

## EXAMPLE OF A NONRECTIFIABLE NEVANLINNA CONTOUR

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ABSTRACT. Nevanlinna contours (and domains) were introduced by K. Yu. Fedorovskii in connection with the problem of uniform approximation of continuous functions by polyanalytic polynomials; also, these contours are related to pseudocontinuation of analytic functions, to the theory of model spaces, etc. An example of a nonrectifiable Nevanlinna contour is constructed in this paper for the first time.

### §1. INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENT OF THE RESULT

We briefly recall the definition and main properties of Nevanlinna domains (see, e.g., [1, Chapter 2, 2.3–2.4] for more details).

Let  $\mathbb{D} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 1\}$  be the unit disk and  $\mathbb{T} = \partial\mathbb{D}$  the unit circle on the complex plane  $\mathbb{C}$ . For every open set  $E \subset \bar{\mathbb{C}}$ , we denote by  $H^\infty(E)$  the space of bounded analytic functions on  $E$ .

A bounded simply connected domain  $\Omega$  in  $\mathbb{C}$  is called a *Nevanlinna domain* (see [2, Definition 2.1]) if there exist two functions  $u, v \in H^\infty(\Omega)$  with  $v \not\equiv 0$  such that in the sense of conformal mapping we have

$$\bar{\zeta} = \frac{u(\zeta)}{v(\zeta)}$$

a.e. on  $\Gamma$ . This means that for almost every  $\xi \in \mathbb{T}$  we have

$$(1.1) \quad \overline{\varphi(\xi)} = \frac{u(\varphi(\xi))}{v(\varphi(\xi))},$$

for the angular boundary values, where  $\varphi$  is an analytic univalent function that maps  $\mathbb{D}$  onto  $\Omega$ .

If  $\Omega$  is a Jordan domain,  $\Gamma$  is called a *Nevanlinna contour*.

The definition of Nevanlinna domains is consistent: clearly, it does not depend on the choice of  $\varphi$ ; next, by the Fatou theorem, the functions  $u(\varphi(\xi))$  and  $v(\varphi(\xi))$  have angular boundary values a.e. on  $\mathbb{T}$ , and the ratio  $u/v$  is uniquely defined in  $\Omega$  by the Lusin boundary uniqueness theorem.

The following criterion for being a Nevanlinna domain is important for applications.

**Theorem 1** (see [2, Proposition 3.1]). *A domain  $\Omega$  is a Nevanlinna domain if and only if the function  $\varphi$  in (1.1) admits analytic pseudocontinuation (in the sense of Nevanlinna) across  $\mathbb{T}$ , i.e., there exist two functions  $f_1, f_2 \in H^\infty(\bar{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \mathbb{D})$  such that  $f_2 \not\equiv 0$  and a.e. on  $\mathbb{T}$  we have  $\varphi = f_1/f_2$  in the sense of angular boundary values (taken from inside  $\mathbb{T}$  on the left and from outside on the right).*

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Let  $H^p = H^p(\mathbb{D})$ ,  $p \in (0, \infty)$ , be the standard Hardy spaces (see, e.g., [3]), and let  $S^*$  be the backward shift operator on  $H^2$ , i.e.,

$$S^*: f \rightarrow \frac{f(z) - f(0)}{z}.$$

As was proved in [4, Theorem 2.2.1], a function  $f \in H^2$  admits Nevanlinna type pseudocontinuation if and only if  $f$  is not a cyclic vector for  $S^*$  (i.e., the linear hull of the vectors  $S^{*n}f$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ , is not dense in  $H^2$ ). This allows one to use the theory of model subspaces of  $H^2$  (see [5, 6]) for the study of Nevanlinna domains. It should be noted that much information on the theory of model spaces is contained in the book [7].

Nevanlinna domains arise naturally in the theory of approximation by polyanalytic polynomials. The statement presented below is a partial case of Theorem 2.2 in [2]. Recall that a bounded domain  $\Omega$  is called a *Carathéodory domain* if  $\partial\Omega = \partial\Omega_\infty$ , where  $\Omega_\infty$  is the unbounded (connected) component of  $\bar{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \bar{\Omega}$ . *Polyanalytic polynomials of order  $n$*  (*bianalytic if  $n = 2$* ) are defined to be the functions of the form

$$P(z) = \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} P_m(z) \bar{z}^m,$$

where all  $P_m$  are polynomials of the complex variable  $z$ .

