

*Pacific
Journal of
Mathematics*

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Volume 252 No. 1

July 2011

ROOTS OF TOEPLITZ OPERATORS ON THE BERGMAN SPACE

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A major goal in the theory of Toeplitz operators on the Bergman space over the unit disk \mathbb{D} in the complex plane \mathbb{C} is to completely describe the commutant of a given Toeplitz operator, that is, the set of all Toeplitz operators that commute with it. In [2007], the first author characterized the commutant of a Toeplitz operator T that has a quasihomogeneous symbol $\phi(r)e^{ip\theta}$ with $p > 0$, in case it has a Toeplitz p -th root S with symbol $\psi(r)e^{i\theta}$: The commutant of T is the closure of the linear space generated by powers S^n that are Toeplitz. But the existence of a p -th root was known until now only when $\phi(r) = r^m$ with $m \geq 0$. Here we will show the existence of p -th roots for a much larger class of symbols, for example, those symbols for which

$$\phi(r) = \sum_{i=1}^k r^{a_i} (\ln r)^{b_i}, \quad \text{where } 0 \leq a_i, b_i \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq k.$$

1. Introduction

Let \mathbb{D} be the unit disk in the complex plane \mathbb{C} , and let $dA = r dr d\theta / \pi$ be the Lebesgue area measure normalized so that \mathbb{D} has unit measure. Let L_a^2 be the Bergman space, the Hilbert space of functions that are analytic on \mathbb{D} and square integrable with respect to dA . We denote the inner product in $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA)$ by $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$. It is well known that L_a^2 is a closed subspace of the Hilbert space $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA)$, and the set $\{\sqrt{n+1}z^n \mid n \geq 0\}$ of functions is an orthonormal basis. Let P be the orthogonal projection from $L^2(\mathbb{D}, dA)$ onto L_a^2 . For a bounded function f on \mathbb{D} , the Toeplitz operator T_f with symbol f is defined by

$$T_f(h) = P(fh) \quad \text{for } h \in L_a^2.$$

A symbol f is said to be *quasihomogeneous* of order p an integer if it can be written as $f(re^{i\theta}) = e^{ip\theta}\phi(r)$, where ϕ is a radial function on \mathbb{D} . In this case, the associated Toeplitz operator T_f is also called quasihomogeneous Toeplitz of order p . Quasihomogeneous Toeplitz operators were first introduced in [Louhichi

MSC2000: primary 47B35; secondary 47L80.

Keywords: Toeplitz operators, Bergman space, Mellin transform, Gamma function, Beta function.

and Zakariasy 2005] while generalizing the results of [Čučković and Rao 1998]. We assume $p > 0$ from now on.

For a given a quasihomogeneous operator T of degree p , we seek a quasihomogeneous operator S of degree 1 such that $S^p = T$. Louhichi [2007] proved that if any such root exists, it is unique up to a multiplicative constant. Using the results in [Čučković and Rao 1998], Louhichi also proved the existence of p -th roots for the case $\phi(r) = r^m$ for any arbitrary $m \geq 0$ and $p > 0$. Here we plan to deal with more general $\phi(r)$.

2. The Mellin transform and two lemmas

For any two functions $f(r)$ and $g(r)$ defined on $I = [0, 1]$, we define the Mellin convolution by

$$(f *_M g)(r) = \int_r^1 f\left(\frac{r}{t}\right)g(t)\frac{dt}{t}.$$

Often we are interested in knowing when the Mellin convolution is a bounded function in the interval I . We say a function f is of type (a, b) with $a \geq 0$ and $b > 0$ if

$$|f(r)| \leq Cr^a(1-r)^{b-1} \quad \text{on } I,$$

where C is a constant depending on f . Also we express the same thing as

$$f(r) \ll r^a(1-r)^{b-1},$$

omitting the constants and the absolute value signs.

Lemma A. *Suppose $f(r)$ is of type (a, b) and $g(r)$ is of type (c, d) . Then*

$$\begin{cases} (f *_M g) & \text{is of type } (\min\{a, c\}, b+d) & \text{if } a \neq c, \text{ and} \\ (f *_M g)(r) & \ll r^{\min\{a,c\}}(1-r)^{b+d-1} \ln(e/r) & \text{if } a = c. \end{cases}$$

This can be generalized to any finite product as follows: Suppose for $1 \leq i \leq n$, $f_i(r)$ is of type (a_i, b_i) . Then their Mellin convolution product $h(r)$ satisfies

$$(1) \quad h(r) \ll r^\alpha(1-r)^{\beta-1} \left(\ln\left(\frac{e}{r}\right)\right)^{n-1}$$

where $\alpha = \min\{a_i\}$ and $\beta = \sum b_i$. Further, if we know that the number of a_i that are equal to $\min\{a_i\}$ is (say) l , the estimate (1) can be improved to

$$(2) \quad h(r) \ll r^\alpha(1-r)^{\beta-1} \left(\ln\left(\frac{e}{r}\right)\right)^{l-1}.$$

Thus the log term will disappear if $l = 1$.

Remark 2.1. Most of the time our aim is to prove h is bounded; the presence of log does not interfere with that aim since $\alpha > 0$, which bounds $h(r)$ near zero,

and if we assume further that $\beta \geq 1$, it would be bounded near 1 also. But log cannot be avoided. Take for example $f_i(r) = r$ for every i and compute the Mellin convolution product. It turn out to be $r(\ln r)^{n-1}/(n-1)!$, by a simple integration.

Lemma B. *Let $f_i(r) = r^{a_i}(1-r)^{b_i-1}$, where a_i and b_i are positive for $1 \leq i \leq n$. Let α and β be as defined in Lemma A. Let h be the Mellin convolution product of the f_i . For any integer $k \geq 0$, the k -th derivative of h satisfies*

$$h^{(k)}(r) \ll r^{\alpha-k}(1-r)^{\beta-k-1} \left(\ln\left(\frac{e}{r}\right) \right)^{n-1}.$$

Here the implied constant depends on k and h .

