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A NONNORMAL BLASCHKE-QUOTIENT

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We shall call the meromorphic functions of the form $F(z) = B_1(z)/B_2(z)$ Blaschke-quotients, where $B_1(z)$ and $B_2(z)$ are Blaschke products in |z| < 1 with zeros at $\{a_n\}$ and $\{b_k\}$ respectively. Although there is a characterization of meromorphic functions which are normal there is no characterization of the Blaschke-quotients which are normal in terms of the non-Euclidean (hyperbolic) distances between the zeros $\{a_n\}$ and $\{b_k\}$. In this paper we show by construction that even if the zeros of a Blaschke-quotient are separated by a positive non-Euclidean distance the Blaschke-quotient need not be normal.

We shall be concerned in this paper with the boundary behavior of meromorphic functions. The concept of a normal function was introduced by K. Noshiro in [2]. Several properties of normal meromorphic functions are developed in a paper of O. Lehto and K. I. Virtanen [2]. Their definition of a normal meromorphic function is:

DEFINITION A meromorphic function f(z) is called normal in a simply-connected domain G if the family $\{f(S(z))\}$ is normal in G (in the sense of Montel), where z' = S(z) denotes an arbitrary one-to-one conformal mapping of G onto itself.

In the same paper they gave the following characterization of a normal meromorphic function:

THEOREM 1. A nonconstant function f(z), meromorphic in a domain G, is normal if and only if

$$\rho(f(z)) \mid dz \mid \leq C \ d\sigma(z)$$

at every point of G. $\rho(f)$ is the spherical derivative of f, $d\sigma$ is the hyperbolic element of length and C is an absolute constant.

The class of normal functions includes the bounded functions, schlicht functions and functions omitting three values. Moreover, it is known that the class of normal functions interselects the class of functions of bounded characteristic. Functions of bounded characteristic. Functions of bounded characteristic have the following form

$$F(z)=e^{i\lambda}\,rac{B_1(z)}{B_2(z)}\,\exp\left(rac{1}{2\pi}\,\int_0^{2\pi}rac{e^{i heta}+z}{e^{i heta}-z}\,d\psi(heta)
ight)\,.$$

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 $\psi(\theta)$ is a function of bounded variation, λ is real and the $B_i(z)$ are infinite products.

$$egin{aligned} B(z,\,a_n) &= B_1(z) = \prod\limits_{n=1}^\infty rac{\mid a_n\mid}{a_n} \left(rac{a_n-z}{1-ar a_n z}
ight),\ &\sum\limits_{n=1}^\infty (1-\mid a_n\mid) < \infty \ . \end{aligned}$$

For brevity we refer to a quotient of the form $B_1(z)/B_2(z)$ as a Blaschke-quotient. There are functions which are normal which are not of bounded characteristic and functions of bounded characteristic which are not normal. In particular F. Bagemihl and W. Seidel [1] have constructed a holomorphic function of bounded characteristic which is not normal.

If z_1 and z_2 are two points of the unit disk $D = \{z \mid |z| < 1\}$, the non-Euclidean (hyperbolic) distance between z_1 and z_2 is given by the formula

$$ho(z_1,\,z_2)=rac{1}{2}\log\left(rac{1+|\,h\,|}{1-|\,h\,|}
ight),\ \ h=rac{z_1-z_2}{1-\overline{z}_1\,z_2}$$

The following theorems of F. Bagemihl and W. Seidel [1] show that the non-Euclidean metric is in a sense a natural one for discussing the boundary behavior of a normal function.

THEOREM 2. Let $\{z_n\}$ be a sequence of points in $D = \{z \mid |z| < 1\}$ which converges to a point $\zeta \in C = \{z \mid |z| = 1\}$ and is such that lim $\rho(z_n, z_{n+1}) = 0$ as $n \to \infty$, and let f(z) be a normal meromorphic function in D for which $\lim_{n \to \infty} f(z_n) = c$ as $n \to \infty$, where c is finite or infinite. Then f(z) has the angular limit c at ζ .

