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Dedicated to the memory of our teacher, Professor Joseph L. Walsh

The basic aim of this paper is to study the phenomenon of overconvergence for rational functions converging geometrically on $[0, +\infty)$.

1. Introduction. The classical results of Bernstein, Walsh, Gončar, and others concerning the overconvergence of rational functions are roughly of the following type (cf. [18]): It is assumed that

(i) $f(z)$ is defined (finite) on some compact set E in the complex plane \mathbb{C} ;

(ii) $\{r_n(z)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ is a sequence of rational functions of respective degrees n which converge geometrically to f on E , i.e.,

$$\overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{\|f - r_n\|_{L^\infty(E)}\}^{1/n} < 1;$$

and

(iii) the set of poles of the sequence $\{r_n(z)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ has no accumulation points on E .

It is then concluded that

(iv) the sequence $\{r_n(z)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converges geometrically to an analytic extension of f on some open set in the plane containing E .

The aim of the present paper is to investigate the phenomenon of overconvergence in the case where E is a closed line segment $[a, b]$ and the hypothesis (iii) above is weakened to allow accumulation points of poles at the endpoints of E , i.e., assumption (iii) is replaced by

(iii)' the set of poles of the sequence $\{r_n(z)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ has no accumulation points on the open subinterval (a, b) of $E = [a, b]$.

Of course with the hypotheses (i), (ii), and (iii)', we must modify conclusion (iv) to read

(iv)' the sequence $\{r_n(z)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converges geometrically to an analytic extension of f on some open set in the plane containing (a, b) .

For the precise statements of such results on “angular overconvergence” it is sufficient to take $E = [0, +\infty)$, because any interval $[a, b]$ can be mapped onto $[0, +\infty)$ by means of a bilinear transformation, and such bilinear transformations preserve rational functions of degree n . For example, one of the results which we prove asserts that if rational functions $r_n(z)$ of respective degrees n converge geometrically on $E = [0, +\infty)$, and the poles of the $r_n(z)$ lie outside an infinite sector of the form

$$\{z \in \mathbf{C}: |\arg z| < \phi_1\}, \quad 0 < \phi_1 \leq \pi,$$

then the $r_n(z)$ converge geometrically on some smaller infinite sector

$$\{z \in \mathbf{C}: |\arg z| < \phi_2\}, \quad 0 < \phi_2 < \phi_1.$$

It is important to note that a number of results have appeared in the literature ([8], [10], [11]) which give classes of functions f and examples of approximating rational functions $r_n(z)$ for which condition (ii) above is satisfied on $E = [0, +\infty)$. Furthermore, for some special sequences of approximating rational functions, the existence of pole-free open sets (in the plane) containing $(0, +\infty)$ follows from the results in [17], [12], [13], among others. Hence the main results of this paper, which we state in §2, have immediate applications. These applications will be discussed primarily in §3.

2. Statements of main results. We now introduce the necessary notation and state our main results. Their proofs will be given in §4.

For an arbitrary set A in the complex plane \mathbf{C} we denote by $\|\cdot\|_A$ the sup norm on A , i.e.,

$$\|f\|_A := \sup\{|f(z)|: z \in A\}.$$

We use the symbol π_n to denote the set of all complex polynomials in the variable z having degree at most n , and let $\pi_{n,n}$ denote the set of all complex rational functions $r_n(z)$ of the form

$$r_n(z) = \frac{p_n(z)}{q_n(z)}, \quad \text{where } p_n \in \pi_n, \quad q_n \in \pi_n, \quad q_n \not\equiv 0.$$

The first three results which we state concern pole-free regions whose boundaries are parallel to the ray $E = [0, +\infty)$ at $x = +\infty$. It is convenient in this regard to introduce the set \mathcal{H} which consists of all real nonnegative continuous functions h on $[0, +\infty)$ such that for x large, $h(x) > 0$, and $h'(x)$ exists, is nonnegative, and satisfies

$$(2.1) \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} h'(x) = 0.$$

Corresponding to each $h \in \mathcal{H}$ we define generically the set $E_s(h)$, $0 \leq s \leq 1$, in the complex plane by

$$(2.2) \quad E_s(h) := \{z = x + iy : x \geq 0 \text{ and } |y| \leq sh(x)\}.$$

Notice that, by condition (2.1), the boundary of each set $E_s(h)$ defined in (2.2) makes an angle of zero with the positive real axis at $x = +\infty$.

Our first result is the following:

THEOREM 2.1. *Assume that for a function f , defined and finite on $[0, +\infty)$, there exists a sequence of rational functions $\{r_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$, with $r_n \in \pi_{n,n}$ for all $n \geq 1$, and a real number $q > 1$ such that*

$$(2.3) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{\|f - r_n\|_{[0, +\infty)}\}^{1/n} < \frac{1}{q} < 1.$$

Assume further that for some function $h \in \mathcal{H}$ the interior of the region $E_1(h)$ (defined in (2.2)) contains no poles of the $r_n(z)$ for all n sufficiently large. Then for every d satisfying the inequality

$$(2.4) \quad 0 < d < \frac{\sqrt{q}-1}{\sqrt{q}+1} < 1,$$

there exists a bounded subset K_d of $E_d(h)$ and an analytic function $F(z)$ on $E_d(h) - K_d$ with $F(x) = f(x)$ for all real x in this set, such that $\{r_n(z)\}_{n=1}^\infty$ converges geometrically to $F(z)$ on $E_d(h) - K_d$. Moreover

$$(2.5) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{\|F - r_n\|_{E_d(h) - K_d}\}^{1/n} < \frac{1}{q} \cdot \left(\frac{1+d}{1-d}\right)^2 < 1.$$

The next result shows that in certain cases the conclusion of Theorem 2.1 can hold on the whole set $E_d(h)$, rather than on $E_d(h) - K_d$.

COROLLARY 2.2. *Assume that for a continuous function $g (\neq 0)$ on $[0, +\infty)$ there exists a sequence of polynomials $\{p_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$, with $p_n \in \pi_n$ for all $n \geq 1$, and a real number $q > 1$ such that*

$$(2.6) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{g} - \frac{1}{p_n} \right\|_{[0, +\infty)} \right\}^{1/n} \leq \frac{1}{q} < 1.$$

Then, as is known [7, Theorem 3], there exists an entire function $G(z)$ of finite order with $G(x) = g(x)$ for all $x \geq 0$. Next assume that for some function $h \in \mathcal{H}$, with $h(x) > 0$ for all $x > 0$, the interior of the region $E_1(h)$ (defined in (2.2)) contains no zeros of $p_n(z)$ for all n large. If d satisfies (2.4) and if G is nonzero on the vertical segment $\{z = iy: |y| \leq dh(0)\}$, then

$$(2.7) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{G} - \frac{1}{p_n} \right\|_{E_d(h)} \right\}^{1/n} \leq \frac{1}{q} \left(\frac{1+d}{1-d} \right)^2 < 1.$$

As a concrete application of Corollary 2.2, we first recall from Meinardus and Varga [8] that

$$(2.8) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| e^{-x} - \frac{1}{s_n(x)} \right\|_{[0, +\infty)} \right\}^{1/n} = \frac{1}{2},$$

where $s_n(z) = \sum_{k=0}^n z^k/k!$ denotes the familiar n th partial sum of e^z . It is further known from Saff and Varga [12] that for

$$(2.9) \quad \hat{h}(x) = 2(x+1)^{1/2},$$

the region

$$(2.10) \quad E_1(\hat{h}) = \{z = x + iy: x \geq 0, |y| \leq 2(x+1)^{1/2}\}$$

contains no zeros of the $s_n(z)$ for all n . Note that $\hat{h} \in \mathcal{H}$, and that with $G(z) = e^z$ (so that G is nonzero at every finite point z), with $p_n \equiv s_n$ for all $n \geq 1$, and with $q = 2$, the hypotheses of Corollary 2.2 are all fulfilled. Thus for any d satisfying $0 < d < (\sqrt{2}-1)/(\sqrt{2}+1)$, we have from (2.7) that

$$(2.11) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| e^{-z} - \frac{1}{s_n(z)} \right\|_{E_d(\hat{h})} \right\}^{1/n} \leq \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1+d}{1-d} \right)^2 < 1,$$

which is effectively the result of [11, Theorem 4.1]. We remark that for any $d > 0$ the set

$$(2.12) \quad E_d(\hat{h}) = \{z = x + iy: x \geq 0, |y| \leq 2d(x+1)^{1/2}\}$$

is an unbounded parabolic region truncated at the origin.

