

## COMPOSITION OF POTENTIALS WITH INNER FUNCTIONS

MANFRED STOLL

**Abstract.**

For a regular Borel measure  $\mu$  on the unit disc  $U$  satisfying  $(1 - |w|) \in L^1(\mu)$ , let  $G_\mu$  denote the Green potential of  $\mu$ . In the paper we characterize those measures  $\mu$  such that  $G_\mu \circ f$  is a good plurisuperharmonic function on the unit ball  $B$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  (or  $U^n$ ) for every inner function  $f$  on  $B$  (or  $U^n$ ). The results are then used to obtain several results concerning the boundary behavior of  $G_\mu(f(rt))$ .

**1. Introduction.**

For  $n \geq 1$ , let  $B$  or  $B_n$  denote the unit ball in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  with boundary  $S$ . For convenience, when  $n = 1$  we will denote the unit disc in  $\mathbb{C}$  by  $U$ , with boundary  $T$ . A nonconstant bounded holomorphic function  $f : B \rightarrow U$  is called an *inner function* on  $B$  if  $|f^*(t)| = 1$  a.e. on  $S$ , where

$$f^*(t) = \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} f(rt).$$

As in [7,9], an inner function  $f$  on  $B$  is said to be *good* if

$$(1.1) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \int_S \log |f(rt)| d\sigma(t) = 0,$$

where  $\sigma$  denotes the normalized rotation-invariant measure on  $S$ . In the disc, the good inner functions are precisely the Blaschke products.

In the unit disc  $U$ , a superharmonic function  $V$  with  $V(z) \geq 0$  is called a potential on  $U$  if the greatest harmonic minorant of  $V$  is the zero function. It is well known that this is equivalent to

$$(1.2) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \int_0^{2\pi} V(re^{i\theta}) d\theta = 0,$$

and if this is the case, then

$$(1.3) \quad V(z) = G_\mu(z) = \int_U G(z, w) d\mu(w),$$

where  $G$  is the Green function of  $U$  given by

$$G(z, w) = \log \left| \frac{1 - \bar{w}z}{w - z} \right|,$$

and  $\mu$  is a nonnegative regular Borel measure on  $U$  satisfying

$$(1.4) \quad \int_U (1 - |w|) d\mu(w) < \infty.$$

The superharmonic function  $G_\mu(z)$  as defined by (1.3) is called the *Green potential* of the measure  $\mu$ . The condition (1.4) is necessary and sufficient that  $G_\mu \not\equiv +\infty$ .

In [3], M. Heins proved that if  $B(z)$  is a Blaschke product in  $U$ , then

$$(1.5) \quad \liminf_{r \rightarrow 1} (1 - r) \log \frac{1}{|B(rt)|} = 0$$

for all  $t \in T$ . This result was extended by the author in [10] to arbitrary Green potentials on  $U$  as follows:

**THEOREM A.** *If  $G_\mu$  is a Green potential of a measure  $\mu$  satisfying (1.4), then for all curves  $\gamma: [0, 1) \rightarrow U$  with  $\lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \gamma(r) = 1$ ,*

$$(1.6) \quad \liminf_{r \rightarrow 1} (1 - |\gamma(r)|) G_\mu(\gamma(r)t) = 0$$

for all  $t \in T$ .

If  $B$  is a Blaschke product with zeros  $\{a_n\}$ ,  $a_n \neq 0$ , satisfying the Blaschke condition  $\sum (1 - |a_n|) < \infty$ , then  $-\log |B(z)| = G_\mu(z)$  where  $\mu = \sum \delta_{a_n}$ , and  $\delta_{a_n}$  is point mass measure at  $a_n$ . Thus (1.5) follows from (1.6) with  $\gamma(r) = r$ . An alternate way to consider the function  $-\log |B(z)|$  is as the composition of the potential  $G_{\delta_0}$  with the inner function  $B$ , i.e.,

$$-\log |B(z)| = G_{\delta_0}(B(z)),$$

where  $\delta_0$  is point mass at 0. The purpose of the paper is to consider the composition of a potential  $G_\mu$  with an inner function  $f$  on the ball  $B$  (or the polydisc  $U^n$ ), and to consider generalizations of (1.5) for  $G_\mu \circ f$ .