**Theorem 2.** *Let a positive integer  $n$  be fixed, and let  $\Omega$  be a Carathéodory domain with boundary  $\partial\Omega$ . The set of polyanalytic polynomials of order  $n$  is dense in  $C(\partial\Omega)$  if and only if  $\Omega$  is not a Nevanlinna domain.*

Note that, unlike the case of  $n = 1$  (where the Mergelyan theorem holds, see [8]), for  $n \geq 2$  the connectedness of the complement to a compact set is not necessary for the uniform approximability of functions by polyanalytic polynomials.

The notions of a Nevanlinna contour and Nevanlinna domain were introduced in [9], where Theorem 2 was proved under the assumption that  $\partial\Omega$  is a rectifiable contour. Despite of important advances, the problem of uniform approximation of functions by polyanalytic polynomials on plane compact sets has not been yet resolved in full generality (see [1, Subsection 2.3]).

Keeping in mind the importance of Nevanlinna domains (in approximation theory, in boundary-value problems, etc.), it is natural to ask how wide this class is, in particular, how “bad” their boundaries may be.

If  $\Gamma$  is an analytic contour, from Theorem 1 it easily follows (see also [10, Chapter 14]) that  $\Gamma$  is a Nevanlinna contour if and only if the function  $\varphi$  in (1.1) is rational with poles in  $\bar{\mathbb{D}}$ . (In particular, an ellipse different from a circle is not a Nevanlinna contour, and, by Theorem 2, every continuous function on it is approximable within any given accuracy by bianalytic polynomials).

In more complicated cases, Theorem 1 can also be applied for construction of Nevanlinna contours; in doing so, it is important to control the property for  $\varphi$  to be univalent in  $\mathbb{D}$ . The first example of a nowhere analytic Nevanlinna contour was constructed in [11]. In [5, Theorem 3], a  $C^1$  Nevanlinna contour that is not a Lyapunov curve was constructed. In [6], a (rectifiable) Nevanlinna contour was exhibited with the property that  $\varphi'$  belongs to the Hardy class  $H^1$  but does not belong to  $H^p$  with any  $p > 1$ .

The question about the existence of a nonrectifiable Nevanlinna contour has been known for more than 10 years (see [2, Problem 3.2], [12, Problem 2.10]); in the present paper, we answer it in the positive. The following example will be constructed.

**Example 1.** There exists a function

$$(1.2) \quad \varphi(z) = z + \sum_j \frac{\varepsilon_j}{z - z_j}$$

(where the sum in  $j$  is countable) such that  $\varepsilon_j, z_j \in \mathbb{C}, \sum_j |\varepsilon_j| < \infty$ , and

- (1)  $1 < |z_j| < 2$  for all  $j$ , the points  $\{z_j\}$  accumulate only at  $z = 1$  and satisfy the Blaschke condition  $\sum_j (|z_j| - 1) < \infty$ ;
- (2)  $\varphi$  is continuous on  $\mathbb{D}$  and analytic near every  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  different from 1 and the  $z_j$ ;
- (3)  $\operatorname{Re} \varphi'(z) > 1/2$  everywhere in  $\mathbb{D}$ ;
- (4) the image of the unit circle under the mapping  $\varphi$  has infinite length.

Under the conditions of Example 1,  $\varphi(\mathbb{T})$  is a nonrectifiable Nevanlinna contour. Indeed,  $\varphi$  is univalent in  $\mathbb{D}$  by (3) and, by (2), it maps  $\mathbb{D}$  onto a simply connected Jordan domain  $\Omega$  bounded by the contour  $\Gamma = \partial\Omega$ . This contour is not rectifiable by (4). Again by (2), every open arc of  $\Gamma$  not containing 1 is analytic. Let  $w_j = 1/z_j$ , then by (1) the Blaschke condition  $\sum_j (1 - |w_j|) < \infty$  is fulfilled, and, consequently, the Blaschke product

$$B(w) = \prod_j \frac{\bar{w}_j}{|w_j|} \frac{w - w_j}{\bar{w}_j w - 1}$$

is a function analytic in  $\mathbb{D}$  and satisfying  $|B(w)| = 1$  a.e. on  $\mathbb{T}$  in the sense of angular boundary values. Thus, in the notation of Theorem 1, the function  $\varphi(z)$  given by (1.2) is representable in  $\bar{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \mathbb{D}$  as the ratio of two bounded analytic functions  $f_1(z) = \varphi(z) \frac{B(\frac{1}{z})}{z}$  and  $f_2(z) = \frac{B(\frac{1}{z})}{z}$ , i.e.,  $\varphi$  admits a Nevanlinna-type pseudocontinuation.

