ON THE SIZE OF LEMNISCATES OF POLYNOMIALS IN ONE AND SEVERAL VARIABLES

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Abstract. In the convergence theory of rational interpolation and Padé approximation, it is essential to estimate the size of the lemniscatic set $E := \{ z : |z| \leq r$ and $|P(z)| \leq \epsilon^n \}$, for a polynomial $P$ of degree $\leq n$. Usually, $P$ is taken to be monic, and either Cartan’s Lemma or potential theory is used to estimate the size of $E$, in terms of Hausdorff contents, planar Lebesgue measure $m_2$, or logarithmic capacity $\operatorname{cap}$. Here we normalize $\|P\|_{L^\infty(|z| \leq r)} = 1$ and show that $\operatorname{cap}(E) \leq 2r\epsilon$ and $m_2(E) \leq \pi(2r\epsilon)^2$ are the sharp estimates for the size of $E$. Our main result, however, involves generalizations of this to polynomials in several variables, as measured by Lebesgue measure on $\mathbb{C}^n$ or product capacity and Favaro’s capacity. Several of our estimates are sharp with respect to order in $r$ and $\epsilon$.

§1. Introduction

In the convergence theory of Padé approximation, and more generally rational interpolation, an essential ingredient is an estimate on the size of the lemniscate

$$E(P; \epsilon) := \{ z : |P(z)| \leq \epsilon^n \},$$

where $P$ is a polynomial of degree $\leq n$. There are several ways to provide this estimate. Cartan’s Lemma shows that if $P$ is normalized to be monic of degree $n$, then we can cover this set by a union of $\ell \leq n$ balls $B_j$, $1 \leq j \leq \ell$, whose diameters $d(B_j)$ satisfy, for a given $\alpha > 0$,

$$\ell \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} (d(B_j))^\alpha \leq e4^\alpha \epsilon^\alpha.$$

The remarkable thing about the estimate is its independence of the degree of $P$. See [1, p. 194], [7], [9], [12], [14] for further details and extensions. As far as we know, the sharp constant (that should replace $e4^\alpha$) in Cartan’s Lemma is still an unsolved problem. The authors thank Peter Borwein for informing them that the conjectured sharp constant for $\alpha = 1$ is 4.
An even more appropriate set function to measure \( E(P; \epsilon) \) for monic \( P \) is logarithmic capacity. Amongst the many equivalent definitions, we mention the one involving the Chebyshev constant: For compact \( F \subset \mathbb{C} \),

\[
\text{cap}(F) := \lim_{n \to \infty} \left[ \min \left\{ \|P\|_{L_{\infty}(F)} : P \text{ monic of degree } n \right\} \right]^{1/n}.
\]

See [7], [9], [12]. Here we have the identity

(1.3) \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \text{cap}(E(P; \epsilon)) = \epsilon.

In applications of these to Padé approximation, one usually has to estimate

(1.4) \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \|P\|_{L_{\infty}(|t|=r)} / |P(z)|,

where \( |z| < r \) lies outside some exceptional set. Normalizing \( P \) to be monic helps us to estimate the denominator in (1.4), but then zeros of \( P \) of large modulus are troublesome in estimating the numerator. To circumvent this, researchers in Padé approximation such as Nuttall, Pommerenke, Goncar, and others [8], [13], [15] split the zeros of \( P \) into sets \( \{u_j : |u_j| \leq 2r\} \) and \( \{v_j : |v_j| > 2r\} \) and normalized \( P \) as

\[ P(z) = \prod_j (z - u_j) \prod_j (1 - z/v_j). \]

Since for \( |z| \leq r \),

\[ \frac{1}{2} < |1 - z/v_j| < \frac{3}{2}; \ |z - u_j| \leq 3r \]

we easily see that

\[ \|P\|_{L_{\infty}(|t|=r)} / |P(z)| \leq \left( 3 \max\{1, r\} \right)^n / \left| \prod_j (z - u_j) \right| \]

and now the size of the exceptional set can be estimated by (1.2) or (1.3).

In studying convergence theory of Padé approximants of several variables [5], [8], [11], one can try to extend this approach to several variable polynomials \( P(z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_\ell) \). One can fix \( z_2, z_3, \ldots, z_\ell \) and then factorize as above in terms of \( z_1 \). However the \( u_j \) and \( v_j \) depend in a complicated way (implicit function theorem, etc.) on the other variables \( z_j, \ 2 \leq j \leq \ell \), and normalization becomes a real problem.

