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## **THE BOUNDARY MODULUS OF CONTINUITY OF HARMONIC FUNCTIONS**

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Let  $G$  be a bounded domain in the complex plane and let  $u(z)$  be continuous on  $\bar{G}$ . In this paper we study the boundary modules of continuity,  $\tilde{\omega}(\delta)$ , of  $u$  on  $\partial G$  and the modulus of continuity,  $\omega(\delta)$ , of  $u$  on  $\bar{G}$ . We investigate the extent to which the inequality " $\omega(\delta) \leq \tilde{\omega}(\delta)$ " holds when  $u$  is harmonic on  $G$  and show that the precise formulation of such inequalities depends on the smoothness of  $\partial G$ .

1. **Introduction.** Let  $G$  be a bounded domain in the complex plane and let  $u(z)$  be continuous on  $\bar{G}$ . The modulus of continuity (MOC) of  $u(z)$  on  $\bar{G}$  is the function  $\omega_u(\delta, \bar{G})$  defined for  $\delta \geq 0$  by

$$\omega_u(\delta, \bar{G}) = \sup \{ |u(z) - u(z')| : z, z' \in \bar{G}, |z - z'| \leq \delta \}.$$

Thus  $\omega_u(\delta, \bar{G})$  is nondecreasing and  $\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0+} \omega(\delta) = \omega(0) = 0$ . If  $\bar{G}$  is, say, convex, then  $\omega_u(\delta)$  is subadditive and continuous. The boundary modulus of continuity (BMOC) is denoted  $\tilde{\omega}_u(\delta, \partial G)$  and defined by

$$\tilde{\omega}_u(\delta, \partial G) = \sup \{ |u(\zeta) - u(\zeta')| : \zeta, \zeta' \in \partial G, |\zeta - \zeta'| \leq \delta \}.$$

When no confusion should arise, we will simply write  $\omega(\delta)$  and  $\tilde{\omega}(\delta)$ .

It is clear that  $\tilde{\omega}_u(\delta, \partial G) \leq \omega_u(\delta, \bar{G})$  ( $\delta \geq 0$ ), and that if  $u(z)$  is simply continuous on  $\bar{G}$ , little more can be said. In this paper we investigate the extent to which the reverse inequality holds for  $u(z)$  harmonic (or analytic) on  $G$ .

Rubel, Taylor and Shields [6, p. 31] have proved the following result for  $u$  analytic.

**THEOREM.** *Let  $G$  be simply connected and let  $\phi(\delta)$  ( $\delta \geq 0$ ) be a continuous increasing, nonnegative subadditive function. Then for  $u(z)$  analytic on  $G$ , continuous on  $\bar{G}$ ,*

$$\tilde{\omega}(\delta) \leq \phi(\delta) \implies \omega(\delta) \leq C\phi(\delta),$$

where  $C$  is an absolute constant, independent of  $G$ .

*It can be shown that  $C > 1$  is necessary.*

For  $u(z)$  harmonic, it is known that if  $G = D = A(0, 1)$  is the unit disk and  $u(z)$  is harmonic on  $D$ , continuous on  $\bar{D}$ , then

$$(1) \quad \omega(\delta) \leq C \left( \log \frac{1}{\delta} \right) \tilde{\omega}(\delta) \quad \left( 0 < \delta \leq \frac{1}{2} \right),$$

where  $C$  is an absolute constant. This result is best possible on  $D$  in the sense that the  $\log(1/\delta)$  factor cannot be improved [6, p. 34]. We add, however, that (1) can be sharpened for some  $\tilde{\omega}_u$  since standard techniques for estimating Poisson integrals give

$$(2) \quad \omega(\delta) \leq 3\tilde{\omega}(\delta) + \frac{\pi\delta}{4} \int_{\delta}^{\pi} \frac{\tilde{\omega}(s)}{s^2} ds.$$

It can be shown that (1) follows from (2). We note that (2) also gives a result of Hardy and Littlewood [3]: if  $\tilde{\omega}(\delta) \leq \delta^{\alpha}$  ( $0 < \alpha < 1$ ), then  $\omega(\delta) \leq C\delta^{\alpha}$ . More recently Dankel [2] has shown that (1) holds for a wider class of bounded simply connected domains  $G$ . In particular, (1) holds if  $\partial G$  is an analytic curve or if  $\partial G$  is Dini-smooth and has bounded arc chord ratio.