As a consequence of Corollary 2.2 and of the results in [12], similar overconvergence results in unbounded parabolic regions also hold for each column of the Padé table for e^{-z} , i.e., for the Padé approximants $\{R_{\nu, n}(z)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ where the degree, ν , of the numerator is fixed.

Applications of Corollary 2.2 can in fact be made to a certain class of entire functions which contains the above example, and this will be described in the next section.

From Corollary 2.2 it is possible to deduce the following result which concerns geometric convergence on related unbounded sets whose widths grow more slowly at infinity.

COROLLARY 2.3. *With the hypotheses of Corollary 2.2, assume that $c(x)$ is a nonnegative continuous function on $[0, +\infty)$ with $c(x) < h(x)$ for all $x > 0$, such that*

$$(2.13) \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{c(x)}{h(x)} = 0,$$

and let

$$(2.14) \quad \mathcal{C} := \{z = x + iy : x \geq 0, |y| \leq c(x)\}.$$

If G is nonzero on the segment $\{z = iy : |y| \leq c(0)\}$, then

$$(2.15) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{G} - \frac{1}{p_n} \right\|_{\mathcal{C}} \right\}^{1/n} = \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{g} - \frac{1}{p_n} \right\|_{[0, +\infty)} \right\}^{1/n}.$$

The remaining results concern overconvergence on regions having a positive angle at infinity. In stating them it is convenient to introduce the sets $S(\theta, \mu)$ and $S(\theta)$ defined by

$$(2.16) \quad S(\theta, \mu) := \{z : |\arg z| < \theta, |z| > \mu\},$$

$$(2.17) \quad S(\theta) := \{z : |\arg z| < \theta\}.$$

THEOREM 2.4. *Assume that for a function f , defined and finite on $[0, +\infty)$, there exists a sequence of rational functions $\{r_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$, with $r_n \in \pi_n$ for all $n \geq 1$, and a real number $q > 1$ such that*

$$(2.18) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{ \|f - r_n\|_{[0, +\infty)} \}^{1/n} < \frac{1}{q} < 1.$$

Assume further that for some θ_0 and μ_0 , with $0 < \theta_0 \leq \pi$, $\mu_0 > 0$, the region $S(\theta_0, \mu_0)$ (defined in (2.16)) contains no poles of the $r_n(z)$ for all n large. Then for every θ satisfying the inequality

$$(2.19) \quad 0 < \theta < 4 \tan^{-1} \left\{ \left(\frac{\sqrt{q}-1}{\sqrt{q}+1} \right) \cdot \tan \left(\frac{\theta_0}{4} \right) \right\},$$

there exists a $\mu = \mu(\theta) > 0$ and an analytic function $F(z)$ on the closure $\bar{S}(\theta, \mu)$ with $F(x) = f(x)$ for all real x in this set, such that $\{r_n(z)\}_{n=1}^\infty$ converges geometrically to $F(z)$ on $\bar{S}(\theta, \mu)$. Moreover

$$(2.20) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{\|F - r_n\|_{\bar{S}(\theta, \mu)}\}^{1/n} < \frac{1}{q} \cdot \left\{ \frac{\sin[\frac{1}{4}(\theta_0 + \theta)]}{\sin[\frac{1}{4}(\theta_0 - \theta)]} \right\}^2 < 1.$$

It is interesting to note that while Theorem 2.1 cannot be deduced from Theorem 2.4, the former result can be considered as a limiting case of the latter. Indeed, for the situation of Theorem 2.1, we regard θ_0 and θ as functions of x which tend to zero as $x \rightarrow +\infty$; specifically, we define θ_0 and θ by the equations

$$\tan \theta_0 = \frac{h(x)}{x}, \quad \tan \theta = \frac{dh(x)}{x}.$$

Then, on writing (2.19) in the equivalent form

$$\frac{\tan(\theta/4)}{\tan(\theta_0/4)} < \frac{\sqrt{q}-1}{\sqrt{q}+1},$$

and taking the limit as $x \rightarrow +\infty$, we derive the condition

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\tan(\theta/4)}{\tan(\theta_0/4)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\tan \theta}{\tan \theta_0} = d < \frac{\sqrt{q}-1}{\sqrt{q}+1},$$

which is the same as inequality (2.4) of Theorem 2.1.

Using Theorem 2.4 we can deduce the following analogs of Corollaries 2.2 and 2.3:

COROLLARY 2.5. *Let the functions g , G , and the sequence of polynomials $\{p_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ be as in Corollary 2.2 (so that, in particular, inequality (2.6) holds). Assume further that no zeros of p_n lie in the infinite sector $S(\theta_0)$ (defined in (2.17)), $0 < \theta_0 \leq \pi$, for all n sufficiently large, and that $g(0) \neq 0$. If θ satisfies (2.19), then on the closure $\bar{S}(\theta)$,*

$$(2.21) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{G} - \frac{1}{p_n} \right\|_{\bar{S}(\theta)} \right\}^{1/n} \leq \frac{1}{q} \left\{ \frac{\sin[\frac{1}{4}(\theta_0 + \theta)]}{\sin[\frac{1}{4}(\theta_0 - \theta)]} \right\}^2 < 1.$$

COROLLARY 2.6. *Let the functions g , G , and the sequence of polynomials $\{p_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ be as in Corollary 2.2 (so that, in particular, inequality (2.6) holds). Assume that no zeros of p_n lie in $S(\theta_0)$, $0 < \theta_0 \leq \pi$, for all n sufficiently large, and that $g(0) \neq 0$. Then for any nonnegative continuous*

function $c(x)$ on $[0, +\infty)$ such that $c(x) = o(x)$ as $x \rightarrow +\infty$ and such that (i) $c(0) = 0$ if $\theta_0 = \pi/2$, (ii) $c(x) < x \tan(\theta_0)$ for $x > 0$ if $0 < \theta_0 < \pi/2$, we have

$$(2.22) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{G} - \frac{1}{p_n} \right\|_{\mathcal{C}} \right\}^{1/n} = \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{g} - \frac{1}{p_n} \right\|_{[0, +\infty)} \right\}^{1/n},$$

where the region \mathcal{C} is defined as in (2.14).

If, in Corollary 2.5, we weaken the hypothesis by replacing the reciprocals of polynomials, $1/p_n$, by arbitrary rational functions $r_n \in \pi_{n,n}$ whose poles omit a full sector, then we obtain the following less specific conclusion:

THEOREM 2.7. *Assume that for a function f , defined and finite on $[0, +\infty)$, there exists a sequence of rational functions $\{r_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$, with $r_n \in \pi_{n,n}$ for all $n \geq 1$, and a real number $q > 1$ such that inequality (2.18) holds. Suppose further that the infinite sector $S(\theta_0)$ (defined in (2.17)), $0 < \theta_0 \leq \pi$, contains no poles of the $r_n(z)$ for all n large. Then there exists a θ , $0 < \theta < \theta_0$, and a function $F(z)$ analytic on the sector $S(\theta)$, continuous on $\bar{S}(\theta)$, with $F(x) = f(x)$ for all $x \geq 0$, such that $\{r_n(z)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converges geometrically to $F(z)$ on $\bar{S}(\theta)$.*

Theorem 2.7 has an important application to the problem (raised at the International Conference on Approximation Theory, Maryland, 1970) of finding a sequence of rational functions which converges geometrically to e^{-z} in an infinite sector. It is well-known that the sequence $1/s_n(z)$, $s_n(z) = \sum_0^n z^k/k!$, does not have this property because no infinite sector is devoid of zeros of $s_n(z)$ for all n large (cf. [3] or [14]). However, it is shown by the authors in [11] and [13], that certain sequences of Padé approximants of e^{-z} converge geometrically on $[0, +\infty)$ to e^{-x} , and furthermore have all their poles outside some infinite sector $\{z: |\arg z| < \theta_0\}$. Hence, by Theorem 2.7, such a sequence must converge geometrically to e^{-z} on some infinite sector $\{z: |\arg z| < \theta\}$, $0 < \theta < \theta_0$. The precise details of this application shall be reserved for a later occasion.