So we found it desirable to instead normalize

(1.5) \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \|P\|_{L_{\infty}(|z|=r)} = 1

and study directly the size of

(1.6) \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ E(P; r; \epsilon) := \left\{ z : |z| \leq r \text{ and } |P(z)| \leq \epsilon^n \right\},
in the hope of producing an approach that will more easily extend to polynomials in several variables. Of course, this normalization avoids having to separate zeros of $P$ into large and small modulus when we estimate the ratio (1.4).

Let $m_2$ denote planar Lebesgue measure and, for $\alpha > 0$, let $h_\alpha$ denote $\alpha$-dimensional Hausdorff content, so that

$$h_\alpha(E) := \inf \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^\infty (d(B_j))^\alpha : \{B_j\} \text{ are balls with } E \subset \bigcup_{j=1}^\infty B_j \right\}.$$  

Here $d(B_j)$ denotes the diameter of $B_j$. Of course, for measurable $E$,

$$m_2(E) = \frac{\pi}{4} h_2(E).$$

The sharp form of (a) of the following simple one-variable result is apparently new:

**Theorem 1.1.** (a) For polynomials $P$ of degree $\leq n$, normalized by (1.5), and $\epsilon > 0$, we have

$$\operatorname{cap}(E(P; r; \epsilon)) \leq 2r \epsilon;$$  

(1.8) \hspace{1cm} \text{and} \hspace{1cm} $$m_2(E(P; r; \epsilon)) \leq \pi (2r \epsilon)^2.$$  

(1.9)

If $L$ is any line in the plane, then

$$h_1(L \cap E(P; r; \epsilon)) \leq 8r \epsilon.$$  

(1.10)

Given $n \geq 1$ and $r > 0$, (1.8) and (1.9) are sharp in the sense that

$$\sup_{P, \epsilon} \frac{\operatorname{cap}(E(P; r; \epsilon))}{\epsilon} = 2r;$$  

(1.11) \hspace{1cm} \text{and} \hspace{1cm} $$\sup_{P, \epsilon} \frac{m_2(E(P; r; \epsilon))}{\epsilon^2} = \pi (2r)^2.$$  

(1.12)

In each case the sup is taken over $\epsilon > 0$ and polynomials $P$ of degree $n$ satisfying (1.5). Moreover, (1.10) is almost sharp in the sense that given $n \geq 1$ and $r > 0$,

$$\sup_{L, P, \epsilon} \frac{h_1(L \cap E(P; r; \epsilon))}{\epsilon} \geq 8r 2^{1/n}.$$  

(1.13)

In the last sup, $L$ refers to all lines in $\mathbb{C}$.

(b) Given $\alpha > 0$ and $P$ of degree $\leq n$, normalized by (1.5), we have

$$h_\alpha(E(P; r; \epsilon)) \leq 18(4r \epsilon)^\alpha.$$  

(1.14)

Of course, (1.10) shows that the diameter of $E(P; r; \epsilon)$ is at most $8r \epsilon$, and our examples that prove (1.13) show this is sharp as $n \to \infty$. We remark that using Nuttall’s method, Pommerenke [15] established the weaker estimate

$$\operatorname{cap}(E(P; r; \epsilon)) \leq 3r \epsilon.$$
Our proof of (1.8) involves the Walsh–Bernstein lemma and simple estimates on Green’s functions. Then standard inequalities relating $h_\alpha$ and $m_2$ to cap give (1.9), (1.10), (1.14).

As we have mentioned, our main goal is estimation of the lemniscates of polynomials of several variables. Some intuition is provided by the polynomial

$$P(z, w) := (zw)^n.$$  

We see that given $r \geq \epsilon > 0$,

$$
E(P; r; \epsilon) := \left\{ (z, w) : |z|, |w| \leq r \text{ and } |P(z, w)| \leq \epsilon \right\} \\
= \left\{ (z, w) : |z|, |w| \leq r \text{ and } |zw| \leq \epsilon \right\} \\
= \bigcup_{|w| \leq r} \left\{ (z, w) : |z| \leq \min \{r, \epsilon/|w|\} \right\}.
$$

Then if $m_4$ denotes Lebesgue measure on $\mathbb{C}^2$, Fubini’s theorem gives

$$
m_4(E(P; r; \epsilon)) = m_2 \times m_2(E(P; r; \epsilon)) = \int_{|w| \leq r} \pi \min \{r, \epsilon/|w|\}^2 dm_2(w)
$$