In this paper we answer some of the remaining open questions concerning the relation between  $\omega_u(\delta)$  and  $\tilde{\omega}_u(\delta)$  for harmonic  $u$ . In §2 we show that the relation between the MOC and BMOC is related to the smoothness of  $\partial G$ , and describe a wider class of domains  $G$  for which (1) and (2) hold. In §3 we consider a function  $f = u + iv$  analytic on  $G$  and briefly discuss the relationship between  $\tilde{\omega}_u(\delta)$  and  $\omega_f(\delta)$ . In §4 we give a class of examples showing the results of §2 are best possible and at the same time answer a question of Dankel [2] by showing (1) is not valid on arbitrary bounded, simply connected domains.

**2. The MOC of harmonic functions.** The proofs of the main theorems in this section use the following result of A. Beurling [1, p. 55].

**THEOREM.** *Let  $G$  be a simply connected domain in the complex plane, let  $\gamma \subseteq \partial G$  and let  $z \in G$ . Let  $d(z, \partial G)$  and  $d(z, \gamma)$  denote the distance from  $z$  to  $\partial G$  and  $\gamma$  respectively, and  $\mu(z, \gamma, G)$  denote the harmonic measure of  $\gamma$  with respect to  $z$  and  $G$ . Then*

$$(3) \quad \mu(z, \gamma, G) \leq \frac{4}{\pi} \operatorname{Arc tan} \left( \frac{d(z, \partial G)}{d(z, \gamma)} \right)^{1/2} \leq \frac{4}{\pi} \left( \frac{d(z, \partial G)}{d(z, \gamma)} \right)^{1/2},$$

where the last inequality follows since  $\operatorname{Arc tan} x \leq x$  for  $x \geq 0$ . We can now prove the following theorem.

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $G$  be a bounded simply connected domain and suppose  $u(z)$  is harmonic on  $G$  and continuous on  $\bar{G}$ . Then*

$$\omega(\delta) \leq \tilde{\omega}(2\delta) + \frac{8\sqrt{2}}{\pi \log 2} \delta^{1/2} \int_{\delta}^{|G|} \frac{\tilde{\omega}(s)}{s^{3/2}} ds,$$

where  $|G|$  denotes the diameter of  $G$ .

*Proof.* We first observe that

$$(4) \quad \begin{aligned} \omega(\delta) &= \sup \{ |u(z) - u(z')| : z, z' \in \bar{G}, |z - z'| \leq \delta \} \\ &= \sup \{ |u(\zeta) - u(z)| : \zeta \in \partial G, z \in \bar{G}, |z - \zeta| \leq \delta \}. \end{aligned}$$

This equality is proved in [6, p. 26] for analytic  $u$  and the same proof is valid for harmonic  $u$ . We assume  $z \in \bar{G}$ ,  $\zeta \in \partial G$  have been chosen with  $|z - \zeta| \leq \delta$  and  $|u(z) - u(\zeta)| = \omega(\delta)$ . Without loss of generality, we assume  $\zeta = 0$ . If  $z \in \partial G$ , then  $\omega(\delta) = \tilde{\omega}(\delta)$  gives the desired inequality. We assume  $z \in G$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \omega(\delta) &= |u(z) - u(0)| = \left| \int_{\partial G} \{u(\zeta) - u(0)\} \mu(z, d\zeta, G) \right| \\ &\leq \int_{\partial G} \tilde{\omega}(|\zeta|) \mu(z, d\zeta, G). \end{aligned}$$

Let  $A_1 = \{\zeta \in \partial G : |\zeta| \leq 2\delta\}$  and  $A_n = \{\zeta \in \partial G : 2^{n-1}\delta < |\zeta| \leq 2^n\delta\}$  ( $2 \leq n \leq N = 1 + [\log_2 |G|/\delta]$ ) " $[\ ]$ " denotes the greatest integer function). Then

$$\begin{aligned} \omega(\delta) &\leq \tilde{\omega}(2\delta) + \sum_{n=2}^N \int_{A_n} \tilde{\omega}(|\zeta|) \mu(z, d\zeta, G) \\ &\leq \tilde{\omega}(2\delta) + \sum_{n=2}^N \tilde{\omega}(2^n\delta) \mu(z, A_n, G) \\ &\leq \tilde{\omega}(2\delta) + \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n=2}^N \tilde{\omega}(2^n\delta) \left( \frac{d(z, \partial G)}{d(z, A_n)} \right)^{1/2}, \end{aligned}$$

by (3). Since  $d(z, \partial G) \leq \delta$  and  $d(z, A_n) \geq 2^{n-2}\delta$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \omega(\delta) &\leq \tilde{\omega}(2\delta) + \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n=2}^N \tilde{\omega}(2^n\delta) 2^{2-n/2} \\ &\leq \tilde{\omega}(2\delta) + \frac{8}{\pi} \int_1^{N-1} \frac{\tilde{\omega}(2^{t+1}\delta)}{2^{t/2}} dt. \end{aligned}$$

The result follows by substituting  $s = 2^{t+1}\delta$  in the last integral.