The last result of this section concerns rational functions which converge faster than geometrically on $[0, +\infty)$, i.e.,

$$(2.23) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{ \|f - r_n\|_{[0, +\infty)} \}^{1/n} = 0.$$

COROLLARY 2.8. *If in Theorem 2.7, the assumption of inequality (2.18) is replaced by (2.23), then the sequence $\{r_n(z)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converges faster than geometrically on every closed sector $\bar{S}(\theta)$, $0 < \theta < \theta_0$, i.e.,*

$$(2.24) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{ \|F - r_n\|_{\tilde{S}(\theta)} \}^{1/n} = 0.$$

3. Some applications. In order to apply results such as Corollaries 2.2 and 2.3 we first need conditions on the entire function $G(z)$ which insure that there exists a sequence of polynomials p_n , with $p_n \in \pi_n$ for all $n \geq 1$, such that

$$(3.1) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{G} - \frac{1}{p_n} \right\|_{[0, +\infty)} \right\}^{1/n} < 1.$$

Second, we need a specific result, like that of (2.9), which asserts that for an appropriate function $h \in \mathcal{H}$, the interior of the region $E_1(h)$ defined in (2.2) is free of zeros of the polynomials p_n in (3.1) for all n large. Results of both these types are already known for the case where the p_n are the n th partial sums of the Maclaurin expansion for G . In order to state these results we remind the reader of some standard terminology.

If $g(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k z^k$ is an entire function, we let $M_g(r) := \max\{|g(z)| : |z| = r\}$ denote its maximum modulus function, and let $\rho = \rho_g$ denote the *order* of g (for nonconstant g), i.e., (cf. [2, p. 8], [15, p. 34])

$$(3.2) \quad \rho = \overline{\lim}_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln(\ln M_g(r))}{\ln r}.$$

Furthermore, an entire function $g(z)$ of order ρ , $0 < \rho < \infty$, is said to be of *perfectly regular growth* (cf. [15, p. 44]) if there exists a real $B > 0$ such that

$$(3.3) \quad 0 < B = \lim_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\ln M_g(r)}{r^\rho}.$$

We remark that if a nonconstant entire function g satisfies a linear differential equation with rational function coefficients, then g is necessarily of perfectly regular growth (cf. [15, p. 108]).

We now state a result which gives sufficient conditions for geometric convergence on $[0, +\infty)$.

THEOREM 3.1 (Meinardus and Varga [8]). *Let $g(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k z^k$ be an entire function of perfectly regular growth (ρ, B) with real nonnegative coefficients a_k . Then*

$$(3.4) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{g} - \frac{1}{s_n} \right\|_{[0, +\infty)} \right\}^{1/n} = \frac{1}{2^{1/\rho}} < 1,$$

where $s_n(z) = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k z^k$ denotes the n th partial sum of the Maclaurin expansion for g .

Concerning zero-free regions for the partial sums s_n we state a previously unpublished result from one of the author's thesis [17]. For related published results see [16].

THEOREM 3.2. *Let \mathcal{S} denote the set of all entire functions $g(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k z^k$ for which*

- (i) $a_0 > 0$ and $a_k \geq 0$ for all $k \geq 1$;
- (ii) if $a_m = 0$, then $a_{m+2j} = 0$ for every $j \geq 1$;
- (iii) if $K := \{k : a_k > 0 \text{ and } a_{k+2} > 0\}$ is nonempty, then

$$(3.5) \quad \inf_{k \in K} \left\{ \frac{a_k}{(k+1)(k+2)a_{k+2}} \right\} > 0.$$

Then, for $g \in \mathcal{S}$, there exists a nondecreasing continuous function h_g defined on $[0, +\infty)$ with $h_g(0) > 0$, such that $g(z)$ and all its partial sums $s_n(z) = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k z^k$, $n \geq 1$, have no zeros in

$$(3.6) \quad \{z = x + iy : x \geq 0 \text{ and } |y| \leq h_g(x)\}.$$

Moreover, for each $g \in \mathcal{S}$, the order ρ_g of g satisfies $0 \leq \rho_g \leq 1$.

We remark that the set \mathcal{S} of Theorem 3.2 contains many familiar elements. For example, $u(z) = e^z$, $v(z) = \cosh(\sqrt{z}) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} z^k / (2k)!$, the modified Bessel functions $J_n(iz)/(iz)^n$ for any $n \geq 0$, and the hypergeometric function ${}_1F_1(c; d; z)$ with $c > 0$, $d > 0$, are easily seen to be elements of \mathcal{S} .

If \mathcal{W}_g denotes the nonempty (from Theorem 3.2) collection of all positive nondecreasing continuous functions h_g on $[0, +\infty)$ for which $g(z)$ and all its partial sums $s_n(z)$, $n \geq 1$, have no zeros in the region defined by (3.6), then we define the (maximal) width function $H_g(x)$ by

$$(3.7) \quad H_g(x) := \sup\{h_g(x) : h_g \in \mathcal{W}_g\}, \text{ for each } x \geq 0.$$

The function $H_g(x)$ so defined is clearly nondecreasing on $[0, +\infty)$, and $g(z)$ and all its partial sums $s_n(z)$ have no zeros in the interior of the region defined by

$$(3.8) \quad \{z = x + iy : x \geq 0 \text{ and } |y| \leq H_g(x)\}.$$

Moreover, if g is of order $\rho_g > 0$, then a result of Carlson [3] states that no proper sector, with vertex at the origin, can be devoid of zeros of the

partial sums s_n , for all n large. Consequently, when $\rho_g > 0$, $H_g(x)$ is finite for all finite $x \geq 0$.

The next corollary provides lower bounds for $H_g(x)$ for particular elements in \mathcal{S} .

COROLLARY 3.3. *Let $g(z) = \sum_0^\infty a_k z^k$ be an entire function such that $a_k > 0$ for all k and such that*

$$(3.9) \quad \inf_{k \geq 1} \left\{ \frac{a_k}{k^2 a_{k+1}} \right\} > 0.$$

Then $g \in \mathcal{S}$ and its associated width function H_g of (3.7) satisfies, for some constant $c > 0$,

$$(3.10) \quad H_g(x) \geq cx^{1/2}, \quad \text{for all } x \geq 0.$$

Proof. It is trivial to verify that $g(z) = \sum_0^\infty a_k z^k \in \mathcal{S}$. Furthermore, it follows from the hypotheses above that the entire function f defined by $f(z) := \sum_0^\infty a_k z^{2k}$ is also in \mathcal{S} . Thus, from Theorem 3.2, we can associate with f a continuous nondecreasing function h_f defined on $[0, +\infty)$, with $h_f(0) > 0$, such that f and all its partial sums $S_n(z)$ have no zeros in

$$\mathcal{F} := \{z = x + iy : x \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad |y| \leq h_f(x)\}.$$

But if $s_n(z)$ denotes the n th partial sum of $g(z)$, then $s_n(z^2) = S_{2n}(z)$ for all $n = 1, 2, \dots$, which allows us to relate the corresponding zeros of the partial sums of g with those of f . Thus, defining

$$\mathcal{G} := \{z^2 : z \in \mathcal{F}\},$$

then g and all its partial sums s_n have no zeros in \mathcal{G} . Now, since $h_f(0) > 0$ and h_f is nondecreasing on $[0, +\infty)$, then evidently

$$\mathcal{G} \supset \{z^2 : z = x + iy, x \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad |y| \leq h_f(0)\}.$$

Thus, if H_g is the associated width function for g , the above inclusion implies that

$$H_g(t) \geq 2h_f(0)(t + h_f^2(0))^{1/2} \geq 2h_f(0)t^{1/2}, \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0,$$

which is the desired result of (3.10).

As previously noted, $u(z) = e^z$, of order $\rho_u = 1$, and $v(z) = \cosh(\sqrt{z})$, of order $\rho_v = 1/2$, are elements of the set \mathcal{S} , and furthermore

each is of perfectly regular growth. Moreover, for $u(z) = e^z$, the authors' result of (2.9) implies that

$$H_u(x) \geq 2(x+1)^{1/2}, \quad \text{for all } x \geq 0.$$

Also, applying Corollary 3.3 to $v(z) = \cosh(\sqrt{z})$ gives

$$H_v(x) \geq cx^{1/2}, \quad \text{for all } x \geq 0.$$

However, we believe that this last inequality can be improved. In fact, we conjecture more generally that, for any element $g \in \mathcal{S}$ of perfectly regular growth, its associated width function satisfies

$$H_g(x) \geq cx^{(2-\rho_g)/2}, \quad \text{for all } x \geq 0.$$

As a consequence of Theorems 3.1 and 3.2, which apply to both e^z and $\cosh(\sqrt{z})$, we have the following application of Corollary 2.2.

