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# V. I. GAVRILOV

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**Abstract**

**Full Text**

V. I. GAVRILOV

## BOUNDARY BEHAVIOR OF FUNCTIONS MEROMORPHIC IN THE UNIT DISK

*(Presented by Academician I. G. Petrovskii, January 23, 1963)*

§ 1. Recently Lange <sup>(1)</sup>, studying the distribution of values of functions holomorphic in the unit disk  $D : |z| < 1$ , established the existence in  $D$ , for certain classes of holomorphic functions, of sequences of non-Euclidean disks ( $\rho$ -disks in Lange's terminology) analogous to the classical filling disks of Milloux for entire functions. More precisely, if a function  $w = f(z)$ , holomorphic in the disk  $D$ , has  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(z_n) = \infty$  along some sequence of points  $\{z_n\}$ ,  $z_n \in D$ ,  $|z_n| \rightarrow 1$ ,  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , and there exist a number  $\mu_0$ ,  $0 < \mu_0 < +\infty$ , and a sequence of points  $\{z'_n\}$ ,  $z'_n \in D$ , at which the function  $w = f(z)$  takes the value 0 or 1, while the non-Euclidean distances

$$\rho(z_n, z'_n) = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{1+u}{1-u}, \quad u = \left| \frac{z'_n - z_n}{1 - \bar{z}_n \cdot z'_n} \right|, \quad n = 1, 2,$$

are less than  $\mu_0$ :  $\rho(z_n, z'_n) < \mu_0$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , then in  $D$  there exists a sequence of nonintersecting non-Euclidean disks  $\{D_n\}$ ,

$$D_n : \{z : \rho(z, \zeta_n) < 1/n\}$$

with non-Euclidean centers  $\{\zeta_n\}$ ,  $|\zeta_n| < |\zeta_{n+1}|$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |\zeta_n| = 1$ , and non-Euclidean radii  $\{1/n\}$ , such that in each disk  $D_n$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , the function  $w = f(z)$  assumes all values  $w$  from the disk  $|w| < n$ , except for a set of values  $w$  of diameter less than  $2/n$ . In particular, in the union

$$\bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} D_{n_k},$$

where  $\{D_{n_k}\}$  is any infinite subsequence of the disks  $\{D_n\}$ , the function  $w = f(z)$  assumes all finite values infinitely often, with the possible exception of one. Lange called the sequences  $\{D_n\}$  and  $\{\zeta_n\}$ , respectively, a sequence of  $\rho$ -disks and a sequence of  $\rho$ -points for the holomorphic function  $w = f(z)$ .

The question arises of the possibility of obtaining, to some extent, an analogous assertion for meromorphic functions. We shall say that a function  $w = f(z)$ ,

meromorphic in the disk  $D$ , possesses in  $D$  a sequence of  $P$ -points if in  $D$  there exists a sequence of points  $\{\zeta_n\}$ ,  $|\zeta_n| < |\zeta_{n+1}|$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |\zeta_n| = 1$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \rho(\zeta_n, \zeta_{n+1}) = \infty$ , such that for every infinite subsequence  $\{\zeta_{n_k}\}$  of it the following holds: whatever the number  $\varepsilon > 0$ , in the union

$$\bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} \Delta_{n_k}^{(\varepsilon)}$$

of non-Euclidean disks

$$\Delta_{n_k}^{(\varepsilon)} : \{z : \rho(z; \zeta_{n_k}) < \varepsilon\}$$

with non-Euclidean centers  $\{\zeta_{n_k}\}$  and non-Euclidean radii  $\varepsilon > 0$ , the meromorphic function  $w = f(z)$  assumes all values  $w$  infinitely often, with the possible exception of two.

**Theorem 1.** *Suppose that there exists a sequence of positive numbers  $\{\delta_n\}$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \delta_n = 0$ , and a sequence of points  $\{\zeta_n\}$ ,  $\zeta_n \in D$ ,  $|\zeta_n| \rightarrow 1$ ,  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , along which a function  $w = f(z)$ , meromorphic in  $D$ , has  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(\zeta_n) = a$  (finite or infinite), while for each number  $n$  there exists, in the non-Euclidean disk with non-Euclidean center  $\zeta_n$  and non-Euclidean radius  $\delta_n$ , a point  $\tilde{\zeta}_n$  at which  $|f(\tilde{\zeta}_n) - a| > \varepsilon_0$ , if the number  $a$  is finite ( $|f(\tilde{\zeta}_n)| < 1/\varepsilon_0$ , if the number  $a$  is infinite), where  $\varepsilon_0 > 0$  is fixed. Then from the sequence  $\{\zeta_n\}$  one can select a subsequence that is a sequence of  $P$ -points for the function  $w = f(z)$ .*

