

# AN EXTREMAL FUNCTION FOR THE CHANG-MARSHALL INEQUALITY OVER THE BEURLING FUNCTIONS

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ABSTRACT. S.-Y. A. Chang and D. E. Marshall showed that the functional  $\Lambda(f) = (1/2\pi) \int_0^{2\pi} \exp\{|f(e^{i\theta})|^2\} d\theta$  is bounded on the unit ball  $\mathcal{B}$  of the space  $\mathcal{D}$  of analytic functions in the unit disk with  $f(0) = 0$  and Dirichlet integral not exceeding one. Andreev and Matheson conjectured that the identity function  $f(z) = z$  is a global maximum on  $\mathcal{B}$  for the functional  $\Lambda$ . We prove that  $\Lambda$  attains its maximum at  $f(z) = z$  over a subset of  $\mathcal{B}$  determined by kernel functions, which provides a positive answer to a conjecture of Cima and Matheson.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be the Dirichlet space of functions  $f$  analytic on the unit disk  $\mathbb{D}$ , with  $f(0) = 0$  and a finite Dirichlet integral

$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int \int_{\mathbb{D}} |f'(z)|^2 dx dy.$$

It is well known that  $\mathcal{D}$  is a Hilbert space with inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle_{\mathcal{D}} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int \int_{\mathbb{D}} f'(z) \overline{g'(z)} dx dy.$$

Let  $\mathcal{B} = \{f \in \mathcal{D} : \|f\|_{\mathcal{D}} \leq 1\}$  be its closed unit ball.

We shall be concerned with functionals  $\Lambda_{\Phi}$  on  $\mathcal{B}$  defined by

$$\Lambda_{\Phi}(f) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \Phi(|f(e^{i\theta})|) d\theta,$$

for  $f \in \mathcal{B}$  and  $\Phi : (-\infty, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  being a continuous convex nondecreasing function. A function  $f$  is a **maximum** for  $\Lambda_{\Phi}$  if  $f \in \mathcal{B}$  and  $\Lambda_{\Phi}(f) \geq \Lambda_{\Phi}(g)$  for all  $g \in \mathcal{B}$ .

Chang and Marshall [3] proved that if  $\Phi_{\alpha}(t) = e^{\alpha t^2}$  for  $\alpha > 0$ , then  $\Lambda_{\Phi_{\alpha}}$  is bounded on  $\mathcal{B}$  if and only if  $\alpha \leq 1$ . In their proof they compared functions in  $\mathcal{B}$  to the *Beurling functions*

$$B_a(z) = \frac{\log \frac{1}{1-\bar{a}z}}{\sqrt{\log \frac{1}{1-|a|^2}}},$$

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for  $a \in \mathbb{D} \setminus \{0\}$ , where the branch of the logarithm is chosen so that  $B_a(a)$  is real. The denominator assures that  $\|B_a\|_{\mathcal{D}} = 1$ . Up to a normalizing factor, the  $B_a$  are the kernel functions for  $\mathcal{D}$ . We shall denote by  $\mathcal{B}_0$  the set of all Beurling functions and by  $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_0$  its closed convex hull.

A shorter proof of this fact has since been found by Marshall [9]. A significantly more general and stronger inequality has been found by Essén [7]. Andreev and Matheson [1] showed that the identity function  $f(z) = z$  is a local maximum for  $\Lambda_{\Phi_1}$  on  $\mathcal{B}$  and conjectured that it is also a global maximum. Cima and Matheson [4] showed that the identity function is a local maximum on the set  $\mathcal{B}_0$  and that the functional  $\Lambda_{\Phi_1}$  attains its maximum on  $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}_0$ . On the other hand, they showed that  $\Lambda_{\Phi_1}$ , when restricted to  $\mathcal{B}$ , is not weakly continuous at 0, and thus it is an open question whether there exists a global maximum for  $\Lambda_{\Phi_1}$  on  $\mathcal{B}$ . Matheson and Pruss [10] studied the regularity of the extremal functions. We refer the reader to their paper for an excellent discussion of this and other related problems and for a list of open problems.

Our principle result is:

**Theorem 1.1.** *The inequality*

$$(1.1) \quad \Lambda_{\Phi_1}(f) < \Lambda_{\Phi_1}(z)$$

*holds true for all  $f \in \tilde{\mathcal{B}}_0$ .*

Our result proves Conjecture 1 of Cima and Matheson in [4].