Two useful corollaries follow from Theorem 1.

**COROLLARY 2.** *If  $\tilde{\omega}(\delta)$  is subadditive, then*

$$\omega_u(\delta) \leq C\delta^{-1/2}\tilde{\omega}_u(\delta),$$

where  $C = C(|G|)$  is a positive constant.

**COROLLARY 3.** *If  $\tilde{\omega}(\delta) \leq \delta^\alpha$  ( $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ ), then*

$$\omega(\delta) \leq C \begin{cases} \delta^\alpha & \left(0 < \alpha < \frac{1}{2}\right) \\ \delta^{1/2} \log \frac{1}{\delta} & \left(\alpha = \frac{1}{2}, 0 < \delta < \frac{1}{2}\right) \\ \delta^{1/2} & \left(\alpha \geq \frac{1}{2}\right). \end{cases}$$

Again,  $C = C(|G|)$  is a positive constant depending on  $|G|$ .

Corollary 3 follows by integration. Corollary 2 is proved as follows.

*Proof.* Since  $\tilde{\omega}(\delta)$  is a subadditive modulus of continuity, we can find a continuous, nondecreasing concave function  $\lambda(\delta)$  for which

$$\tilde{\omega}(\delta) \leq \lambda(\delta) \leq 2\tilde{\omega}(\delta) \quad (\delta \geq 0),$$

[5, p. 45]. Then  $\lambda(\delta)/\delta$  is nondecreasing for  $\delta > 0$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_u(\delta) &\leq 2\tilde{\omega}(\delta) + C\delta^{1/2} \int_{\delta}^{|G|} \frac{\lambda(s)}{s^{3/2}} ds \\ &\leq 2\tilde{\omega}(\delta) + C\delta^{-1/2} \lambda(\delta) \int_{\delta}^{|G|} s^{-1/2} ds \\ &\leq C'\delta^{-1/2} \tilde{\omega}(\delta). \end{aligned}$$

In §4 we give an example showing Corollaries 2 and 3 give the best possible order of magnitude.

Theorem 1 can be improved in some cases. In particular, our next result relates the global MOC to the BMOC and the smoothness of  $\partial G$ . We give a definition to classify boundary smoothness.

DEFINITION 4. For  $0 < \alpha < 1$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ , let

$$S(\alpha, \varepsilon) = \left\{ z: |\operatorname{Arg}(z)| \leq \frac{\pi\alpha}{2} \text{ and } 0 \leq \operatorname{Re} z \leq \varepsilon \right\}.$$

For  $\zeta \in C$  and  $\theta$  real,

$$S(\alpha, \varepsilon, \zeta, \theta) = \zeta + e^{i\theta} S(\alpha, \varepsilon),$$

is the “cone”  $S(\alpha, \varepsilon)$  rotated through angle  $\theta$  and translated so its vertex is at  $\zeta$ . A bounded, simply connected open domain  $G$  satisfies a (exterior) cone condition of order  $(\alpha, \varepsilon)$  if for each  $\zeta \in \partial G$  there exists a real  $\theta = \theta(\zeta)$  such that

$$S(\alpha, \varepsilon, \zeta, \theta) \cap G = \emptyset.$$

THEOREM 5. Suppose  $G$  satisfies a cone condition of order  $(\alpha, \varepsilon)$

( $0 < \alpha < 1, \varepsilon > 0$ ). If  $u(z)$  is harmonic on  $G$ , continuous on  $\bar{G}$  and has BMO  $\tilde{\omega}(\delta)$ , then

$$(5) \quad \omega(\delta) \leq \tilde{\omega}(C\delta) + D\delta^{1/\beta} \int_{\delta}^E \frac{\tilde{\omega}(s)}{s^{(1+\beta)/\beta}} ds,$$

where  $\beta = 2 - \alpha$  and  $C, D, E$  are positive constants depending on  $G$ .

*Proof.* We may assume  $\zeta = 0 \in \partial G, z \in G$  with  $|z - \zeta| \leq \delta$  and  $|u(z) - u(\zeta)| = \omega(\delta)$ . We further assume  $\theta(\zeta) = 0$ , so that  $S(\alpha, \varepsilon, \zeta, \theta) = S(\alpha, \varepsilon)$  and  $S(\alpha, \varepsilon) \cap G = \emptyset$ . Let  $\eta > 0$  and  $r > 0$  denote, respectively, the center and radius of the circle inscribed in  $\partial S(\alpha, \varepsilon)$ . We have  $d(\eta, \partial G) \geq r = \varepsilon(1 + \csc \alpha/2)^{-1}$  (see Figure I).

