# EQUILIBRIUM CANTOR-TYPE SETS

### ALEXANDER P. GONCHAROV

ABSTRACT. Equilibrium Cantor-type sets are suggested. This allows to obtain Green functions with various moduli of continuity and compact sets with preassigned growth of Markov's factors.

## 1. Introduction

If a compact set  $K \subset \mathbb{C}$  is regular with respect to the Dirichlet problem then the Green function  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K}$  of  $\mathbb{C}\setminus K$  with pole at infinity is continuous throughout  $\mathbb{C}$ . We are interested in analysis of a character of smoothness of  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K}$  near the boundary of K. For example, if  $K \subset \mathbb{R}$  then the monotonicity of the Green function with respect to the set K implies that the best possible behavior of  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K}$  is  $Lip_2^1$  smoothness. An important characterization for general compact sets with  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K} \in Lip_2^1$  was found in [17] by V.Totik. The monograph [17] revives interest in the problem of boundary behavior of Green functions. Various conditions for optimal smoothness of  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K}$  in terms of metric properties of the set K are suggested in [7], and in papers by V.Andrievskii [2]-[3]. On the other hand, compact sets are considered in [1], [8] such that the corresponding Green functions have moduli of continuity equal to some degrees of h, where the function  $h(\delta) = (\log \frac{1}{\delta})^{-1}$  defines the logarithmic measure of sets. For a recent result on smoothness of  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K_0}$ , where  $K_0$  is the classical Cantor set, see [13].

Here the Cantor-type set  $K(\gamma)$  is constructed as the intersection of the level domains for a certain sequence of polynomials depending on the parameter  $\gamma = (\gamma_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$  (Section 2). In favor of  $K(\gamma)$ , in comparison to usual Cantor-type sets, it is equilibrium in the following sense.

Let  $\lambda_s$  denote the normalized Lebesgue measure on the closed set  $E_s$ , where  $K(\gamma) = \bigcap_{s=0}^{\infty} E_s$ . Then  $\lambda_s$  converges in the weak<sup>\*</sup> topology to the equilibrium measure of  $K(\gamma)$  (Section 5). This is not valid for geometrically symmetric, though very small Cantor-type sets with positive capacity.

Different values of  $\gamma$  provide a variety of the Green functions with diverse moduli of continuity (Section 7).

In Section 8 we estimate Markov's factors for the set  $K(\gamma)$  and construct a set with preassigned growth of subsequence of Markov's factors.

In Section 9 a set  $K(\gamma)$  is presented such that the Markov inequality on  $K(\gamma)$  does not hold with the best Markov's exponent  $m(K(\gamma))$ . This gives an affirmative answer to the problem (5.1) in [4].

For basic notions of logarithmic potential theory we refer the reader to [10], [12], and [15].

<sup>2000</sup> Mathematics Subject Classification. 31A15, 41A10, 41A17.

Key words and phrases. Green's function, Modulus of continuity, Markov's factors.

We use the notation  $|\cdot|_K$  for the supremum norm on K, log denotes the natural logarithm,  $0 \cdot \log 0 := 0$ .

## 2. Construction of $K(\gamma)$

Suppose we are given a sequence  $\gamma = (\gamma_s)_{s=1}^{\infty}$  with  $0 < \gamma_s < 1/4$ . Let  $r_0 = 1$  and  $r_s = \gamma_s r_{s-1}^2$  for  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ . We define inductively a sequence of real polynomials: let  $P_2(x) = x(x-1)$  and  $P_{2^{s+1}} = P_{2^s}(P_{2^s} + r_s)$  for  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ . It is easy to check by induction that the polynomial  $P_{2^s}$  has  $2^{s-1}$  points of minimum with equal values  $P_{2^s} = -r_{s-1}^2/4$ . By that we have a geometric procedure to define new (with respect to  $P_{2^s}$ ) zeros of  $P_{2^{s+1}}$ : they are abscissas of points of intersection of the line  $y = -r_s$  with the graph  $y = P_{2^s}$ . Let  $E_s$  denote the set  $\{x \in \mathbb{R} : P_{2^{s+1}}(x) \leq 0\}$ . Since  $r_s < r_{s-1}^2/4$ , the set  $E_s$  consists of  $2^s$  disjoint closed basic intervals  $I_{j,s}$ . In general, the lengths  $l_{j,s}$  of intervals of the same level are different, however, by the construction of  $K(\gamma)$ , we have  $\max_{1 \leq j \leq 2^s} l_{j,s} \to 0$  as  $s \to \infty$ . Clearly,  $E_{s+1} \subset E_s$ . Set  $K(\gamma) = \bigcap_{s=0}^{\infty} E_s$ .