As we will see in section 2, if  $G_\mu$  is the potential of a regular Borel measure  $\mu$ , then  $G_\mu \circ f$  is plurisuperharmonic on  $B$  for every nonconstant holomorphic function  $f: B \rightarrow U$ . In analogy with (1.1) and (1.2), we will say that a plurisuper-

harmonic function  $V \geq 0$  on  $B$  is good if

$$(1.7) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \int_S V(rt) d\sigma(t) = 0.$$

Since plurisuperharmonic functions are also superharmonic on  $B$ , any plurisuperharmonic function  $V$  satisfying (1.7) can also be expressed as  $V = G_\nu$  for some measure  $\nu$  on  $B$ , where  $G$  is the euclidean Green function for  $B$ .

The main result of the paper (Theorem 1) characterizes the regular Borel measures  $\mu$  on  $U$  such that  $G_\mu \circ f$  is good for every inner function  $f$  on  $B$ . Specifically, we will prove that  $G_\mu \circ f$  is good for every inner function  $f$  if and only  $\mu(K) = 0$  for every compact subset  $K$  of  $U$  of capacity zero. As a consequence of Theorem 1 and Theorem A, for such a measure  $\mu$ ,

$$(1.8) \quad \liminf_{r \rightarrow 1} (1 - r)G_\mu(f(rt)) = 0$$

for every inner function  $f : U \rightarrow U$  and every  $t \in T$ . By example, we will show that (1.8) in general is false for  $n > 1$ . However, in Theorem 6, we will prove that if we restrict ourselves to those  $t \in S$  for which  $|f^*(t)| = 1$ , then (1.8) is valid for every potential  $G_\mu$ .

The main result of the paper is stated and proved in section 3. In section 4 we give two examples of measures satisfying the hypothesis  $\mu(K) = 0$  for every compact subset  $K$  of  $U$  of capacity zero. Finally, in section 5 we give several applications of the result to boundary limits of  $G_\mu(f(rt))$ .

## 2. Preliminaries.

Let  $\Omega$  be a domain in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . A lower semicontinuous function  $V : \Omega \rightarrow (-\infty, \infty]$ , with  $V \not\equiv \infty$ , is said to be *plurisuperharmonic* on  $\Omega$  if for each  $a \in \Omega$  and  $b \in \mathbb{C}^n$ , the function  $\lambda \rightarrow V(a + \lambda b)$  is superharmonic in a neighborhood of 0 in  $\mathbb{C}$ . The class of *plurisubharmonic* and the class of *pluriharmonic* functions on  $\Omega$  are defined analogously. As in the unit disc, it is easily shown that if  $V \geq 0$  is a good plurisuperharmonic function on  $B$ , then the greatest pluriharmonic minorant of  $V$  is the zero function.

For a compact subset  $K$  of  $U$ , the (Green) capacity of  $K$  is defined to be

$$C_g(K) = \sup \{ \mu(K) : S_\mu \subset K \text{ and } G_\mu \leq 1 \text{ on } K \},$$

where  $S_\mu$  denotes the support of the measure  $\mu$ . Thus a compact subset  $K$  of  $U$  has *positive capacity* if there exists a positive measure  $\mu$  supported on  $K$  such that the Green potential  $G_\mu$  is bounded on  $U$ . An arbitrary set  $E$  has positive capacity if some compact subset of  $E$  has positive capacity.