## 2. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.1

It is natural to set  $B_0(z) = z$  (see [4]). A function  $\Phi(x)$  continuous on  $-\infty < x < \infty$  is said to be *convex* if  $\Phi((x+y)/2) \leq [\Phi(x) + \Phi(y)]/2$ , and *strictly convex* if strict inequality holds whenever  $x \neq y$ . Theorem 1.1 is a consequence of the following result.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $\Phi(x)$  be a convex nondecreasing function on  $-\infty < x < \infty$ . For all  $a_0, a \in \mathbb{D} \setminus \{0\}$  such that  $0 \leq |a_0| < |a| < 1$ , we have*

$$(2.1) \quad \int_0^{2\pi} \Phi(\log |B_a(re^{i\theta})|) d\theta \leq \int_0^{2\pi} \Phi(\log |B_{a_0}(re^{i\theta})|) d\theta,$$

*$0 < r < 1$ . If  $\Phi$  is strictly convex, then the inequality is strict for all  $r$ .*

*Proof.* Our proof is based on the deep results of Albert Baernstein [2, Theorem 1] on integral means of univalent functions (see also Chapter 7 of Duren's book [5]). In particular, we need the following proposition [2, Proposition 3].

**Proposition 2.2.** *For  $g, h \in L^1(-\pi, \pi)$ , the following statements are equivalent.*

(a) *For each function  $\Phi(s)$  convex and nondecreasing on  $-\infty < s < \infty$ ,*

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \Phi(g(x)) dx \leq \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \Phi(h(x)) dx.$$

(b) *For each  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,*

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} [g(x) - t]^+ dx \leq \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} [h(x) - t]^+ dx.$$

(c)  *$g^*(\theta) \leq h^*(\theta)$ ,  $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ .*

Here for each  $r \in (r_1, r_2)$  and  $u(re^{i\theta}) \in L^1(0, 2\pi)$  the *Baernstein star-function* of  $u$  is defined as

$$(2.2) \quad u^*(re^{i\theta}) = \sup_{|E|=2\theta} \int_E u(re^{it}) dt,$$

$0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ , where  $|E|$  denotes the Lebesgue measure of the set  $E \subset [-\pi, \pi]$ .

In view of Proposition 2.2, we want first to show that

$$(2.3) \quad \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \log^+ \left[ \frac{|B_a(re^{i\theta})|}{\rho} \right] d\theta \leq \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \log^+ \left[ \frac{|B_{a_0}(re^{i\theta})|}{\rho} \right] d\theta,$$

$0 < r < 1$ , for each  $\rho > 0$  and all  $a$  and  $a_0$  such that  $0 \leq |a_0| < |a| < 1$ . Notice that

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \log^+ \left[ \frac{|B_{a'}(re^{i\theta})|}{\rho} \right] d\theta = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \log^+ \left[ \frac{|B_{a''}(re^{i\theta})|}{\rho} \right] d\theta$$

whenever  $|a'| = |a''|$ . Hence we may assume from now on that  $0 \leq a_0 < a < 1$ .

We can apply Jensen's theorem to obtain

$$(2.4) \quad \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \log^+ \left[ \frac{|B_a(re^{i\theta})|}{\rho} \right] d\theta = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} N(r, \rho e^{i\phi}) d\phi,$$

since  $B_a(0) = 0$ . It is easy to see that  $B_a$  is a univalent function in the unit disk  $\mathbb{D}$ ,  $B_a(0) = 0$  and  $B'_a(0) = a/A$ , where  $A = \{\log[1/(1-|a|^2)]\}^{1/2}$ , for each  $0 < a < 1$ , with a continuous extension to the closed unit disk  $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$ , and if  $\alpha = \rho e^{i\phi} \neq 0$  is in the range  $D_a$  of  $B_a$ , then

$$(2.5) \quad N(r, \alpha) = \int_0^r \frac{n(t, \alpha)}{t} dt = \log^+ \left[ \frac{r}{|\alpha|} \right] = \log^+ \left[ \frac{r}{|B_a^{-1}(\alpha)|} \right],$$

$0 < r < 1$ . Let  $u_a(\zeta) = -\log |B_a^{-1}(\zeta)|$  be the Green's function of  $D_a$  with pole at 0. Extend it to a continuous function in the punctured plane by setting  $u_a(\zeta) = 0$ ,  $\zeta \notin D_a$ . The formula (2.5) takes the form

$$N(r, \zeta) = [u_a(\zeta) + \log r]^+,$$

$0 < r < 1$ , for arbitrary  $\zeta$ , and equation (2.4) becomes

$$(2.6) \quad \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \log^+ \left[ \frac{|B_a(re^{i\theta})|}{\rho} \right] d\theta = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} [u_a(\rho e^{i\phi}) + \log r]^+ d\phi.$$