3. Applications of Lemmas A and B

The Mellin transform $\hat{\phi}$ of a radial function ϕ in $L^1([0, 1], r dr)$ is defined by

$$\hat{\phi}(z) = \int_0^1 \phi(r)r^{z-1} dr = \mathcal{M}(\phi)(z).$$

It is well known that for these functions the Mellin transform is well-defined on the right half-plane $\{z : \operatorname{Re} z \geq 2\}$ and analytic on $\{z : \operatorname{Re} z > 2\}$. The Mellin transform $\hat{\phi}$ is uniquely determined by its values on any arithmetic sequence of integers. In fact we have the following classical theorem [Remmert 1998, page 102].

Theorem 3.1. *Suppose f is a bounded analytic function on $\{z : \operatorname{Re} z > 0\}$ that vanishes at the pairwise distinct points z_1, z_2, \dots , where*

- (1) $\inf\{|z_n|\} > 0$ and
- (2) $\sum_{n \geq 1} \operatorname{Re}(1/z_n) = \infty$.

Then f vanishes identically on $\{z : \operatorname{Re} z > 0\}$.

Remark 3.2. One can apply this theorem to prove that if $\phi \in L^1([0, 1], r dr)$ and if there exist $n_0, p \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$\hat{\phi}(pk + n_0) = 0 \quad \text{for all } k \in \mathbb{N},$$

then $\hat{\phi}(z) = 0$ for all $z \in \{z : \operatorname{Re} z > 2\}$ and so $\phi = 0$.

It is easy to see that the Mellin transform converts the Mellin convolution product into a pointwise product, that is,

$$(\widehat{\phi *_M \psi})(r) = \hat{\phi}(r) \hat{\psi}(r).$$

A direct calculation shows that a quasihomogeneous Toeplitz operator acts on the elements of the orthogonal basis of L^2_a as a shift operator with a holomorphic

weight. In fact, for $p \geq 0$ and for all $k \geq 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} T_{e^{ip\theta}\phi}(z^k) &= P(e^{ip\theta}\phi z^k) = \sum_{n \geq 0} (n+1) \langle e^{ip\theta}\phi z^k, z^n \rangle z^n \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} (n+1) \int_0^1 \int_0^{2\pi} \phi(r) r^{k+n+1} e^{i(k+p-n)\theta} \frac{d\theta}{\pi} dr z^n \\ &= 2(k+p+1)\hat{\phi}(2k+p+2)z^{k+p}. \end{aligned}$$

Now we are ready to start with a relatively easy example.

3.1. Assuming $\phi(r) = r + r^2$, find the p -th roots of $T_{e^{ip\theta}\phi}$. If there exists a bounded radial function ψ such that $(T_{e^{i\theta}\psi})^p = T_{e^{ip\theta}\phi}$, then

$$(T_{e^{i\theta}\psi})^p(z^k) = T_{e^{ip\theta}\phi}(z^k) \quad \text{for all } k \geq 0.$$

Since

$$(T_{e^{i\theta}\psi})^p(z^k) = \left(\prod_{j=0}^{p-1} (2k+2j+4)\hat{\psi}(2k+2j+3) \right) z^{k+p},$$

we obtain for all integers $k \geq 0$

$$(2k+2p+2)\hat{\phi}(2k+p+2) = \left(\prod_{j=0}^{p-1} (2k+2j+4)\hat{\psi}(2k+2j+3) \right),$$

which is equivalent to

$$\frac{\hat{\phi}(2k+p+2)}{\prod_{j=0}^{p-2} (2k+2j+4)} = \prod_{j=0}^{p-1} \hat{\psi}(2k+2j+3).$$

Note that p is a positive integer and that our discussion is trivial for $p = 1$. So $p \geq 2$. By setting $z = 2k + 3$, we notice that the function

$$f(z) = \frac{\hat{\phi}(z+p-1)}{\prod_{j=0}^{p-2} (z+2j+1)} - \prod_{j=0}^{p-1} \hat{\psi}(z+2j)$$

is holomorphic and bounded in the right half-plane and vanishes for $z = 2k + 3$, for k any nonnegative integer. Now by Theorem 3.1, we get $f(z) \equiv 0$. Therefore

$$(2) \quad (z+2p-1)\hat{\phi}(z+p-1) = \left(\prod_{j=0}^{p-1} (z+2j+1)\hat{\psi}(z+2j) \right).$$

If we divide the (2) by the equation obtained by replacing z by $z + 2$ in (2), we obtain after cancelation that in the right half-plane

$$(3) \quad \frac{\hat{\psi}(z+2p)}{\hat{\psi}(z)} = \frac{(z+1)\hat{\phi}(z+p+1)}{(z+2p-1)\hat{\phi}(z+p-1)} \quad \text{for } \operatorname{Re} z > 0.$$

Since

$$\hat{\phi}(z) = \frac{1}{z+1} + \frac{1}{z+2} = \frac{2z+3}{(z+1)(z+2)},$$

it follows that, for $\operatorname{Re} z > 0$,

$$\frac{\hat{\psi}(z+2p)}{\hat{\psi}(z)} = \frac{(z+1)}{(z+2p-1)} \frac{(2z+2p+5)}{(z+p+2)(z+p+3)} \frac{(z+p)(z+p+1)}{(2z+2p+1)}.$$

Letting $\lambda(\zeta) = \hat{\psi}(2p\zeta)$, this equation becomes, for $\operatorname{Re} \zeta > 0$,

$$\frac{\lambda(\zeta+1)}{\lambda(\zeta)} = \frac{(2p\zeta+1)(4p\zeta+2p+5)(2p\zeta+p)(2p\zeta+p+1)}{(2p\zeta+2p-1)(2p\zeta+p+2)(2p\zeta+p+3)(4p\zeta+2p+1)}.$$