For a fixed compact set  $K$ , let  $\mathcal{M}_K^+$  denote the set of Borel measures  $\mu$  with

$S_\mu \subset K$  and  $\mu(K) = 1$ . A measure  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_K^+$  is said to have *finite energy* if  $I_g(\mu) < \infty$ , where  $I_g(\mu)$  denotes the *energy integral* of  $\mu$  given by

$$I_g(\mu) = \int_K G_\mu(z) d\mu(z).$$

It is well known that if  $C_g(K) > 0$ , then there exists a unique measure  $\mu_K \in \mathcal{M}_K^+$ , called the *equilibrium measure* of  $K$ , which minimizes the energy integral and satisfies

$$I_g(\mu_K) = \frac{1}{C_g(K)}.$$

Finally, for  $w \in U$ , let  $\varphi_w$  be the biholomorphic automorphism of  $U$  given by

$$\varphi_w(z) = \frac{w - z}{1 - \bar{w}z}.$$

Then  $G(z, w) = -\log |\varphi_w(z)|$ .

LEMMA 1. *If  $f$  is an inner function on  $B$ , then*

- (1)  $\varphi \circ f$  is an inner function on  $B$  for every inner function  $\varphi$  on  $U$ , and
- (2)  $\varphi_w \circ f$  is a good inner function on  $B$  for all  $w \in U$  except possibly a subset of  $U$  of capacity zero.

PROOF. That  $\varphi \circ f$  is an inner function on  $B$  is due to W. Rudin [9, Theorem 17.5]. The proof of (2) is identical to the corresponding result in the unit disc, which is initially due to O. Frostman [2].

LEMMA 2. *Let  $G_\mu$  be the Green potential of a regular Borel measure  $\mu$  satisfying (1.4) and let  $f: B \rightarrow U$  be a nonconstant holomorphic function. Then*

- (1)  $G_\mu(f(z))$  is plurisuperharmonic on  $B$ , and
- (2)  $G_\mu(f(z))$  is pluriharmonic for all  $z \in B$  such that  $f(z) \notin S_\mu$ .

PROOF. The proof is an immediate consequence of the fact that for fixed  $w \in U$ , the function  $z \rightarrow G(f(z), w)$  is plurisuperharmonic on  $B$ , and pluriharmonic for all  $z$  such that  $f(z) \notin w$ .

LEMMA 3. *If  $V$  is plurisuperharmonic on  $B$ , then for  $0 < \rho < r < 1$ ,*

$$(2.2) \quad \int_S V(rt) d\sigma(t) \leq \int_S V(\rho t) d\sigma(t).$$

PROOF. Since (2.2) holds for superharmonic functions (e.g. [4, p. 103]), it also holds for plurisuperharmonic functions.

REMARK. If  $B$  is replaced by the unit polydisc  $U^n$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , then the results of Lemmas 1 through 3 are still valid for inner functions on  $U^n$ . In this setting, a bounded holomorphic function  $f$  on  $U^n$  is inner if  $|f^*(t)| = 1$  a.e. on  $T^n$ , where  $f^*(t) = \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} f(rt)$  [7], and a nonnegative plurisuperharmonic function  $V$  on  $U^n$  is good, if

$$(2.3) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \int_{T^n} V(rt) dm_n(t) = 0,$$

where  $m_n$  is normalized Lebesgue measure on  $T^n$ .

### 3. Composition of potentials with inner functions.

If  $f$  is an inner function on  $B$  (or  $U^n$ ), let

$$E_f = \{w \in U : \varphi_w \circ f \text{ is not good}\}.$$

That the set  $E_f$  is a Borel set is obtained as follows: For  $w \in U$  and  $0 < r < 1$ , set

$$(3.1) \quad U_r(w) = \int_S G(f(rt), w) d\sigma(t).$$

Then  $U_r$  is lower semicontinuous on  $U$ , and thus  $U(w) = \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} U_r(w)$  is Borel measurable on  $U$ . Since  $E_f = \{w : U(w) > 0\}$ ,  $E_f$  is a Borel set.