**Remark 1.** In <sup>(2)</sup> an example is constructed of a Blaschke product  $w = B(z)$  with positive real zeros  $\{x_n\}$ ,  $x_n \rightarrow 1$ ,  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \rho(x_n, x_{n+1}) = 1/2$ , and the function  $w = B(z)$  does not have radial boundary value 0 at the point  $z = 1$ . This example shows that the condition  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \delta_n = 0$  in Theorem 1 cannot be replaced by the condition  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \delta_n = \delta_0$ ,  $\delta_0 > 0$ .

Theorem 1 is an immediate consequence of the following lemma.

**Lemma 1.** *If the function  $w = f(z)$  satisfies the conditions of Theorem 1, then the point  $z = 0$  is an irregular point (in the sense of Montel) for the sequence of functions  $\{g_n(z)\}$ ,*

$$g_n(z) = f\left(\frac{z + \zeta_n}{1 + \bar{\zeta}_n z}\right).$$

The validity of this lemma can easily be established with the aid of the arguments from <sup>(2)</sup>. Indeed, suppose that the family of functions  $\{g_n(t)\}$ ,

$$g_n(t) = f\left(\frac{t + \zeta_n}{1 + \bar{\zeta}_n t}\right),$$

is normal in some disk  $|t| \leq \lambda$ ,  $0 < \lambda < 1$ . Put

$$t_n = \frac{\tilde{\zeta}_n - \zeta_n}{1 - \bar{\zeta}_n \tilde{\zeta}_n}.$$

Then  $\rho(0, t_n) = \rho(\zeta_n, \tilde{\zeta}_n)$  and, consequently,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \rho(0, t_n) = 0$ . Hence  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} t_n = 0$ . We have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g_n(t_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(\tilde{\zeta}_n) \neq a.$$

This contradicts the equicontinuity of the family  $\{g_n(t)\}$  in the disk  $|t| \leq \lambda$ , since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g_n(0) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(\zeta_n) = a.$$

The lemma is proved.

Taking into account the result of Lange stated above, one can sharpen Theorem 1 in the case when the function  $w = f(z)$  is holomorphic in  $D$ .

**Theorem 1'.** *Let the function  $w = f(z)$ , holomorphic in the disk  $D$ , satisfy the conditions of Theorem 1. Then the function  $w = f(z)$  has in  $D$  a sequence of  $\rho$ -points  $\{z_n\}$  and*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \rho(z_n, \zeta_n) = 0.$$

**§ 2.** The following theorems concern meromorphic functions possessing sequences of  $P$ -points.

With the aid of the methods from <sup>(3)</sup> and Lange's results <sup>(1)</sup>, the following can be proved:

**Theorem 2.** *A sequence of points  $\{\zeta_n\}$ ,  $\zeta_n \in D$ ,  $|\zeta_n| < |\zeta_{n+1}|$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \rho(\zeta_n, \zeta_{n+1}) = \infty$ , is a sequence of  $P$ -points ( $\rho$ -points) for a function  $w = f(z)$  meromorphic (holomorphic) in the disk  $D$  if and only if*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 - |\zeta_n|^2) |f'(\zeta_n)| / (1 + |f(\zeta_n)|^2) = \infty.$$

In other words, only functions meromorphic (holomorphic) in  $D$  that are not normal in  $D$  in the sense of Lehto and Virtanen possess sequences of  $P$ -points ( $\rho$ -points).

Indeed, let  $\{\zeta_n\}$  be a sequence of  $P$ -points for a function  $w = f(z)$  meromorphic in  $D$ . Then in any neighborhood of the point  $z = 0$  every infinite subsequence  $\{g_{n_k}(z)\}$  of the sequence of functions  $\{g_n(z)\}$ ,

$$g_n(z) = f\left(\frac{z + \zeta_n}{1 + \bar{\zeta}_n z}\right),$$

assumes infinitely often all values  $w$ , except possibly two. That is, the point  $z = 0$  is an irregular point for the family  $\{g_n(z)\}$  and, according to Marty's criterion,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |g'_n(0)|/(1 + |g_n(0)|^2) = +\infty$$

or

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 - |\zeta_n|^2)|f'(\zeta_n)|/(1 + |f(\zeta_n)|^2) = +\infty.$$