Using the well-known identity $\Gamma(z+1) = z\Gamma(z)$, where Γ is the Gamma function, we can write

$$(4) \quad \frac{\lambda(\zeta+1)}{\lambda(\zeta)} = \frac{F(\zeta+1)}{F(\zeta)} \quad \text{for } \operatorname{Re} \zeta > 0,$$

where

$$F(\zeta) = \frac{\Gamma(\zeta+a_1)\Gamma(\zeta+a_2)\Gamma(\zeta+a_3)\Gamma(\zeta+a_4)}{\Gamma(\zeta+a'_1)\Gamma(\zeta+a'_2)\Gamma(\zeta+a'_3)\Gamma(\zeta+a'_4)},$$

and the a_i are in increasing order

$$\frac{2}{4p}, \quad \frac{2p}{4p}, \quad \frac{2p+2}{4p}, \quad \frac{2p+5}{4p}$$

respectively and the a'_i are in almost increasing order

$$\frac{2p+1}{4p}, \quad \frac{2p+4}{4p}, \quad \frac{4p-2}{4p}, \quad \frac{2p+6}{4p}$$

respectively for $i = 1, \dots, 4$. We shall show in a moment that $F(\zeta)$ is a bounded holomorphic function in the right half-plane. Granting that, Equation (4) combined with [Louhichi 2007, Lemma 6, page 1468] implies exists a constant C such that

$$(5) \quad \lambda(\zeta) = CF(\zeta) \quad \text{for } \operatorname{Re} \zeta > 0.$$

A basic observation is that the quotient of two Gamma functions

$$\frac{\Gamma(\zeta+a_i)}{\Gamma(\zeta+a'_i)}, \quad \text{where } 0 < a_i < a'_i,$$

is a constant times the Beta function

$$B(\zeta + a_i, a'_i - a_i) = \int_0^1 x^{\zeta+a_i-1} (1-x)^{a'_i-a_i-1} dx.$$

According to our definition of the Mellin transform, $B(\zeta + a_i, a'_i - a_i)$ is the Mellin transform of $x^{a_i} (1-x)^{a'_i-a_i-1}$, which is of type $(a_i, a'_i - a_i)$. Since $a_i < a'_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, 4$ (in fact, $a'_3 \geq a_3$ if and only if $2p \geq 4$, which is always true), each of the Beta functions is a bounded holomorphic function in the right half-plane and $F(\zeta)$, which is a constant times the product of these four Beta functions, is a bounded holomorphic function in the right half-plane. Equation (5) implies that

$$\lambda(\zeta) = C \sum_{i=1}^4 B(\zeta + a_i, a'_i - a_i),$$

where C is a constant. Since the product of Mellin transforms equals the Mellin transform of the Mellin convolution product, we have

$$\lambda(\zeta) = Ch(\zeta),$$

where h is the convolution product of four functions of type $(a_i, a'_i - a_i)$ for $i = 1, \dots, 4$. Now Lemma A tells us that

$$h(r) \ll r^{\min\{a_i\}} (1-r)^{\sum_i (a'_i - a_i) - 1} \ln(e/r).$$

Because $\sum_i a'_i - a_i = 1$, we have

$$h(r) \ll r^{\min\{a_i\}} \ln(e/r),$$

and hence h is a bounded function. Therefore the function ψ , if it exists, satisfies the equation

$$\hat{\psi}(2p\zeta) = C\hat{h}(\zeta)$$

for some constant C , which is equivalent to

$$\int_0^1 \psi(r) r^{2p\zeta-1} dr = C \int_0^1 h(t) t^{\zeta-1} dt.$$

Now, by a change of variables $t = r^{2p}$, we obtain

$$\int_0^1 \psi(r) r^{2p\zeta-1} dr = \int_0^1 h(r^{2p}) r^{2p\zeta-1} 2p dr.$$

Thus $\psi(r) = 2ph(r^{2p})$, and so ψ is bounded. Hence the operator $T_{e^{i\theta}\psi}$ is a genuine Toeplitz operator and a p -th root of $T_{e^{ip\theta}\phi}$.

3.2. p -th roots of $T_{e^{ip\theta}\phi}$, where $\hat{\phi}(z)$ is a proper rational fraction. Such functions are plenty. For example, take $\Phi(r) = r^a \ln(r)^b$, where $a > 0$ and b is a nonnegative integer. By integration by parts we see that $\hat{\Phi}(z) = (-1)^b b! / (a+z)^{b+1}$.

Assume we are given a radial function $\phi(r)$ such that $\hat{\phi}(r)$ is a proper rational function. Recall that if there is a radial function ψ such that $(T_{e^{i\theta}\psi})^p = T_{e^{ip\theta}\phi}$, then we have Equation (3), which is

$$\hat{\psi}(z+2p) = \hat{\psi}(z) \frac{(z+1)\hat{\phi}(z+p+1)}{(z+2p-1)\hat{\phi}(z+p-1)} \quad \text{for } \operatorname{Re} z > 0.$$

Here we are assuming $\hat{\phi}(z) = P(z)/Q(z)$, where

$$P(z) = \prod_{j=1}^m (z+a_j) \quad \text{and} \quad Q(z) = \prod_{k=1}^n (z+b_k)$$

with $1 \leq m < n$. So,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\psi}(z+2p) &= \hat{\psi}(z) \frac{(z+1)}{(z+2p-1)} \frac{P(z+p+1)Q(z+p-1)}{P(z+p-1)Q(z+p+1)} \\ &= \frac{(z+1)}{(z+2p-1)} \prod_{j=1}^m \frac{z+a_j+p+1}{z+a_j+p-1} \prod_{k=1}^n \frac{z+b_k+p-1}{z+b_k+p+1} \end{aligned}$$

Let $\lambda(\zeta) = \hat{\psi}(2p\zeta)$. Then the equality above becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\lambda(\zeta+1)}{\lambda(\zeta)} &= \frac{(2p\zeta+1)}{(2p\zeta+2p-1)} \prod_{j=1}^m \frac{2p\zeta+a_j+p+1}{2p\zeta+a_j+p-1} \prod_{k=1}^n \frac{2p\zeta+b_k+p-1}{2p\zeta+b_k+p+1} \\ &= \frac{F(\zeta+1)G(\zeta)}{F(\zeta)G(\zeta+1)}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} F(\zeta) &= \frac{\Gamma(\zeta+A_0)}{\Gamma(\zeta+A'_0)} \prod_{k=1}^n \frac{\Gamma(\zeta+B_k)}{\Gamma(\zeta+B'_k)} \quad \text{and} \quad G(\zeta) = \prod_{j=1}^m \frac{\Gamma(\zeta+A'_j)}{\Gamma(\zeta+A_j)}, \\ A_0 &= \frac{1}{2p}, \quad A'_0 = \frac{2p-1}{2p}, \\ A_j &= \frac{a_j+p+1}{2p}, \quad A'_j = \frac{a_j+p-1}{2p}, \\ B_k &= \frac{b_k+p-1}{2p}, \quad B'_k = \frac{b_k+p+1}{2p} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq j \leq m \text{ and } 1 \leq k \leq n. \end{aligned}$$