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $G_\mu$  be the potential of a regular Borel measure  $\mu$  satisfying (1.4).*

- (1) *If  $f$  is an inner function on  $B$  (or  $U^n$ ), then  $G_\mu \circ f$  is good if and only if  $\mu(E_f) = 0$ .*
- (2)  *$G_\mu \circ f$  is good for every inner function  $f$  on  $B$  (or  $U^n$ ) if and only if  $\mu(K) = 0$  for every compact subset  $K$  of  $U$  of capacity zero*

**PROOF.** (1). Let  $f$  be a nonconstant inner function on  $B$  (or  $U^n$ ). By Tonelli's Theorem,

$$(3.2) \quad \int_S G_\mu(f(rt)) d\sigma(t) = \int_U \int_S G(f(rt), w) d\sigma(t) d\mu(w) = \int_U U_r(w) d\mu(w),$$

where  $U_r$  is as defined by (3.1). If  $f$  is an inner function on  $U^n$ , the integration is taken over  $T^n$ .

Suppose  $\mu(E_f) = 0$ . Since  $\varphi_w \circ f$  is good for every  $w \in U \sim E_f$ ,

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 1} U_r(w) = 0 \quad \mu\text{-a.e.}$$

Since  $z \rightarrow G(f(z), w)$  is plurisuperharmonic on  $B$  for each  $w \in U$ , by Lemma 3 we have  $0 \leq U_r(w) \leq U_{\frac{1}{2}}(w)$  for all  $w \in U$  and all  $r, \frac{1}{2} \leq r < 1$ . Furthermore,

$$\int_U U_{\frac{1}{2}}(w) d\mu(w) = \int_S G_\mu(f(rt)) d\sigma(t) < \infty,$$

since  $G_\mu \circ f$  is superharmonic (e.g. [4, p. 67]). Thus by (3.2) and Lebesgue's Dominated Convergence Theorem,

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \int_S G_\mu(f(rt)) d\sigma(t) = \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \int_U U_r(w) d\mu(w) = \int_U \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} U_r(w) d\mu(w) = 0.$$

Conversely, suppose  $\mu(E_f) > 0$ . Since  $\mu$  is regular, there exists a compact set  $K$  with  $K \subset E_f$  such that  $\mu(K) > 0$ . Thus

$$G_\mu(f(z)) \geq \int_K G(f(z), w) d\mu(w),$$

and with  $U_r$  as defined by (3.1),

$$\int_S G_\mu(f(rt)) d\sigma(t) \geq \int_K U_r(w) d\mu(w).$$

But  $U(w) = \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} U_r(w) > 0$  for all  $w \in K$ . Hence by Fatou's Lemma,

$$0 < \int_K U(w) d\mu(w) \leq \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \int_K U_r(w) d\mu(w) \leq \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \int_S G_\mu(f(rt)) d\sigma(t),$$

and thus  $G_\mu \circ f$  is not good.

PROOF OF (2). Let  $f$  be any inner function on  $B$  (or  $U^n$ ). Suppose  $\mu$  satisfies  $\mu(K) = 0$  for every compact subset  $K$  of  $U$  of capacity zero. By Lemma 1,  $E_f$  has capacity zero. Since  $\mu$  is regular,  $\mu(E_f) = \sup \{\mu(K)\}$ , where the sup is taken over all compact subsets  $K$  of  $E_f$ . Thus  $\mu(E_f) = 0$ , and thus  $G_\mu \circ f$  is good by (1).

Conversely, Suppose  $K$  is a compact subset of  $U$  of capacity zero with  $\mu(K) > 0$ . By [1, p. 118] there exists an inner function  $\varphi$  on  $U$  whose range is precisely  $U \sim K$ . Let  $g$  be any inner function on  $B$ . Then  $f(z) = \varphi(g(z))$  is an inner function on  $B$  whose range is contained in  $U \sim K$ . Since

$$G_\mu(f(z)) \geq \int_K G(f(z), w) d\mu(w),$$

$$\int_S G_\mu(f(rt)) d\sigma(t) \geq \int_K \int_S \log \left| \frac{1 - \bar{w}f(rt)}{w - f(rt)} \right| d\sigma(t) d\mu(w).$$

But  $F(z) = G(f(z), w)$  is pluriharmonic on  $B$  for all  $w \in K$ . Therefore

$$\int_S G(f(rt), w) d\sigma(t) = G(f(0), w),$$

and hence, for all  $r, 0 < r < 1$ ,

$$\int_S G_\mu(f(rt)) d\sigma(t) \geq \int_K G(f(0), w) d\mu(w),$$

which proves the result.