COROLLARY 3.4. *For any $g \in \mathcal{S}$ of order $\rho > 0$ which is of perfectly regular growth, let H_g be its associated nondecreasing width function of (3.7), and let $h \in \mathcal{H}$ be any positive function for which $h(x) \leq H_g(x)$ for all $x \geq 0$. Then for*

$$0 < d < (2^{1/2\rho} - 1)/(2^{1/2\rho} + 1),$$

we have

$$(3.11) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{g} - \frac{1}{s_n} \right\|_{E_d(h)} \right\}^{1/n} \leq \frac{1}{2^{1/\rho}} \left(\frac{1+d}{1-d} \right)^2 < 1,$$

where the region $E_d(h)$ is defined as in (2.2), and $s_n(z)$ denotes the n th partial sum of $g(z)$.

Proof. Because $g \in \mathcal{S}$ implies that the Maclaurin coefficients of g are all nonnegative, and because g is assumed to be of perfectly regular growth, then the conclusion (3.4) of Theorem 3.1 is valid. Next, by the definition of $H_g(x)$ and the fact that $h(x) \leq H_g(x)$ for all $x \geq 0$, it follows that g and all its partial sums s_n have no zeros in the interior of the region $E_1(h)$. Consequently, applying Corollary 2.2, with $q = 2^{1/\rho}$, gives the desired result of (3.11).

We remark that the existence of a function $h \in \mathcal{H}$ satisfying the conditions of Corollary 3.4 is obvious. As a simple example, take h_g of Theorem 3.2 and set $h(x) \equiv h_g(0)$.

Concerning rational approximation to entire functions of order $\rho = 0$, it has been shown in [7, Thm. 7] and in [4, Thm. 2] that if g is an entire function of order zero and satisfies certain growth and coefficient restrictions, then

$$(3.12) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \inf_{p \in \pi_n} \left\| \frac{1}{g} - \frac{1}{p} \right\|_{[0, +\infty)} \right\}^{1/n} = 0.$$

As an illustration of how our techniques apply to such situations, we present

PROPOSITION 3.5. *Let $g(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} z^k / a^{k^2}$, where $a \geq 2$, and let $s_n(z) = \sum_{k=0}^n z^k / a^{k^2}$. Then, on every closed sector $\bar{S}(\theta)$ (defined in (2.17)) with $0 < \theta < \pi$, we have*

$$(3.13) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{g} - \frac{1}{s_n} \right\|_{\bar{S}(\theta)} \right\}^{1/n^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}}.$$

Of course, for the functions of Proposition 3.5, we see that the conclusion of (3.13) is far stronger, and implies the result of (3.12), as a special case.

As the proof of Proposition 3.5 follows from the methods of proof of the main results in §2, we shall defer it to the next section.

4. Proofs of new results. We now present the proofs of the main results given in §2. It is convenient in this regard to first state a particular case of Walsh's Lemma [18, p. 250].

LEMMA 4.1. *Let $r_n(z) \in \pi_{n,n}$ have poles in the extended complex plane at the points $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_m$, $m \leq n$, (listed according to multiplicity). If*

$$\|r_n(z)\|_{[-1, +1]} \leq M < \infty,$$

then for $z \notin [-1, +1]$,

$$(4.1) \quad |r_n(z)| \leq M \prod_{k=1}^m \left| \frac{1 - \overline{\Phi(\beta_k)} \cdot \Phi(z)}{\Phi(z) - \Phi(\beta_k)} \right|,$$

where $w = \Phi(z)$ is the inverse of the function

$$z = \Psi(w) = \frac{1}{2} \left(w + \frac{1}{w} \right),$$

which maps $|w| > 1$ in the w -plane one-to-one onto the exterior of $[-1, +1]$ in the z -plane, so that $\Psi(\infty) = \infty$. Moreover, if C_R denotes generically the elliptical level curve $|\Phi(z)| = R > 1$ in the z -plane, and if all the points β_i lie on or exterior to C_A , then for any $1 \leq S \leq A$,

$$(4.2) \quad \|r_n(z)\|_{\bar{C}_S} \leq M \left(\frac{AS - 1}{A - S} \right)^n,$$

where \bar{C}_S denotes the closed interior of C_S in the z -plane.

We remark that if $r_n = p_n \in \pi_n$, then (4.2) is valid for any $A > S$, and letting $A \rightarrow \infty$ in (4.2) gives the familiar result of Bernstein (cf. [6, p. 92]),

$$\|p_n(z)\|_{\bar{C}_S} \leq MS^n, \quad \text{if} \quad \|p_n(z)\|_{[-1, +1]} \leq M,$$

which can also be deduced from (4.1) with all $\beta_i = \infty$.

Proof of Theorem 2.1. For $\delta > 0$, set $q_1 := q + \delta$, $q_2 := q + 2\delta$, and select $\delta > 0$ sufficiently small so that (cf. (2.3))

$$(4.3) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{\|f - r_n\|_{[0, +\infty)}\}^{1/n} < \frac{1}{q_2} < \frac{1}{q_1} < \frac{1}{q}.$$

Next, for any $\beta \geq 1$, define

$$(4.4) \quad A^*(\beta) := \frac{1}{\beta} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{\beta^2} + 1}, \quad \text{and} \quad \rho^*(\beta) := A^*(\beta/d),$$

where d is fixed and satisfies (2.4). An easy calculation with these definitions then shows that

$$(4.5) \quad \lim_{\beta \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{A^*(\beta)\rho^*(\beta) - 1}{A^*(\beta) - \rho^*(\beta)} \right) = \frac{1 + d}{1 - d}.$$

Thus, we can choose a finite $\hat{\beta} \geq 1$, dependent on δ , such that

$$(4.6) \quad 1 < \left(\frac{A^*(\hat{\beta})\rho^*(\hat{\beta}) - 1}{A^*(\hat{\beta}) - \rho^*(\hat{\beta})} \right)^2 < \frac{q_2}{q_1} \left(\frac{1 + d}{1 - d} \right)^2.$$

From (4.3) there exists an n_0 , depending on δ , such that

$$\|f - r_n\|_{[0, +\infty)} < \frac{1}{q_2^n}, \quad \text{for all} \quad n \geq n_0.$$

Thus, by the triangle inequality, it follows that

$$(4.7) \quad \|r_n - r_{n-1}\|_{[0, +\infty)} < \frac{(q_2 + 1)}{q_2^n}, \quad \text{for all } n > n_0.$$

Since by hypothesis $h \in \mathcal{H}$, there exists a $t_1 \geq 0$ such that $h(t) > 0$ for all $t \geq t_1$. Consider then the line segment of the real axis

$$m(t) := [t - \hat{\beta}h(t), t + \hat{\beta}h(t)]$$

for any $t \geq t_1$. With L'Hospital's rule, the condition of (2.1) then implies that

$$(4.8) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{h(t)}{t} = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} h'(t) = 0,$$

and consequently, there exists a t_2 , $t_2 \geq t_1$, dependent on $\hat{\beta}$ and hence on δ , such that for all $t \geq t_2$, the segment $m(t)$ is a segment of the *nonnegative* real axis, i.e.,

$$m(t) \subset [0, +\infty), \quad \text{for all } t \geq t_2.$$

Next, for any $\mu \geq 1$ and for any $t \geq t_2$, let $m_\mu(t)$ denote the following ellipse in the complex plane:

$$m_\mu(t) := \left\{ z = x + iy : \frac{(x-t)^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1 \right\},$$

where

$$(4.9) \quad \begin{cases} a = a(t, \hat{\beta}, \mu) := \frac{\hat{\beta}h(t)}{2} (\mu + \mu^{-1}), \\ b = b(t, \hat{\beta}, \mu) := \frac{\hat{\beta}h(t)}{2} (\mu - \mu^{-1}), \end{cases}$$

and let $\bar{m}_\mu(t)$ denote the closed interior of $m_\mu(t)$, i.e.,

$$\bar{m}_\mu(t) := \left\{ z = x + iy : \frac{(x-t)^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} \leq 1 \right\}.$$

For each $t \geq t_2$, let $A(t)$ denote the largest value of $\mu \geq 1$ such that

$$(4.10) \quad \bar{m}_\mu(t) \subset E_1(h).$$

We claim that

$$(4.11) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} A(t) = A^*(\hat{\beta}).$$