(1.15)

$$
= \pi^2 \epsilon^2 \left[ 1 + 2 \log \frac{r^2}{\epsilon} \right],
$$

provided $r^2 \geq \epsilon$. If $r^2 < \epsilon$, we obtain instead $(\pi r^2)^2$. (We used polar coordinates to compute the integral.) As $r \to \infty$, the measure of $E(P; r; \epsilon) \to \infty$, which is surprising when one thinks of one variable, for which the measure/content/cap is bounded independent of $r$. If we consider the normalized polynomial

(1.16)

$$P_1(z, w) := (z w / r^2)^n,$$

which has

(1.17)

$$\max_{|z|, |w| \leq r} |P_1(z, w)| = 1,$$

then we see that

$$
E(P_1; r; \epsilon) := \left\{ (z, w) : |z|, |w| \leq r \text{ and } |P_1(z, w)| \leq \epsilon^n \right\} \\
= \left\{ (z, w) : |z|, |w| \leq r \text{ and } |zw| \leq (\epsilon r^2) \right\}
$$

(1.18)

so we can apply (1.15) if we replace $\epsilon$ there by $\epsilon r^2$. Thus if $\epsilon \leq 1$,

(1.19)

$$m_4(E(P_1; r; \epsilon)) = (\pi r^2 \epsilon)^2 \left[ 1 + 2 \log \frac{1}{\epsilon} \right].$$

(If $\epsilon > 1$, it is instead $(\pi r^2)^2$.) This simple example shows that our next result has estimates of the correct order in $r$ and $\epsilon$ for 2 dimensions, and for more general
k dimensions, one can perform analogous calculations with $P(z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_k) := (z_1 z_2 \ldots z_k / r^k)^n$.

Our two main theorems treat polynomials $P(z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_k)$ that are of degree $\leq n$ in each variable $z_j$ (so that no higher power than $z_j^n$ appears in $P$), $1 \leq j \leq k$, normalized by

$$
\max \{|P(z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_k)| : |z_j| \leq r, \ 1 \leq j \leq k \} = 1.
$$

We denote its lemniscate by

$$
E(P; r; \epsilon) := \{(z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_k): |z_j| \leq r, \ 1 \leq j \leq k, \text{ and } |P(z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_k)| \leq \epsilon^n\}.
$$

Let $m_{2k}$ denote Lebesgue measure on $\mathbb{C}^k$ and let $\log_2$ denote the log to the base 2.

**Theorem 1.2.** For polynomials $P$ that are of degree $\leq n$ in each of their $k$ variables $z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_k$, normalized by (1.20), and for $\epsilon > 0$, we have

$$
m_{2k}(E(P; r; \epsilon)) \leq (16\pi r^2) k^{k-1} \max \left\{ 1, \log_2 \frac{2^{k-1}}{\epsilon} \right\}. \tag{1.22}
$$

We note that the estimate (1.22) remains valid if we replace $= 1$ in (1.20) by $\geq 1$. There is a well-developed theory of capacities in $\mathbb{C}^n$ [3], [6], [17], [18], [20], but for our purposes these are difficult to estimate, especially as there is no longer such a simple relationship between potentials and logs of polynomials. We prefer to use product capacity and Favarov’s capacity (a close cousin of Ronkin’s $\gamma$-capacity), as discussed by Cegrell [6, p.86, p.81].

For compact $E \subset \mathbb{C}^2$, we define its product capacity $\text{cap}^{(2)}(E)$ by

$$
\text{cap}^{(2)}(E) := \int_0^\infty \text{cap}\left\{ z_1 : \text{cap}\{ z_2 : (z_1, z_2) \in E \} > s \right\} ds. \tag{1.23}
$$

More generally, for $E \subset \mathbb{C}^k$, we define $\text{cap}^{(k)}(E)$ inductively by

$$
\text{cap}^{(k)}(E) := \int_0^\infty \text{cap}\left\{ z_1 : \text{cap}^{(k-1)}\{ (z_2, \ldots, z_k) : (z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_k) \in E \} > s \right\} ds. \tag{1.24}
$$

