume that $\delta = 1$. For every $u \in \ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_+)$, the function $u(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} u_n z^n$ is analytic in the unit disk \mathbb{D} , and is continuous up to the boundary of \mathbb{D} . The space of maximal ideals of $\ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_+)$ coincides with $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$ (see, e.g., [20, Corollary 1, p. 94]).

The space $\ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_+)$ has the (restricted) division property: for some ρ with $0 < \rho \leq 1$, if $u \in \ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_+)$ and $u(\lambda) = 0$ for some $\lambda \in \rho\mathbb{D}$, then there exists $u_\lambda \in \ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_+)$ such that $(z - \lambda)u_\lambda(z) = u(z)$. Furthermore, if u and v satisfy (2), and $u(\lambda) = 0$ for some $\lambda \in \rho\mathbb{D}$, then $u_\lambda * v = 0$. Indeed, the relation $(S - \lambda)u_\lambda * v = 0$ implies that $u_\lambda * v = \{c\lambda^{-n}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$. Suppose that $c \neq 0$. Since

$$|(u_\lambda * v)_n| = |\langle S^n u_\lambda, v \rangle| \leq \|S^n\| \|u_\lambda\| \|v\|,$$

we get $|c\lambda^{-n}| \leq \|S^n\| \leq c\sigma(n)$, which is impossible for large n because $|\lambda| < 1$.

Now we fix u and v satisfying (2) and consider the S -invariant subspace (ideal) I of $\ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_+)$ consisting of all w such that $w * v = 0$. Denote by $Z(I)$ the set of common zeros of I in $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$. Our previous remark shows that $Z(I) \cap \rho\mathbb{D} = \emptyset$. Furthermore, $Z(I) \cap \mathbb{T}$ is a proper closed subset of zero Lebesgue measure of \mathbb{T} , where $\mathbb{T} = \partial\mathbb{D}$.

We denote by I^\perp the set of all $w \in \ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_-)$ vanishing on I . For every element $w \in I^\perp$ we define its analytic transform

$$\hat{w}(\lambda) = \langle (z - \lambda + I)^{-1}, w \rangle, \quad \lambda \in \hat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus Z(I),$$

where $\widehat{\mathbb{C}} = \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$, $\widehat{w}(\infty) = 0$. By [10, Theorem 2.4], \widehat{w} is well defined and analytic in the (connected) domain $\widehat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus Z(I)$. If $w \neq 0$, then $\widehat{w} \neq 0$. Furthermore,

$$S^{-k}v \in I^\perp, \quad k \geq 0,$$

$$\widehat{S^{-k}v}(\lambda) = \widehat{v}(\lambda)\lambda^{-k}, \quad k \geq 0, \lambda \in \widehat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}}.$$

Hence, $\lambda^k \widehat{S^{-k}v}(\lambda) = \widehat{v}(\lambda)$, $k \geq 0$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{D} \setminus Z(I)$, and \widehat{v} vanishes at zero with all its derivatives. Thus, $v = 0$. Our assertion is proved. •

A2. Suppose that σ is logarithmically concave, i.e., $\sigma(n-1)\sigma(n+1) \leq \sigma^2(n)$, and that $\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \sigma(n) = \infty$. Then equation (2) has no solutions.

Proof. Fix u and v satisfying (2), $u(0) \neq 0$, and consider the S^{-1} -invariant subspace E of $\ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_-)$ consisting of all w such that $u * w = 0$. Next, consider the compression T of S on $\ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_-)$. If $w \in E$, then $\langle u, T^n w \rangle = 0$. Hence, E generates a proper T -invariant subspace E_1 of $\ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_-)$. Finally, $u(0) \neq 0$ implies that $e_0 = \{\delta_{0n}\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \notin E_1$, where $\delta_{0n} = 0$ if $n \neq 0$, $\delta_{0n} = 1$ if $n = 0$.

Without loss of generality, we assume that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sigma^{1/n}(n) = 1$. Using a discrete version of [5, Proposition B.1] (see also [11, Lemma 5.2]) and replacing σ by an equivalent weight $\tilde{\sigma}$, $0 < c_1 \leq \tilde{\sigma}(n)/\sigma(n) \leq c_2 < \infty$, we find a continuous positive integrable function φ on $[0, 1)$ such that

$$2 \int_0^1 r^{2n+1} \varphi(r) dr = \tilde{\sigma}^2(-n), \quad n \geq 0.$$

Then $\ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_-)$ is isometrically isomorphic to the weighted Bergman space B ,

$$B = \left\{ f \in \text{Hol}(\mathbb{D}) : \int_{\mathbb{D}} |f(z)|^2 \varphi(|z|) dm_2(z) < \infty \right\}.$$

Furthermore, E becomes a subspace of B invariant under multiplication by z , and E_1 becomes a subspace of B invariant under the backward shift operator $f \mapsto (f - f(0))/z$, $1 \notin E_1$.