To prove (4.11) we establish upper and lower bounds for $A(t)$. Geometrically, the value for μ derived by setting $b = h(t)$ is obviously an upper bound for $A(t)$. But, using (4.9), this implies that

$$\frac{\hat{\beta}h(t)}{2} (\mu - \mu^{-1}) = h(t),$$

and, upon solving for μ , it follows (cf. (4.4)) that

$$\mu = A^*(\hat{\beta}).$$

Thus

$$A(t) \leq A^*(\hat{\beta}), \quad \text{for each } t \geq t_2.$$

Next, since $h \in \mathcal{H}$, the function $h(t)$ is nondecreasing for, say, all $t \geq t_3 \geq t_2$. Thus, the value for μ derived by setting $b = h(t - a)$ is again seen geometrically to be a lower bound for $A(t)$, i.e., from (4.9)

$$(4.12) \quad \frac{\hat{\beta}h(t)}{2} \left(\mu - \frac{1}{\mu} \right) = h \left\{ t - \frac{\hat{\beta}h(t)}{2} \left(\mu + \frac{1}{\mu} \right) \right\}.$$

It is not difficult to see in fact that (4.12) has a unique solution $\mu^*(t)$ satisfying $1 < \mu^*(t) \leq A^*(\hat{\beta})$ for all t sufficiently large. Indeed, on the interval $1 \leq \mu \leq A^*(\hat{\beta})$ it is clear from (4.8) that the right-hand side of (4.12) is a well-defined positive nonincreasing function of μ for all t , say, with $t \geq t_4 \geq t_3$, while the left-hand side of (4.12) is a strictly increasing function of μ . Moreover, for $\mu = 1$ the left-hand side vanishes and is thus less than the positive value of the right-hand side for $\mu = 1$, while for $\mu = A^*(\hat{\beta})$, the left-hand side reduces by definition to $h(t)$, which cannot be less than the corresponding value of the right-hand side for $\mu = A^*(\hat{\beta})$ since $h(t)$ is nondecreasing for $t \geq t_3$. Thus, there exists a unique solution $\mu^*(t)$ of (4.12) which satisfies $1 < \mu^*(t) \leq A^*(\hat{\beta})$, and $\mu^*(t)$ is a lower bound for $A(t)$, i.e.,

$$\mu^*(t) \leq A(t) \leq A^*(\hat{\beta}), \quad \text{for all } t \geq t_4.$$

We now show that $\mu^*(t)$, the unique solution of (4.12), satisfies $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \mu^*(t) = A^*(\hat{\beta})$. As $\mu^*(t)$ is bounded, i.e., $\mu^*(t) \leq A^*(\hat{\beta})$, we see from (4.8) that

$$t - \frac{\hat{\beta}h(t)}{2} \left(\mu^*(t) + \frac{1}{\mu^*(t)} \right) \rightarrow +\infty \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow +\infty.$$

Therefore, since h' exists for all sufficiently large values of the argument, we can apply the Mean Value Theorem to deduce

$$(4.13) \quad \begin{aligned} h(t) - h \left\{ t - \frac{\hat{\beta}h(t)}{2} \left(\mu^*(t) + \frac{1}{\mu^*(t)} \right) \right\} \\ = h'(c_t) \frac{\hat{\beta}h(t)}{2} \left(\mu^*(t) + \frac{1}{\mu^*(t)} \right), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$(4.14) \quad t - \frac{\hat{\beta}h(t)}{2} (\mu^*(t) + (\mu^*(t))^{-1}) < c_t < t, \text{ for all } t \text{ large.}$$

Dividing the expression in (4.13) by $h(t)$ and observing that $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} c_t = +\infty$, it follows from hypothesis (2.1) that

$$1 - \frac{h \left\{ t - \frac{\hat{\beta}h(t)}{2} (\mu^*(t) + (\mu^*(t))^{-1}) \right\}}{h(t)} = h'(c_t) \frac{\hat{\beta}}{2} (\mu^*(t) + (\mu^*(t))^{-1}) \rightarrow 0$$

as $t \rightarrow +\infty$. But, using the defining relation (4.12) for $\mu^*(t)$, the above gives us that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\hat{\beta}}{2} \{ \mu^*(t) - (\mu^*(t))^{-1} \} = 1,$$

which implies, from the definition of $A^*(\beta)$ in (4.4), that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \mu^*(t) = A^*(\hat{\beta}).$$

Hence, as $\mu^*(t) \leq A(t) \leq A^*(\hat{\beta})$ for all $t \geq t_4$, then evidently $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} A(t) = A^*(\hat{\beta})$, as claimed in (4.11).

In order to “fill out” the region $E_d(h)$, where d is fixed and satisfies (2.4), it suffices to work with ellipses $m_\mu(t)$, defined by setting

$$b = dh(t).$$

From (4.9) and (4.4), the corresponding value of μ turns out to be $\mu = \rho^*(\hat{\beta}) \equiv A^*(\hat{\beta}/d)$. Geometrically, this implies that the elliptical

region $\bar{m}_{\rho^*(\hat{\beta})}(t)$ covers the vertical segment $\{z = x + iy : x = t \text{ and } |y| \leq dh(t)\}$ of $E_d(h)$. Next, using (4.11) and the fact that $0 < d < 1$, then $1 \leq \rho^*(\hat{\beta}) \equiv A^*(\hat{\beta}/d) < A(t)$ for all t sufficiently large, say $t \geq t_5 \geq t_2$. But from (4.7), we trivially have, since $m(t) \subset [0, +\infty)$ for all $t \geq t_2$, that

$$\|r_n - r_{n-1}\|_{m(t)} < \frac{(q_2 + 1)}{q_2^n}, \quad \text{for all } n > n_0, \quad \text{all } t \geq t_2.$$

Next, since the interior of $E_1(h)$ by hypothesis contains no poles of r_n for all n sufficiently large, say $n \geq n_1 \geq n_0$, the same is evidently true for $(r_n - r_{n-1}) \in \pi_{2n-1, 2n-1}$. Thus, applying (4.2) of Walsh's Lemma 4.1 with $[-1, +1]$ replaced by $m(t)$, gives us that

$$\|r_n(z) - r_{n-1}(z)\|_{\bar{m}_{\rho^*(\hat{\beta})}(t)} \leq \frac{(q_2 + 1)}{q_2^n} \left\{ \frac{A(t)\rho^*(\hat{\beta}) - 1}{A(t) - \rho^*(\hat{\beta})} \right\}^{2n-1},$$

for all $n > n_1$, all $t \geq t_5$. Since $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} A(t) = A^*(\hat{\beta})$ from (4.11), it follows from (4.6) that, for all $n > n_1$ and all t sufficiently large, say $t \geq t_6 \geq t_5$,

$$\|r_n(z) - r_{n-1}(z)\|_{\bar{m}_{\rho^*(\hat{\beta})}(t)} \leq \frac{(q_2 + 1)}{q_1^n} \left(\frac{1 + d}{1 - d} \right)^{2n},$$

where t_6 is dependent on δ . But, since $\bar{m}_{\rho^*(\hat{\beta})}(t)$ covers the vertical segment of $E_d(h)$ with abscissa t , then the set $\bigcup_{t \geq t_6} \bar{m}_{\rho^*(\hat{\beta})}(t)$ evidently covers $E_d(h)$, with the possible exception of a bounded subset K_d of $E_d(h)$, where K_d depends upon the choice of δ , as well as d . Hence,

$$(4.15) \quad \|r_n(z) - r_{n-1}(z)\|_{E_d(h) - K_d} \leq \frac{(q_2 + 1)}{q_1^n} \left(\frac{1 + d}{1 - d} \right)^{2n} \quad \text{for all } n > n_1,$$

which implies that the sequence $\{r_n(z)\}_{n=1}^\infty$ converges geometrically on $E_d(h) - K_d$ to an analytic extension $F(z)$ of $f(x)$, defined by means of

$$F(z) := r_{n_1}(z) + \sum_{n=n_1}^\infty (r_{n+1}(z) - r_n(z)).$$

Indeed, it follows from (4.15) that

$$\|r_{n-1+s}(z) - r_{n-1}(z)\|_{E_d(h) - K_d} \leq \frac{(q_2 + 1)}{(1 - \gamma)q_1^n} \left(\frac{1 + d}{1 - d} \right)^{2n}, \quad \text{for all } n > n_1, \quad \text{all } s \geq 1,$$

where

$$\gamma := \frac{1}{q_1} \left(\frac{1+d}{1-d} \right)^2 < \frac{1}{q} \left(\frac{1+d}{1-d} \right)^2 < 1,$$

so that letting $s \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\|F(z) - r_{n-1}(z)\|_{E_d(h)-K_d} \leq \frac{(q_2+1)}{(1-\gamma)q_1^n} \left(\frac{1+d}{1-d} \right)^{2n}, \quad \text{for all } n > n_1.$$

This in turn implies that

$$\overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{ \|F(z) - r_n(z)\|_{E_d(h)-K_d} \}^{1/n} < \frac{1}{q} \left(\frac{1+d}{1-d} \right)^2,$$

which is the desired final inequality, (2.5), of Theorem 2.1.