*Remark 1.* Since  $\varphi'$  is a function with positive real part, it belongs to all  $H^p$  with  $p < 1$  (see, e.g., [13, Chapter 2, §4.5]), but does not belong to  $H^1$  because  $\Gamma$  is not rectifiable).

### §2. CONSTRUCTION OF A “NEVANLINNA NEEDLE”

We begin with auxiliary considerations; they are quite elementary and can be used in future constructions of Nevanlinna domains with nonrectifiable boundaries (not necessarily of Jordan type).

Fix  $b, 0 < b < 1$ , and  $N \in \mathbb{N}, N \geq 2$ . Consider the function

$$(2.1) \quad \Phi_{b,N}(z) = b \int_{b/N^2}^b \frac{dt}{t - z} = b \left( \ln(b - z) - \ln \left( \frac{b}{N^2} - z \right) \right)$$

(the integration is over the interval  $[b/N^2, b]$  of the real axis,  $z \notin [b/N^2, b]$ , and the branch of the logarithm is chosen so that  $\ln 1 = 0$ ). We observe the simple properties (Φ1)–(Φ3) of  $\Phi_{b,N}(z)$  and of its derivative in  $z$ ,

$$(2.2) \quad \Phi'_{b,N}(z) = b \int_{b/N^2}^b \frac{dt}{(t - z)^2} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{N^2} - \frac{z}{b}} - \frac{1}{1 - \frac{z}{b}}.$$

(Φ1)  $\Phi_{b,N}(0) = 2b \ln N$  and  $|\Phi_{b,N}(z)| \leq 2b \ln N$  in the half-plane  $\operatorname{Re} z \leq 0$ ;

(Φ2) for  $|z| \geq 2b$  we have  $|\Phi_{b,N}(z)| < \frac{2b^2}{|z|}$  and  $|\Phi'_{b,N}(z)| < \frac{4b^2}{|z|^2}$ ;

(Φ3) for  $\operatorname{Re} z \leq 0$  we have  $\operatorname{Re} \Phi'_{b,N}(z) > -1$ .

Properties (Φ1) and (Φ2) are obvious. Property (Φ3) is a consequence of the inequalities

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{1}{\frac{1}{N^2} - \frac{z}{b}} \right) > 0, \quad \left| \frac{1}{1 - \frac{z}{b}} \right| \leq 1,$$

valid in the half-plane  $\operatorname{Re} z \leq 0$ .

The function  $\Phi_{b,N}$  is not rational. To “correct” it, we use the Simpson formula, which is well known in the theory of numerical integration. Let  $[\alpha, \beta]$  be an interval on the real line, and let  $g \in C^4([\alpha, \beta])$ . We recall the estimate

$$(2.3) \quad \left| \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} g(x) dx - \frac{\beta - \alpha}{6} \left( g(\alpha) + 4g\left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{2}\right) + g(\beta) \right) \right| \leq \frac{(\beta - \alpha)^5}{2880} \max_{x \in [\alpha, \beta]} |g^{(4)}(x)|.$$

Now, we split the interval  $[b/N^2, b]$  into  $N - 1$  parts of the form  $[b/k^2, b/(k - 1)^2]$ , where  $k = 2, \dots, N$ , and (in accordance with the Simpson formula for the function  $\Phi_{b,N}$ , see (2.1)), on each part we consider the function

$$(2.4) \quad \Psi_{b,N}(z) = \frac{b}{6} \sum_{k=2}^N \left( \frac{b}{(k-1)^2} - \frac{b}{k^2} \right) \left( \frac{1}{\frac{b}{(k-1)^2} - z} + \frac{4}{\frac{b}{2(k-1)^2} + \frac{b}{2k^2} - z} + \frac{1}{\frac{b}{k^2} - z} \right).$$

Clearly, when applied to  $\Phi'_{b,N}(z)$ , the Simpson formula with the same splittings gives  $\Psi'_{b,N}(z)$ . It can easily be seen that relations (2.3)–(2.4) yield the following estimates (because  $2880^{-1}$  is “sufficiently small”):

(Ψ1) For  $|z| \geq 2b$ , we have

$$|\Phi_{b,N}(z) - \Psi_{b,N}(z)| < \frac{b^6}{10|z|^5}, \quad |\Phi'_{b,N}(z) - \Psi'_{b,N}(z)| < \frac{b^6}{10|z|^6}.$$