THEOREM 3. Let $\{z_n\}$ be a sequence of points in $D = \{|z| < 1\}$ for which $|z_n| \rightarrow 1$ and f(z) is a normal, meromorphic function in D such that $\lim_{n \to \infty} f(z_n) = C$. If $\{z'_n\}$ denotes any sequence of points in D for which $\lim_{n \to \infty} \rho(z_n, z'_n) = 0$, then also $\lim_{n \to \infty} f(z'_n) = C$.

One problem remaining in the study of normal functions is to determine those Blaschke-quotients which are normal. That is, if $F(z) = B_1(z)/B_2(z) = B_1(z; a_n)/B_2(z; b_n)$, to determine conditions on the non-Euclidean distances between the zeros of B_1 and B_2 which will make F normal. We note a few immediate results and then construct an example of a Blaschke-quotient such that the zeros of B_1 and those of B_2 are separated by a positive non-Euclidean distance and such that $B_1(z)/B_2(z)$ is not normal.

2. The construction. The first comment to be made is that a Blaschke-product has radial limits a.e. That is, $\lim B(re^{i\theta}), r \to 1$, exists and equals a complex uni-modular number $e^{i\varphi}$ [3]. The only singularities of $B(z) = B(z; a_n)$ in $|z| \leq 1$ are those points $z_0, |z_0| = 1$, such that there is a subsequence $\{a_{n_k}\}$ of the zeros of $B(z; a_n)$ with $a_{n_k} \to z_0$ as $k \to \infty$. If we denote by $A(a_n)$ the set of limit points of the set $\{a_n\}$, then we have the following:

LEMMA 1. Let $F(z) = B_1(z)/B_2(z) = B_1(z; a_n)/B_2(z; b_n)$. Then if $A(a_n) \cap A(b_n)$ is empty, F is normal.

Proof. The condition of Theorem 1 for $F=B_{\scriptscriptstyle 1}\!/B_{\scriptscriptstyle 2}$ with domain the unit disk is

$$ho(F(z)) \, | \, dz \, | = rac{\mid B_{1}(z)B_{2}'(z) - B_{1}'(z)B_{2}(z) \, |}{\mid B_{1}(z) \, |^{2} + \mid B_{2}(z) \, |^{2}} \, | \, dz \, | \leq rac{C \mid dz \, |}{(1 - \mid z \, |^{2})} \; .$$

For $P = e^{i\varphi}$ it suffices to show

$$\overline{\lim_{z o P \ |z| < 1}} \; rac{\mid B_1(z)B_2'(z) \, - \, B_1'(z)B_2(z) \mid}{\mid B_1(z) \mid^2 + \, B_2(z) \mid^2} \, (1 - \mid z \mid^2) < \infty \; .$$

Now

$$egin{aligned} & rac{\mid B_1(z)B_2'(z) - B_1'(z)B_2(z)\mid (1-\mid z\mid^2)}{\mid B_1(z)\mid^2 + \mid B_2(z)\mid^2} \ & \leq rac{\mid B_2'(z)\mid (1-\mid z\mid^2) + \mid B_1'(z)\mid (1-\mid z\mid^2)}{\mid B_1(z)\mid^2 + \mid B_2(z)\mid^2} \end{aligned}$$

The lemma follows from the fact that

$$arprojlim_{\substack{z o P \ |z| < 1}} \left(\mid B_{\scriptscriptstyle 1}(z) \mid^{\scriptscriptstyle 2} + B_{\scriptscriptstyle 2}(z) \mid^{\scriptscriptstyle 2}
ight) \geqq 1$$

and a result of W. Seidel and J. L. Walsh [5] which states that $|B'_i(z)|(1-|z|)$ is bounded for |z| < 1.

The following lemma is a restatement of Theorem 3.

LEMMA 2. If $F(z) = B_1(z; a_n)/B_2(z; b_n)$, with $\{a_n\}$ and $\{b_n\}$ disjoint, and if there exist subsequences $\{a_{n_k}\}$ and $\{b_{n_k}\}$, with $\rho(a_{n_k}, b_{n_k})$ tending to zero as $k \to \infty$, then F is not normal.

We turn now to the example.