Applying [1, Theorem 4.8], we conclude that E_1 is a subset of the Nevanlinna class. Take $f \in E \setminus \{0\}$, $f = f_1/f_2$, $f_1, f_2 \in H^\infty$. Then $f_1 \in E \setminus \{0\}$. Since $\|z^n\|_B \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, there exists a function $g \in B$ with nontangential boundary values nowhere on \mathbb{T} . Then $f_1 g \in E \subset E_1$ has nontangential boundary values almost nowhere on \mathbb{T} , and, hence, does not belong to the Nevanlinna class. This completes the proof. •

A3. In the situations described in subsections A and B, the space $X = \ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_+)$ satisfies the following *index 1 property*: for every proper S -invariant subspace E of X , the index of E (that is, the dimension of E/SE) is equal to 1. On the other hand, in the situation considered by Esterle in [12, Theorem 4.10] (see also Theorem 4.2 there), both $\ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_+)$ and $\ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_-)$ do not satisfy this property.

Question: Suppose that X_+ satisfies the index 1 property. Does equation (1) have solutions $u \in X_+ \setminus \{0\}$, $v \in (X^*)_- \setminus \{0\}$?

B. In the second part of this paper we consider the equation

$$u * v = 0, \quad u \in X_+ \setminus \{0\}, \quad v \in X^* \setminus \{0\}. \quad (3)$$

If u and v satisfy (3), then u generates a biinvariant subspace $E \subset X$ such that $E_1 = E \cap X_+$ is a proper S -invariant subspace of X , and E is generated by E_+ . In the terminology of [13], such subspaces are called *analytic* subspaces.

For some weighted ℓ^2 spaces of sequences with asymmetric weights, every biinvariant subspace is analytic [13, 14]. For a short historical survey of related results on translation invariant subspaces, see [19].

Suppose that $X = \ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z})$ for a weight function σ (and, consequently, $X = X^*$). If $\sigma \equiv 1$, then equation (3) has no solutions. If σ decays sufficiently fast,

$$\frac{n}{\log^\alpha n} \leq \log \frac{1}{\sigma(n)} = o(n), \quad n \rightarrow +\infty,$$

for some $0 < \alpha < \infty$, then equation (3) has solutions (see [6, Theorem 1.3]). For weights σ decreasing polynomially, $\sigma(n) = (n+1)^{-A}$, $n \geq 0$, for some $A > 0$, the existence of solutions of (3) is an open problem (see, e.g., [15, Section 8.8.11]).

Finally, we consider growing weights σ . As in part A1, we deal with the case where $\ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_+)$ is a Banach algebra.

B1. Theorem. *Let $\ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_+)$ be a convolution Banach algebra, and let $\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \sigma(n)^{1/n} = 1$. Suppose that either*

$$1 < \liminf_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\log \sigma(n)}{\log n} \leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\log \sigma(n)}{\log n} < \infty, \quad (I)$$

or

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\log \sigma(n)}{\log n} = \infty. \quad (II)$$

In the second case we assume that σ extends to a smooth function on \mathbb{R}_+ such that the functions φ_k , $\varphi_k(t) = \log[\sigma(t)/t^k]$, $k \geq 0$, are concave, and the function ψ , $\psi(t) = \log \sigma(\exp t)$, is convex for large t .

Then equation (3) has no solutions.

Proof. Arguing as before, we fix u and v satisfying (3), and consider the S -invariant subspace (ideal) I of $\ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_+)$ consisting of all w such that $w * v = 0$. As in Subsection A1, $Z(I) \cap \mathbb{T}$ is a proper closed subset of \mathbb{T} . Denote by v^k the element of $\ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_-)$ given by

$$(v^k)_n = v_{k+n}, \quad n \leq 0.$$

Then $v^k \in I^\perp$, $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. We define the analytic transform as in A1, obtaining

$$\widehat{v^k}(\lambda) = \widehat{v^{k-1}}(\lambda)\lambda^{-1} + v_k\lambda^{-1}, \quad k \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad \lambda \in \widehat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}}.$$

Let

$$\widehat{v}^0(\lambda) = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n \lambda^n, \quad \lambda \in \rho\mathbb{D}.$$