(Ψ2) Despite the fact that  $\Phi_{b,N}(z)$  and  $\Phi'_{b,N}(z)$  are not uniformly bounded as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ , for  $\text{Re } z \leq 0$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\Phi_{b,N}(z) - \Psi_{b,N}(z)| &< \frac{b}{10} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{b}{k^3}\right)^5 \left(\frac{k^2}{b}\right)^5 = \frac{b}{10} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^5} < b; \\ |\Phi'_{b,N}(z) - \Psi'_{b,N}(z)| &< \frac{b}{10} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{b}{k^3}\right)^5 \left(\frac{k^2}{b}\right)^6 = \frac{1}{10} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^3} < 1. \end{aligned}$$

(This explains why we have used the Simpson formula: usual integral sums do not approximate  $\Phi_{b,N}$  duly.)

(Ψ3) The function  $\Psi_{b,N}$  has the form of a finite sum  $\sum_j \frac{\varepsilon_j}{z - z_j}$ , where the sum of the distances from  $z = 0$  to the poles  $z_j$  is at most  $3b \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 1/k^2 = b\pi^2/2$ , and, moreover,  $z_j > 0$  and  $\varepsilon_j > 0$  for all  $j$ , and  $\sum_j \varepsilon_j < b^2$ .

Now, we shift the functions  $\Psi_{b,N}$  by 1 and then rotate the result about  $z = 0$ . Specifically, let  $\gamma \in [0, 2\pi)$ ; put

$$G_{b,N,0}(z) = \Psi_{b,N}(z - 1), \quad G_{b,N,\gamma}(z) = e^{i\gamma} G_{b,N,0}(z/e^{i\gamma}).$$

The properties of the functions  $\Phi_{b,N}$  and  $\Psi_{b,N}$  (namely, properties (Φ1)–(Φ3) and (Ψ1)–(Ψ3)) readily yield the following statement.

**Lemma 1.** *The functions  $G_{b,N,\gamma}$  possess the following properties:*

(A1)  $G_{b,N,\gamma}$  is a finite sum of the form  $\sum_j \frac{\varepsilon_j}{z - z_j}$ , where the poles  $z_j$  belong to the interval  $(e^{i\gamma}, (1 + b)e^{i\gamma}]$ ; moreover,  $\sum_j (|z_j| - 1) < 5b$  and  $\sum_j |\varepsilon_j| < b^2$ ;

(A2)  $G_{b,N,\gamma}(e^{i\gamma}) = e^{i\gamma} C$ , where  $C > 0$  and  $b(2 \ln N - 1) < C < b(2 \ln N + 1)$ ;

(A3) for  $z \in \mathbb{D}$  we have  $|G_{b,N,\gamma}(z)| \leq C < b(2 \ln N + 1)$ , and for  $|z - e^{i\gamma}| \geq 2b$  we have

$$|G_{b,N,\gamma}(z)| < \frac{3b^2}{|z - e^{i\gamma}|}, \quad |G'_{b,N,\gamma}(z)| < \frac{5b^2}{|z - e^{i\gamma}|^2};$$

(A4)  $G_{b,N,\gamma} \bar{\mathbb{D}}$  we have  $\text{Re } G'_{b,N,\gamma}(z) > -2$  everywhere in  $\bar{\mathbb{D}}$ .

Indeed, (A1) follows from (Ψ3); (A2) follows from (2.4), (Φ1), and (Ψ2); (A3) follows from (Φ1), (Φ2), and (Ψ1); and (A4) follows from (Φ3) and (Ψ2).

Informally, Lemma 1 means the following. For  $0 < \delta < \frac{1}{2}$ , the rational function  $z + \delta G_{b,N,\gamma}(z)$  maps  $\mathbb{D}$  conformally onto a Nevanlinna domain with analytic boundary that contains a “needle” symmetric with respect to the straight line  $(0, e^{i\gamma})$ ; this “needle” is the “longer” the greater  $N$  is, and is the “thinner” the smaller  $b$  is; moreover, it is important that the sum of the distances of  $e^{i\gamma}$  to the poles of  $G_{b,N,\gamma}$  is also estimated by  $b$  from above, and the sum of the moduli of the residues is estimated by  $b^2$ .

Using Lemma 1, we construct the example in question.