THEOREM 4. There exists a Blaschke-quotient $F(z) = B_1(z; a_n)/B_2(z; b_n)$ with $\rho(a_n, b_k) \ge \delta_1 > 0$ for all positive integers n and k such that F is not normal. **Proof.** The construction proceeds as follows. We exhibit a Blaschke-product $B_2(z; b_n)$ whose zeros lie in an angle at z = 1 and which tends to zero in angular approach to 1. We can then construct $B_1(z; a_n)$ such that the zeros $\{a_n\}$ tend to 1 and have the property expressed in the theorem. $B_1(z)$ has the additional property that there is a nontangential path Γ such that $\lim B_1(z)$ for z on Γ is positive. This implies

$$\lim_{z \to 1 \atop z \in \Gamma} \frac{B_1(z)}{B_2(z)} = \lim_{z \to 1 \atop z \in \Gamma} \frac{B_1(z; a_n)}{B_2(z; b_n)} = \infty$$

whereas $B_1(a_n)/B_2(a_n) = 0$. Applying Theorem 2, we see that F cannot be normal.

First define B_2 as follows:

$$B_2(z;\,b_n)=B_2(z;\,1-rac{1}{n_2}=\prod_{n=1}^{\infty}rac{\left(1-rac{1}{n^2}
ight)-z}{1-\left(1-rac{1}{n^2}
ight)z}$$

 $B_{z}(z)$ is well defined and holomorphic in |z| < 1. The function ρ_{n} ,

$$ho_n =
ho(b_n, \ b_{n+1}) = rac{1}{2} \log \left(rac{1 + | \ h_n |}{1 - | \ h_n |}
ight)$$

where

$$||h_n| = \left|rac{\left(1-rac{1}{n^2}
ight)-\left(1-rac{1}{(n+1)^2}
ight)}{1-\left(1-rac{1}{n^2}
ight)\left(1-rac{1}{(n+1)^2}
ight)}
ight| = rac{2n+1}{2n^2+2n}$$

tends to zero as $n \to \infty$. Theorem 2 shows that B_2 has angular limit zero at z = 1.

For the remainder of the construction we find it useful to do some of the work in a half plane. The linear transformation T,

$$T(z) = i\left(\frac{1+z}{1-z}\right) = \omega = u + iv$$

maps |z| < 1 onto v > 0, preserving the non-Euclidean metric. The point z = 1 corresponds to $\omega = \infty$. As a nontangential path tending to infinity we choose the hypercycle u = v, v > 0. This curve has fixed non-Euclidean distance $1/2 \log (\sqrt{2} + 1)$ from u = 0, v > 0. Select points a'_n as follows:

$$a'_n = lpha_n e^{i\pi/4} = (2e^n - 1)e^{i\pi/4}$$
 .

The corresponding points a_n of |z| < 1 are

$$T^{_{-1}}(a'_n) = a_n = rac{a'_n - i}{a'_n + i} \, .$$

Define $B_1(z)$ by using the points $\{a_n\}$ as the zeros of $B_1(z)$. To show $B_1(z)$ is well defined, it suffices to show $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - |a_n|) < \infty$.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 \mid a_n \mid) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - rac{(lpha_n^2 + 1) - \sqrt{2} \, lpha_n}{[(a_n + 1)^2 - 2 \, lpha_n^2]^{1/2}}
ight) \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} rac{\sqrt{2}}{lpha_n} \, .$$

This last series has terms which are order of magnitude of e^{-n} and so converges.

We note that the curve u = v maps under T^{-1} into a hypercycle h_{α} having a fixed non-Euclidean distance from the real axis. It also forms the fixed angle $\pi/4$ with the real axis at z = 1. Thus the zeros of $B_1(z)$ and those of $B_2(z)$ are separated by a positive non-Euclidean distance.

In the plane v > 0, $B_1(z)$ has the form

$$B_1(z)=B_1(T^{-1}(\omega))=\pi_1(\omega)=\prod_{u=1}^\infty e^{ip_n}\left(rac{\omega-a'_n}{\overline{a}'_n-\omega}
ight)$$

where p_n is real. Now select points $i\beta_k = i(2k^2 - 1)$ on u = 0, v > 0.

$$T^{-1}\!(ieta_k) = C_k = 1 - rac{1}{k^2}$$
 .