Conversely, let  $\{\zeta_n\}$  not be a sequence of  $P$ -points for  $w = f(z)$ . Then there exists  $\varepsilon_0 > 0$  such that in every non-Euclidean disk

$$D_n^0 = \{z : \rho(z, \zeta_n) < \varepsilon_0\}$$

the function  $w = f(z)$  does not assume three values  $a, b, c$ . According to the normality criterion for functions <sup>(4)</sup>,

$$\frac{|f'(z)|}{1 + |f(z)|^2} |dz| \leq$$

$\leq C d\sigma$ ,  $z \in D_n$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , where  $d\sigma$  is the element of the hyperbolic metric in  $D_n$ , and the constant  $C < +\infty$  is one and the same for all the disks  $\{D_n\}$ . In particular, at the points  $z = \zeta_n$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , the quantities  $|dz|/d\sigma = \varepsilon_0(1 - |\zeta_n|^2)$ , and

$$(1 - |\zeta_n|^2)|f'(\zeta_n)|/(1 + |f(\zeta_n)|^2) \leq C/\varepsilon_0 < +\infty, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Theorems 3 and 4 are consequences of Theorem 1.

**Theorem 3.** *Let the function  $w = f(z)$ , meromorphic in the disk  $D$ , have the asymptotic value  $\alpha$  (finite or infinite) along some Jordan curve going to*

the boundary point  $\zeta_0 = e^{i\theta_0}$ , and suppose that  $w = f(z)$  does not have at  $\zeta_0$  the angular boundary value  $\alpha$ . Then the function  $w = f(z)$  possesses in  $D$  a sequence of  $P$ -points  $\{\zeta_n\}$ ,  $\zeta_n \rightarrow \zeta_0 = e^{i\theta_0}$ ,  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Theorem 4.** Let the function  $w = f(z) \not\equiv \text{const}$ , meromorphic in the disk  $D$ , have the asymptotic value  $\alpha$  (finite or infinite) along some Jordan curve from  $D$ , the set of limit points of which on the boundary of the disk  $D$  consists of more than one point. Then the function  $w = f(z)$  possesses a sequence of  $P$ -points  $\{\zeta_n\}$ ,  $|\zeta_n| \rightarrow 1$ ,  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Remark 2.** If, in the hypotheses of Theorems 3 and 4, the function  $w = f(z)$  is assumed holomorphic, then  $w = f(z)$  possesses the corresponding sequences of  $\rho$ -points.

Let, for example, the function  $w = f(z)$  satisfy the hypotheses of Theorem 3. Then it satisfies the hypotheses of the Lehto-Virtanen theorem ((4), Theorem 1), and hence the following holds: in  $D$  there exists a Jordan curve  $\Lambda_0$ , ending at the boundary point  $\zeta_0$  and containing a sequence of points  $\{z_n\}$ ,  $z_n \rightarrow \zeta_0$ ,  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , at which  $f(z_n) = a$ , or  $b$ , or  $c$ , where the numbers  $a, b, c \neq \alpha$ , and, in addition, for any number  $N > 0$  there exists in  $D$  a curve  $\Lambda_N$  along which  $f(z) \rightarrow \alpha$  and the Euclidean distance between  $\Lambda_N$  and  $\Lambda_0$  is less than  $1/N$ . (The assertion of Theorem 1 is stated in (4) in a somewhat different form, but in the course of its proof the existence of the curve  $\Lambda_0$  named above is established.) Thus, if the function  $w = f(z)$  satisfies the hypotheses of Theorem 3, then it also satisfies the hypotheses of Theorem 1.

Theorem 4 is proved similarly. For this purpose, in the preceding argument one must rely not on the Lehto-Virtanen theorem, but on its generalization obtained by Beagemil and Seidel ((5), Theorem 1).

Before formulating the next result, let us introduce notation. Let  $S \subset D$  be a spiral, i.e. a Jordan curve given by a continuous complex-valued function  $z = z(t)$ ,  $0 < t < +\infty$ , for which  $0 < |z(t)| < 1$ ,  $|z(t)| \rightarrow 1$ ,  $\arg z(t) \rightarrow +\infty$  as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ . Fix an arbitrary point  $z(t) \in S$  corresponding to the value  $t$  of the parameter, and let  $t'$  be the first value of the parameter greater than  $t$  for which

$$\arg z(t') = \arg z(t) + 2\pi.$$

Consider the quantity

$$\bar{\mu}(S) = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \rho(z(t), z(t')).$$

As a consequence of Lemma 1 we have

**Theorem 5.** Let the function  $w = f(z)$ , meromorphic in the disk  $D$ , unbounded near the unit circle, be bounded on some spiral  $S$  with  $\bar{\mu}(S) = 0$ . Then the function  $w = f(z)$  possesses in  $D$  a sequence of  $P$ -points.