Let us show that the sequence of level domains  $D_s = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |P_{2^s}(z) + r_s/2| < r_s/2\}, s = 1, 2, \cdots$ , is a nested family.

**Lemma 1.** Given  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $w_s = 2r_s^{-1}P_{2^s}(z) + 1$ . Suppose  $|w_s| = 1 + \varepsilon$  for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Then  $|w_{s+1}| > 1 + 4\varepsilon$ .

*Proof*: We have  $w_{s+1} = (2\gamma_{s+1})^{-1} (w_s^2 - 1 + 2\gamma_{s+1})$ . Therefore,  $|w_{s+1}|$  attains its minimal value if  $w_s \in \mathbb{R}$ , so  $|w_{s+1}| > (2\gamma_{s+1})^{-1} (2\varepsilon + \varepsilon^2 + 2\gamma_{s+1}) > 1 + \frac{\varepsilon}{\gamma_{s+1}} > 1 + 4\varepsilon$ .

**Theorem 1.** We have  $\overline{D}_s \searrow K(\gamma)$ .

*Proof*: The embedding  $\overline{D}_{s+1} \subset \overline{D}_s$  is equivalent to the implication

$$|P_{2^s}(z) + r_s/2| > r_s/2 \implies |P_{2^{s+1}}(z) + r_{s+1}| > r_{s+1}/2,$$

which we have by Lemma 1.

For each  $j \leq 2^s$  the real polynomial  $P_{2^s}$  is monotone on  $I_{j,s}$  and takes values 0 and  $-r_s$  at its endpoints. Therefore,  $E_s \subset \overline{D}_s$  and  $K(\gamma) \subset \bigcap_{s=0}^{\infty} \overline{D}_s$ .

For the inverse embedding, let us fix  $z \notin K(\gamma)$ . We need to find s with  $z \notin \overline{D}_s$ . Suppose first  $z \in \mathbb{R}$ . Since  $\overline{D}_s \cap \mathbb{R} = E_s$ , the condition  $z \notin E_s$  gives the desired s.

Let z = x + iy with  $y \neq 0, x \notin K(\gamma)$ . By the above,  $x \notin \overline{D}_s$  for some s. All zeros  $(x_j)_{j=1}^{2^s}$  of the polynomial  $P_{2^s} + r_s/2$  are real. Therefore,  $|P_{2^s}(z) + r_s/2| > |P_{2^s}(x) + r_s/2| > r_s/2$  and  $z \notin \overline{D}_s$ .

It remains to consider the case z = x + iy with  $y \neq 0, x \in K(\gamma)$ . There is no loss of generality in assuming |y| < 2. Let us fix s with  $\max_{1 \leq j \leq 2^s} l_{j,s} < y^2/2$  and k with  $x \in I_{k,s} = [a, b]$ . Here,  $|P_{2^s}(a) + r_s/2| = r_s/2$ . Let us show that  $|P_{2^s}(z) + r_s/2| > |P_{2^s}(a) + r_s/2|$  by comparison the distances from z and from a to the zero  $x_j$ .

If j < k then  $|a - x_j| \le |a - x|$ , which is less than the hypotenuse  $|z - x_j|$ .

If j = k then  $|a - x_k| \le l_{k,s} < y^2/2 < |y| \le |z - x_k|$ .

If j > k then  $|a - x_j| = x_j - b + l_{k,s}$ . Therefore,  $|a - x_j|^2 < |x_j - b|^2 + 2 l_{k,s} < |x_j - b|^2 + y^2 \le |z - x_j|^2$ .  $\Box$ 

**Corollary 1.** The set  $K(\gamma)$  is polar if and only if  $\lim_{s\to\infty} 2^{-s} \log \frac{2}{r_s} = \infty$ . If this limit is finite and  $z \notin K(\gamma)$ , then

$$g_{\mathbb{C}\backslash K(\gamma)}(z) = \lim_{s \to \infty} 2^{-s} \log |P_{2^s}(z)/r_s|.$$

