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DESCRIPTION OF SIMPLE EXCEPTIONAL SETS  
IN THE UNIT BALL

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*Abstract.* For  $z \in \partial B^n$ , the boundary of the unit ball in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , let  $\Lambda(z) = \{\lambda: |\lambda| \leq 1\}$ . If  $f \in \mathcal{O}(B^n)$  then we call  $E(f) = \{z \in \partial B^n: \int_{\Lambda(z)} |f(z)|^2 d\Lambda(z) = \infty\}$  the exceptional set for  $f$ . In this note we give a tool for describing such sets. Moreover we prove that if  $E$  is a  $G_\delta$  and  $F_\sigma$  subset of the projective  $(n-1)$ -dimensional space  $\mathbb{P}^{n-1} = \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{C}^n)$  then there exists a holomorphic function  $f$  in the unit ball  $B^n$  so that  $E(f) = E$ .

*Keywords:* boundary behavior of power series, exceptional set

*MSC 2000:* 30B30

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $\mathbb{S}$  denote the unit sphere in the complex space  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . Wojtaszczyk constructed in [6, Theorem 1] a sequence of homogeneous polynomials in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  with special properties on the boundary of the unit ball  $\mathbb{B}^n$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . By means of those polynomials he could give an example of a function  $f \in \mathcal{O}(\mathbb{B}^n)$ , the space of holomorphic functions in  $\mathbb{B}^n$ , such that  $|f|$  is not integrable with any power  $p$ ,  $1 \leq p < \infty$ , on any slice of the form  $\Lambda(z) = \mathbb{C}z \cap \mathbb{B}^n$ , where  $z \in \mathbb{S}$  (see [6]).

In this note we focus our attention on another related problem. Suppose now that  $f$  is a holomorphic function in the unit ball  $\mathbb{B}^n$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . Let  $\Pi_1$  be the set of all complex one-dimensional linear subspaces of  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . Let

$$E(f) = \{\Lambda \in \Pi_1: f|_{\Lambda \cap \mathbb{B}^n} \text{ is not } L^2\text{-integrable on } \Lambda \cap \mathbb{B}^n\}.$$

It turns out that  $E(f)$  is a  $G_\delta$ -set in the natural topology in  $\Pi_1$ . Note that  $\Pi_1$  can be identified with the projective  $(n-1)$ -dimensional space  $\mathbb{P}^{n-1} = \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{C}^n)$ . Now let  $E$  be a given arbitrary  $G_\delta$ -subset of  $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ . We try to construct  $f \in \mathcal{O}(\mathbb{B}^n)$

such that  $E = E(f)$ . Such function can be obtained (see Theorem 3.6 below) by means of modified Wojtaszczyk polynomials; the construction of those polynomials is performed in Theorem 3.5.

We give also examples of functions holomorphic in the unit ball with another kind of bad behavior on one-dimensional slices (Proposition 4.1).

Note that other examples of functions with bad behavior on lower-dimensional subsets of  $\mathbb{B}^n$  were given by several authors; see e.g. [2], [3], [4], [6].

## 2. SLICES

There is a natural, unitarily invariant (Lebesgue) measure on  $\mathbb{S}$ . We normalize it so that the measure of the whole sphere  $\mathbb{S}$  equals 1 and we denote this measure by  $\sigma$ . Moreover there exists a natural (Lebesgue) measure on  $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ . We denote this measure by  $\sigma_{\mathbb{P}}$ . First we prove a result about the relation between homogeneous polynomials and slices  $\Lambda(z)$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** *Let  $f \in \mathcal{O}(B^n)$  and  $f(z) = \sum_{m \in \mathbb{N}} p_m(z)$  where  $p_m(z)$  is a sequence of homogeneous polynomials of the degree  $m$ . If for  $z \in \mathbb{S}$  we denote  $\Lambda = \Lambda(z) = \mathbb{C}z \cap \mathbb{B}^n$  then*

$$\int_{\Lambda} |f|^2 d\Lambda < \infty \Leftrightarrow \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{|p_m(z)|^2}{m} < \infty.$$

Moreover

$$\int_{\mathbb{B}^n} |f(y)|^2 dy < \infty \Leftrightarrow \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \int_{w \in \mathbb{P}^{n-1}} \frac{|p_m(w)|^2}{m} d\sigma_{\mathbb{P}} < \infty.$$

*Proof.* For  $z \in \partial\mathbb{B}^n$  let  $\Lambda = \Lambda(z) = \mathbb{C}z \cap \mathbb{B}^n$ . We can calculate