Then by induction we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{v}^k(\lambda) &= \sum_{n \geq 0} a_{n+k} \lambda^n, \quad \lambda \in \rho\mathbb{D}, \\ a_k &= -v_{k+1}, \end{aligned}$$

and, as a result,

$$\widehat{v}^0(\lambda) = - \sum_{n \geq 0} v_{n+1} \lambda^n, \quad \lambda \in \rho\mathbb{D}.$$

Since the power series on the right converges in \mathbb{D} , we see that \widehat{v}^0 is analytic in \mathbb{D} . Note that by definition,

$$\widehat{v}^0(\lambda) = - \sum_{n \geq 0} v_{-n} \lambda^{-n-1}, \quad \lambda \in \widehat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}}.$$

If the class $\ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_+)$ is quasianalytic (i.e., the conditions $u \in \ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_+)$ and $u^{(k)}(\lambda) = 0$ ($k = 0, 1, \dots$) for some $\lambda \in \overline{\mathbb{D}}$ imply $u = 0$), then $Z(I)$ is a finite subset of \mathbb{D} , and the results of Domar [9] show that the ideal I is determined by its zero set if the multiplicities are taken into account. Accordingly, I^\perp is finite-dimensional. Hence, $v^0|_{\widehat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}}}$ is a finite linear combination of elementary fractions $1/(z - \lambda)^k$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{T}$, and v^0 cannot be smooth on $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$.

Consider

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H} &= \left\{ \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n z^n, z \in \overline{\mathbb{D}} : \{a_n\} \in \ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_+) \right\}, \\ \mathcal{G} &= \left\{ \sum_{n \geq 0} a_{-n} z^{-n-1}, z \in \widehat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}} : \{a_n\} \in \ell_\sigma^2(\mathbb{Z}_-) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

To complete the proof of our claim, it remains to establish the following result.

Proposition. *Suppose that the class \mathcal{H} is nonquasianalytic. Then no function $h_1 \in \mathcal{H} \setminus \{0\}$ extends analytically to a function $g \in \mathcal{G}$ across a subset $\mathbb{T} \setminus F$ of the unit circle such that $h_2|_F = 0$ for some $h_2 \in \mathcal{H} \setminus \{0\}$.*

Proof. We start with a rather standard argument relating the growth of functions in \mathcal{G} with the rate of decay of functions in \mathcal{H} near their zeros of infinite order in case (II).

Since $\log \sigma$ is concave, for every small $\varepsilon > 0$ the function $t \mapsto \sigma(t)e^{-\varepsilon t}$ attains its maximal value $M(\varepsilon)$ at a unique point t_0 such that $\varepsilon = \sigma'(t_0)/\sigma(t_0)$. Then $M(\varepsilon) \nearrow +\infty$, $\varepsilon t_0 \nearrow +\infty$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$.

First, we prove that

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \sigma^2(n) e^{-2\varepsilon n} \leq ct_0 M^2(\varepsilon), \quad \varepsilon > 0, \quad (4)$$

$$t_0^k \leq c(k) M(\varepsilon), \quad k \geq 1. \quad (5)$$

Indeed, since the φ_k are concave, it follows that for every k , for sufficiently large t_0 , and for $n \geq t_0$ we have

$$\varphi_k(n) - \varphi_k(t_0) \leq (n - t_0) \varphi_k'(t_0) = (n - t_0) \left(\varepsilon - \frac{k}{t_0} \right),$$

and for $k = 1$ we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma(n) e^{-\varepsilon n} &= n e^{\varphi_1(n) - \varepsilon n} \leq n e^{\varphi_1(t_0) - \varepsilon t_0} e^{-(n - t_0)/t_0}, \\ \sum_{n \geq t_0} \sigma^2(n) e^{-2\varepsilon n} &\leq \sum_{n \geq t_0} \left(\frac{n}{t_0} \right)^2 M^2(\varepsilon) e^{-2(n - t_0)/t_0} \leq ct_0 M^2(\varepsilon). \end{aligned}$$

In a similar way, for $n < t_0$ we have

$$\varphi_k(t_0) - \varphi_k(n) \geq (t_0 - n) \varphi_k'(t_0),$$

and we conclude that

$$\sum_{n < t_0} \sigma^2(n) e^{-2\varepsilon n} \leq ct_0 M^2(\varepsilon)$$

and that

$$\begin{aligned} \log \sigma(t_0) &\geq c(k) + k \log t_0 + t_0 (\log \sigma)'(t_0) = c(k) + k \log t_0 + t_0 \varepsilon, \\ M(\varepsilon) &= \sigma(t_0) e^{-\varepsilon t_0} \geq c(k) t_0^k. \end{aligned}$$

This proves relations (4) and (5).