Proof: Clearly,  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus\overline{D}_s}(z) = 2^{-s} \log |2r_s^{-1}P_{2^s}(z) + 1|$ . The sequence of the corresponding Robin constants  $Rob(\overline{D}_s) = 2^{-s} \log \frac{2}{r_s}$  increases. If its limit is finite, then, by the Harnack Principle (see e.g. [15], Th.0.4.10),  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus\overline{D}_s} \nearrow g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}$  uniformly on compact subsets of  $\mathbb{C} \setminus K(\gamma)$ . Suppose  $z \notin K(\gamma)$ . Then for some  $q \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  we have  $|w_q| = 1 + \varepsilon$ . By Lemma 1,  $|w_s| > 1 + 4^{s-q} \varepsilon$ , so, for large s, the value  $|P_{2^s}(z)/r_s|$  dominates 1. This gives the desired representation of  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}$ .  $\Box$ 

The next corollary is a consequence of the Kolmogorov criterion (see e.g. [9], T.3.2.1). Recall that a monic polynomial  $Q_n$  is a Chebyshev polynomial for a compact set K if the value  $|Q_n|_K$  is minimal among all monic polynomials of degree n.

**Corollary 2.** The polynomial  $P_{2^s} + r_s/2$  is the Chebyshev polynomial for the set  $K(\gamma)$ .

**Example 1.** Let us consider the limit case, when  $\gamma_s = 1/4$  for all s, so  $r_s = 4^{1-2^s}$ . Since here  $K(\gamma) = [0, 1]$ , the *n*-th Chebyshev polynomial is  $Q_n(x) = 2^{-n} T_n(2x - 1)$ , where  $T_n$  is the monic Chebyshev polynomial for [-1, 1], that is  $T_n(t) = 2^{1-n} \cos(n \arccos t)$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Therefore, in this case,  $P_{2^s}(x) + r_s/2 = 2^{-2^s} T_{2^s}(2x - 1)$  for  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ .

#### 3. Location of zeros

We decompose all zeros of  $P_{2^s}$  into s groups. Let  $X_0 = \{x_1, x_2\} = \{0, 1\}, X_1 = \{x_3, x_4\} = \{l_{1,1}, 1-l_{2,1}\}, \cdots, X_k = \{x_{2^{k+1}}, \cdots, x_{2^{k+1}}\} = \{l_{1,k}, l_{1,k-1}-l_{2,k}, \cdots, 1-l_{2^{k},k}\}, \text{ so } X_k = \{x : P_{2^k}(x)+r_k=0\} \text{ contains all zeros of } P_{2^{k+1}} \text{ that are not zeros of } P_{2^k}.$ Set  $Y_s = \bigcup_{k=0}^s X_k$ . Then  $P_{2^s}(x) = \prod_{x_k \in Y_{s-1}} (x-x_k)$ . Since  $P'_{2^s} = P'_{2^{s-1}}(2P_{2^{s-1}}+r_{s-1})$  for  $s \ge 2$ , we have

$$P_{2^{s}}'(y) = r_{s-1} P_{2^{s-1}}'(y), \ y \in Y_{s-2}; \ P_{2^{s}}'(x) = -r_{s-1} P_{2^{s-1}}'(x), \ x \in X_{s-1}.$$
 (1)

After iteration this gives

$$|P'_{2^{s}}(x)| = r_{s-1} r_{s-2} \cdots r_q |P'_{2^{q}}(x)| \quad \text{for} \quad x \in X_q \quad \text{with} \quad q < s.$$
(2)

From here, for example,  $|P'_{2^s}(0)| = r_{s-1} r_{s-2} \cdots r_1$ .

The identity  $P_{2^{s+1}}(y) = P_{2^s}(y) \prod_{x_k \in X_s} (y - x_k) = P_{2^s}(y) (P_{2^s}(y) + r_s)$  implies  $P_{2^s}(y) + r_s = \prod_{x_k \in X_s} (y - x_k)$ . Thus,

$$\prod_{x_k \in X_s} (y - x_k) = r_s \quad \text{for} \quad y \in Y_{s-1}.$$
(3)