If we show that $\underline{\lim}_{k\to\infty} |\pi_1(i\beta_k)| \ge \delta > 0$, this implies

$$ert \lim_{k o\infty} \Bigl| B_{\scriptscriptstyle 1} \Bigl(1 - rac{1}{-k^{\scriptscriptstyle 2}} \Bigr) \Bigr| \geq \delta > 0 \;.$$

However, we know $\rho(C_k, C_{k+1})$ tends to zero as $k \to \infty$. Thus by Theorem 3, if $\{t_k\}$ is any real increasing sequence $t_k < 1$, $t_k \to 1$ with $B_i(t_k) \to \alpha$, then we can choose a subsequence $\{C_{n_k}\}$ such that

$$C_{n_k} \leq t_k < C_{n_k+1}, \ \
ho(C_{n_k}, \ t_k) <
ho(C_{n_k}, \ C_{n_k+1})$$
 .

This implies $B_1(C_{n_k}) \to \alpha$ and so $|\alpha| \ge \delta$. This proves $\underline{\lim}_{x \to 1} |B_1(x)|$ is positive. It remains to prove $\underline{\lim}_{k \to \infty} |\pi_1(i\beta_k)| \ge \delta$.

The calculation for $\pi_1(\omega)$ is as follows:

$$egin{aligned} &| \, \pi_{_1}(ieta_k) \, |^2 = \prod_{n=1}^\infty \left| rac{eta_k e^{i\,(\pi/2)} - lpha_n e^{i\,(\pi/4)}}{lpha_n e^{-i\,(\pi/4)} - eta_k e^{i\,(\pi/2)}}
ight| \ &= \prod_{n=1}^\infty \left(1 - rac{2\,\sqrt{2}\,a_neta_k}{lpha_n^2 + eta_k^2 + \sqrt{2}\,lpha_neta_k}
ight). \end{aligned}$$

Consider the following function of the positive real variables ξ and η ,

$$g(ar{\xi},\,\eta) = rac{2\,\sqrt{2}\,(2e^ar{\epsilon}-1)\,(2\eta^2-1)}{(2e^ar{\epsilon}-1)^2+(2\eta^2-1)^2+\sqrt{2}\,(2e^ar{\epsilon}-1)\,(2\eta^2-1)}\,.$$

Setting $x = [(2e^{\varepsilon}-1)/2\eta^2-1]^2$ we have

$$g(\xi,\eta) = rac{2\,\sqrt{2}}{x+rac{1}{x}+\sqrt{2}} \leq rac{2\,\sqrt{2}}{2+\sqrt{2}} < 1$$

since $x + (1/x) \ge 2$ if x > 0.

We are considering the product $\prod_{n=1}^{\infty}(1-g(n,k))$, where $0 \leq g(n, k) \leq \sigma < 1$. We can choose a positive number A so large that $1 + x \geq e^{4x}$ for $-\sigma \leq x \leq 0$. The number $A = -\log(1-\sigma)/\sigma$ will suffice $(A \geq 2)$.

For each positive integer k let N(k) = N be the positive integer satisfying $N < 2 \log k \leq N + 1$. g(y, k) is monotone increasing on $1 \leq y < 2 \log k$ and monotone descreasing on $y > 2 \log k$, with