Note that any quotient of two Gamma functions, say,

$$\frac{\Gamma(\zeta + \alpha)}{\Gamma(\zeta + \gamma)} = \beta(\zeta + \alpha, \gamma - \alpha)\Gamma(\gamma - \alpha)$$

is a bounded holomorphic function in the right half-plane if α and $\gamma - \alpha$ are positive. Hence both $F(\zeta)$ and $G(\zeta)$ are bounded holomorphic functions in the right half-plane if we assume all A_j, A'_j, B_k, B'_k are positive. We will assume that.

Therefore, by [Louhichi 2007, Lemma 6, page 1468], λ is a constant times the quotient of $m + n + 1$ Gamma functions in the numerator and about the same in the denominator, as follows:

$$(6) \quad \lambda(\zeta) = C \frac{\Gamma(\zeta + A_0)}{\Gamma(\zeta + A'_0)} \prod_{j=1}^m \frac{\Gamma(\zeta + A_j)}{\Gamma(\zeta + A'_j)} \prod_{k=1}^n \frac{\Gamma(\zeta + B_k)}{\Gamma(\zeta + B'_k)}.$$

Based on the argument of the previous subsection, we would like to write each quotient of two Gamma functions as a constant times a Beta function. In order to do that, we must assume that all A_j and B_k are positive for every $0 \leq j \leq m$ and $1 \leq k \leq n$. Moreover, we observe that

$$A'_0 - A_0 = \frac{p-1}{p}, \quad A'_j - A_j = -\frac{1}{p}, \quad B'_k - B_k = \frac{1}{p}.$$

So each quotient of two Gamma functions in Equation (6) can be written as a constant times a Beta function except those involving A_j for $1 \leq j \leq m$. We fix this matter by noting that $\Gamma(\zeta + A'_j + 1) = (\zeta + A'_j)\Gamma(\zeta + A'_j)$, and so here $A'_j + 1 - A_j = (p-1)/p$. Hence, Equation (6) becomes

$$\frac{\lambda(\zeta)}{\prod_{j=1}^m (\zeta + A'_j)} = C \frac{\Gamma(\zeta + A_0)}{\Gamma(\zeta + A'_0)} \prod_{j=1}^m \frac{\Gamma(\zeta + A_j)}{\Gamma(\zeta + A'_j + 1)} \prod_{j=1}^n \frac{\Gamma(\zeta + B_j)}{\Gamma(\zeta + B'_j)}.$$

As in the previous subsection, this quotient of $m + n + 1$ Gamma functions on the numerator and the same in the denominator, respectively would be the Mellin transform of the convolution product of $m + n + 1$ functions of type (a_i, b_i) . Let us call it h . By Lemma A, we have

$$h(r) \ll r^A (1-r)^{B-1} \left(\ln\left(\frac{e}{r}\right) \right)^{m+n},$$

where $A = \min\{A_j\}$, which is definitely positive, and B is given by

$$A'_0 - A_0 + \sum_{j=1}^m A'_j + 1 - A_j + \sum_{k=1}^n B'_k - B_k = (m+1)\frac{p-1}{p} + \frac{n}{p} = m+1 + \frac{n-m-1}{p}.$$

Therefore we obtain

$$h(r) \ll r^A(1-r)^{m+(n-m-1)/p} \left(\ln\left(\frac{e}{r}\right)\right)^{m+n} = r^A(1-r)^{m+\nu} \left(\ln\left(\frac{e}{r}\right)\right)^{m+n},$$

where $\nu = (n - m - 1)/p$ is a nonnegative number. Using Lemma B, we see that h has all derivatives of order not exceeding m and they satisfy the inequality

$$r^j h^{(j)}(r) \ll r^A(1-r)^{m-j+\nu} \left(\ln\left(\frac{e}{r}\right)\right)^{m+n}.$$

Further the function ψ , were it to exist, would satisfy the equation

$$(7) \quad \hat{\psi}(2p\zeta) = C \left(\prod_{j=1}^m (\zeta + A'_j) \right) \hat{h}(\zeta).$$

Now it is easy to check by integration by parts the identity

$$\zeta \hat{h}(\zeta) = -\mathcal{M}\left(r \frac{dh}{dr}\right)(\zeta)$$

provided h vanishes at 1 and rh' is bounded in $(0, 1)$. Thus in the current case, letting $h' = Dh$, where $D = d/dr$, we can see

$$(\zeta + A'_j) \hat{h}(\zeta) = \mathcal{M}((A'_j - rD)h)(\zeta)$$

and

$$\left(\prod_{j=1}^m (\zeta + A'_j) \right) \hat{h}(\zeta) = \mathcal{M}\left(\prod_{j=1}^m (A'_j - rD)h \right)(\zeta).$$

Let us set

$$H(r) = \left(\prod_{j=1}^m (A'_j - rD)h \right)(r),$$

which allows us to rewrite Equation (7) as

$$\int_0^1 \psi(r) r^{2p\zeta-1} dr = C \int_0^1 H(t) t^{\zeta-1} dt.$$

Now, by a change of variables $t = r^{2p}$, we obtain

$$\int_0^1 \psi(r) r^{2p\zeta-1} dr = C \int_0^1 H(r^{2p}) r^{2p\zeta-1} 2p dr.$$

Thus $\psi(r) = 2pCH(r^{2p})$, and hence is bounded and the operator $T_{e^{i\theta}\psi}$ is a genuine Toeplitz operator and a p -th root of $T_{e^{i p\theta}\phi}$.