Our next goal is to express the values of  $x_k \in X_s$  in terms of the function  $u(t) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{1-4t}$  with  $0 < t < \frac{1}{4}$ . Clearly, u(t) and 1 - u(t) are the solutions of the equation  $P_2(x) + t = 0$ . Let us consider the expression

$$x = f_1(\gamma_1 \cdot f_2(\gamma_2 \cdots f_{s-1}(\gamma_{s-1} \cdot f_s(\gamma_s)) \cdots)), \qquad (4)$$

where  $f_k = u$  or  $f_k = 1 - u$  for  $1 \le k \le s$ , so  $f_k(t)(1 - f_k(t)) = t$ . We have  $P_2(x) = -\gamma_1 \cdot f_2(\gamma_2 \cdots)$  with  $\gamma_1 = r_1$ . Hence,  $P_4(x) = P_2(x)(P_2(x) + r_1) = -r_1^2 f_2(1 - 3)$ 

 $f_2) = -r_1^2 \gamma_2 f_3 = -r_2 f_3(\gamma_3 \cdots)$ . We continue in this fashion to obtain eventually  $P_{2^s}(x) = -r_{s-1}^2 \gamma_s = -r_s$ , which gives  $x \in X_s$ .

The formula (4) provides  $2^s$  possible values x. Let us show that they are all different, so any  $x_k \in X_s$  can be represented by means of (4). Since u increases and u(a) < 1 - u(b) for  $a, b \in (0, \frac{1}{4})$ , we have  $u(\gamma_1 \cdot u(\gamma_2 \cdots \gamma_m u(a)) \cdots) < u(\gamma_1 \cdot u(\gamma_2 \cdots \gamma_m (1 - u(b)) \cdots)$ . In general, let  $x_i = u(\gamma_1 \cdot u(\gamma_2 \cdots \gamma_{k_1} (1 - u(\gamma_{k_1+1} \cdot u(\cdots \gamma_{k_2} (1 - u(\gamma_{k_2+1} \cdots \gamma_{k_m} (1 - u(a)) \cdots))))$  and  $x_j = u(\gamma_1 \cdot u(\gamma_2 \cdots \gamma_{k_1} (1 - u(\gamma_{k_1+1} \cdot u(\cdots \gamma_{k_2} (1 - u(\gamma_{k_2+1} \cdots \gamma_{k_m} \cdot u(b)))))))$ , that is the first  $k_m$  functions  $f_k$  for both points are identical, whereas  $f_{k_m+1} = 1 - u$  for  $x_i$  and u for  $x_j$ . The straightforward comparison shows that  $x_i > x_j$  for odd m and  $x_i < x_j$  otherwise.

**Lemma 2.** Let  $s \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $1 \leq j \leq 2^s$ . Then  $l_{1,s} \leq l_{j,s}$ .

Proof: Assume without loss of generality that j is odd. Then  $I_{j,s} = [y, x]$  with  $x \in X_s, y \in X_m$  where  $1 \leq m \leq s-1$ . The case m = 0 can be excluded, since then y = 0 and j = 1. Consider the function  $F(t) = f_1(\gamma_1 \cdot f_2(\gamma_2 \cdots f_{m-1}(\gamma_{m-1} \cdot f_m(t)) \cdots))$ , where  $f_k \in \{u, 1-u\}$  are chosen in a such way that  $y = F(\gamma_m)$ . Then  $x = F(\gamma_m \cdot (1 - u(\gamma_{m+1} \cdot u(\gamma_{m+2} \cdots u(\gamma_s)) \cdots))$ . By the Mean Value Theorem,  $l_{j,s} = x - y = |F'(\xi)| \cdot \gamma_m \cdot u(\gamma_{m+1} \cdots u(\gamma_s)) \cdots$ ) with  $\gamma_m - \gamma_m \cdot u(\gamma_{m+1} \cdots u(\gamma_s)) \cdots) < \xi < \gamma_m \cdot u(\gamma_{m+1} \cdots u(\gamma_s)) \cdots$ ). To simplify notations, we write  $t_k = \gamma_k \cdot f_{k+1}(\gamma_{k+1} \cdots \gamma_{m-1} \cdot f_m(\xi)) \cdots$  and  $\tau_k = \gamma_k \cdot u(\gamma_{k+1} \cdots \gamma_{m-1} \cdot u(\xi)) \cdots$  for  $1 \leq k \leq m-1$ . By the above,  $\tau_k \leq t_k$ . Therefore,  $|f'_k(t_k)| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-4t_k}} \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-4t_k}} = u'_k(\tau_k)$ . On the other hand,  $u(t)\sqrt{1-4t} < t$  for  $0 < t < \frac{1}{4}$ , as is easy to check. This gives  $|F'(\xi)| = |f'_1(t_1)| \cdot \gamma_1 \cdots |f'_{m-1}(t_{m-1})| \cdot \gamma_{m-1} \cdot |f'_m(\xi)| > \gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{m-1} \cdot \frac{u(\tau_1)}{\tau_1} \cdot \frac{u(\tau_2)}{\tau_2} \cdots \frac{u(\tau_{m-1})}{\tau_{m-1}} \cdot \frac{u(\tau_1)}{\xi}$ . Since  $\tau_k = \gamma_k \cdot u(\tau_{k+1})$  for  $k \leq m-2$  and  $\tau_{m-1} = \gamma_{m-1} \cdot u(\xi)$ , we obtain  $|F'(\xi)| > \frac{u(\tau_1)}{\xi}$  and