Let  $u_{a_0}(\zeta) = -\log |B_{a_0}^{-1}(\zeta)|$  for  $\zeta \in D_{a_0}$ , and let  $u_{a_0}(\zeta) = 0$  elsewhere. In view of (2.6) the inequality (2.3) can be recast in the form

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} [u_a(\rho e^{i\phi}) + \log r]^+ d\phi \leq \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} [u_{a_0}(\rho e^{i\phi}) + \log r]^+ d\phi,$$

$0 < r < 1$ ,  $0 < \rho < \infty$ . By Proposition 2.2, this is implied by the inequality

$$(2.7) \quad u_a^*(\rho e^{i\phi}) \leq u_{a_0}^*(\rho e^{i\phi}),$$

$0 < \rho < \infty$ ,  $0 \leq \phi \leq \pi$ .

The function  $u(\zeta)$  is continuous in  $0 < |\zeta| < \infty$ , it is positive and harmonic in  $D_a$ , and identically zero outside  $D_a$ . Thus it is subharmonic in  $0 < |\zeta| < \infty$ . Hence by [2, Theorem A] and the definition (2.2) of the star-function,  $u_a^*$  is subharmonic in the open upper half-plane and continuous in the closed upper half-plane, except at the origin.

Since  $B_a^{-1}(\zeta) = (1 - e^{-A\zeta})/a$ , then, near the origin,  $u_a$  has the form

$$(2.8) \quad u_a(\zeta) = -\log|\zeta| - \log \frac{A}{a} + u_{1a}(\zeta),$$

where  $u_{1a}$  is harmonic and  $u_{1a}(0) = 0$ . Thus

$$u_a^*(\rho e^{i\phi}) + 2\phi \log \rho \rightarrow -2\phi \log \frac{A}{a}$$

as  $\rho \rightarrow 0$  for  $0 \leq \phi \leq \pi$ . Similarly, near the origin,  $u_{a_0}$  has the form

$$u_{a_0}(\zeta) = -\log|\zeta| - \log \frac{A_0}{a_0} + u_{1a_0}(\zeta),$$

where  $u_{1a_0}$  is harmonic and  $u_{1a_0}(0) = 0$ . Thus

$$u_{a_0}^*(\rho e^{i\phi}) + 2\phi \log \rho \rightarrow -2\phi \log \frac{A_0}{a_0}$$

as  $\rho \rightarrow 0$  for  $0 \leq \phi \leq \pi$ . It follows that

$$[u_a^*(\rho e^{i\phi}) - u_{a_0}^*(\rho e^{i\phi})] \rightarrow -2\phi \log \frac{a_0 A}{a A_0}$$

as  $\rho \rightarrow 0$  for  $0 \leq \phi \leq \pi$ . It is easy to see that  $a_0 A / (a A_0) > 1$  for  $a_0 < a$  and hence that  $-2\pi \log \frac{a_0 A}{a A_0} \leq -2\phi \log \frac{a_0 A}{a A_0} \leq 0$  for  $a_0 < a$ .

Hence  $(u_a^* - u_{a_0}^*)$  is subharmonic in the upper half-plane and continuous in its closure except at the origin, where it has a bounded discontinuity: for  $\phi = 0$ ,

$$\lim_{\rho \rightarrow 0} (u_a^*(\rho) - u_{a_0}^*(\rho)) = 0,$$

and for  $\phi = \pi$ ,

$$\lim_{\rho \rightarrow 0} (u_a^*(-\rho) - u_{a_0}^*(-\rho)) = -2\pi \log \frac{a_0 A}{a A_0}.$$

We want to show that  $(u_a^* - u_{a_0}^*) < 0$  in the open upper half-plane. Since  $u_a^* - u_{a_0}^*$  is discontinuous at the origin, we cannot apply the maximum principle for subharmonic functions to  $u_a^* - u_{a_0}^*$  at this point. The proof of the inequality  $(u_a^* - u_{a_0}^*) < 0$  for  $\Im \zeta > 0$  will be based on the following four steps (a)–(d).

(a) On the positive real axis, by definition,  $u_a^*(\zeta) = v^*(\zeta) = 0$  for  $\zeta > 0$ .