This apparently strange definition really does yield a product capacity: If $E = E_1 \times E_2 \times \cdots \times E_k$, where each $E_j \subset \mathbb{C}$, then

$$
\text{cap}^{(k)}(E) = \prod_{j=1}^k \text{cap} E_j.
$$

Recall that a unitary transformation $A$ is a $k \times k$ matrix with complex entries such that $A^* A = I$. Favarov’s capacity $\Gamma^F_k(E)$ of $E \subset \mathbb{C}^k$ is defined by [6, p. 93]

$$
\Gamma^F_k(E) = \sup\{ \text{cap}^{(k)}(A(E)) : A \text{ a unitary transformation} \}. \tag{1.25}
$$

We say that a polynomial $P(z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_k)$ is of total degree $\leq n$, if each term $c_1 z_1^{j_1} z_2^{j_2} \cdots z_k^{j_k}$ in its Maclaurin series has $j_1 + j_2 + \cdots + j_k \leq n$. 


Theorem 1.3. For polynomials $P$ that are of degree $\leq n$ in each of their $k$ variables $z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_k$, normalized by (1.20), and for $\epsilon > 0$, we have

$$\text{cap}^{(k)}(E(P; r; \epsilon)) \leq C_1 r^k \epsilon \max \left\{ 1, \log_2 \frac{1}{\epsilon} \right\}^{k-1}$$

and

$$\Gamma_k^F(E(P; r; \epsilon)) \leq C_1 r^k \epsilon^{1/k} \max \left\{ 1, \log_2 \frac{1}{\epsilon} \right\}^{k-1}.$$ 

Here $C_1$ is independent of $r, P, \epsilon, n$. If in addition $P$ is of total degree $\leq n$, then

$$\Gamma_k^F(E(P; r; \epsilon)) \leq C_1 r^k \epsilon^{1/k} \max \left\{ 1, \log_2 \frac{1}{\epsilon} \right\}^{k-1}.$$ 

The estimate (1.26) is sharp with respect to order in $\epsilon$ and $r$. For simplicity, consider $k = 2$ and $P_1$ of (1.16), and recall (1.17), (1.18). Now for fixed $z$,

$$\text{cap}\{w: |w| \leq r \text{ and } |w| \leq \epsilon r^2/|z|\} = r \min\{1, \epsilon r/|z|\},$$

and hence, if $\epsilon \leq 1$,

$$\text{cap}^{(2)}(E(P_1; r; \epsilon)) = \int_0^\infty \text{cap}\{z: |z| \leq r \text{ and } r \min\{1, \epsilon r/|z|\} > s\}ds$$

$$= r \int_0^r \min\{1, \epsilon r/s\}ds = r^2 \epsilon \left[ 1 + \log \frac{1}{\epsilon} \right].$$

We prove Theorem 1.1 in Section 2, and Theorems 1.2 and 1.3 in Section 3.

§2. Proof of Theorem 1.1

We recall that if $E$ is a compact set with $\text{cap} E > 0$ and connected complement, then its Green function with pole at $\infty$ is

$$g_E(z) := \log \frac{1}{\text{cap} E} + \int_E \log |z - t|d\mu(t),$$

where $\mu$ is the so-called equilibrium measure of $E$. This $\mu$ is a probability measure supported on the outer boundary $\partial E$ of $E$. If $E$ is a set regular with respect to the Dirichlet problem (as our lemniscates certainly are), then $g_E(z) = 0$, $z \in \partial E$, and $g_E$ is harmonic in $\mathbb{C} \setminus E$, with

$$g_E(z) - \log |z| \to \log \frac{1}{\text{cap} E}, \quad |z| \to \infty.$$
Proof of (1.8) – (1.10) of Theorem 1.1. Let $P(z)$ be a polynomial of degree $\leq n$, normalized by (1.5). Let $E := E(P; r; \epsilon)$. As the ball $\{z: |z| \leq r\}$ has cap $r$, we need prove (1.8) only for $\epsilon \leq \frac{1}{2}$. The well-known Walsh–Bernstein Lemma states that

\begin{equation}
|P(z)| \leq \|P\|_{L_\infty(E)}(e^{g_E(z)})^n, \quad z \in \mathbb{C}\setminus E.
\end{equation}

Using our normalization, we obtain

\begin{equation*}
1 = \|P\|_{L_\infty(|z| \leq r)} \leq \epsilon^n \exp\left(n \sup\{g_E(z): |z| \leq r, \ z \notin E\}\right).
\end{equation*}