$$l_{j,s} > \frac{u(\tau_1)}{\xi} \cdot \gamma_m \cdot u(\gamma_{m+1} \cdots u(\gamma_s)) \cdots).$$

Taking into account the representation  $u(t) = \frac{2t}{1+\sqrt{1-4t}}$ , we have  $u(\alpha t) < \alpha u(t)$  for  $0 < \alpha < 1$ . The value  $\alpha = \frac{1}{\xi} \cdot \gamma_m \cdot u(\gamma_{m+1} \cdots u(\gamma_s)) \cdots$ ) satisfies this condition. Therefore,  $l_{1,s} = u(\gamma_1 \cdot u(\gamma_2 \cdots \gamma_{m-1} \cdot u(\xi \alpha)) \cdots) < \alpha u(\tau_1)$ , that is  $l_{1,s} < l_{j,s}$  for  $j \in \{3, 5, \cdots, 2^s - 1\}$ , which is the desired conclusion.  $\Box$ 

#### 4. Auxiliary results

From now on we make the assumption

$$\gamma_s \le 1/32 \quad \text{for} \quad s \in \mathbb{N}.$$
 (5)

Each  $I_{j,s}$  contains two *adjacent* basic subintervals  $I_{2j-1,s+1}$  and  $I_{2j,s+1}$ . Let  $h_{j,s} = l_{j,s} - l_{2j-1,s+1} - l_{2j,s+1}$  be the distance between them.

**Lemma 3.** Suppose  $\gamma$  satisfies (5). Then the polynomial  $P_{2^s}$  is convex on  $I_{j,s-1}$  and  $l_{2j-1,s} + l_{2j,s} < 4\gamma_s l_{j,s-1}$  for  $1 \leq j \leq 2^{s-1}$ . Thus,  $h_{j,s} > \frac{7}{8} l_{j,s}$  for  $s \geq 0, 1 \leq j \leq 2^s$ .

*Proof*: We proceed by induction. If s = 1 then  $P_2$  is convex on  $I_{1,0} = [0,1]$ . Let us show that  $l_{1,1} + l_{2,1} < 4 \gamma_1$ . The triangle  $\Delta$  with the vertices  $(0,0), (1,0), (\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{4})$  is entirely situated in the epigraph  $\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : P_2(x) \leq y\}$ . The line  $y = -r_1$  intersects  $\Delta$  along the segment [A, B]. By convexity of  $P_2$ , we have  $h_{1,0} = 1 - l_{1,1} - l_{2,1} > |B - A|$ . The triangle  $\Delta_1$  with the vertices  $A, B, (\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{4})$  is similar to  $\Delta$ . Therefore,  $\frac{1}{4} |B-A| = \frac{1}{4} - r_1$ . Here,  $r_1 = \gamma_1$ , and the result follows.

Suppose we have convexity of  $P_{2^k}|_{I_{j,k-1}}$  and the desired inequalities for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, s-1$ . Fix  $j \leq 2^{s-1}$  and  $x \in I_{j,s-1} = [a, b]$ . Then  $P_{2^s}(x) = (x-a)(x-b) g(x)$ , where  $g(x) = \prod_{k=1}^n (x-z_k)$  with  $n = 2^s - 2$ . Hence,

$$P_{2^{s}}''(x) = g(x) \left[ 2 + 2 \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{2x - a - b}{x - z_{k}} + \sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1, i \neq k}^{n} \frac{(x - a)(x - b)}{(x - z_{k})(x - z_{i})} \right].$$

Clearly, the polynomial g is positive on  $I_{j,s-1}$ ,  $|2x-a-b| \le l_{j,s-1}$ , and  $|(x-a)(x-b)| \le \frac{1}{4} l_{j,s-1}^2$ . For convexity of  $P_{2^s}|_{I_{j,s-1}}$  we only need to check that  $8 \ge 8 l_{j,s-1} \sum_{k=1}^n |x-z_k|^{-1} + l_{j,s-1}^2 \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{i \ne k} |x-z_k|^{-1} |x-z_i|^{-1}$ .