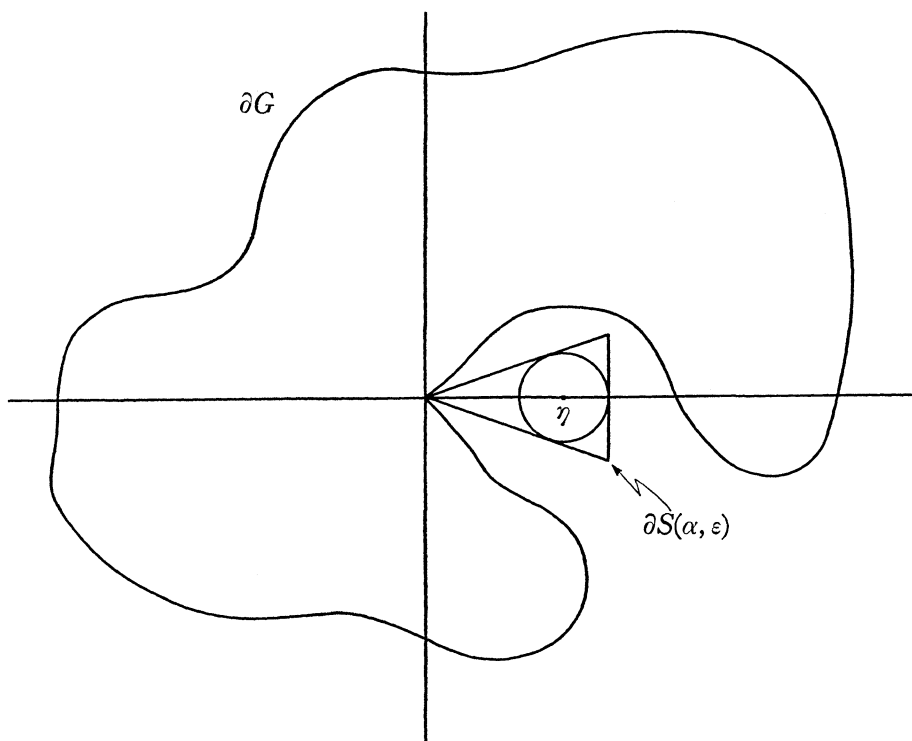


FIGURE I.

Let

$$\Phi(z) = \left( \frac{1}{z - \eta} + \frac{1}{\eta} \right)^{2/\beta} \quad (\beta = 2 - \alpha),$$

be a mapping from  $G$  in the  $z$ -plane to a domain  $H$  in the  $\xi$ -plane. We take the branch cut for  $\Phi(z)$  along the segment  $[0, \eta]$ . Then  $\Phi$

maps  $G$  conformally onto  $H = \Phi(G)$ , with  $\Phi(0) = 0 \in \partial H$ . It is clear, in fact, that  $\bar{H} \cap \{\xi < 0\} = \phi$ , so  $\Phi$  is actually one-to-one and continuous on  $\bar{G}$ . We can now define  $v(\xi) = u(\Phi^{-1}(\xi))$  for  $\xi \in \bar{H}$  by taking the branch cut for

$$(6) \quad \Phi^{-1}(\xi) = \frac{\eta^2 \xi^{\beta/2}}{\eta \xi^{\beta/2} - 1}$$

along  $\{\xi < 0\}$ . This assures that  $\Phi^{-1}$  is analytic on  $H$ , continuous and one-to-one on  $\bar{H}$ , with  $\bar{G} = \Phi^{-1}(\bar{H})$ . Thus  $v(\xi)$  is harmonic on  $H$  and continuous on  $\bar{H}$ . We then have

$$(7) \quad \begin{aligned} \omega_u(\delta, \bar{G}) &= |u(z) - u(0)| \\ &= |v(\Phi(z)) - v(0)| \\ &\leq \int_{\partial H} |v(\xi) - v(0)| \mu(\Phi(z), d\xi, H) \\ &\leq \int_{\partial H} \tilde{\omega}_u(|\Phi^{-1}(\xi)|, \bar{G}) \mu(\Phi(z), d\xi, H). \end{aligned}$$

For  $\xi \in \bar{H}$  we have  $|\eta \xi^{\beta/2} - 1| \geq \eta/(\eta + |G|)$ . Combining this with (6) and (7) gives

$$(8) \quad \omega_u(\delta, \bar{G}) \leq \int_{\partial H} \tilde{\omega}_u(\eta(\eta + |G|)|\xi|^{\beta/2}) \mu(\Phi(z), d\xi, H).$$