Proof of Corollary 2.2. The existence of the entire function $G(z)$, of finite order, with $G(x) = g(x)$ for all $x \geq 0$ is a consequence of [7, Theorem 3], even though the result given there is only stated for the case when g is real on $[0, +\infty)$. Moreover, a careful examination of the proof of Theorem 3 of [7] shows that the sequence $\{p_n(z)\}_{n=1}^\infty$ converges uniformly and geometrically to $G(z)$ on any bounded set T in the complex plane, the degree of convergence on T being at least $1/q$, i.e.,

$$(4.16) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{ \|G(z) - p_n(z)\|_T \}^{1/n} \leq \frac{1}{q}.$$

Next, as no p_n by hypothesis has zeros in the interior of $E_1(h)$ for all n sufficiently large, the uniform convergence of $\{p_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ to G on any bounded set gives us that G is nonzero at any interior point of $E_1(h)$ by Hurwitz's Theorem. Also, because $h(x) > 0$ for all $x > 0$, it is clear from the definition of the set $E_d(h)$ in (2.2) that every point in $E_d(h)$, for each d with $0 < d < 1$, is an interior point of $E_1(h)$, except for the vertical segment $\{z = iy : |y| \leq dh(0)\}$. Hence, since $G(z)$ is given to be nonzero on this segment, then $G(z)$ is nonzero on all of $E_d(h)$. We remark that if $h(0) = 0$, then the assumption that G is nonzero on the segment $\{z = iy : |y| \leq dh(0)\}$ reduces simply to the assumption that $G(0) = g(0) \neq 0$.

We are now in a position to apply Theorem 2.1 with $f(x) \equiv 1/g(x)$ for all $x \geq 0$, and with $r_n = 1/p_n$ for all $n \geq 1$. First, fix any d which satisfies (2.4), and let q' be any number with $1 < q' < q$ such that $d < (\sqrt{q'} - 1)/(\sqrt{q'} + 1)$. Then, it follows from (2.6) that

$$\overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{g(x)} - \frac{1}{p_n(x)} \right\|_{[0, +\infty)} \right\}^{1/n} < \frac{1}{q'} < 1.$$

Hence, from (2.5) of Theorem 2.1, there exists a bounded subset K_d of $E_d(h)$ such that

$$(4.17) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{G(z)} - \frac{1}{p_n(z)} \right\|_{E_d(h) - K_d} \right\}^{1/n} < \frac{1}{q'} \left(\frac{1+d}{1-d} \right)^2 < 1.$$

Now, since $G(z)$ is nonzero on $E_d(h)$, it is evidently nonzero on the closure of its bounded subset K_d . Thus, it follows from (4.16) with $T = K_d$ that

$$(4.18) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{G(z)} - \frac{1}{p_n(z)} \right\|_{K_d} \right\}^{1/n} \leq \frac{1}{q} < \frac{1}{q'} < 1.$$

Then, simply combining the results of (4.17) and (4.18) gives us that

$$\overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{G(z)} - \frac{1}{p_n(z)} \right\|_{E_d(h)} \right\}^{1/n} \leq \frac{1}{q'} \left(\frac{1+d}{1-d} \right)^2 < 1.$$

But as this inequality holds for all q' sufficiently close to q with $1 < q' < q$, then

$$\overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{G(z)} - \frac{1}{p_n(z)} \right\|_{E_d(h)} \right\}^{1/n} \leq \frac{1}{q} \left(\frac{1+d}{1-d} \right)^2 < 1,$$

the desired result of (2.7).

Proof of Corollary 2.3. Because \mathcal{C} is, from (2.13), contained in every $E_d(h)$, $0 < d$, except for some compact set, it follows from (4.16) and (2.7) that

$$\overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{G(z)} - \frac{1}{p_n(z)} \right\|_{\mathcal{C}} \right\}^{1/n} \leq \frac{1}{q} \left(\frac{1+d}{1-d} \right)^2 < 1,$$

for each $d > 0$ sufficiently small. But as \mathcal{C} is independent of d , then letting $d \rightarrow 0$ in the above inequality yields

$$\overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{G(z)} - \frac{1}{p_n(z)} \right\|_{\mathcal{C}} \right\}^{1/n} \leq \frac{1}{q} < 1.$$

On the other hand, the ray $[0, +\infty)$ is a subset of \mathcal{C} , so that

$$\sigma := \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{g(x)} - \frac{1}{p_n(x)} \right\|_{[0, +\infty)} \right\}^{1/n} \leq \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{G(z)} - \frac{1}{p_n(z)} \right\|_{\mathcal{C}} \right\}^{1/n} \leq \frac{1}{q}.$$

Thus, if $0 < \sigma < 1$, we can choose q from (2.6) with $1 < q < +\infty$ so that $q = 1/\sigma$, and equality holds throughout in the above expression, which yields the desired result of (2.15). If, however $\sigma = 0$, then (2.6) is valid for every $q > 1$, and letting $q \rightarrow +\infty$ in the above expression again gives (2.15).

For the proofs of the theorems on overconvergence in regions having a positive angle at infinity, it is convenient to first establish

LEMMA 4.2. *Let $\pi/2 \leq \phi_1 < \phi_2 \leq \pi$, and, for $i = 1, 2$, let $\Delta^*(\phi_i, \rho)$ denote generically the open circular sector (in the w -plane) with vertex -1 , radius ρ , and opening $2\phi_i$ ($\geq \pi$) symmetric about the ray $[-1, +\infty)$, i.e.,*

$$\Delta^*(\phi_i, \rho) := \{w : |\arg(w + 1)| < \phi_i, |w + 1| < \rho\};$$

its closure being denoted by $\bar{\Delta}^(\phi_i, \rho)$. Then, for each pair of positive numbers ϵ, η , there exists a $\delta > 0$ such that the inequality*

$$(4.19) \quad \left| \frac{1 - \bar{\alpha}w}{w - \alpha} \right| < \frac{\sin \frac{1}{2}(\phi_2 + \phi_1 - \pi)}{\sin \frac{1}{2}(\phi_2 - \phi_1)} + \epsilon$$

holds whenever $w \in \bar{\Delta}^(\phi_1, \delta)$ and $\alpha \notin \Delta^*(\phi_2, \eta)$, $\alpha \neq -1$.*

Proof. First, we fix α in the infinite sector $P := \{w : \phi_2 \leq \arg(w + 1) \leq 2\pi - \phi_2\}$ which is contained in the complement of $\Delta^*(\phi_2, \eta)$, i.e.,

$$\alpha = -1 + re^{i\theta}, \quad r > 0, \quad \phi_2 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi - \phi_2,$$

and we consider the image of the closed infinite sector $S := \{w : |\arg(w + 1)| \leq \phi_1\}$ under the bilinear transformation

$$\xi = T(w) := \frac{1 - \bar{\alpha}w}{w - \alpha}.$$

Let \mathcal{L}^+ and \mathcal{L}^- denote, respectively, the lines

$$\mathcal{L}^+ := \{w : \arg(w + 1) = \phi_1 \text{ or } \phi_1 + \pi\};$$

$$\mathcal{L}^- := \{w : \arg(w + 1) = \pi - \phi_1 \text{ or } 2\pi - \phi_1\}.$$

Since these lines do not pass through α , they are mapped by T to true (intersecting) circles C_α^+ and C_α^- in the ξ -plane. Furthermore, since $\alpha \notin S$, the image $T(S)$ is the union of the closed interiors of these circles.