4. Proof of Lemma A for two functions

We start by proving Lemma A for functions f and g of type (a, b) and (c, d) respectively, where a, b, c and d are all positive. A similar thing was discussed in [Čučković and Rao 1998, pages 210-212] but with less generality since the goal was different.

Let $h(r) = (f *_M g)(r)$. By definition of the Mellin convolution, it is easy to see that

$$h(r) \ll \int_r^1 \left(\frac{r}{t}\right)^a \left(1 - \frac{r}{t}\right)^{b-1} t^c (1-t)^{d-1} \frac{dt}{t},$$

which after changing variables as $\frac{t-r}{1-r} = u$ and using the consequent identities

$$t = r + u - ru, \quad t - r = u(1-r), \quad 1 - t = (1-u)(1-r), \quad dt = (1-r)du$$

while keeping r fixed, leads to

$$\begin{aligned} h(r) &\ll \int_r^1 \left(\frac{r}{t}\right)^a \left(1 - \frac{r}{t}\right)^{b-1} t^c (1-t)^{d-1} \frac{dt}{t} \\ &= \int_r^1 \left(\frac{r}{t}\right)^a \left(\frac{t-r}{t}\right)^{b-1} t^c (1-t)^{d-1} \frac{dt}{t} \\ &= \int_0^1 r^a t^{-a} u^{b-1} (1-r)^{b-1} t^{-b+1} t^c (1-u)^{d-1} (1-r)^{d-1} (1-r) \frac{du}{t} \\ &= r^a (1-r)^{b+d-1} \int_0^1 t^{c-a-b} u^{b-1} (1-u)^{d-1} du. \end{aligned}$$

We have the following cases.

- $c - a - b \geq 0$. Since $0 \leq t \leq 1$, we have

$$h(r) \ll r^a (1-r)^{b+d-1},$$

and hence h is of type $(a, b+d)$.

- $c - a - b < 0$. Assuming $c - a > 0$ and noting that $t \geq u$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} h(r) &\ll r^a (1-r)^{b+d-1} \int_0^1 u^{c-a-b} u^{b-1} (1-u)^{d-1} du \\ &\leq r^a (1-r)^{b+d-1} \int_0^1 u^{c-a-1} (1-u)^{d-1} du \\ &= r^a (1-r)^{b+d-1} B(c-a, d), \end{aligned}$$

and therefore h is of type $(a, b+d)$.

Now in case $c = a$, consider any number ϵ in $0 < \epsilon \leq b$. Noticing that $t \geq r$ and $u > 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} h(r) &\ll r^a(1-r)^{b+d-1} \int_0^1 t^{-b} u^{b-1} (1-u)^{d-1} du \\ &\ll r^a(1-r)^{b+d-1} \int_0^1 t^{-\epsilon} t^{\epsilon-b} u^{b-1} (1-u)^{d-1} du \\ &\leq r^a(1-r)^{b+d-1} \int_0^1 r^{-\epsilon} u^{\epsilon-b} u^{b-1} (1-u)^{d-1} du \\ &\leq r^a(1-r)^{b+d-1} r^{-\epsilon} \int_0^1 u^{\epsilon-1} (1-u)^{d-1} du \\ &\leq r^a(1-r)^{b+d-1} B(\epsilon, d) r^{-\epsilon}. \end{aligned}$$

Now since $\epsilon B(\epsilon, d) = \Gamma(\epsilon + 1)\Gamma(d)/\Gamma(\epsilon + d)$ is holomorphic as a function of ϵ in a neighborhood of the interval $(0, b)$, there exists a constant C such that $\epsilon B(\epsilon, d) \leq C$ on that interval, and therefore

$$h(r) \leq Cr^a(1-r)^{b+d-1} r^{-\epsilon} \epsilon^{-1} \quad \text{for every } 0 < \epsilon \leq b.$$

Here we emphasize the fact that C does not depend on r and ϵ as long as $0 < r < 1$ and $0 < \epsilon \leq b$. For a fixed but arbitrary r , let $E(\epsilon) = r^{-\epsilon} \epsilon^{-1}$ and $m(r) = \min_{(0, b]} E(\epsilon)$. Then

$$(8) \quad h(r) \leq Cr^a(1-r)^{b+d-1} m(r).$$

Moreover the function E decreases in the interval $(0, -1/\ln r)$ and increases in the interval $(-1/\ln r, +\infty)$. Further $-1/\ln r \leq b$ if and only if $r \leq e^{-1/b}$. Thus Equation (8) implies that

$$\begin{aligned} h(r) &\ll r^a(1-r)^{b+d-1} m(r) \leq r^a(1-r)^{b+d-1} e \ln(1/r) & \text{if } r \leq e^{-1/b}, \\ h(r) &\ll r^a(1-r)^{b+d-1} r^{-b} b^{-1} \leq r^a(1-r)^{b+d-1} e/b & \text{if } r > e^{-1/b}, \end{aligned}$$

Combining these two results, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} h(r) &\ll r^a(1-r)^{b+d-1} (e \ln(1/r) + e/b) \\ &\ll r^a(1-r)^{b+d-1} \ln(e/r) \quad \text{for all } 0 < r < 1. \end{aligned}$$

5. Lemma A for the Mellin convolution product of more than two functions

In this context we can assume that the function f_i , of type (a_i, b_i) , is given by

$$f_i(x) = x^{a_i} (1-x)^{b_i-1} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq n.$$

The Mellin convolution product of these n functions is defined by a repeated integral

$$(9) \quad h(r) = \int_r^1 \int_{r/x_1}^1 \int_{r/x_1 x_2}^1 \cdots \int_{r/x_1 x_2 \cdots x_{n-2}}^1 f_1(x_1) f_2(x_2) \cdots f_{n-1}(x_{n-1}) f_n\left(\frac{r}{x_1 \cdots x_{n-1}}\right) \frac{dx_{n-1}}{x_{n-1}} \cdots \frac{dx_3}{x_3} \frac{dx_2}{x_2} \frac{dx_1}{x_1}$$