Let  $A_1 = \{\xi \in \partial H: |\xi| \leq (4\delta/\eta r)^{2/\beta}\}$  and

$$A_n = \left\{ \xi \in \partial H: \left( \frac{2^n \delta}{\eta r} \right)^{2/\beta} < |\xi| \leq \left( \frac{2^{n+1} \delta}{\eta r} \right)^{2/\beta} \right\} \quad (2 \leq n \leq N)$$

where  $N = [\log_2((\eta + r)/\delta)] \leq \log_2(2\eta/\delta)$ . It then follows that

$$d(\Phi(z), \partial H) \leq |\Phi(z)| \leq \left( \frac{\delta}{\eta r} \right)^{2/\beta},$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} d(\Phi(z), \partial H) &\geq \left( \frac{2^n \delta}{\eta r} \right)^{2/\beta} - \left( \frac{\delta}{\eta r} \right)^{2/\beta} \\ &\geq (2^{2/\beta} - 1) \left( \frac{2^{n-1} \delta}{\eta r} \right)^{2/\beta} \quad (2 \leq n \leq N). \end{aligned}$$

From (8) and (3) we obtain

$$(9) \quad \begin{aligned} \omega(\delta) &\leq \tilde{\omega}\left(\frac{4(\eta + |G|)\delta}{r}\right) + \frac{4}{\pi} \sum_{n=2}^N \tilde{\omega}\left(\frac{2^{n+1}(\eta + |G|)\delta}{r}\right) (2^{2/\beta} - 1)^{-1/2} 2^{(1-n)/\beta} \\ &\leq \tilde{\omega}(C\delta) + D \int_1^N \frac{\tilde{\omega}(C\delta 2^t)}{2^{t/\beta}} dt, \end{aligned}$$

where  $C$  and  $D$  are positive constants depending on  $|G|$ ,  $\eta$  and  $r$ . The desired inequality is obtained by letting  $s = C\delta 2^t$  in the last integral.

We can now write down corollaries similar to those for Theorem 1.

**COROLLARY 6.** *Assume the hypotheses of Theorem 5. If, in addition,  $\tilde{\omega}(\delta)$  is subadditive, then*

$$\omega(\delta) \leq C\delta^{(1-\beta)/\beta} \tilde{\omega}(\delta),$$

where  $C$  is a positive constant depending on  $G$ .

**COROLLARY 7.** *Assume the hypotheses of Theorem 5. If  $\tilde{\omega}(\delta) \leq \delta^\gamma$  ( $0 < \gamma \leq 1$ ), then*

$$\omega(\delta) \leq C \begin{cases} \delta^\gamma & \left(0 < \gamma < \frac{1}{\beta}\right) \\ \delta^{1/\beta} \log \frac{1}{\delta} & \left(\gamma = \frac{1}{\beta}, 0 < \delta < \frac{1}{2}\right) \\ \delta^{1/\beta} & \left(\gamma > \frac{1}{\beta}\right) \end{cases}.$$

Minor adjustments to the proof of Theorem 5 prove the following result.

**THEOREM 8.** *Let  $G$  be a bounded, simply connected open domain. Suppose there exists an  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that for each  $\zeta \in \partial G$  there is a disk,  $D_\zeta$ , of radius  $\varepsilon$  with  $\zeta \in \partial D_\zeta$  and  $\bar{D}_\zeta \cap G = \phi$ . If  $u(z)$  is harmonic on  $G$ , continuous on  $\bar{G}$  and has BMO  $\tilde{\omega}(\delta)$ , then*

$$\omega(\delta) \leq \tilde{\omega}(C\delta) + D\delta \int_\delta^E \frac{\tilde{\omega}(s)}{s^2} ds,$$

where  $C$ ,  $D$ ,  $E$  are positive constants depending on  $G$ .

For notational convenience, the "disk condition" described in Theorem 8 will be referred to as a cone condition of order  $(1, \varepsilon)$ . If  $G$  is a bounded, simply connected open domain that does not satisfy a cone condition of any order  $(\alpha, \varepsilon)$  ( $0 < \alpha \leq 1$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$ ), then we will say  $G$  satisfies a cone condition of order  $(0, 1)$ . Thus Theorem 8 shows that if  $G$  satisfies a cone condition of order  $(1, \varepsilon)$ , then our estimates for  $\omega(\delta)$  are essentially those given in (2) for the unit disk. This analogy with the disk illustrated further in the following corollaries.