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Lambda} |f|^2 d\Lambda &= \int_{|\lambda| \leq 1} |f(\lambda z)|^2 d\lambda = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \int_{|\lambda| \leq 1} |p_m(z)|^2 |\lambda|^{2m} d\lambda \\ &= 2\pi \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \int_{0 \leq r \leq 1} |p_m(z)|^2 r^{2m+1} dr = \pi \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{|p_m(z)|^2}{m+1}. \end{aligned}$$

From this follows

$$\int_{\Lambda} |f|^2 d\Lambda < \infty \Leftrightarrow \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{|p_m(z)|^2}{m} < \infty.$$

To prove the second part, first we can easily prove that there exist constants  $c, \tilde{c} > 0$  independent of the choice of the function  $f$  such that

$$c \int_{\mathbb{B}^n} |f(y)|^2 dy \leq \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \int_{w \in \mathbb{P}^{n-1}} \int_{|\lambda| \leq 1} |p_m(w)|^2 |\lambda|^{2m} d\lambda d\sigma_{\mathbb{P}} \leq \tilde{c} \int_{\mathbb{B}^n} |f(y)|^2 dy.$$

Now because

$$\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \int_{w \in \mathbb{P}^{n-1}} \int_{|\lambda| \leq 1} |p_m(w)|^2 |\lambda|^{2m} d\lambda d\sigma_{\mathbb{P}} = \pi \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \int_{w \in \mathbb{P}^{n-1}} \frac{|p_m(w)|^2}{m+1} d\sigma_{\mathbb{P}}$$

we conclude that

$$\int_{\mathbb{B}^n} |f(y)|^2 dy < \infty \Leftrightarrow \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \int_{w \in \mathbb{P}^{n-1}} \frac{|p_m(w)|^2}{m} d\sigma_{\mathbb{P}} < \infty.$$

□

**Proposition 2.2.** *If  $f \in \mathcal{O}(\mathbb{B}^n)$  then  $E(f)$  is a  $G_{\delta}$  subset of the projective space  $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $f \in \mathcal{O}(B^n)$ . There exists a sequence of homogeneous polynomials  $p_m(z)$  such that  $p_m(z)$  is of degree  $m$  for every  $m$  and  $f(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} p_k(z)$ . Let  $h_t(z) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |p_k(z)|^2 k^{-1} t^{2k}$ . For  $t < s < 1$  we define  $g_s(z; \lambda) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} p_k(zs) \lambda^k$ . There exists  $M_s > 0$  such that if  $|\lambda| \leq 1$ ,  $z \in \mathbb{B}^n$  then  $|g_s(z; \lambda)| \leq M_s$ . Therefore by Cauchy's inequality it follows that  $|p_k(zs)| \leq M_s$  for  $z \in \mathbb{B}^n$ . From this it follows that  $|p_k(z)| \leq s^{-k} M_s$  for  $z \in \mathbb{B}^n$ . Now, it is clear that  $h_t$  is continuous. We define  $h(z) = \sup_{t < 1} h_t(z)$ . Because  $E(f) = h^{-1}(\infty)$ , therefore it is enough to prove that

$$h^{-1}(\infty) = \bigcap_{M \in \mathbb{N}} \bigcup_{t < 1} h_t^{-1}((M; \infty)).$$

Let  $z \in \mathbb{B}^n$  be such that  $h(z) = \infty$ . Let  $M \in \mathbb{N}$ . There exists  $t < 1$  such that  $h_t(z) > M$  and therefore  $z \in \bigcup_{t < 1} h_t^{-1}((M; \infty))$ . Moreover if  $h(z) < \infty$  for some  $z \in \mathbb{B}^n$  then for  $M > h(z)$  we have  $z \notin \bigcup_{t < 1} h_t^{-1}((M; \infty))$ . The proof is complete. □

### 3. HOMOGENEOUS POLYNOMIALS

**Definition 3.1.** In the complex  $n$ -dimensional space  $\mathbb{C}^n$  we will always consider the usual scalar product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ . On the unit sphere  $\mathbb{S}$  we will consider a unitary invariant pseudo-metric  $\varrho$ :

$$\varrho(z_1, z_2) := \sqrt{1 - |\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle|}.$$

As usual, we denote the open ball with center  $z_0 \in \mathbb{S}$  and radius  $r$

$$B(z_0; r) := \{z \in \mathbb{S} : \varrho(z_0, z) < r\}.$$

There is a natural, unitarily invariant (Lebesgue) measure on  $\mathbb{S}$ . We normalize it so that the measure of the whole sphere  $\mathbb{S}$  equals 1 and we denote this measure by  $\sigma$ . As in the paper [6] using (1.4.5) of [5] we easily compute that

$$r^{2n-2} \leq \sigma(B(z_0; r)) \leq 2^{n-1} r^{2n-2}.$$

A subset  $A \subset \mathbb{S}$  is called  $\alpha$ -separated if  $\varrho(z_1, z_2) > \alpha$  for all distinct elements  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  of  $A$ .