But $\mu$ is a probability measure on $E \subset \{t: |t| \leq r\}$ so, for $|z| \leq r, \ z \notin E$,

\begin{equation*}
g_E(z) \leq \log \frac{1}{\text{cap } E} + \int_E \log(2r) d\mu(t) = \log \left(\frac{2r}{\text{cap } E}\right).
\end{equation*}

Thus

\begin{equation*}
1 \leq \left(\frac{\epsilon 2r}{\text{cap } E}\right)^n,
\end{equation*}

from which (1.8) follows. The well-known inequalities [7, pp. 300–302]

\begin{align*}
(2.2) \quad & m_2(E) \leq \pi(\text{cap } E)^2; \\
(2.3) \quad & h_1(L \cap E) \leq 4\text{cap } E
\end{align*}

then give (1.9) and (1.10).

Proof of (1.11) – (1.13). Fix $0 < a < r$, and let

\begin{equation*}
P_1(z) := \left(\frac{z + a}{r + a}\right)^n.
\end{equation*}

Then $P_1$ satisfies (1.5), and

\begin{equation*}
|P_1(z)| \leq \epsilon^n \Leftrightarrow |z + a| \leq \epsilon(r + a).
\end{equation*}

We see that for

\begin{equation*}
0 < \epsilon \leq \frac{r - a}{r + a},
\end{equation*}

the whole of the ball centre $-a$, radius $\epsilon(r + a)$, is contained in $\{z: |z| \leq r\}$. Thus for such $\epsilon$,

\begin{equation*}
E(P_1; r; \epsilon) = \left\{z: |z + a| \leq \epsilon(r + a)\right\},
\end{equation*}

so

\begin{align*}
\text{cap}(E(P_1; r; \epsilon)) &= \epsilon(r + a); \\
m_2(E(P_1; r; \epsilon)) &= \pi(\epsilon(r + a))^2.
\end{align*}
Hence
\[
\sup_{P, \epsilon} \text{cap}(E(P; r; \epsilon))/\epsilon \geq r + a;
\]
\[
\sup_{P, \epsilon} m_2(E(P; r; \epsilon))/\epsilon^2 \geq \pi(r + a)^2.
\]

Since we may make \(a\) arbitrarily close to \(r\), we obtain (1.11) – (1.12). The proof of (1.13) is a little more complicated: Let \(0 < a < r\), and \(T_n(x) = \cos(n \arccos x)\) denote the usual Chebyshev polynomial for \([-1, 1]\), and for small \(\delta > 0\) (actually \(\delta < r - a\) will do), let
\[
P_1(z) := T_n \left( \frac{z + a}{\delta} \right) / \left\| T_n \left( \frac{u + a}{\delta} \right) \right\|_{L_\infty(|u| \leq r)}.
\]
Then \(P_1\) satisfies (1.5). Moreover, with
\[
\epsilon := \left\| T_n \left( \frac{u + a}{\delta} \right) \right\|_{L_\infty(|u| \leq r)}^{-1/n},
\]
we see that
\[
E(P_1; r; \epsilon) = \left\{ z : |z| \leq r \text{ and } T_n \left( \frac{z + a}{\delta} \right) \leq 1 \right\} = [-a - \delta, -a + \delta],
\]
so
\[
h_1(E(P_1; r; \epsilon))/\epsilon = 2\delta T_n \left( \frac{r + a}{\delta} \right)^{1/n}.
\]
Now \(T_n\) has leading coefficient \(2^{n-1}\), so behaves for large \(x\) like \(2^{n-1} x^n\). Then given \(\eta \in (0, 1)\), we have if \(\delta\) is small enough,
\[
h_1(E(P_1; r; \epsilon))/\epsilon \geq 2\delta \eta 2^{1-1/n} \left( \frac{r + a}{\delta} \right) = 4r + a)2^{-1/n}\eta.
\]
Since \(a\) may be chosen arbitrarily close to \(r\), and \(\eta\) may be chosen arbitrarily close to 1, we obtain (1.13).