**COROLLARY 9.** *If  $G$  satisfies a cone condition of order  $(1, \varepsilon)$  ( $\varepsilon > 0$ ), and  $\tilde{\omega}(\delta)$  is subadditive, then*

$$\omega(\delta) \leq C \left( \log \frac{1}{\delta} \right) \tilde{\omega}(\delta).$$

**COROLLARY 10.** *If  $G$  satisfies a cone condition of order  $(1, \varepsilon)$  and  $\tilde{\omega}(\delta) \leq \delta^\gamma$  ( $0 < \gamma \leq 1$ ), then*

$$\omega(\delta) \leq C \begin{cases} \delta^\gamma & (0 < \delta < 1) \\ \delta \log \frac{1}{\delta} & (\gamma = 1) \end{cases}.$$

The following corollary improves a result of Dankel [2].

**COROLLARY 11.** *If  $G$  is bounded and convex, and  $u(z)$  is harmonic on continuous on  $\bar{G}$ , then*

$$\omega(\delta) \leq C \tilde{\omega}(\delta) \log \frac{1}{\delta}.$$

*Proof.* Since  $G$  satisfies a cone condition of order  $(1, 1)$ , it suffices, as in the proof of Corollary 2, to show  $\tilde{\omega}(\delta)$  is bounded above and below by multiples of some continuous, nondecreasing concave function  $\lambda(\delta)$ . The fact that  $G$  is a bounded, convex domain implies  $\partial G$  is rectifiable, and that  $\partial G$  has bounded arc-chord ratio. For  $\zeta, \zeta' \in \partial G$ , let  $s(\zeta, \zeta')$  be the length of the “shorter” arc along  $\partial G$  from  $\zeta$  to  $\zeta'$ . Then for some constant  $A > 0$  we have

$$1 \leq \frac{s(\zeta, \zeta')}{|\zeta - \zeta'|} \leq A,$$

for all  $\zeta, \zeta' \in \partial G$ . Let

$$\tilde{\tilde{\omega}}(\delta) = \sup \{ |u(\zeta) - u(\zeta')|, \zeta, \zeta' \in \partial G, s(\zeta, \zeta') \leq \delta \},$$

be the BMOC of  $u$  with respect to arc length along  $\partial G$ . Then  $\tilde{\tilde{\omega}}(\delta)$  is subadditive and for  $\delta > 0$ ,

$$\tilde{\tilde{\omega}}(\delta) \leq \tilde{\omega}(\delta) \leq \tilde{\tilde{\omega}}(A\delta) \leq (A + 1)\tilde{\tilde{\omega}}(\delta).$$

We now let  $\lambda(\delta)$  be a continuous, nondecreasing concave function with  $\lambda(\delta) \leq \tilde{\tilde{\omega}}(\delta) \leq 2\lambda(\delta)$ . This completes the proof.

**3. Analytic functions.** Let  $G$  be a bounded simply connected open domain and suppose  $f(z) = u(z) + iv(z)$  is analytic on  $G$  and continuous on  $\bar{G}$ . Using the results from §2, we obtain results

relating the MOC of  $f$  on  $\bar{G}$  to the BMOC of  $u$  or  $v$ .

The following well-known result gives a bound on  $|f'(z)|$  in terms of  $\omega_u(\delta, \bar{G})$ .

**THEOREM 12.** *Let  $G$  be a bounded region, let  $f(z) = u(z) + iv(z)$  be analytic on  $G$ , and let  $u(z)$  be continuous on  $\bar{G}$ . Then for  $z \in G$*

$$(10) \quad |f'(z)| \leq \frac{2\omega_u(d_z, \bar{G})}{d_z},$$

where  $d_z$  denotes the distance from  $z$  to  $\partial G$ .

With proper consideration given to the smoothness of  $\partial G$ , we can estimate  $\omega_f(\delta, \bar{G})$  from (10). We first require two definitions.

**DEFINITION 13.** Let  $\lambda(t)$  ( $t \geq 0$ ) be a nonnegative, increasing, subadditive function with  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \lambda(t) = 0$ . A domain  $G$  is a  $\lambda$ -domain if there exists a function  $\phi: R \rightarrow R$  and a positive constant  $M$  with

$$G = \{x + iy: y > \phi(x)\},$$

and

$$(11) \quad |\phi(x) - \phi(x')| \leq M\lambda(|x - x'|),$$

for all  $x, x' \in R$ . The smallest  $M$  for which (11) holds is the bound for  $G$ . Any rotation of  $\lambda$ -domain is also a  $\lambda$ -domain.