As in the case of two functions where we changed variables as $u = (t-r)/(1-r)$, we change variables so that the new integral is over the unit cube I^{n-1} , where limits of integration do not depend on other variables. Let $y_0 = 1$ and inductively define $y_i = \prod_{j=1}^i x_j$ for $i \geq 1$. Now we change variables as

$$x_i = \frac{r}{y_{i-1}} + \left(1 - \frac{r}{y_{i-1}}\right) \xi_i \quad \text{for } i \geq 1,$$

so that the limits for each ξ_i are 0 and 1. Further we note

$$y_i - r = x_i y_{i-1} - r = (y_{i-1} - r) \xi_i \quad \text{for } i \geq 0.$$

Set $\eta_0 = 1$ and $\eta_i = \prod_{j=1}^i \xi_j$ for $i \geq 1$. It is easy to show, by induction on i , that

$$y_i - r = (1-r) \eta_i \quad \text{for all } i \geq 1.$$

Further

$$(10) \quad (1 - x_i) = (1 - \xi_i) \left(1 - \frac{r}{y_{i-1}}\right) = \frac{(1 - \xi_i)(1-r)\eta_{i-1}}{y_{i-1}} \quad \text{for all } i \geq 1.$$

Thus

$$f_i(x_i) = x_i^{a_i} (1 - x_i)^{b_i-1} = \left(\frac{y_i}{y_{i-1}}\right)^{a_i} \left(\frac{(1 - \xi_i)(1-r)\eta_{i-1}}{y_{i-1}}\right)^{b_i-1} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq n-1.$$

But for $i = n$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} f_n(x_n) &= \left(\frac{r}{y_{n-1}}\right)^{a_n} \left(1 - \frac{r}{y_{n-1}}\right)^{b_n-1} \\ &= \left(\frac{r}{y_{n-1}}\right)^{a_n} \left(\frac{y_{n-1} - r}{y_{n-1}}\right)^{b_n-1} = \left(\frac{r}{y_{n-1}}\right)^{a_n} \left(\frac{(1-r)\eta_{n-1}}{y_{n-1}}\right)^{b_n-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Writing the product of functions in (9) in terms of ξ_i , η_i , r and y_i for $1 \leq i \leq n-1$ yields

$$(11) \quad r^{a_n} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \eta_i^{b_{i+1}-1} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} y_i^{a_i - a_{i+1} - b_{i+1} + 1} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (1 - \xi_i)^{b_i-1} \prod_{i=1}^n (1-r)^{b_i-1}.$$

Using equalities of (10), we calculate the differential form

$$(12) \quad \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{dx_i}{x_i} = \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{(1-r)\eta_{i-1}d\xi_i}{x_i y_{i-1}} = (1-r)^{n-1} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{\eta_{i-1}}{y_i} \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n-1} d\xi_i.$$

From (9), (10), and (11) we derive

$$(13) \quad h(r) = r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} \int_{I^{n-1}} \eta_{n-1}^{b_{n-1}} \prod_{i=1}^{n-2} \eta_i^{b_{i+1}} \\ \times \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} y_i^{a_i - a_{i+1} - b_{i+1}} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (1-\xi_i)^{b_i-1} \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n-1} d\xi_i.$$

Let us assume that the a_i are arranged in decreasing order. Then

$$\eta_i^{b_{i+1}} y_i^{a_i - a_{i+1} - b_{i+1}} \leq 1$$

since $\eta_i \leq y_i \leq 1$. Therefore

$$h(r) \leq r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} \int_{I^{n-1}} \eta_{n-1}^{b_{n-1}} y_{n-1}^{a_{n-1} - a_n - b_n} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (1-\xi_i)^{b_i-1} \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n-1} d\xi_i.$$

Here four cases have to be discussed.

Case 1: $a_{n-1} - a_n - b_n \geq 0$. In this case

$$h(r) \leq r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} \int_{I^{n-1}} \eta_{n-1}^{b_{n-1}} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (1-\xi_i)^{b_i-1} \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n-1} d\xi_i \\ \leq r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{\Gamma(b_n)\Gamma(b_i)}{\Gamma(b_n + b_i)}.$$

Case 2: $a_{n-1} - a_n - b_n < 0$ and $a_{n-1} \neq a_n$. Then

$$h(r) \leq r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} \int_{I^{n-1}} y_{n-1}^{a_{n-1} - a_n - b_n} \eta_{n-1}^{b_{n-1}} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (1-\xi_i)^{b_i-1} \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n-1} d\xi_i \\ \leq r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} \int_{I^{n-1}} \eta_{n-1}^{a_{n-1} - a_n - b_n} \eta_{n-1}^{b_{n-1}} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (1-\xi_i)^{b_i-1} \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n-1} d\xi_i \\ \leq r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} \int_{I^{n-1}} \eta_{n-1}^{a_{n-1} - a_n - 1} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (1-\xi_i)^{b_i-1} \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n-1} d\xi_i \\ \leq r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{\Gamma(a_{n-1} - a_n)\Gamma(b_i)}{\Gamma(a_{n-1} - a_n + b_i)}.$$

Case 3: $a_{n-1} = a_n$. Choose an arbitrary $0 < \epsilon \leq b_n$. Note that $y_{n-1} \geq r$ and $\eta_{n-1} > 0$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
h(r) &\leq r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} \int_{I^{n-1}} y_{n-1}^{-b_n} \eta_{n-1}^{b_n-1} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (1-\xi_i)^{b_i-1} \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n-1} d\xi_i \\
&\leq r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} \int_{I^{n-1}} y_{n-1}^{-\epsilon} y_{n-1}^{\epsilon-b_n} \eta_{n-1}^{b_n-1} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (1-\xi_i)^{b_i-1} \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n-1} d\xi_i \\
&\leq r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} \int_{I^{n-1}} r^{-\epsilon} \eta_{n-1}^{\epsilon-b_n} \eta_{n-1}^{b_n-1} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (1-\xi_i)^{b_i-1} \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n-1} d\xi_i \\
&\leq r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} \int_{I^{n-1}} r^{-\epsilon} \eta_{n-1}^{\epsilon-1} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (1-\xi_i)^{b_i-1} \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n-1} d\xi_i \\
&= r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} r^{-\epsilon} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{\Gamma(\epsilon)\Gamma(b_i)}{\Gamma(\epsilon+b_i)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly to Section 2, this product of quotients of Gamma functions is meromorphic on the interval $[0, b_n]$ except at zero, where it has a pole of order $n-1$, and so there exists a constant C such that

$$\prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{\Gamma(\epsilon)\Gamma(b_i)}{\Gamma(\epsilon+b_i)} \leq C\epsilon^{1-n}.$$