To estimate the moduli of points on C_α^+ , we find the center c_α^+ and radius r_α^+ of this circle. As $T(\alpha) = \infty$, we have $c_\alpha^+ = T(\alpha^*)$, where

$$\alpha^* = -1 + re^{i(2\phi_1 - \theta)}$$

is the reflection of α in the line \mathcal{L}^+ . Thus,

$$c_\alpha^+ = \frac{1 - \bar{\alpha}\alpha^*}{\alpha^* - \alpha} = \frac{e^{i(2\phi_1 - \theta)} + e^{-i\theta} - re^{2i(\phi_1 - \theta)}}{e^{i(2\phi_1 - \theta)} - e^{i\theta}},$$

and so,

$$(4.20) \quad |c_\alpha^+| \leq \frac{-\cos \phi_1}{\sin(\theta - \phi_1)} + \frac{r}{2 \sin(\theta - \phi_1)}.$$

Furthermore, since $T(\infty) = -\bar{\alpha} \in C_\alpha^+$, we have

$$(4.21) \quad r_\alpha^+ = |c_\alpha^+ + \bar{\alpha}| = \frac{|\alpha|^2 - 1}{|\alpha^* - \alpha|} = \frac{-\cos \theta}{\sin(\theta - \phi_1)} + \frac{r}{2 \sin(\theta - \phi_1)}.$$

Now, (4.20) and (4.21) imply that, for ξ on C_α^+ ,

$$\begin{aligned} |\xi| &\leq |c_\alpha^+| + r_\alpha^+ \leq \frac{-\cos \phi_1 - \cos \theta}{\sin(\theta - \phi_1)} + \frac{r}{\sin(\theta - \phi_1)} \\ &= \frac{\sin \frac{1}{2}(\theta + \phi_1 - \pi)}{\sin \frac{1}{2}(\theta - \phi_1)} + \frac{r}{\sin(\theta - \phi_1)}, \end{aligned}$$

and it is easy to verify that the next to last term is a nonincreasing function of θ on $[\phi_2, 2\pi - \phi_2]$, and that $\sin(\theta - \phi_1) \geq \sin(\phi_2 - \phi_1) > 0$. Hence,

$$|\xi| \leq \frac{\sin \frac{1}{2}(\phi_2 + \phi_1 - \pi)}{\sin \frac{1}{2}(\phi_2 - \phi_1)} + \frac{r}{\sin(\phi_2 - \phi_1)}, \quad \xi \in C_\alpha^+,$$

and, by a symmetry argument, the same inequality holds for $\xi \in C_\alpha^-$. Therefore, for any $w \in S$, $\alpha \in P$, and $|\alpha + 1| \leq r$, we have

$$\left| \frac{1 - \bar{\alpha}w}{w - \alpha} \right| \leq \frac{\sin \frac{1}{2}(\phi_2 + \phi_1 - \pi)}{\sin \frac{1}{2}(\phi_2 - \phi_1)} + \frac{r}{\sin(\phi_2 - \phi_1)}.$$

Consequently, given ϵ and η , fix $\tau = \min\{\eta, \epsilon \cdot \sin(\phi_2 - \phi_1)\}$, so that inequality (4.19) holds whenever $w \in S$, $\alpha \in P$, and $0 < |\alpha + 1| < \tau$.

Finally, assume $|\alpha + 1| \geq \tau$ and suppose that $w \in S$ with $|w + 1| \leq \delta < \tau$. It is easy to verify that

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{1 - \bar{\alpha}w}{w - \alpha} \right| &= \left| w - \frac{w+1}{\bar{\alpha}+1} \right| \cdot \left| 1 - \frac{w+1}{(w+1) - (\alpha+1)} \right| \\ &\leq \left\{ |w| + \frac{\delta}{\tau} \right\} \cdot \left\{ 1 + \frac{\delta}{\tau - \delta} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Writing $w = -1 + \delta e^{i\theta}$, $0 \leq \delta \leq \delta$, with $|\theta| \leq \phi_1$, it follows that $|w| = (1 - 2\delta \cos \theta + \delta^2)^{1/2} \leq (1 - 2\delta \cos \phi_1 + \delta^2)^{1/2}$. Substituting this into the above display then yields

$$\left| \frac{1 - \bar{\alpha}w}{w - \alpha} \right| \leq 1 + \delta \left(\frac{2}{\tau} - \cos \phi_1 \right) + \mathcal{O}(\delta^2) < 1 + \epsilon$$

for all δ sufficiently small. But, as the right side of (4.19) is greater than $1 + \epsilon$, then (4.19) must hold for $w \in \bar{\Delta}^*(\phi_1, \delta)$ and $\alpha \notin \Delta^*(\phi_2, \eta)$, $\alpha \neq -1$.

We now prove an overconvergence result for circular sectors with vertex at $z = -1$.

LEMMA 4.3. *Assume that f , defined and finite on $[-1, 1]$, is such that there exists a sequence of rational functions $\{r_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$, with $r_n \in \pi_{n,n}$ for all $n \geq 1$, and a real number $q > 1$ such that*

$$(4.22) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{\|f - r_n\|_{[-1, 1]}\}^{1/n} < \frac{1}{q} < 1.$$

Let $\Delta(\phi, \rho)$ denote generically the open circular sector

$$\Delta(\phi, \rho) := \{z : |\arg(z + 1)| < \phi, |z + 1| < \rho\},$$

and assume that $\Delta(\theta_0, \mu_0)$, where $0 < \theta_0 \leq \pi$ and $\mu_0 > 0$, contains no poles of the $r_n(z)$ for all n sufficiently large. Then, for each fixed θ , $0 < \theta < \theta_0$, satisfying

$$(4.23) \quad \frac{\sin^{\frac{1}{4}}(\theta_0 + \theta)}{\sin^{\frac{1}{4}}(\theta_0 - \theta)} < \sqrt{q},$$

i.e.

$$(4.24) \quad 0 < \theta < 4 \tan^{-1} \left\{ \left(\frac{\sqrt{q} - 1}{\sqrt{q} + 1} \right) \cdot \tan \left(\frac{\theta_0}{4} \right) \right\},$$

there exists a $\mu = \mu(\theta) > 0$ and a function $F(z)$ analytic on $\Delta(\theta, \mu)$, continuous on the closure $\bar{\Delta}(\theta, \mu)$, with $F(x) = f(x)$ for all x of $[-1, +1]$

in $[-1, -1 + \mu]$, such that $\{r_n(z)\}_{n=1}^\infty$ converges geometrically to F on $\bar{\Delta}(\theta, \mu)$. Moreover,

$$(4.25) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{\|F - r_n\|_{\bar{\Delta}(\theta, \mu)}\}^{1/n} < \frac{1}{q} \left\{ \frac{\sin^{\frac{1}{4}}(\theta_0 + \theta)}{\sin^{\frac{1}{4}}(\theta_0 - \theta)} \right\}^2 < 1.$$

Proof. First, choose $q_1 > q$ so that

$$(4.26) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{\|f - r_n\|_{[-1, 1]}\}^{1/n} < \frac{1}{q_1} < \frac{1}{q},$$

and let γ satisfy

$$(4.27) \quad 1 < \gamma < (q_1/q)^{1/4}.$$

From (4.26) and the triangle inequality, we have for n sufficiently large, say $n \geq n_0$, that

$$(4.28) \quad \|r_n - r_{n-1}\|_{[-1, 1]} < \frac{(q_1 + 1)}{q_1^n}.$$

Let θ be fixed and satisfy (4.23), and choose $\hat{\theta}_0$ and $\hat{\theta}$ so that

$$(4.29) \quad \theta < \hat{\theta} < \hat{\theta}_0 < \theta_0, \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\sin^{\frac{1}{4}}(\hat{\theta}_0 + \hat{\theta})}{\sin^{\frac{1}{4}}(\hat{\theta}_0 - \hat{\theta})} < \gamma \cdot \frac{\sin^{\frac{1}{4}}(\theta_0 + \theta)}{\sin^{\frac{1}{4}}(\theta_0 - \theta)}.$$

Since the derivative of the function $\Psi(w)$ of Walsh's Lemma 4.1 has a simple zero at $w = -1$, an angle θ at $z = -1$ is sent into $\frac{1}{2}(\theta + \pi)$ by the inverse mapping $w = \Phi(z)$. Consequently, as $\hat{\theta}_0 < \theta_0$, the image of the set $\Delta(\theta_0, \mu_0) - [-1, 1]$ under Φ must, for some $\eta > 0$, contain the set

$$\Delta^* \left(\frac{\hat{\theta}_0}{2} + \frac{\pi}{2}, \eta \right) \cap \{w : |w| > 1\},$$

where the asterisk denotes that the circular sector is in the w -plane. Since $\gamma > 1$, Lemma 4.2 (with $\phi_1 = \hat{\theta}/2 + \pi/2$, $\phi_2 = \hat{\theta}_0/2 + \pi/2$) implies that there exists a $\delta > 0$ such that the inequality

$$(4.30) \quad \left| \frac{1 - \overline{\Phi(\beta)} \cdot \Phi(z)}{\Phi(z) - \Phi(\beta)} \right| < \gamma \cdot \frac{\sin^{\frac{1}{4}}(\hat{\theta}_0 + \hat{\theta})}{\sin^{\frac{1}{4}}(\hat{\theta}_0 - \hat{\theta})}$$

holds whenever $\beta \notin \Delta(\theta_0, \mu_0)$, $\beta \notin [-1, 1]$, and

$$(4.31) \quad w = \Phi(z) \in \bar{\Delta}^* \left(\frac{\hat{\theta}}{2} + \frac{\pi}{2}, \delta \right).$$