Proof of (1.14) of Theorem 1.1. This follows from (1.8) and the estimate [12, p.203]
\[
h_\alpha(E) \leq 18(2 \text{cap } E)^{\alpha}.
\]
and let
\[
E := \{ z_1 : |z_1| \leq r \text{ and } M(z_1) \leq \epsilon^n \}.
\]
Then
\[
\text{cap}(E) \leq 2r\epsilon; \quad m_2(E) \leq \pi(2r\epsilon)^2.
\]

**Proof.** Choose \( z_j \), \( 2 \leq j \leq k \), such that each \( |z_j| \leq r \) and
\[
\max \left\{ |P(u, z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_k)| : |u| \leq r \right\} = 1.
\]
This is possible by our normalization (1.20). With these variables chosen,
\[
Q(z_1) := P(z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_k)
\]
has modulus \( M(z_1) \leq \epsilon^n \), \( z_1 \in E \), and
\[
\|Q\|_{L^\infty(|z_1| \leq r)} = 1.
\]
Then
\[
E \subset E(Q; r; \epsilon),
\]
so
\[
\text{cap}(E) \leq \text{cap}(E(Q; r; \epsilon)) \leq 2r\epsilon,
\]
by Theorem 1.1. Then (2.2) gives the estimate for \( m_2(E) \).

**Proof of Theorem 1.2.** We do this by induction on \( k \). We can assume that \( \epsilon < 1 \), since if \( \epsilon \geq 1 \), then \( E(P; r; \epsilon) \) is all of the polydisc \( P := \{ |z_j| \leq r, \ 1 \leq j \leq k \} \), so has \( m_{2k} \) measure \( (\pi r^2)^k \) and (1.22) is immediate.

**Assume (1.22) is true for \( k = 1 \).** For \( k = 1 \), the result follows from Theorem 1.1.

**Assume (1.22) is true for \( k - 1 \), and prove true for \( k \).** Let us write
\[
\tilde{z}' = (z_2, z_3, \ldots, z_k); \quad \tilde{z} := (z_1, \tilde{z}') = (z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_k).
\]
We let \( P \) be as above and we let \( P' \) denote the polydisc \( \{ \tilde{z}' : |z_j| \leq r, 2 \leq j \leq k \} \).
For \( z_1 \) fixed, let \( M(z_1) \) denote the maximum modulus of \( P(\tilde{z}) \) along a slice, as in (3.1). Note that for fixed \( z_1 \),
\[
Q(\tilde{z}') := P(\tilde{z})/M(z_1)
\]
has
\[
\max \left\{ |Q(\tilde{z}')| : \tilde{z} \in P' \right\} = 1.
\]
By our induction step (recall \( z_1 \) is fixed),
\[
m_{2(k-1)} \left\{ \tilde{z}' \in P' : |P(\tilde{z})| \leq \epsilon^n \right\}
\]
\[
= m_{2(k-1)} \left\{ \tilde{z}' \in P' : |Q(\tilde{z}')| \leq \epsilon^n/M(z_1) \right\}
\]
\[
\leq (16\pi r^2)^{k-1} \frac{\epsilon^2}{M(z_1)^2/n} \max \left\{ 1, \log_2 \frac{2^{k-2}M(z_1)^{1/n}}{\epsilon} \right\}^{k-2}.
\]
Let us set 
\[ E_1 = \left\{ z_1 : |z_1| \leq r \quad \text{and} \quad M(z_1) \leq \epsilon n \right\}; \]
\[ E_j = \left\{ z_1 : |z_1| \leq r \quad \text{and} \quad (2^j \epsilon)^n < M(z_1) \leq (2^{j+1} \epsilon)^n \right\}, \quad j \geq 0. \]

Since \( M(z_1) \leq 1 \), \( E_j \) is empty if 
\[ 2^j \epsilon \geq 1 \iff j \geq \log_2 \frac{1}{\epsilon}. \]

By Lemma 3.1, 
\[ m_2(E_1) \leq \pi (2r \epsilon)^2; \]
\[ m_2(E_j) \leq \pi (2r 2^{j+1} \epsilon)^2. \]