### §3. CONSTRUCTION OF EXAMPLE 1

For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $k \geq 2$ , put  $\gamma_k = \frac{1}{2^k}$ ,  $b_k = \frac{1}{8^k}$ ; in accordance with (A2) in Lemma 1, we choose  $N_k$  so that

$$(3.1) \quad \frac{1}{k} \leq \frac{G_{b_k, N_k, \gamma_k}(e^{i\gamma_k})}{e^{i\gamma_k}} < \frac{2}{k}.$$

We show that the function

$$(3.2) \quad \varphi(z) = z + \frac{1}{10} \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} G_{b_k, N_k, \gamma_k}(z)$$

satisfies the conditions of Example 1.

Indeed,  $\varphi$  is of the form (1.2). Condition (1) follows from the definition and property (A1) for  $G_{b,N,\gamma}$ , and also from the convergence of the series  $\sum_{k=2}^{\infty} b_k$  and the relation  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \gamma_k = 0$ .

The function  $\varphi$  is analytic near any point except 1 and the  $z_j$  by property (1) (which has already been proved) and the relation  $\sum_j |\varepsilon_j| < \infty$ , which, in its turn, follows from property (A1) of  $G_{b,N,\gamma}$  and the convergence of the series  $\sum_{k=2}^{\infty} (b_k)^2$ .

Before we prove that the function (3.2) satisfies the remaining conditions in Example 1, we observe that the disks  $D_k = \{z : |z - e^{i\gamma_k}| < \gamma_k/8\}$  are mutually disjoint,  $\gamma_k/8 \geq 2b_k$  for  $k \geq 2$ , and, by (A3), outside the disks  $D_k$  we have

$$(3.3) \quad |G_{b_k, N_k, \gamma_k}(z)| \leq 3(b_k)^2 \frac{8}{\gamma_k} \leq \frac{24}{32^k}; \quad |G'_{b_k, N_k, \gamma_k}(z)| \leq 5(b_k)^2 \frac{64}{(\gamma_k)^2} \leq \frac{320}{16^k}.$$

By (3.1) and (3.3), for  $z \in \bar{\mathbb{D}}$  and  $k_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  we have

$$\sum_{k=k_0}^{\infty} |G_{b_k, N_k, \gamma_k}(z)| < \frac{2}{k_0} + 24 \sum_{k=k_0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{32^k} < \frac{3}{k_0}.$$

Thus, the series (3.2) converges absolutely and uniformly on  $\bar{\mathbb{D}}$ ; consequently,  $\varphi$  is bounded and continuous on  $\bar{\mathbb{D}}$ . We have proved condition (2).

Condition (3) in Example 1 is a consequence of (3.3) and property (A4) of  $G_{b,N,\gamma}$ :

$$\operatorname{Re} \varphi'(z) > 1 - \frac{1}{10} \left( 2 + 320 \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{16^k} \right) > \frac{1}{2}.$$

To prove (4), it suffices to show that the variation of  $\varphi$  on  $\mathbb{T}$  is not bounded; this will follow from (3.1), (3.3), and the divergence of the series  $\sum_{k=2}^{\infty} 1/k$ .

Indeed, let  $z_k = e^{i\gamma_k}$ ,  $z'_k = e^{i(3/4)\gamma_k}$  (clearly, on the closed arc  $[1, e^{i\gamma_2}]$  of  $\mathbb{T}$ , every point  $z'_k$  lies between  $z_{k+1}$  and  $z_k$ ). Then  $z_k \in D_k$  and  $z_k \notin D_m$  for  $m \neq k$ ;  $z'_k \notin D_m$  for any  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ . By (3.1) and (3.3), we have

$$|G_{b_k, N_k, \gamma_k}(z_k) - G_{b_k, N_k, \gamma_k}(z'_k)| \geq \frac{1}{k} - \frac{24}{32^k}.$$

Using the estimates for derivatives in (3.3), we arrive at

$$\sum_{\{m: m \neq k\}} |G_{b_m, N_m, \gamma_m}(z_k) - G_{b_m, N_m, \gamma_m}(z'_k)| < \frac{1}{2^k} \sum_{m=2}^{\infty} \frac{320}{16^m}.$$

Thus, for the function  $\varphi$  in (3.2) we have

$$|\varphi(z_k) - \varphi(z'_k)| > \frac{1}{k} - \frac{4}{2^k}; \quad \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} |\varphi(z_k) - \varphi(z'_k)| = +\infty.$$

This proves (4) and completes the construction of Example 1.

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