**Lemma 3.2.** *Suppose that  $\{\zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_s\}$  is a  $C/\sqrt{N}$ -separated subset of  $\mathbb{S}$ . Then for  $C > 2$  we have  $s \leq N^{n-1}$ .*

*Proof.* Since the balls  $B(\zeta_j; C/(2\sqrt{N}))$  are disjoint we get

$$s \frac{C^{2n-2}}{2^{2n-2} N^{n-1}} \leq \sum_{j=1}^s \sigma\left(B\left(\zeta_j; \frac{C}{2\sqrt{N}}\right)\right) \leq 1$$

so  $s \leq N^{n-1}$ . □

Now we need the following Lemmas from the paper [6]:

**Lemma 3.3** [6, Lemma 2]. *If  $A \subset \mathbb{S}$  is  $\alpha/\sqrt{N}$ -separated then for each  $\beta > \alpha$  there exists an integer  $K = K(\alpha, \beta)$  such that  $A$  can be partitioned into  $K$  disjoint  $\beta/\sqrt{N}$ -separated sets.*

**Lemma 3.4** [6, Proposition 1]. *There exists a constant  $C > 2$  such that for all integers  $N$  large enough, for each  $C/\sqrt{N}$ -separated subset  $\{\xi_1, \dots, \xi_s\}$  of  $\mathbb{S}$  and each integer  $k$  with  $N \leq k \leq 2N$  the polynomial*

$$p_k(z) := \sum_{j=1}^s \langle z, \xi_j \rangle^k$$

satisfies

1.  $|p_k(z)| \leq 2$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{S}$ ,
2.  $|p_k(z)| \geq 0.5$  for each  $z \in \mathbb{S}$  such that  $\varrho(z, \xi_j) \leq 1/(4\sqrt{N})$  for some  $j = 1, \dots, s$ .

Now we are ready to prove the following result (compare: [6, Theorem 1]).

**Theorem 3.5.** *There exists  $K \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for  $0 < \varepsilon < 1$  and for each pair of closed subsets  $D, T$  of  $\mathbb{S}$  such that  $\varrho(z, w) > 0$  for all  $z \in D$  and all  $w \in T$  we can choose  $m_0 = m_0(D, T, \varepsilon) \in \mathbb{N}$  and a sequence  $p_m(z)$  of homogeneous polynomials of degree  $m$  which satisfy*

1.  $|p_m(z)| \leq 2$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{S}$ ,  $m > m_0$ ,
2.  $\sum_{i=Km}^{K(m+1)-1} |p_i(z)| \geq 0.5$  for all  $z \in T$ ,  $m > m_0$ ,
3.  $\sum_{i=Km}^{K(m+1)-1} |p_i(z)| \leq 2^{-(Km)^{1-\varepsilon}}$  for all  $z \in D$ ,  $m > m_0$ .

*Proof.* Let  $C$  be as in Lemma 3.4. Let  $K = K(\alpha, \beta)$  be as in Lemma 3.3 for  $\alpha = 0.25$  and  $\beta = C$ . For  $N = Km$  fix a maximal  $1/(4\sqrt{N})$ -separated subset  $A \subset T$ . Using Lemma 3.3 we can divide  $A$  into at least  $K$  disjoint  $C/\sqrt{N}$ -separated subsets  $A_0, A_1, \dots, A_{K-1}$ . We define

$$p_{Km+j}(z) := \sum_{\xi \in A_j} \langle z, \xi \rangle^{Km+j}$$

for  $j = 0, 1, \dots, K-1$ . From Lemma 3.4 we infer that there exists  $m_0$  so large that for  $m > m_0$  we have  $|p_{Km+j}(z)| \leq 2$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{S}$  and  $|p_{Km+j}(z)| \geq 0.5$  for

$$z \in \bigcup_{\xi \in A_j} B\left(\xi; \frac{1}{4\sqrt{N}}\right).$$

Since  $A = \bigcup_{l=0}^{K-1} A_l$  is a maximal  $1/(4\sqrt{N})$ -separated subset of  $T$  we conclude that

$$\bigcup_{j=0}^{K-1} \bigcup_{\xi \in A_j} B\left(\xi; \frac{1}{4\sqrt{N}}\right) = \bigcup_{\xi \in A} B\left(\xi; \frac{1}{4\sqrt{N}}\right) \supset T$$

and from this it follows that

$$\sum_{i=Km}^{K(m+1)-1} |p_i(z)| \geq 0.5 \text{ for all } z \in T, \quad m > m_0.$$