Then by (3.4), if \( \ell = \) greatest integer \( \leq \log_2 \frac{1}{\epsilon} - 1 \), 
\[ m_{2k}(E(P; r; \epsilon)) = \int_{|z_1| \leq r} m_2(k-1) \left\{ z' \in P' : |P(z')| \leq \epsilon^n \right\} dm_2(z_1) \]
\[ \leq \int_{|z_1| \leq r} \min \left\{ (\pi r^2)^{k-1}, (16 \pi r^2)^{k-1} \frac{\epsilon^2}{M(z_1)^{2/n}} \right\} \times \max \left\{ 1, \log_2 \frac{2^{k-2} M(z_1)^{1/n}}{\epsilon} \right\}^{k-2} dm_2(z_1) \]
\[ \leq (\pi r^2)^{k-1} \left[ \int_{E_1} dm_2(z_1) \right. \]
\[ + \sum_{j=0}^{\ell} \int_{E_j} \frac{16^{k-1} \epsilon^2}{(2^j \epsilon)^2} \left( \log_2 \left[ 2^{k-2} 2^{j+1} \right] \right)^{k-2} dm_2(z_1) \left. \right] \]
\[ \leq (\pi r^2)^k \left[ 4 \epsilon^2 + 16^{k-1} 16 \epsilon^2 \sum_{j=0}^{\ell} \left( \log_2 \left[ 2^{k-2} / \epsilon \right] \right)^{k-2} \right] \]
\[ \leq (16 \pi r^2)^k \epsilon^2 \left[ 1 + \left( \log_2 \left[ 2^{k-2} / \epsilon \right] \right)^{k-1} \right], \]
where we have used our choice of \( \ell \), and also \( \epsilon \leq 1 \). Finally, 
\[ \left[ 1 + \left( \log_2 \left[ 2^{k-2} / \epsilon \right] \right)^{k-1} \right] \leq \left[ 1 + \log_2 \left[ 2^{k-2} / \epsilon \right] \right]^{k-1} = \left[ \log_2 \left[ 2^{k-1} / \epsilon \right] \right]^{k-1}. \]

So we have completed the proof for \( k \).

\[ \square \]

**Proof of (1.26) of Theorem 1.3.** We keep the notation \( z, z', P, P' \) from the previous proof. We can assume \( \epsilon \leq 1 \), for if \( \epsilon > 1 \), then \( E(P; r; \epsilon) = P \), and as cap\(^{(k)}(P) = r^k \) (this is easily proved by induction on \( k \)), (1.26) is immediate. So we assume \( \epsilon < 1 \), and proceed by induction on \( k \):
(1.26) is true for \( k = 1 \). This follows directly from Theorem 1.1, with \( C_1 = 2 \).

Assume (1.26) true for \( k - 1 \), some \( k \geq 2 \). Let \( P(z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_k) \) be of degree \( \leq n \) in each variable, normalized by (1.20). Let \( M(z_1) \) be the maximum modulus along a slice, as in (3.1). By definition,

\[
\text{cap}^{(k)}(E(P; r; \epsilon)) = \int_0^\infty \text{cap}\{z_1: |z_1| \leq r \text{ and } \text{cap}^{(k-1)}\{z': z \in E(P; r; \epsilon)\} > s\} ds.
\]

By our induction hypothesis, namely (1.26) for \( k - 1 \),

\[
\text{cap}^{(k-1)}\{z': z \in E(P; r; \epsilon)\} = \text{cap}^{(k-1)}\{z': |P(z)|/M(z_1) \leq \epsilon^n/M(z_1)\} \leq C_1 r^{k-1} \max\left\{1, \log_2 \frac{M(z_1)^{1/n}}{\epsilon}\right\}^{k-2}.
\]

Moreover, this set is contained in \( P' \), so has \( \text{cap}^{(k-1)} \leq r^{k-1} \). Thus

\[
\text{cap}^{(k-1)}\{z': z \in E(P; r; \epsilon)\} \leq r^{k-1} F(\epsilon/M(z_1)^{1/n}),
\]

where

\[
F(u) := \min\left\{1, C_1 u \max\left\{1, \log_2 \frac{1}{u}\right\}^{k-2}\right\}.
\]

So,

\[
\text{cap}^{(k)}(E(P; r; \epsilon)) \leq \int_0^{r^{k-1}} \text{cap}\{z_1: |z_1| \leq r \text{ and } r^{k-1} F(\epsilon/M(z_1)^{1/n}) > s\} ds
\]

(3.5)

\[
= r^{k-1} \int_0^1 \text{cap}\{z_1: |z_1| \leq r \text{ and } F(\epsilon/M(z_1)^{1/n}) > t\} dt.
\]

We see that there exists \( C_2 > 0 \) such that for \( t \in (0, 1] \),

\[
F(u) > t \Rightarrow u > C_2 t \max\left\{1, \log_2 \frac{1}{t}\right\}^{-(k-2)}
\]