Hence

$$h(r) \ll r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} r^{-\epsilon} \epsilon^{1-n}.$$

Now there are two subcases: If $r \leq e^{-1/b_n}$, then $(\ln(1/r))^{-1} \leq b_n$. In this case, we choose $\epsilon = (\ln(1/r))^{-1}$ and obtain

$$(14) \quad h(r) \ll r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} e(\ln(1/r))^{n-1}.$$

On the other hand, if $r \geq e^{-1/b_n}$, we choose $\epsilon = b_n$ and obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
(15) \quad h(r) &\ll r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} r^{-b_n} b_n^{1-n} \\
&\leq r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} e b_n^{1-n}.
\end{aligned}$$

Combining (14) and (15) yields

$$\begin{aligned}
h(r) &\ll r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} (e(\ln(1/r))^{n-1} + e b_n^{1-n}) \\
&\ll r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1+\dots+b_{n-1}} (\ln(1/r))^{n-1} \quad \text{for all } 0 < r < 1.
\end{aligned}$$

This is enough for our purposes but we can get a more refined estimate as mentioned in the second case of Lemma A. Thus we reach the final case:

Case 4: there exists k such that $a_k > a_{k+1} = \cdots = a_n = a$. Let $F(r)$ be the Mellin convolution product of f_1, f_2, \dots, f_{k+1} and $G(r)$ be the Mellin convolution product of the rest, namely f_{k+2}, \dots, f_n . From the previous discussion it is clear that

$$F(r) \ll r^a (1-r)^{b_1 + \cdots + b_{k+1} - 1}$$

and

$$G(r) \ll r^a (1-r)^{b_{k+2} + \cdots + b_n - 1} (\ln(e/r))^{n-k-2}.$$

Let $b = b_1 + \cdots + b_{k+1}$, $d = b_{k+2} + \cdots + b_n$ and $n - k - 1 = l$. The case $l = 1$ has been treated previously. So assume $l > 1$. We see that

$$\begin{aligned} h(r) &= (F *_M G)(r) \\ &\ll \int_r^1 (r/t)^a (1-r/t)^{b-1} t^a (1-t)^{d-1} \left(\ln\left(\frac{e}{t}\right)\right)^{l-1} \frac{dt}{t} \\ &\leq r^a \int_r^1 (t-r)^{b-1} t^{-b} (1-t)^{d-1} \left(\ln\left(\frac{e}{t}\right)\right)^{l-1} \frac{dt}{t}. \end{aligned}$$

Now the change of variables $t = u + r - ur$ leads to $t - r = u(1 - r)$, $1 - t = (1 - u)(1 - r)$, $dt = (1 - r)du$ and

$$\begin{aligned} h(r) &\ll r^a \int_0^1 (1-r)^{b-1} u^{b-1} t^{-b} (1-r)^{d-1} (1-u)^{d-1} \left(\ln\left(\frac{e}{t}\right)\right)^{l-1} (1-r) du \\ &\leq r^a (1-r)^{b+d-1} \int_0^1 u^{b-1} t^{-b} (1-u)^{d-1} \left(\ln\left(\frac{e}{t}\right)\right)^{l-1} du. \end{aligned}$$

Noting that $t \geq u$ and $r > 0$, and choosing an arbitrary $0 < \epsilon \leq b$ implies

$$\begin{aligned} h(r) &\ll r^a (1-r)^{b+d-1} \int_0^1 u^{b-1} t^{-\epsilon} t^{\epsilon-b} (1-u)^{d-1} \left(\ln\left(\frac{e}{t}\right)\right)^{l-1} du \\ &\leq r^a (1-r)^{b+d-1} \int_0^1 u^{b-1} r^{-\epsilon} u^{\epsilon-b} (1-u)^{d-1} \left(\ln\left(\frac{e}{t}\right)\right)^{l-1} du \\ &\leq r^a (1-r)^{b+d-1} r^{-\epsilon} \int_0^1 u^{b-1} u^{\epsilon-b} (1-u)^{d-1} \left(\ln\left(\frac{e}{u}\right)\right)^{l-1} du \\ &\leq r^a (1-r)^{b+d-1} r^{-\epsilon} \int_0^1 u^{\epsilon-1} (1-u)^{d-1} \left(\ln\left(\frac{e}{u}\right)\right)^{l-1} du. \end{aligned}$$

Let $H_j(\epsilon) = \int_0^1 u^{\epsilon-1} (1-u)^{d-1} (\ln u)^j du$. This is the j -th derivative of the beta function $B(\epsilon, d)$ as a function of ϵ , and $B(\epsilon, d)$ is holomorphic on $(-1, \infty)$ except at zero where it has a simple pole with residue 1. This is easy to verify. So $\epsilon^{j+1} H_j(\epsilon)$ will be holomorphic on the interval $(-1, \infty)$. Observing that

$$\int_0^1 u^{\epsilon-1} (1-u)^{d-1} \left(\ln\left(\frac{e}{u}\right)\right)^{l-1} du$$

is a linear sum of the derivatives of order less than or equal to $l - 1$ of the Beta function, we find

$$\epsilon^l \int_0^1 u^{\epsilon-1} (1-u)^{d-1} \left(\ln \left(\frac{e}{u} \right) \right)^{l-1} du$$

is bounded by a constant C in the interval $[0, b]$. Thus

$$h(r) \ll r^a (1-r)^{b+d-1} r^{-\epsilon} \epsilon^{-l}.$$

Now arguing as in Case 3, if $r \leq e^{-1/b}$, we choose $\epsilon = 1/\ln(1/r)$ and get