Since ψ is convex, for large a the function $t \mapsto t^a / \sigma(t)$ attains its maximal value at a unique point t_1 such that $a = t_1 \sigma'(t_1) / \sigma(t_1)$. Therefore,

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{n^{2a-2}}{\sigma^2(n)} \leq c \frac{t_1^{2a}}{\sigma^2(t_1)}.$$

Put $a = \varepsilon t_0$. Then $t_1 = t_0$. Choosing $s \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ such that $s \leq a - 1 < s + 1$ and using the Stirling formula, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+} \left[\frac{\varepsilon^k}{k!} \left(\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{n^{2k}}{\sigma^2(n)} \right)^{1/2} \right] &\leq \frac{\varepsilon^s}{s!} \left(\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{n^{2a-2}}{\sigma^2(n)} \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq c \frac{e^s \varepsilon^s}{s^s} \frac{t_0^a}{\sigma(t_0)} = c \frac{(\varepsilon e)^{s-a} e^{\varepsilon t_0} (\varepsilon t_0)^a}{s^s \sigma(t_0)} = c \frac{e^{s-a}}{M(\varepsilon)} \left(\frac{a}{s} \right)^s \left(\frac{a}{\varepsilon} \right)^{a-s} \\ &\leq c \frac{t_0^2}{M(\varepsilon)}. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Now we deal with elements of the spaces \mathcal{G} and \mathcal{H} in case (II). By the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality and by (4) and (5), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |g(z)| &\leq \|g\|_{\mathcal{G}} \left(\sum_{n \geq 0} \sigma^2(n) |z|^{-2n-2} \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq c \|g\|_{\mathcal{G}} M^2(\log |z|), \quad |z| > 1, \quad g \in \mathcal{G}. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

If $h \in \mathcal{H}$, $h(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n z^n$, and h vanishes with all its derivatives at a point $\zeta \in \mathbb{T}$, then, by the Taylor formula,

$$|h(z)| \leq \min_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+} \left[\frac{|z - \zeta|^k}{k!} \sum_{n \geq 1} n^k |a_n| \right], \quad z \in \overline{\mathbb{D}},$$

and the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality together with (5), (6) yields

$$\begin{aligned} |h(z)| &\leq \|h\|_{\mathcal{H}} \min_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+} \left[\frac{|z - \zeta|^k}{k!} \left(\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{n^{2k}}{\sigma^2(n)} \right)^{1/2} \right] \\ &\leq c \|h\|_{\mathcal{H}} M^{-1/2}(|z - \zeta|), \quad z \in \overline{\mathbb{D}}. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Next, we pass to case (I). We get

$$|g(z)| \leq c \|g\|_{\mathcal{G}} \frac{1}{(|z| - 1)^c}, \quad 1 < |z| < 2, \quad g \in \mathcal{G}. \quad (9)$$

Furthermore, \mathcal{H} is continuously embedded in a Lipschitz class on $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$. Therefore, for some $\alpha > 0$ and for every $h \in \mathcal{H}$ vanishing at a point $\zeta \in \mathbb{T}$, we get

$$|h(z)| \leq c \|h\|_{\mathcal{H}} |z - \zeta|^\alpha, \quad z \in \overline{\mathbb{D}}. \quad (10)$$

Now we suppose that $g \in \mathcal{G}$, $h_1, h_2 \in \mathcal{H} \setminus \{0\}$, h_2 vanishes on a closed subset F of \mathbb{T} , and h_1 extends to g across $\mathbb{T} \setminus F$. Without loss of generality, we assume that $|h_1(z)| \leq 1$ and $|h_2(z)| \leq 1$ for $z \in \mathbb{T}$.

In case (I), we cover F by a sequence of disjoint arcs J_n , $J_n \cap F \neq \emptyset$, for every arc $J_n = \{e^{i\theta} : |\theta - \theta_n| \leq \delta_n\}$ we introduce the "square" $Q_n = \{re^{i\theta} : |\theta - \theta_n| \leq \delta_n, 0 \leq r - 1 \leq \delta_n\}$, and consider the domain $\Omega = \widehat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus (\overline{\mathbb{D}} \cup \bigcup Q_n)$. The boundary of Ω is a subset of $\mathbb{T} \cup \bigcup \partial Q_n$. Fix $z \in \widehat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}}$. If $\max |J_n|$ is sufficiently small, say, less than $(|z| - 1)/2$, then, by the theorem on two constants and by (9),

$$\begin{aligned} \log |g(z)| &\leq \int_{\partial\Omega \setminus \mathbb{T}} \log |g(w)| \omega(z, dw, \Omega) = \sum_n \int_{\partial Q_n \setminus \mathbb{T}} \log |g(w)| \omega(z, dw, \Omega) \\ &\leq c(z) \sum_n |J_n| \log \frac{1}{|J_n|}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\omega(z, dw, \Omega)$ is harmonic measure on $\partial\Omega$ with respect to the point z in the domain Ω , and $|J|$ is the length of the arc J . Furthermore, by (10),

$$\sum_n |J_n| \log \frac{1}{|J_n|} \leq -c_1 \int_{\cup J_n} \log(c|h_2(z)|) dm(z).$$