But, as $\hat{\theta} > \theta$, we can find a μ , $0 < \mu < 2$, so that (4.31) holds for all $z \in \bar{\Delta}(\theta, \mu) - [-1, 1]$. Now, by hypothesis, no poles of $r_n(z) - r_{n-1}(z)$ lie in $\Delta(\theta_0, \mu_0)$ for all n large, say $n \geq n_1 \geq n_0$, and thus, from (4.28), (4.30), and (4.1) of Lemma 4.1, we deduce that

$$(4.32) \quad \|r_n - r_{n-1}\|_{\bar{\Delta}(\theta, \mu)} \leq \frac{(q_1 + 1)}{q_1^n} \left\{ \gamma \cdot \frac{\sin \frac{1}{4}(\hat{\theta}_0 + \hat{\theta})}{\sin \frac{1}{4}(\hat{\theta}_0 - \hat{\theta})} \right\}^{2n-1},$$

for $n > n_1$. Hence, by the argument used in the proof of Theorem 2.1, the sequence $\{r_n(z)\}_{n=1}^\infty$ converges geometrically on $\bar{\Delta}(\theta, \mu)$ to an analytic extension $F(z)$ of $f(x)$. Furthermore, from (4.32), (4.29), and (4.27), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{\|F - r_n\|_{\bar{\Delta}(\theta, \mu)}\}^{1/n} &\leq \frac{1}{q_1} \left\{ \gamma \cdot \frac{\sin \frac{1}{4}(\hat{\theta}_0 + \hat{\theta})}{\sin \frac{1}{4}(\hat{\theta}_0 - \hat{\theta})} \right\}^2 \\ &< \frac{1}{q} \left\{ \frac{\sin \frac{1}{4}(\theta_0 + \theta)}{\sin \frac{1}{4}(\theta_0 - \theta)} \right\}^2 < 1, \end{aligned}$$

which is the desired inequality (4.25).

Proof of Theorem 2.4. Observe that Lemma 4.3 trivially remains valid if the line segments of the circular sectors $\Delta(\theta_0, \mu_0)$ and $\Delta(\theta, \mu)$ are replaced by smooth arcs making angles of θ_0 and θ , respectively, with the segment $[-1, 1]$ at $z = -1$. Also, condition (4.22) is invariant under bilinear transformations of $[-1, 1]$, and therefore so is Lemma 4.3. As a consequence of these facts we obtain Theorem 2.4.

The proofs of Corollaries 2.5 and 2.6 are similar to those of Corollaries 2.2 and 2.3, and hence we omit them.

Proof of Theorem 2.7. Applying Lemma 4.3 (with the interval $[-1, 1]$ translated to the interval $[0, 2]$), and applying Theorem 2.4, we know that there exists a $\theta^* > 0$ and a ρ , $1 < \rho < \infty$, such that the sequence $\{r_n(z)\}_{n=1}^\infty$ converges geometrically on the set

$$A := \bar{S}(\theta^*) - \{1/\rho \leq |z| \leq \rho\}.$$

But, as the $r_n(z)$ (trivially) converge geometrically on the segment $[1/\rho, \rho]$, and have poles a positive distance (independent of n) from this segment, it follows from a theorem of Walsh (see §9.8 of [18]) that the

$r_n(z)$ must converge geometrically in the closed interior of some non-degenerate ellipse \mathcal{E} with foci at $1/\rho$ and ρ . Consequently, by choosing θ , $\theta^* > \theta > 0$, so small that $\bar{S}(\theta) \subset A \cup \mathcal{E}$, the sequence of rational functions will converge geometrically on $\bar{S}(\theta)$, necessarily to an analytic extension F of f .

Concerning the proof of Corollary 2.8 we remark that if rational functions $r_n(z)$ converge faster than geometrically on $[0, +\infty)$, then it is known (see Aharonov and Walsh [1], and Gončar [5]) that the $r_n(z)$ converge uniformly on any closed bounded set K of the plane which contains no limit points of the poles of the $r_n(z)$, the convergence on K being faster than geometrically.

Proof of Corollary 2.8. In this case, inequality (2.18) holds for every $q > 1$. Hence, given θ , $0 < \theta < \theta_0$, and given $\epsilon > 0$, we can choose q so large that

$$\frac{1}{q} \left\{ \frac{\sin^{\frac{1}{4}}(\theta_0 + \theta)}{\sin^{\frac{1}{4}}(\theta_0 - \theta)} \right\}^2 < \epsilon,$$

and so (as in the proof of Theorem 2.7) there exists a $\rho = \rho(\epsilon) > 1$ such that

$$(4.33) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{ \|F - r_n\|_{\bar{S}(\theta) - K} \}^{1/n} < \epsilon,$$

where

$$K := \{z \in \bar{S}(\theta): 1/\rho \leq |z| \leq \rho\}.$$

Since, for all n large, K is a positive distance from the poles of the $r_n(z)$, we have by the result of [1] and [5] mentioned above that

$$(4.34) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{ \|F - r_n\|_K \}^{1/n} = 0.$$

Therefore, from (4.33) and (4.34) we obtain

$$\overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{ \|F - r_n\|_{\bar{S}(\theta)} \}^{1/n} < \epsilon,$$

and as $\epsilon > 0$ is arbitrary, equation (2.24) follows.

This completes the proof of the main results stated in §2. It remains to verify Proposition 3.5. The proof requires three lemmas, the first of which concerns approximation on the ray $[0, +\infty)$.

LEMMA 4.4. *Under the assumptions of Proposition 3.5*

$$(4.35) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{g(x)} - \frac{1}{s_n(x)} \right\|_{[0, +\infty)} \right\}^{1/n^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}}.$$

The proof of (4.35) follows from a straightforward modification of the argument used by Meinardus and Varga [8] in their proof of Theorem 3.1. See also Erdős and Reddy [4].

LEMMA 4.5. *Let T be any bounded set in the complex plane. Then, with the assumptions of Proposition 3.5,*

$$(4.36) \quad \overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \{ \|g - s_n\|_T \}^{1/n^2} \leq \frac{1}{a}.$$

Proof. If $\rho := \sup\{|z| : z \in T\}$, then direct calculations show that

$$|g(z) - s_n(z)| \leq \sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} \rho^k / a^{k^2} \leq \frac{\rho^{n+1}}{a^{(n+1)^2}} \left(1 - \frac{\rho}{a^{2(n+1)}}\right)^{-1},$$

for all n large and all $z \in T$, from which (4.36) directly follows.

The final lemma can be found in Pólya and Szegő ([9], vol. 2, p. 69, prob. 176).

LEMMA 4.6. *The function $g(z)$ and the partial sums $s_n(z)$ of Proposition 3.5 have all their zeros on the negative real axis.*

Proof of Proposition 3.5. Using the above lemmas and applying the techniques of this section, it is easy to show that, for $1 < q < \sqrt{a}$ and for $0 < \theta < \pi$, the inequality

$$\left\| \frac{1}{s_n} - \frac{1}{s_{n-1}} \right\|_{\bar{S}(\theta)} \leq \frac{(q^{2n+1} + 1)}{q^{n^2}} \cdot \tau^{2n-1}$$

is valid for all n sufficiently large, where $\tau > 1$ is some constant independent of n .

This last inequality together with the arbitrariness of q implies that

$$\overline{\lim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{g} - \frac{1}{s_n} \right\|_{\bar{S}(\theta)} \right\}^{1/n^2} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}}.$$

But, by Lemma 4.4, we also have

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{g} - \frac{1}{s_n} \right\|_{[0, +\infty)} \right\}^{1/n^2} \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \left\| \frac{1}{g} - \frac{1}{s_n} \right\|_{\bar{s}(\theta)} \right\}^{1/n^2},$$

and so equation (3.13) follows.

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