(b) Next let  $d_a$  be the distance from 0 to the complement of  $D_a$ . It is obvious that  $\Re(1 - ae^{i\theta})^{-1} > 0$ . Since the branch of the logarithm was chosen so that  $B_a(a)$  is real, then

$$|B_a(e^{i\theta})| = \frac{1}{A} \{ [\log \frac{1}{|1 - ae^{i\theta}|}]^2 + [\arg \frac{1}{1 - ae^{i\theta}}]^2 \}^{1/2}.$$

Since  $\max |1 - ae^{i\theta}| = |1 - ae^{i\pi}| = 1 + a$  and  $[\arg \frac{1}{1 - ae^{i\pi}}]^2 = 0$ , it is easy to see that

$$-\frac{1}{A} \log \frac{1}{1+a} \leq |B_a(e^{i\theta})| \leq \frac{1}{A} \log \frac{1}{1-a}$$

for  $0 < a < 1$ . Thus  $d_a = -\frac{1}{A} \log \frac{1}{1+a}$ . We want to show that  $d_a$  is a decreasing function of  $a$  for  $0 < a < 1$ . It is clear that  $d_a \rightarrow 1$  as  $a \rightarrow 0$ . Let

$$f(a) = \frac{\log(1+a)}{A}.$$

Then

$$f'(a) = -\frac{[(1-a)\log(1-a) + \log(1+a)]}{(1-a^2)A^3}.$$

Let

$$f_1(a) = (1-a)\log(1-a) + \log(1+a).$$

An easy computation shows that  $f_1''(a) > 0$  for  $0 < a < 1$ . Thus  $f_1'$  is an increasing function of  $a$ , and it follows that  $f_1'(a) > 0$  for  $0 < a < 1$  since  $f_1'(0) = 0$ . Therefore  $f_1$  is an increasing function of  $a$  for  $0 < a < 1$  and  $f_1(a) > 0$  since  $f_1(0) = 0$ . Finally, this implies that  $f'(a) < 0$  for  $0 < a < 1$ , and thus  $f$  is a decreasing function of  $a$ . Therefore  $d_{a_0} > d_a$  for all  $a, a_0 < a < 1$ .

In the disk  $|\zeta| < d_a$ ,  $u_a(\zeta)$  has the form (2.8), where  $u_{1a}$  is harmonic in  $|\zeta| < d_a$  and  $u_{1a}(0) = 0$ . Thus

$$u_a^*(\rho e^{i\pi}) = -2\pi \log \frac{1}{\rho} - 2\pi \log \frac{A}{a}$$

and, similarly,

$$u_{a_0}^*(\rho e^{i\pi}) = -2\pi \log \frac{1}{\rho} - 2\pi \log \frac{A_0}{a_0}$$

for  $0 < \rho < d_a$ . Hence  $u_a^*(\zeta) < u_{a_0}^*(\zeta)$  for  $-d_a \leq \zeta < 0$ .

(c) Since  $u_{1a}(\zeta)$  and  $u_{1a_0}(\zeta)$  are harmonic in  $|\zeta| < d_a$  and  $u_{1a}(0) = u_{1a_0}(0) = 0$ , then for every  $\epsilon > 0$  there is a  $\rho_0, \rho_0 = |\zeta_0| < d_a$ , such that  $|u_{1a}(\zeta)| < \epsilon/2$  and  $|u_{1a_0}(\zeta)| < \epsilon/2$  for all  $\zeta, |\zeta| \leq \rho_0$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} u_a^*(\rho e^{i\phi}) &= \sup_{|E|=2\phi} \int_E u_a(\rho e^{it}) dt \\ &= -2\phi \log \rho - 2\phi \log \frac{A}{a} + \sup_{|E|=2\phi} \int_E u_{1a}(\rho e^{it}) dt \\ &\leq -2\phi \log \rho - 2\phi \log \frac{A}{a} + \phi\epsilon \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} u_{a_0}^*(\rho e^{i\phi}) &= \sup_{|E|=2\phi} \int_E u_{a_0}(\rho e^{it}) dt \\ &= -2\phi \log \rho - 2\phi \log \frac{A_0}{a_0} + \sup_{|E|=2\phi} \int_E u_{1a_0}(\rho e^{it}) dt \\ &\geq -2\phi \log \rho - 2\phi \log \frac{A_0}{a_0} - \phi\epsilon \end{aligned}$$

for  $0 < \rho \leq \rho_0$  and  $0 < \phi < \pi$ . Now choose  $\epsilon$  such that  $\epsilon < \log(Aa_0/aA_0)$ . Then

$$u_a^*(\rho e^{i\phi}) - u_{a_0}^*(\rho e^{i\phi}) \leq -2\phi \log \frac{Aa_0}{aA_0} + 2\phi\epsilon < 0$$

for all  $0 < \rho \leq \rho_0$  and  $0 < \phi < \pi$ . Hence  $u_a^*(\zeta) < u_{a_0}^*(\zeta)$  for  $|\zeta| \leq \rho_0 < d_a$  and  $0 < \phi < \pi$ .