$$h(r) \ll r^a (1-r)^{b+d-1} e(\ln(1/r))^l$$

and if $r > e^{-1/b}$, we let $\epsilon = b$, and have

$$h(r) \ll r^a (1-r)^{b+d-1} e/b^l.$$

Combining these two cases, we obtain

$$h(r) \ll r^a (1-r)^{b+d-1} (\ln(e/r))^l.$$

This fully proves Lemma A. □

6. Proof of Lemma B

We recall (13):

$$h(r) = r^{a_n} (1-r)^{b_1 + \dots + b_n - 1} \int_{I^{n-1}} \eta_{n-1}^{b_{n-1}} \prod_{i=1}^{n-2} \eta_i^{b_{i+1}} \\ \times \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} y_i^{a_i - a_{i+1} - b_{i+1}} \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (1 - \xi_i)^{b_i - 1} \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n-1} d\xi_i.$$

To make the differentiation easier, we introduce some notation. Let

$$\begin{aligned} A &= a_n, & B &= b_1 + \dots + b_n, \\ \eta &= (\eta_1, \dots, \eta_{n-1}), & \xi &= (\xi_1, \dots, \xi_{n-1}), & y &= (y_1, \dots, y_{n-1}), \\ \alpha_i &= a_i - a_{i+1} - b_{i+1} & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq n-1, \\ \beta_i &= b_{i+1} & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq n-2, & \beta_{n-1} &= b_n - 1, \\ \beta &= (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_{n-1}), & G(\xi) &= \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (1 - \xi_i)^{b_i - 1}, & d\xi &= \bigwedge_{i=1}^{n-1} d\xi_i, & J &= I^{n-1}. \end{aligned}$$

With this notation and the multiindex notation as for example $y^\alpha = y_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots y_{n-1}^{\alpha_{n-1}}$, (13) can be written as

$$(16) \quad h(r) = r^A(1-r)^{B-1} \int_J y^\alpha \eta^\beta G(\xi) d\xi.$$

Clearly the function $\eta^\beta G(\xi_i)$ is summable $d\xi$, and each $y_i = \eta_i + r(1 - \eta_i)$ satisfies $0 < r \leq y_i < 1$ for $0 < r < 1$. So one can differentiate under the integral sign with respect to r . But before we do that let us introduce the notation

$$g_1(r) = r^A, \quad g_2(r) = (1-r)^{B-1}, \quad u_i = y_i^{\alpha_i} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq n-1.$$

Rewrite (16) as

$$(17) \quad h(r) = \int_J g_1 g_2 u_1 \cdots u_{n-1} \eta^\beta G(\xi) d\xi.$$

Now differentiating under the integral sign, we obtain

$$(18) \quad h^{(k)}(r) = \sum \int_J g_1^{(l_1)} g_2^{(l_2)} u_1^{(j_1)} \cdots u_{n-1}^{(j_{n-1})} \eta^\beta G(\xi) d\xi,$$

where the sum is over all $(n+1)$ -tuples of nonnegative integers $(l_1, l_2, j_1, \dots, j_{n-1})$ such that $k = l_1 + l_2 + j_1 + \cdots + j_{n-1}$. Further it easy to check that

$$\begin{aligned} u_i^{(j_i)}(r) &= \alpha_i(\alpha_i - 1) \cdots (\alpha_i - j_i + 1) y_i^{\alpha_i - j_i} (1 - \eta_i)^{j_i}, \\ g_1^{(l_1)}(r) &= A(A - 1) \cdots (A - l_1 + 1) r^{A-l_1}, \\ g_2^{(l_2)}(r) &= (B - 1)(B - 2) \cdots (B - l_2) (-1)^{l_2} (1 - r)^{B-l_2-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $y_i \geq r$ and $0 \leq \eta_i \leq 1$, the equalities above imply

$$\begin{aligned} u_i^{(j_i)}(r) &\ll y_i^{\alpha_i} r^{-j_i} \\ g_1^{(l_1)}(r) &\ll g_1(r) r^{-l_1} \\ g_2^{(l_2)}(r) &\ll (1-r)^{B-k-1} = g_2(r) (1-r)^{-k}, \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality is obtained because $0 \leq l_2 \leq k$. From these three, we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} g_2^{(l_2)}(r) g_1^{(l_1)}(r) u_1^{(j_1)}(r) \cdots u_{n-1}^{(j_{n-1})}(r) &\ll g_2(r) (1-r)^{-k} g_1(r) u_1(r) \cdots \\ &\quad \cdots u_{n-1}(r) r^{-l_1 - j_1 - \cdots - j_{n-1}} \\ &\ll r^{-k} (1-r)^{-k} g_2(r) g_1(r) u_1(r) \cdots u_{n-1}(r). \end{aligned}$$

Multiplying both sides by $\eta^\beta G(\xi) d\xi$ and integrating over J yield

$$h^{(k)}(r) \ll r^{-k} (1-r)^{-k} h(r)$$

and by Lemma A,

$$h(r) \ll r^A(1-r)^{B-1}(\ln(e/r))^{n-1}.$$

Hence we have

$$h^{(k)}(r) \ll r^{A-k}(1-r)^{B-k-1}(\ln(e/r))^{n-1}.$$

This proves Lemma B. □

7. Acknowledgment

The authors would like to thank the referee for excellent suggestions.

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Received July 3, 2010. Revised December 18, 2010.

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The Pacific Journal of Mathematics (ISSN 0030-8730) at the University of California, c/o Department of Mathematics, 969 Evans Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-3840, is published monthly except July and August. Periodical rate postage paid at Berkeley, CA 94704, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Pacific Journal of Mathematics, P.O. Box 4163, Berkeley, CA 94704-0163.

PJM peer review and production are managed by EditFLOW™ from Mathematical Sciences Publishers.

PUBLISHED BY PACIFIC JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS

at the University of California, Berkeley 94720-3840

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Typeset in L^AT_EX

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PACIFIC JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS

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0030-8730(201107)252:1;1-B