**DEFINITION 14.** A bounded, simply connected domain  $G$  is a local  $\lambda$ -domain if there exist positive constants  $\varepsilon$  and  $M$  and a sequence  $\{U_i: i = 1, 2, \dots\}$  of open sets such that:

(i) For each  $\zeta \in \partial G$  there is a  $U_i$  with  $\Delta(\zeta, \varepsilon) \subseteq U_i$ .

(ii) For each  $U_i$  there is a  $\lambda$ -domain  $G_i$  with bound not exceeding  $M$  such that:

$$U_i \cap G_i = U_i \cap G.$$

$M$  is called a bound for  $G$ . If  $\lambda(x) = Cx^\alpha$  (some  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$ ), then  $G$  is a local  $\text{Lip}(\alpha)$ -domain. Our definition of local  $\text{Lip}(1)$ -domain coincides with the definition of a domain with minimally smooth boundary [7, p. 189].

The following theorem and its corollary is proved in [4].

**THEOREM 15.** *Let  $G$  be a local  $\lambda$ -domain and let  $\mu(t)$  ( $t \geq 0$ ) be a nonnegative, increasing, subadditive function with  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \mu(t) = 0$ . Suppose  $f(z)$  is analytic on  $G$ , continuous on  $\bar{G}$  and*

$$|f'(z)| \leq \frac{\mu(d_z)}{d_z}$$

for each  $z \in G$ . Then there is an  $\eta > 0$  such that

$$(12) \quad \omega_f(\delta, \bar{G}) \leq A \int_0^\delta \frac{\mu(t)\lambda'(t)}{t} dt,$$

for all  $\delta \leq \eta$ .

In (12), we have assumed  $\lambda(t)$  is concave and so has a non-negative derivative at all but at most countably many points. This assumption affects the inequality (12) by at most a constant multiple [5, p. 45].

**COROLLARY 16.** *Let  $G$  be a local  $\text{Lip}(\alpha)$ -domain and let  $\beta$  ( $0 < \beta \leq 1$ ) be given with  $\alpha + \beta > 1$ . If  $f(z)$  is continuous on  $\bar{G}$ , analytic on  $G$  and*

$$|f'(z)| \leq C d_z^{\beta-1},$$

for all  $z \in G$ , then  $f(z)$  satisfies a Lipschitz condition of order  $\alpha + \beta - 1$  on  $\bar{G}$ .

Combining Theorems 5, 12 and 15 gives the following result.

**THEOREM 17.** *Suppose  $G$  is a local  $\lambda$ -domain and that  $G$  satisfies a cone condition of order  $(\alpha, \varepsilon)$  ( $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1, \varepsilon > 0$ ). Let  $f(z) = u(z) + iv(z)$  be analytic on  $G$ , continuous on  $\bar{G}$  and suppose  $u(z)$  has BMOC  $\tilde{\omega}_u(\delta)$  on  $\partial G$ . Then there is an  $\eta > 0$  such that*

$$\omega_f(\delta, \bar{G}) \leq A \left\{ \int_0^\delta \frac{\lambda'(t)}{t} \left[ \tilde{\omega}(Ct) + Dt^{1/\beta} \int_t^E \frac{\tilde{\omega}(s)}{s^{(1+\beta)/\beta}} ds \right] dt \right\},$$

where  $\beta = z - \alpha$  and  $A, C, D, E$  are constants depending on  $G$ .

In Theorem 17, we have again assumed  $\lambda(t)$  is concave. The proof is immediate since the representation (9) for our estimate of  $\omega_u(\delta, \bar{G})$  is clearly nonnegative, increasing, subadditive and tends to 0 with  $\delta$ . Corollary 16 can be used to draw analogous conclusions concerning Lipschitz conditions.

**4. Examples and remarks.** In this section we first present a class of examples that shows Corollaries 2 and 6 are best possible in the sense that the exponents on the  $\delta$ 's cannot be improved. Let  $1 < \beta \leq 2$  and let  $\phi_\beta(z) = (1 - z)^\beta$  where, for  $1 < \beta < 2$ , we take a

branch cut along  $z > 1$ . Then  $\phi_\beta$  is 1-1 and continuous on  $\bar{D}$ , analytic on  $D$  onto a domain  $G_\beta$  that satisfies a cone condition of order  $(2 - \beta, 1)$ . Consider the function  $u_\beta(\zeta)$ , harmonic on  $G_\beta$ , continuous on  $\bar{G}_\beta$  with  $u_\beta(\zeta) = |\zeta|$  for  $\zeta \in \partial G_\beta$ . Define  $v_\beta(z)$  on  $\bar{D}$  by  $v_\beta(z) = u_\beta((1 - z)^\beta)$ . Then  $v_\beta$  is continuous on  $\bar{D}$ , harmonic on  $D$  and  $u_\beta(\zeta) = v_\beta(\phi_\beta^{-1}(\zeta))$  ( $\zeta \in G_\beta$ ), where  $\phi_\beta^{-1}(\zeta) = 1 - \zeta^{1/\beta}$  is defined with branch cut along  $\zeta < 0$ .