Without loss of generality we can assume that  $m_0$  is so large that  $\varrho(z, w) > \sqrt{1/N^\varepsilon}$  for all  $z \in D$  and  $w \in T$ . Using Lemma 3.2 we have for  $m_0$  large enough,  $m > m_0$ ,  $N = Km$  and  $z \in D$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=0}^{K-1} |p_{Km+j}(z)| &\leq \sum_{j=0}^{K-1} \sum_{\xi \in A_j} |\langle z, \xi \rangle|^{Km+j} \leq \sum_{\xi \in A} |\langle z, \xi \rangle|^N \\ &\leq \sum_{\xi \in A} \left(1 - \frac{1}{N^\varepsilon}\right)^N \leq N^{n-1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{N^\varepsilon}\right)^{N^\varepsilon N^{1-\varepsilon}} \\ &\leq \frac{N^{n-1}}{2.5^{N^{1-\varepsilon}}} \leq \frac{1}{2^{N^{1-\varepsilon}}}. \end{aligned}$$

□

Now we prove the main Theorem of this note.

**Theorem 3.6.** *If  $E$  is a  $G_\delta$  and  $F_\sigma$  subset of  $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$  then we can choose a function  $f \in \mathbb{O}(B^n)$  such that  $E = E(f)$ .*

*Proof.* There exist sequences  $D_i$  and  $S_i$  of closed subsets of  $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$  such that  $S_i \subset S_{i+1}$ ,  $\bigcup S_i = E$  and  $D_i \subset D_{i+1}$ ,  $\bigcup D_i = \mathbb{P}^{n-1} \setminus E$ . If  $z, w \in \mathbb{S}$  and  $\langle z, w \rangle \in \mathbb{R}_+$  then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{2}\varrho(z; w) &= \sqrt{2 - 2|\langle z, w \rangle|} = \sqrt{\langle z, z \rangle + \langle w, w \rangle - 2\langle z, w \rangle} \\ &= \|z - w\|. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore because  $D_i \cap S_i = \emptyset$  we conclude that  $\varrho(z; w) > 0$  for each  $z \in D_i$  and each  $w \in S_i$ . By Theorem 3.5 there exist  $K \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $c \in \mathbb{R}_+$ , a sequence of numbers  $m_i$  such that  $Km_i + K \leq Km_{i+1}$ , and homogeneous polynomials  $p_{Km_i+0}(z), \dots, p_{Km_i+K-1}(z)$  satisfying

1.  $\sum_{v=Km_i}^{K(m_i+1)-1} |p_v(z)|^2 \geq 1$  for all  $z \in S_i$ ,
2.  $\sum_{v=Km_i}^{K(m_i+1)-1} |p_v(z)|^2 \leq 1/2^i$  for all  $z \in D_i$ ,
3.  $|p_\nu(z)| \leq c$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{S}$  and  $\nu = Km_i + j$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $j = 0, 1, \dots, K-1$ .

Let  $\mathbb{A} = \{Km_i + j : i \in \mathbb{N}, j = 0, \dots, K-1\}$ . We define  $f(z) := \sum_{v \in \mathbb{A}} v^{1/2} p_v(z)$ . Because  $|p_v(z)| \leq c|z|^v$  for all  $z \in B^n$  we have  $f \in \mathcal{O}(B^n)$ . If  $z \notin E$  then there exists  $j_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $z \in D_j$  for all  $j \geq j_0$  and therefore we have

$$\sum_{v \in \mathbb{A}} |p_v(z)|^2 \leq \sum_{v \in \mathbb{A}, v < Km_{j_0}} |p_v(z)|^2 + \sum_{k=j_0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k} < \infty$$

and we conclude that  $\int_{\mathbb{C}z \cap B^n} |f|^2 < \infty$ .

If  $z \in E$  then there exists  $i_0$  such that  $z \in S_i$  for all  $i \geq i_0$ . Therefore:

$$\sum_{v \in \mathbb{A}} |p_v(z)|^2 \geq \sum_{k=i}^{\infty} 1 = \infty.$$

Now it is clear that  $\int_{\mathbb{C}z \cap B^n} |f|^2 = \infty$ . It follows therefore that  $E = E(f)$ .  $\square$

#### 4. HIGHLY NONINTEGRABLE FUNCTIONS

We give a nontrivial example of a highly nonintegrable function in the unit ball as another application of Theorem 3.5 .