#### 4. Examples.

In this section we provide two examples of measures satisfying (1.4) and  $\mu(K) = 0$  for every compact set  $K$  with  $C_g(K) = 0$ . If  $\mu$  is a regular Borel measure on  $U$ , we adopt the notation  $\mu \ll\ll C_g$  to mean that  $\mu(K) = 0$  for every compact subset  $K$  of  $U$  with  $C_g(K) = 0$ . This notion is sometimes referred to as  $C$ -absolute continuity.

EXAMPLE 1. Let  $h$  be a nonnegative Borel measurable function on  $U$  satisfying

$$(4.1) \quad \int_U (1 - |w|)h(w) dA(w) < \infty,$$

where  $A$  denotes area measure on  $U$ . Then  $\mu$  defined by

$$(4.2) \quad \mu(E) = \int_E h(w) dA(w)$$

is clearly a regular Borel measure on  $U$  satisfying (1.4). Since every compact set  $K$  of capacity zero has planar measure zero,  $\mu \ll\ll C_g$ .

EXAMPLE 2. Let  $K$  be any compact subset of  $U$  with  $C_g(K) > 0$ , and let  $\mu_K$  be the equilibrium measure of  $K$  as defined in section 2. Suppose  $C$  is any compact subset of  $U$  with  $C_g(C) = 0$ . Then

$$\mu_K(C) = \mu_K(C \sim K) + \mu_K(C \cap K).$$

Since  $C \sim K \subset \tilde{S}_{\mu_K}$ ,  $\mu_K(C \sim K) = 0$ . If  $\mu_K(C \cap K) > 0$ , then  $C_g(C \cap K) > 0$ , and thus  $C_g(C) > 0$ , which is a contradiction. Thus  $\mu_K \ll\ll C_g$ . In fact, the same argument shows that if  $\mu$  is any measure with  $S_\mu \subset K$  for which the energy integral  $I_g(\mu) < \infty$ , then  $\mu \ll\ll C_g$ .

As a consequence of this example we obtain the following variation of the Theorem of Frostman:

THEOREM 2. *If  $E$  is a subset of  $U$  with  $C_g(E) > 0$ , then there exists a measure  $\mu$  on  $U$  with  $S_\mu \subset E$  such that  $G_\mu \circ f$  is good for all inner functions  $f$  on  $B$  (or  $U^n$ ).*

#### 5. Applications to Boundary limits.

In this section we will consider several applications of Theorem 1 to boundary limits of  $G_\mu(f(rt))$ , where  $f$  is an inner function on  $B$  or  $U^n$ . The results are new even in the case  $n = 1$ .

If  $G_\mu$  is the potential of a measure  $\mu$  on  $U$ , then by a classical result of Littlewood [5],

$$(5.1) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} G_\mu(rt) = 0$$

for almost every  $t \in T$ . It is also known (see [11]) that in general  $G_\mu$  need not have a nontangential limit at any point  $t \in T$ , even if  $\mu$  is an absolutely continuous measure. However, for  $G_\mu(f(z))$  we have the following:

**THEOREM 3.** *Let  $G_\mu$  be the potential of a regular Borel measure  $\mu$  satisfying (1.4).*

(1) *If  $f$  is an inner function on  $B$  (or  $U^n$ ) for which  $\mu(E_f) = 0$ , then*

$$(5.2) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} G_\mu(f(rt)) = 0 \quad \text{a.e. } t \in S \text{ (or } T^n).$$

(2) *If  $\mu \ll C_g$ , then (5.2) holds for every inner function  $f$  on  $B$  (or  $U^n$ ).*

**PROOF.** Let  $V(z) = G_\mu(f(z))$ . Thus by Theorem 1, if either (1) or (2) hold,  $V$  is a good plurisuperharmonic function on  $B$  (or  $U^n$ ). By [8, Prop. 1.4.7], for  $n \geq 2$ ,

$$\int_S V(rt) d\sigma(t) = \int_S \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} V(re^{i\theta}t) d\theta d\sigma(t).$$

As a consequence, the function  $V_t$  defined on  $U$  by  $V_t(\lambda t)$  is a potential on  $U$  for almost every  $t \in S$  (or  $T^n$ ). When  $n = 1$ ,  $V$  itself is a potential on  $U$ . Thus (5.2) is now an immediate consequence of (5.1).

