1086-37-2195 **Xander Faber*** (`xander@math.hawaii.edu`) and **Laura DeMarco** (`demarco@math.uic.edu`). *Non-Archimedean Dynamics and Degenerations of Complex Dynamical Systems.* Preliminary report.

The measure of maximal entropy for a complex rational function varies continuously as one moves around in the parameter space of functions of fixed degree d. What happens as one approaches the boundary of this parameter space? By transferring this question to the Berkovich projective line, we answer it under a natural stability hypothesis. Our technique also gives a Markov process interpretation of equidistribution of pre-images for the limit measure, which allows one to explicitly determine the measure in many cases. (Received September 25, 2012)