**Proposition 4.1.** *There exists a function  $f \in \mathcal{O}(B^n)$  such that  $f|_{\mathbb{C}z \cap B^n}$  is bounded for all  $z \in \mathbb{S}$  and  $\int_{B^n} |f|^2 = \infty$ .*

*P r o o f.* There exists a sequence of numbers  $\varepsilon_i > 0$ , a sequence  $S_i$  of closed subsets, and a sequence  $U_i$  of open subsets of  $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$  which have the following properties:

1.  $S_i \subset U_i$ ,
2.  $U_i \cap U_j = \emptyset$  for  $i \neq j$ ,
3.  $\varrho(z, w) > \varepsilon_i$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{S} \setminus U_i$  and  $w \in S_i$ ,
4.  $\sigma(S_j) > 0$  for all  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ .

If we define  $D_i = \mathbb{P}^{n-1} \setminus U_i$ , then  $D_i$  are closed in  $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}$  and  $\varrho(z, w) > 0$  for all  $z \in D_i$  and all  $w \in S_i$ . Because

$$\sum_{i=1}^K a_i^2 \leq \left( \sum_{i=1}^K a_i \right)^2 = \sum_{i=1}^K \sum_{j=1}^K a_i a_j \leq \sum_{i=1}^K \sum_{j=1}^K (a_i^2 + a_j^2) = 2K \sum_{i=1}^K a_i^2$$

for  $K \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $a_i > 0$ , by Theorem 3.5 there exist  $K \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $c \in \mathbb{R}_+$ , a sequence of numbers  $m_j$  ( $j \in \mathbb{N}$ ) so that  $Km_j + K \leq Km_{j+1}$  and a sequence of homogeneous polynomials  $p_m(z)$  of degree  $m$  such that

1.  $|p_m(z)| \leq c$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{S}$ ,



2.  $\sum_{v=Km_j}^{K(m_j+1)-1} |p_v(z)|^2 \geq 1$  for all  $z \in S_j$ ,
3.  $\sum_{v=Km_j}^{K(m_j+1)-1} |p_v(z)| \leq 2^{-\sqrt{m_j}} \leq m_j^{-1}$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{S} \setminus U_j$ .

We can assume that  $m_j$  is so large that

$$\sqrt{\sigma(S_j)m_j} \geq 2^j \sqrt{Km_j + K}$$

for all  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ .

We define

$$f(z) := \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_{v=Km_j}^{K(m_j+1)-1} \frac{\sqrt{v}p_v(z)}{\sqrt{\sigma(S_j)}}.$$

Because

$$\frac{\sqrt{v}|p_v(z)|}{\sqrt{\sigma(S_j)}} \leq \frac{c\sqrt{Km_j + K}}{\sqrt{\sigma(S_j)}} |z|^{Km_j} \leq \frac{cm_j}{2^j} |z|^{Km_j}$$

for  $v = Km_j + i$ ,  $i = 0, 1, \dots, K-1$ ,  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $z \in \mathbb{B}^n$ , it is easy to see that  $f \in \mathcal{O}(B^n)$ . Let  $z \in \mathbb{S}$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  where  $|\lambda| = 1$ . Because  $U_i \cap U_j = \emptyset$  for  $i \neq j$  there exists  $j_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  so that  $z \in \mathbb{S} \setminus \bigcup_{j \geq j_0} U_j$ . Now we have

$$\begin{aligned} |f(\lambda z)| - \sum_{j \leq j_0} \sum_{v=Km_j}^{K(m_j+1)-1} \frac{\sqrt{v}|p_v(z)|}{\sqrt{\sigma(S_j)}} &\leq \sum_{j \geq j_0} \sum_{v=Km_j}^{K(m_j+1)-1} \frac{\sqrt{v}|p_v(z)|}{\sqrt{\sigma(S_j)}} \\ &\leq \sum_{j \geq j_0} \frac{\sqrt{Km_j + K}}{m_j \sqrt{\sigma(S_j)}} \leq \sum_{j \geq j_0} \frac{1}{2^j} < \infty \end{aligned}$$

and we conclude that  $f|_{\mathbb{C}z \cap \mathbb{B}^n}$  is bounded.

Moreover we can write

$$\sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_{v=Km_j}^{K(m_j+1)-1} \int_{\mathbb{P}^{n-1}} \frac{v|p_v(z)|^2}{v\sigma(S_j)} \geq \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \int_{S_j} \frac{1}{\sigma(S_j)} = \infty$$

and we conclude by Proposition 2.1 that  $\int_{\mathbb{B}^n} |f|^2 = \infty$ . □

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