Since the integral

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}} \log(|h_2(z)|) dm(z)$$

converges, we can find a covering $\{J_n\}$ of F such that

$$- \int_{\cup J_n} \log(c|h_2(z)|) dm(z)$$

is arbitrarily small. Hence, $|g(z)| \leq 1$ for $z \in \widehat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}}$, and the proof is complete ($g - h_1$ is an $L^2(\mathbb{T})$ -function vanishing outside a set of zero measure, hence both g and h_1 are equal to 0).

In case (II), first we assume that

$$\int_0 \log M(t) dt < \infty. \quad (11)$$

The set F consists of a countable set of points z_k and a perfect set F_0 of zero measure; h_2 has zeros of infinite order at the points of F_0 . As before, we cover F_0 by a sequence of disjoint arcs J_n . Estimates (7) and (8) together with an argument similar to that used in case (I) show that J_n can be chosen in such a way that the expression

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_n \int_{\partial Q_n \setminus \mathbb{T}} \log |g(w)| \omega(z, dw, \Omega) &\leq c(z) \sum_n \int_0^{|J_n|} \log M(t) dt \\ &\leq -c(z) \int_{\cup J_n} \log(c|h_2(z)|) dm(z) \end{aligned}$$

is arbitrarily small. Furthermore, we can cover the (countable) set $\{z_k\} \setminus \cup J_n$ by a sequence of disjoint small arcs J'_n such that the sum

$$\sum_n \int_{\partial Q'_n \setminus \mathbb{T}} \log |g(w)| \omega(z, dw, \Omega) \leq c(z) \sum_n \int_0^{|J'_n|} \log M(t) dt$$

is arbitrarily small. After that, the proof is completed as in case (I).

Finally, if (11) fails, then inequality (8) shows that \mathcal{H} is a quasianalytic class. •

B2. I do not know if an analog of Proposition is true when \mathcal{H} is a quasianalytic class (say, with $F = \{1\}$).

Note that functions $h_1 \in \mathcal{H}$ may extend analytically across $\mathbb{T} \setminus \{1\}$ to $\widehat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}}$ with growth there slightly more rapid than that permitted in \mathcal{G} (see [7, Example 7.1]). On the other hand, if we consider spaces $\widetilde{\mathcal{G}}$ somewhat smaller than \mathcal{G} (and \mathcal{H} still quasianalytic), then the Levinson–Cartwright theorem and a result by the author [3, Theorem 1] imply that $h_1 \in \mathcal{H}$ cannot extend to $g \in \widetilde{\mathcal{G}}$ even across a set of positive measure (extension via nontangential boundary values); see also a related result of Beurling [2, Corollary 4.2, p. 407] for $\widetilde{\mathcal{G}} = H^2(\widehat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}})$.

Under some regularity and growth conditions on M (essentially, if

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log M(\delta)}{\log(1/\delta)} = \infty, \quad \int_0^\delta \log M(t) dt \asymp \delta \log M(\delta),$$

our Proposition follows from a result by Hruščëv (see [17, Theorem 9.1], where no smoothness conditions were imposed on h_1).

The relationship between the space of smooth functions \mathcal{H} , the space \mathcal{G} , and the class of zero sets $F \subset \mathbb{T}$ of functions in \mathcal{H} such that the claim of our Proposition is fulfilled deserves additional study. In particular, we may need results similar to that proposition when solving equation (3) for weighted ℓ^2 spaces of sequences with asymmetric weights.

Note that for nonquasianalytic (in the closed unit disk) Gevrey classes, the boundary zero sets are described in a rather complicated fashion [16]. Our elementary estimate (8) should be replaced by a much better estimate from [4, Theorem 2.6]. For even more precise estimates of the decay near a zero of infinite order for elements of nonquasianalytic classes on \mathbb{T} , see [18].

In the proof of Theorem B1 (case (II)) we could use an argument from Subsection A2 and reduce our problem to an analog of Proposition with \mathcal{G} replaced by $\mathcal{G} \cap N$, where N is the Nevanlinna class in $\widehat{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}}$. A related problem was considered in [8].

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