§ 3. The result of Lange presented in § 1 admits the following refinement.

**Theorem 6.** *Let the function  $w = f(z)$ , holomorphic in the disk  $D$ , have*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(z_n) = \infty$$

*along some sequence of points  $\{z_n\}$ ,  $z_n \in D$ ,  $|z_n| \rightarrow 1$ ,  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , and suppose there exist a number  $\mu_0$ ,  $0 < \mu_0 < +\infty$ , and a sequence of points  $\{z'_n\}$ ,  $z'_n \in D$ , such that  $\rho(z_n, z'_n) < \mu_0$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , and the function  $w = f(z)$  is bounded on  $\{z'_n\}$ :  $|f(z'_n)| < M$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , with a fixed constant  $M < +\infty$ . Then in  $D$  there exists a sequence of  $\rho$ -points for the function  $w = f(z)$ .*

Indeed, consider the sequence of functions  $\{g'_n(z)\}$ ,

$$g'_n(z) = f\left(\frac{z + z'_n}{1 + z'_n z}\right)$$

and show that this sequence does not form a normal family in the disk  $|z| \leq \lambda_0$ , where  $1 > \lambda_0 > \text{th } \mu_0$ . Suppose, on the contrary, that the family of functions  $\{g'_n(t)\}$ ,

$$g'_n(t) = f\left(\frac{t + z'_n}{1 + z'_n t}\right),$$

is normal in the disk  $|t| \leq \lambda_0$ . Put

$$t'_n = \frac{z_n - z'_n}{1 - \overline{z'_n} z_n};$$

then

$$\rho(0, t'_n) = \rho(z_n, z'_n) < \mu_0 < \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{1 + \lambda_0}{1 - \lambda_0},$$

i.e.  $|t'_n| < \lambda_0$ . Since  $|g'_n(0)| = |f(z'_n)| < M$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , the limit function of the sequence  $\{g'_n(t)\}$  must be holomorphic in  $|t| < \lambda_0$ , whereas

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g'_n(t'_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(z_n) = \infty.$$

Consequently, there exists a point  $z_0$ ,  $|z_0| < \lambda_0$ , in every neighborhood of which the functions of the family  $\{g'_n(z)\}$  assume, infinitely often, all finite values except possibly one. This means that there exists a sequence of points  $\{\tilde{z}'_n\}$ ,  $\rho(z_n, \tilde{z}'_n) \leq \lambda_0 + \mu_0$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , at which  $f(\tilde{z}'_n) = 0$  or  $1$ , while  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(z_n) =$

$\infty$ . According to Lange's result, the function  $w = f(z)$  has a sequence of  $\rho$ -points in  $D$ .

If the arguments given above are slightly refined, one can establish the following fact.

**Lemma 2.** Let a function  $w = f(z)$ , holomorphic in the disk  $D$ , satisfy the conditions of Theorem 6. Then, on the segments of non-Euclidean straight lines joining pairwise the points  $z_n, z'_n$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , one can choose a sequence of points  $\{\tilde{z}_n\}$  (possibly  $\tilde{z}_n = z_n$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ) such that an irregular point for the sequence of functions  $\{\tilde{g}_n(z)\}$ ,

$$\tilde{g}_n(z) = f\left(\frac{z + \tilde{z}'_n}{1 + \tilde{z}'_n z}\right),$$

is the point  $z = 0$ .

Hence, taking into account Lange's result cited in § 1 (1), we obtain the following refinement of Theorem 1 from (6).

**Theorem 7.** Let a function  $w = f(z)$ , holomorphic in the disk  $D$ , have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(z_n) = \infty$$

for some sequence of points  $\{z_n\}$ , where  $z_n = r_n e^{i\theta_0}$ ,  $0 \leq \theta_0 \leq 2\pi$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r_n = 1,$$

and let there exist a sequence of points  $\{z'_n\}$ ,  $z'_n = r'_n e^{i\theta_0}$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \rho(z'_n, z_n) = \mu_0 < +\infty,$$

at which the function satisfies  $|f(z'_n)| < M$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , where  $M < +\infty$  is a constant. Then in every angle  $\Delta_\delta(\theta_0) : \{z; |\arg(1 - e^{-i\theta_0} z)| < \delta, \delta > 0\}$  there is a sequence of  $\rho$ -points for the function  $w = f(z)$ .

We note that other assertions from (6) also admit refinement.

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