**COROLLARY 1.** *If  $B$  is a finite Blaschke product in  $U$ , then*

$$(5.3) \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} G_\mu(B(rt)) = 0 \quad \text{a.e. } t \in T$$

for every potential  $G_\mu$  on  $U$ .

**PROOF.** If  $B$  is a finite Blaschke product, then  $\varphi_w \circ B$  is good for every  $w \in U$ . Thus  $E_B = \phi$ .

Another application of Theorem 1 is the following generalization of the result (1.5) of M. Heins:

**THEOREM 4.** *Let  $G_\mu$  be the Green potential of a regular Borel measure  $\mu$  satisfying (1.4).*

(1) *If  $f$  is an inner function on  $U$  for which  $\mu(E_f) = 0$ , then*

$$(5.4) \quad \liminf_{r \rightarrow 1} (1 - r)G_\mu(f(rt)) = 0 \quad \text{for all } t \in T.$$

(2) *If  $\mu \ll C_g$ , then (5.4) holds for every inner function  $f$  on  $U$ .*



PROOF. If either (1) or (2) hold, then by Theorem 1,  $V_f(z) = G_\mu(f(z))$  is a potential on  $U$ . Thus the result follows from Theorem A with  $\gamma(r) = r$ .

Theorem 4 can be extended to inner functions on  $U^n$  as follows:

THEOREM 5. *If  $\mu \ll C_g$ , then*

$$(5.5) \quad \liminf_{(r) \rightarrow (1)} \left( \prod_{j=1}^n (1 - r_j) \right) G_\mu(f(r_1 t_1, \dots, r_n t_n)) = 0$$

for all  $t \in T^n$ , where  $(r) = (r_1, \dots, r_n)$ .

PROOF. If  $f$  is an inner function on  $U^n$ , then since  $V_f(z) = G_\mu(f(z))$  is plurisuperharmonic on  $U^n$ ,  $V_f$  is also  $n$ -superharmonic on  $U^n$ , i.e., superharmonic in each variable  $z_j$ . The result now follows by [6, Lemma 3.1].

The following example shows that for  $n \geq 2$ , the analogue of (5.4) is not valid for the unit ball  $B$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

EXAMPLE 3. There exists a measure  $\mu \ll C_g$ , an inner function  $f$  on  $B$ , and  $t \in S$ , such that

$$(5.6) \quad G_\mu(f(rt)) \equiv \infty$$

for all  $r$ ,  $0 < r < 1$ .

PROOF. Let  $\mu$  be an absolutely continuous regular Borel measure given by a nonnegative Borel measurable function  $h$  satisfying

$$(5.7) \quad \int_U h(w) \log \frac{1}{|w|} dA(w) = \infty.$$

An example of such an  $h$  is  $h(w) = |w|^{-2} (-\log |w|)^{-2}$  for  $|w| \leq \frac{1}{2}$ , and  $h(w) = 0$  elsewhere. If  $\mu$  is the measure given by (4.2), then  $\mu \ll C_g$  and  $G_\mu(0) = \infty$ . For  $z = (z_1, \dots, z_n)$ , let  $z' = (z_1, \dots, z_{n-1})$ . By [9, Theorem 8.4], there exists a nonconstant inner function  $f$  on  $B_n$  such that  $f(z', 0) = 0$  for all  $z' \in B_{n-1}$ . Thus if  $t \in S$  is such that  $t_n = 0$ , we have  $f(rt) = f(rt', 0) = 0$ . Thus for this  $f$  and  $t$ ,  $G_\mu(f(rt)) \equiv \infty$  for all  $r$ ,  $0 < r < 1$ .