Now  $\tilde{\omega}_{u_\beta}(\delta, \partial G_\beta) = \delta$ . If  $\delta$  is given with  $0 < \delta < 2^\beta$ , then  $\delta \in G_\beta$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_{u_\beta}(\delta, \bar{G}_\beta) &\geq u_\beta(\delta) = v_\beta(1 - \delta^{1/\beta}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi\beta}^{\pi\beta} (e^{i\theta}) P(1 - \delta^{1/\beta}, \theta) d\theta \\ &\geq \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{\delta^{1/\beta}}^{\pi} |1 - e^{i\theta}|^\beta P(1 - \delta^{1/\beta}, \theta) d\theta. \end{aligned}$$

For  $\delta^{1/\beta} \leq \theta \leq \pi$  we have  $|1 - e^{i\theta}|^\beta \geq (2\theta/\pi)^\beta$  and  $P(1 - \delta^{1/\beta}, \theta) \geq (\delta^{1/\beta}|\theta^2|)$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_{u_\beta}(\delta, \bar{G}_\beta) &\geq \frac{2^\beta \delta^{1/\beta}}{\pi^{1+\beta}} \int_{\delta^{1/\beta}}^{\pi} \theta^{\beta-2} d\theta \\ &\geq \left( \frac{2^{\beta-1}}{\pi^2(\beta-1)} \right) \delta^{1/\beta} \\ &= C \delta^{(1-\beta)/\beta} \tilde{\omega}_{u_\beta}(\delta, \partial G). \end{aligned}$$

The example further shows that the constant in Corollary 6 cannot be taken independent of  $\alpha = 2 - \beta$ . A similar argument, using  $\phi_\beta(z) = A(1 - z)^\beta$  ( $A > 0$ ) shows the constants in Corollaries 2 and 6 cannot be taken independent of  $|G|$ . If we take  $0 < \gamma \leq 1$  and repeat the above argument with  $u_\beta(\zeta) = |\zeta|^\gamma$  ( $\zeta \in \partial G_\beta$ ), we obtain examples that show Corollaries 3 and 7 are best possible.

As a final remark, we note that Theorem 5 actually says something about were in  $\bar{G}$   $|u(\zeta) - u(z)|$  can achieve the bound given in (5).

**THEOREM 18.** *Let  $0 \leq \alpha_1 < \alpha_2 \leq 1$  and  $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \delta_0 > 0$  be given (if  $\alpha_1 = 0$ , take  $\varepsilon_1 = 1$ ). Let  $G$  satisfy a cone condition of order  $(\alpha_1, \varepsilon_1)$  and suppose there is a  $\gamma \subseteq \partial G$  such that  $G$  satisfies a cone condition of order  $(\alpha_2, \varepsilon_2)$  at each  $\zeta \in \gamma$ . Suppose  $u(z)$  is harmonic on  $G$ , continuous on  $\bar{G}$  and has BMOG  $\tilde{\omega}(\delta)$ . If, for each  $0 < \delta \leq \delta_0$  we have  $\omega(\delta) = |u(\zeta) - u(z)|$  for some  $\zeta \in \gamma, z \in \bar{G}, |\zeta - z| \leq \delta$ , then*

$$\omega(\delta) \leq \tilde{\omega}(C\delta) + D\delta^{1/\beta_2} \int_{\delta}^{\varepsilon} \frac{\tilde{\omega}(s)}{s^{(1+\beta_2)/\beta_2}} ds \quad (\delta \leq \delta^0)$$

where  $\beta_2 = 2 - \alpha_2$  and  $C, D, E$  are positive constants depending on  $\alpha_2, \varepsilon_2$  and  $|G|$ .

Referring back to the example presented at the beginning of this section, Theorem 17 gives the following fact. Let  $\{\delta_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$  be a sequence of positive numbers with  $\delta_n \rightarrow 0$ . Suppose  $\zeta_n, z_n$  ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ) are given with  $\zeta_n \in \partial G_\beta$ ,  $z_n \in \bar{G}_\beta$ ,  $|\zeta_n - z_n| \leq \delta_n$  and  $\omega_{u_\beta}(\delta_n, \bar{G}_\beta) = |u_\beta(\zeta_n) - u_\beta(z_n)|$ . Then  $\lim \zeta_n = \lim z_n = 0$ .

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