$$g(2\log k,\,k)=rac{1}{2(2k^2-1)}\,.$$

Thus we have for fixed k

$$\begin{split} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} g(n, \ k) &\leq 2 \sqrt{2} \left(2k^2 - 1 \right) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(2e^n - 1)}{(2e^n - 1)^2 + (2k^2 - 1)^2} \\ &\leq 2 \sqrt{2} \left(2k^2 - 1 \right) \left[\int_{1}^{N} \frac{(2e^y - 1)dy}{(2e^y - 1)^2 + (2k^2 - 1)^2} \\ &+ \int_{N+1}^{\infty} \frac{(2e^y - 1)dy}{(2e^y - 1)^2 + (2k^2 - 1)^2} \\ &+ \frac{(2e^N - 1)}{(2e^N - 1)^2 + (2k^2 - 1)^2} + \frac{(2e^{N+1} - 1)}{(2e^{N+1} - 1)^2 + (2k^2 - 1)^2} \right] \\ &\leq 2 \sqrt{2} \left(2k^2 - 1 \right) \left[\int_{1}^{\infty} \frac{(2e^y)dy}{(2e^y - 1)^2 + (2k^2 - 1)^2} + \frac{2}{2(2k^2 - 1)} \right] \\ &= 2 \sqrt{2} \arctan \left(\frac{2e^y - 1}{2k^2 - 1} \right) \Big|_{1}^{\infty} + 2 \sqrt{2} \ . \end{split}$$

Now evaluating the infinite product using the above estimates, we obtain

$$egin{aligned} & \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(1-g(n,k)
ight) > \expigg(-A\sum\limits_{n=1}^{\infty}g(n,k)igg) \ & \geq \expigg(-2\,\sqrt{2}\,A\left(rac{\pi}{2}-rctanigg(rac{\pi}{2}-rctanigg(rac{2e-1}{2k^2-1}igg)igg)-2\,\sqrt{2}\,Aigg)\,. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $\lim_{k\to\infty} |\pi_1(i\beta_k)|$ is positive. This completes the construction.

The function $F(z) = B_1(z)/B_2(z)$ tends to ∞ on the real axis as $x \to 1$ and has a sequence of zeros on the nontangential curve (hypercycle) h_{α} . Thus F is not normal.

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Pacific Journal of Mathematics Vol. 15, No. 3 November, 1965