Although the above example shows that the analogue of (5.4) does not in general hold for inner functions on  $B_n$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , the result is valid for those boundary points  $t \in S$  for which  $|f^*(t)| = 1$ .

THEOREM 6. *Let  $G_\mu$  be the potential of a measure  $\mu$  satisfying (1.4) and let  $f$  be an inner function on  $B$ . Then*

$$(5.8) \quad \liminf_{r \rightarrow 1} (1 - r) G_\mu(f(rt)) = 0$$

for all  $t \in S$  for which  $|f^*(t)| = 1$ .

PROOF. Let  $t \in S$  be such that  $|f^*(t)| = 1$ , and let  $\gamma$  be the curve in  $U$  given by  $\gamma(r) = f(rt)\bar{\beta}$ , where  $\beta = f^*(t)$ . Then  $\gamma(r) \rightarrow 1$  as  $r \rightarrow 1$ , and  $G_\mu(f(rt)) = G_\mu(\gamma(r)\bar{\beta})$ . Thus by Theorem A,

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow 1} (1 - |f(rt)|) G_\mu(f(rt)) = 0.$$

Let  $b = f(0)$ . By Schwartz's Lemma [8, Theorem 8.1.4],

$$\frac{|1 - \bar{b}f(z)|^2}{1 - |f(z)|^2} \leq \frac{1 - |b|^2}{1 - |z|^2}$$

for all  $z \in B$ . As a consequence,

$$\frac{1 - r^2}{1 - |f(rt)|^2} \leq \frac{1 - |b|^2}{|1 - \bar{b}f(rt)|^2} \leq \frac{1 + |b|}{1 - |b|}.$$

Thus there exists a constant  $C$  such that

$$(1 - r)G_\mu(f(rt)) \leq C(1 - |f(rt)|)G_\mu(f(rt))$$

for all  $r$ ,  $0 < r < 1$ , from which the result now follows.

REMARKS.

(1) In Theorem 4, we must have  $\mu(E_f) = 0$ . For example, if we take

$$f(z) = \exp\left(\frac{z+1}{z-1}\right),$$

then  $0 \in E_f$ . Thus if  $\mu = \delta_0$ , for this  $f$ ,

$$(1 - r)G_{\delta_0}(f(r)) = 1 + r.$$

(2) In Theorem 6 we did not require that  $\mu \ll C_g$ . If indeed  $\mu \ll C_g$  and  $f$  is an inner function on  $B$ , then as a consequence of Theorem 4, (5.8) will hold for all  $t \in S$  for which  $f_t$  is inner.

#### REFERENCES

1. S. T. Fisher, *Function Theory on Planar Domains*, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1983.
2. O. Frostman, *Potential d'équilibre et capacité des ensembles*, Lunds Univ. Mat. Sem. 3 (1935).
3. M. Heins, *The minimum modulus of a bounded analytic function*, Duke Math. J. 14 (1947), 179-215.
4. L. L. Helms, *Introduction to Potential Theory*, Wiley-Interscience, New York, 1969.

5. J. E. Littlewood, *On functions subharmonic in a circle*, II, Proc. London Math. Soc. 28 (1929), 383–394.
6. W. Nestlerode and M. Stoll, *Radial limits of  $n$ -subharmonic functions in the polydisc*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. 279 (1983), 691–703.
7. W. Rudin, *Function Theory in Polydiscs*, Benjamin, New York, 1969.
8. W. Rudin, *Function Theory in the Unit Ball of  $\mathbb{C}^n$* , Springer-Verlag, New York, 1980.
9. W. Rudin, *New Constructions of Functions Holomorphic in the Unit Ball of  $\mathbb{C}^n$* , Amer. Math. Soc., Providence, R.I., 1986.
10. M. Stoll, *Boundary limits of Green potentials in the unit disc*, Arch. Math. 44 (1985), 451–455.
11. E. Tolsted, *Limiting values of subharmonic functions*, Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. 1 (1950), 636–647.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COLUMBIA, SC 29208  
U.S.A.

---