(d) To establish the inequality on  $-\infty < \zeta < -d_a$ , we fix  $\epsilon > 0$  and consider the function

$$Q(\zeta) = u_a^*(\zeta) - u_{a_0}^*(\zeta) - \epsilon\phi,$$

$\zeta = \rho e^{i\phi}$ , which is subharmonic in  $\mathcal{A} = \{\zeta : \rho_0 < |\zeta|, 0 \leq \Im \zeta\}$  and continuous in the closure of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Let  $M$  be the maximum of  $Q(\zeta)$  in  $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ . Then  $M \geq 0$  and, according to the maximum principle for subharmonic functions, the maximum is attained somewhere on the boundary of  $\mathcal{A}$ . Suppose  $M > 0$ . Since  $u_a^*(\zeta) \leq u_{a_0}^*(\zeta)$  on the set  $\{\zeta : -d_a \leq \zeta \leq \rho_0\} \cup \{\zeta : |\zeta| = \rho_0, \Im \zeta > 0\} \cup \{\zeta : \rho_0 \leq \zeta < \infty\}$ , there

is some point  $-\zeta_1 = -\rho_1$  for which  $-\infty < \zeta_1 < -d_a$  and  $Q(\zeta_1) = M$ . Let  $G_a(\phi)$  denote the symmetric decreasing rearrangement of  $u_a(\rho_1 e^{i\phi})$ . Then

$$\frac{\partial u_a^*}{\partial \phi}(\rho_1 e^{i\phi}) = 2G_a(\phi)$$

for  $0 \leq \phi \leq \pi$  by [2, Proposition 2]. But because  $\rho_1 > d_a$ , there is some point on the circle  $|\zeta| = \rho_1$  that lies outside  $D_a$ , so

$$G_a(\pi) = \inf_{0 \leq \phi \leq \pi} u_a(\rho_1 e^{i\phi}) = 0.$$

Applying the same argument to  $u_{a_0}^*$  we obtain

$$\frac{\partial u_{a_0}^*}{\partial \phi}(\rho_1 e^{i\phi}) = 2G_{a_0}(\phi)$$

for  $0 \leq \phi \leq \pi$ . If  $d_a < \rho_1 \leq d_{a_0}$ , then

$$G_{a_0}(\phi) = \inf_{0 \leq \phi < \pi} \{t : \lambda(t) \leq 2\phi\},$$

where  $\lambda$  is the distribution function of  $u_{a_0}$ ,  $\lambda(t) = |\{\phi : u_{a_0}(\rho_0 e^{i\phi}) > t\}|$ , and

$$G_{a_0}(\pi) = \lim_{\phi \rightarrow \pi^-} G_{a_0}(\phi).$$

Hence  $G_{a_0}(\pi) \geq 0$  if  $d_a < \rho_1 \leq d_{a_0}$ . If  $d_{a_0} < \rho_1$ , there is some point on the circle  $|\zeta| = \rho_1$  that lies outside  $D_{a_0}$ , so

$$G_{a_0}(\pi) = \inf_{0 \leq \phi \leq \pi} u_{a_0}(\rho_1 e^{i\phi}) = 0.$$

Therefore

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial \phi}(\zeta_1) \leq -\epsilon < 0,$$

which contradicts the assumption that  $Q(\zeta)$  has a relative maximum at  $\zeta_1$ . Hence  $M = 0$  and

$$u_a^*(\zeta) \leq u_{a_0}^*(\zeta) + \epsilon\phi \leq u_{a_0}^*(\zeta) + \epsilon\pi$$

for  $\zeta \in \overline{\mathcal{A}}$ . Letting  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$  we obtain that

$$u_a^*(\rho e^{i\phi}) \leq u_{a_0}^*(\rho e^{i\phi})$$

for  $\zeta \in \overline{\mathcal{A}}$ .