Hence

\[
F(\epsilon/M(z_1)^{1/n}) > t \Rightarrow M(z_1) < \left(\frac{\epsilon \max\left\{1, \log_2 \frac{1}{t}\right\}^{k-2}}{C_2 t}\right)^n.
\]
By Lemma 3.1, the set of $|z_1| \leq r$ with $M(z_1)$ satisfying this inequality has cap at most
\[ 2r \epsilon \max \left\{ 1, \log_2 \frac{1}{\epsilon} \right\}^{k-2}, \]
and also has cap $\leq r$. So (3.5) gives
\[ \text{cap}^{(k)}(E(P; r; \epsilon)) \leq r^k \int_0^1 \min \left\{ 1, 2 \epsilon \max \left\{ 1, \log_2 \frac{1}{\epsilon} \right\}^{k-2} \right\} dt \]
\[ \leq r^k \left\{ \int_0^\epsilon dt + 2C_2^{-1} \epsilon \max \left\{ 1, \log_2 \frac{1}{\epsilon} \right\}^{k-2} \int_\epsilon^1 \frac{dt}{t} \right\} \]
\[ \leq C_3 r^k \epsilon \max \left\{ 1, \log_2 \frac{1}{\epsilon} \right\}^{k-1}, \]
where $C_3$ depends only on $k$. \hfill $\square$

Proof of (1.27) and (1.28) of Theorem 1.3. We let $\tilde{z} = (z_1, z_2, \ldots, z_k)$ and
\[ \|\tilde{z}\| := \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^k |z_j|^2 \right\}^{1/2}. \]
We shall use the following properties of a unitary matrix $A$: The inverse $A^{-1}$ is also unitary, and [19, p.74]
\[ \|A\tilde{z}\| = \|\tilde{z}\|. \]
Now if $P(\tilde{z})$ is of degree $\leq n$ in each variable, and $Q(\tilde{z}) := P(A^{-1} \tilde{z})$, then $Q(\tilde{z})$ is of degree $\leq kn$ in each variable. If in addition $P$ is of total degree $\leq n$, then we see that $Q(\tilde{z})$ is of degree $\leq n$ in each variable. Moreover, setting $w = A\tilde{z}$, we see that
\[ A(E(P; r; \epsilon)) = \left\{ A\tilde{z}: \text{each } |z_j| \leq r \text{ and } |P(\tilde{z})| \leq \epsilon^n \right\} \]
\[ = \left\{ w: \text{each } |(A^{-1} w)_j| \leq r \text{ and } |Q(w)| \leq \epsilon^n \right\}. \]
Here, of course, $(A^{-1} w)_j$ denotes the $j$th component of the $k$-vector $A^{-1} w$. Then $\forall j$
\[ |w_j| \leq \|w\| = \|A^{-1} w\| \leq \sqrt{k} \max_j |(A^{-1} w)_j| \leq \sqrt{k} r. \]
Thus, regarding $Q$ as a polynomial of degree $\leq kn$ in each variable,
\[ A(E(P; r; \epsilon)) \subseteq E(Q; \sqrt{k} r; \epsilon^{1/k}). \]
(If $P$ is of total degree $\leq n$, we can regard $Q$ as a polynomial of degree $\leq n$ in each variable, and replace $\epsilon^{1/k}$ by $\epsilon$.) Next, if $w = A\tilde{z}$, and each $|z_j| \leq r$, we have shown each $|w_j| \leq \sqrt{k} r$, so
\[ \max \left\{ |Q(w)|: \text{each } |w_j| \leq \sqrt{k} r \right\} \geq \max \left\{ |P(\tilde{z})|: \text{each } |z_j| \leq r \right\} = 1. \]
Thus our (1.26) applied to $Q$ gives
\[
\text{cap}^{(k)} \left[ A(E(P; r; \epsilon)) \right] \leq \text{cap}^{(k)} \left[ E(Q; \sqrt{kr}; \epsilon^{1/k}) \right] \\
\leq C_1 \sqrt{kr} \epsilon^{1/k} \max \left\{ 1, \frac{1}{k} \log_2 \frac{1}{\epsilon} \right\}^{k-1}.
\]
So we have (1.27). When $P$ has total degree \( \leq n \), we can replace $\epsilon^{1/k}$ by $\epsilon$ and hence obtain (1.28). \qed

**Note added in proof**

After this paper was accepted, Prof. Tom Bloom of the University of Toronto provided the authors with related references for the classical capacities in $\mathbb{C}^k$:


**References**


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