David R. Arterburn and Robert James Whitley, Projections in the space of	
bounded linear operators	739
Robert McCallum Blumenthal, Joram Lindenstrauss and Robert Ralph Phelps, <i>Extreme operators into</i> $C(K)$	747
L. Carlitz, A note on multiple exponential sums	757
Joseph A. Cima, A nonnormal Blaschke-quotient	767
Paul Civin and Bertram Yood, <i>Lie and Jordan structures in Banach algebras</i>	775
Luther Elic Claborn, <i>Dedekind domains: Overrings and semi-prime</i>	799
Luther Elic Claborn, Note generalizing a result of Samuel's	805
George Bernard Dantzig, E. Eisenberg and Richard Warren Cottle. <i>Symmetric</i>	005
dual nonlinear programs	809
Philip J. Davis, <i>Simple quadratures in the complex plane</i>	813
Edward Richard Fadell, <i>On a coincidence theorem of F. B. Fuller</i>	825
Delbert Ray Fulkerson and Oliver Gross, <i>Incidence matrices and interval</i>	
graphs	835
Larry Charles Grove, <i>Tensor products over H*-algebras</i>	857
Deborah Tepper Haimo, L^2 expansions in terms of generalized heat polynomials	
and of their Appell transforms	865
I. Martin (Irving) Isaacs and Donald Steven Passman, A chardcterization of	
groups in terms of the degrees of their characters	877
Donald Gordon James, Integral invariants for vectors over local fields	905
Fred Krakowski, A remark on the lemma of Gauss	917
Marvin David Marcus and H. Minc, <i>A subdeterminant inequality</i>	921
Kevin Mor McCrimmon, <i>Norms and noncommutative Jordan algebras</i>	925
Donald Farl Myers Topologies for Laplace transform spaces	
Donald Lan Myers, Topologies for Euplace transform spaces	957
Olav Njstad, On some classes of nearly open sets	957 961
Olav Njstad, On some classes of nearly open sets Milton Philip Olson, A characterization of conditional probability	957 961 971
Olav Njstad, <i>On some classes of nearly open sets</i>	957 961 971 985
Olav Njstad, On some classes of nearly open sets Milton Philip Olson, A characterization of conditional probability Barbara Osofsky, A counter-example to a lemma of Skornjakov Sidney Charles Port, Ratio limit theorems for Markov chains	957 961 971 985 989
Olav Njstad, On some classes of nearly open sets Milton Philip Olson, A characterization of conditional probability Barbara Osofsky, A counter-example to a lemma of Skornjakov Sidney Charles Port, Ratio limit theorems for Markov chains George A. Reid, A generalisation of W*-algebras	957 961 971 985 989 1019
Olav Njstad, On some classes of nearly open sets Milton Philip Olson, A characterization of conditional probability Barbara Osofsky, A counter-example to a lemma of Skornjakov Sidney Charles Port, Ratio limit theorems for Markov chains George A. Reid, A generalisation of W*-algebras Robert Wells Ritchie, Classes of recursive functions based on Ackermann's	957 961 971 985 989 1019
 Olav Njstad, On some classes of nearly open sets Milton Philip Olson, A characterization of conditional probability Barbara Osofsky, A counter-example to a lemma of Skornjakov Sidney Charles Port, Ratio limit theorems for Markov chains George A. Reid, A generalisation of W*-algebras Robert Wells Ritchie, Classes of recursive functions based on Ackermann's function 	957 961 971 985 989 1019 1027
 Olav Njstad, On some classes of nearly open sets Milton Philip Olson, A characterization of conditional probability Barbara Osofsky, A counter-example to a lemma of Skornjakov Sidney Charles Port, Ratio limit theorems for Markov chains George A. Reid, A generalisation of W*-algebras Robert Wells Ritchie, Classes of recursive functions based on Ackermann's function Thomas Lawrence Sherman, Properties of solutions of nth order linear 	957 961 971 985 989 1019 1027
 Olav Njstad, On some classes of nearly open sets Milton Philip Olson, A characterization of conditional probability Barbara Osofsky, A counter-example to a lemma of Skornjakov Sidney Charles Port, Ratio limit theorems for Markov chains George A. Reid, A generalisation of W*-algebras Robert Wells Ritchie, Classes of recursive functions based on Ackermann's function Thomas Lawrence Sherman, Properties of solutions of nth order linear differential equations 	 957 961 971 985 989 1019 1027 1045
 Olav Njstad, On some classes of nearly open sets Milton Philip Olson, A characterization of conditional probability Barbara Osofsky, A counter-example to a lemma of Skornjakov Sidney Charles Port, Ratio limit theorems for Markov chains George A. Reid, A generalisation of W*-algebras Robert Wells Ritchie, Classes of recursive functions based on Ackermann's function Thomas Lawrence Sherman, Properties of solutions of nth order linear differential equations 	 957 961 971 985 989 1019 1027 1045 1061
 Olav Njstad, On some classes of nearly open sets Milton Philip Olson, A characterization of conditional probability Barbara Osofsky, A counter-example to a lemma of Skornjakov Sidney Charles Port, Ratio limit theorems for Markov chains George A. Reid, A generalisation of W*-algebras Robert Wells Ritchie, Classes of recursive functions based on Ackermann's function Thomas Lawrence Sherman, Properties of solutions of nth order linear differential equations Ernst Snapper, Inflation and deflation for all dimensions Kondagunta Sundaresan, On the strict and uniform convexity of certain Banach 	 957 961 971 985 989 1019 1027 1045 1061
 Olav Njstad, On some classes of nearly open sets	 957 961 971 985 989 1019 1027 1045 1061 1083
 Olav Njstad, On some classes of nearly open sets	 957 961 971 985 989 1019 1027 1045 1061 1083 1087
 Olav Njstad, On some classes of nearly open sets Milton Philip Olson, A characterization of conditional probability Barbara Osofsky, A counter-example to a lemma of Skornjakov Sidney Charles Port, Ratio limit theorems for Markov chains George A. Reid, A generalisation of W*-algebras Robert Wells Ritchie, Classes of recursive functions based on Ackermann's function Thomas Lawrence Sherman, Properties of solutions of nth order linear differential equations Ernst Snapper, Inflation and deflation for all dimensions Kondagunta Sundaresan, On the strict and uniform convexity of certain Banach spaces Frank J. Wagner, Maximal convex filters in a locally convex space Joseph Albert Wolf, Translation-invariant function algebras on compact 	957 961 971 985 989 1019 1027 1045 1061 1083 1087