We are in a position now to prove that  $u_a^*(\zeta) < u_{a_0}^*(\zeta)$  in the open upper half-plane. Combining (a)–(d) we obtain (2.7). Furthermore,  $u_a^*(\zeta) < u_{a_0}^*(\zeta)$  on the set  $\{\zeta : -d_a \leq \zeta \leq \rho_0\} \cup \{\zeta : |\zeta| = \rho_0, \Im \zeta > 0\}$  by (b) and (c). Hence  $u_a^* - u_{a_0}^*$  is a subharmonic function on  $\mathcal{A}$  that is not identically equal to zero there and, by the maximum principle, this implies that  $u_a^*(\zeta) < u_{a_0}^*(\zeta)$  everywhere in  $\mathcal{A}$ . Also,  $u_a^*(\zeta) < u_{a_0}^*(\zeta)$  for  $\{\zeta : 0 < |\zeta| \leq \rho_0 < d_a, 0 < \Im \zeta\}$  by (c). Therefore,

$$u_a^*(\zeta) < u_{a_0}^*(\zeta)$$

in the open upper half-plane.

It follows from Proposition 2.2 that

$$(2.9) \quad \int_0^{2\pi} \Phi(\log |B_a(re^{i\theta})|) d\theta \leq \int_0^{2\pi} \Phi(\log |B_{a_0}(re^{i\theta})|) d\theta$$

for all  $0 \leq a_0 < a < \infty$  and  $0 < r < 1$ . The proof of strict inequality in (2.9) is identical to the proof of strict inequality in Theorem 1 in [2, pp. 157–158] and will be omitted. This completes the proof of Theorem 2.1.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 1.1.* The choice  $\Phi(x) = e^{e^{2x}}$  in (2.1) allows us to conclude that

$$\Lambda_{\Phi_1}(B_a(re^{i\theta})) < \Lambda_{\Phi_1}(B_{a_0}(re^{i\theta}))$$

for all  $0 \leq a_0 < a < 0$  and  $0 < r < 1$ . Let

$$\|B_a(re^{i\theta})\|_p^p = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |B_a(re^{i\theta})|^p d\theta.$$

Since

$$\Lambda_{\Phi_1}(B_a(re^{i\theta})) = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\|B_a(re^{i\theta})\|_{2n}^{2n}}{n!},$$

and, by Lemma 1 of [1],  $B_a \in H^p$  for  $0 < p < \infty$ , we can choose a sequence  $r_n \rightarrow 1$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  for which the inequalities  $\Lambda_{\Phi_1}(B_a(r_n e^{i\theta})) < \Lambda_{\Phi_1}(B_{a_0}(r_n e^{i\theta}))$  hold. Hence

$$\Lambda_{\Phi_1}(B_a(re^{i\theta})) \leq \Lambda_{\Phi_1}(B_{a_0}(re^{i\theta}))$$

for all  $0 < r \leq 1$  by Hardy's convexity theorem for integral means (see, e.g., [6, Theorem 1.5]).

It now remains to demonstrate that strict inequality holds true in Theorem 1.1. According to Theorem 2 of [4],  $B_0$  is a local maximum on the set of Beurling functions. Thus there is an  $a_0$ ,  $0 < a_0$ , such that

$$\Lambda_{\Phi_1}(B_a(e^{i\theta})) < \Lambda_{\Phi_1}(B_0(e^{i\theta}))$$

for  $0 < a \leq a_0$ . (James and Matheson [8] have informed the author that, using a numerical method, they have proved the last inequality for  $0 < a < 1/2$ .)

Finally, combine the last inequality with the fact that  $\Lambda_{\Phi_1}$  is log-convex [4, p. 387] to complete the proof of Theorem 1.1.  $\square$

It was pointed out in [1] that  $B_0$  does not maximize the integral means over  $\mathcal{B}$ . If we choose  $\Phi(x) = e^{px}$ ,  $0 < p < \infty$ , in Theorem 2.1, we obtain that  $B_0$  maximizes the integral means over  $\mathcal{B}_0$ .

**Corollary 2.3.** *The inequality*

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |B_a(re^{i\theta})|^p d\theta \leq \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |B_{a_0}(re^{i\theta})|^p d\theta$$

*holds true for all  $0 \leq |a_0| < |a| < 0$ ,  $0 < r \leq 1$ , and all  $0 < p < \infty$ .*

It will be interesting to see if the approach in Theorem 2.1 can be extended to the univalent functions in  $\mathcal{D}$ . The result of this paper provides further evidence in favor of a conjecture made in [1]:

*Conjecture 1.*  $\Lambda_{\Phi_1}$  attains its maximum on  $\mathcal{B}$  at  $B_0$ .

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