Let us consider the basic intervals containing  $x : I_{j,s-1} \subset I_{m,s-2} \subset I_{q,s-3} \subset \cdots \subset I_{1,0}$ . The interval  $I_{m,s-2}$  contains two zeros of g. For them  $|x - z_k| \geq h_{m,s-2} > (1 - 4\gamma_{s-1}) l_{m,s-2}$  and  $\frac{l_{j,s-1}}{|x-z_k|} < \frac{4\gamma_{s-1}}{1-4\gamma_{s-1}}$ , by inductive hypothesis. The last fraction does not exceed 1/7. Similarly,  $I_{q,s-3}$  contains another four zeros of g with  $\frac{l_{j,s-1}}{|x-z_k|} < \frac{4\gamma_{s-1}}{1-4\gamma_{s-2}} \leq \frac{1}{7} \cdot \frac{1}{8}$ . We continue in this fashion to obtain  $l_{j,s-1} \sum_{k=1}^{n} |x - z_k|^{-1} < \sum_{k=1}^{s-1} 2^k \cdot \frac{1}{7} \cdot (\frac{1}{8})^{k-1} < \frac{8}{21}$ .

In the same way,  $l_{j,s-1}^2 \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{i \neq k} |x-z_k|^{-1} |x-z_i|^{-1} < (\frac{8}{21})^2$ , which gives  $P_{2^s}'|_{I_{j,s-1}} > 0$ . Arguing as above, by means of convexity of  $P_{2^s}|_{I_{j,s-1}}$ , it is easy to show the second statement of Lemma.  $\Box$ 

Let  $\delta_s = \gamma_1 \gamma_2 \cdots \gamma_s$ , so  $r_1 r_2 \cdots r_{s-1} \delta_s = r_s$ .

**Lemma 4.** If  $\gamma$  satisfies (5) then for any  $x_k \in Y_{s-1}$  with  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ 

$$\exp(-16\sum_{k=1}^{s} \gamma_k) \cdot r_s / \delta_s < |P'_{2^s}(x_k)| \le |P'_{2^s}|_{E_s} = r_s / \delta_s$$

and

$$\delta_s < l_{i,s} < \exp(16\sum_{k=1}^s \gamma_k) \cdot \delta_s \quad for \quad 1 \le i \le 2^s.$$

Proof: From (2) it follows that  $|P'_{2^s}|_{E_s} \geq |P'_{2^s}(0)| = r_s/\delta_s$ . In order to get the corresponding lower bound, let us fix  $I_{i,s} \subset E_s$ . Without loss of generality we can assume that i = 2j - 1 is odd. Then  $I_{i,s} \subset I_{j,s-1}$  and  $I_{i,s} = [y, x]$  with  $y \in Y_{s-1}$ ,  $x = y + l_{i,s} \in X_s$ . By Lemma 3,  $|P'_{2^s}|$  decreases on [y, x], so  $|P'_{2^s}(x)| < |P'_{2^s}(y)|$ . We will estimate  $|P'_{2^s}(x)|$  from below in terms of  $|P'_{2^s}(y)|$ .

The point x is a zero of  $P_{2^{s+1}}$ . Therefore,  $P'_{2^{s+1}}(x) = (x-y) \cdot \prod_{y_k \in Y'_s} |x-y_k| = (x-y) \cdot \prod_{y_k \in Y'_s} |y-y_k| \cdot \beta$ , where  $Y'_s = Y_s \setminus \{x, y\}$ ,  $\beta = \prod_{y_k \in Y'_s} (1 + \frac{l_{i,s}}{y-y_k})$ . Here,  $(x-y) \cdot \prod_{y_k \in Y'_s} |y-y_k| = \prod_{x_k \in X_s} |y-x_k| \prod_{y_k \in Y_{s-1}, y_k \neq y} |y-y_k| = r_s |P'_{2^s}(y)|$ , by (3). On the other hand, by (1),  $P'_{2^{s+1}}(x) = r_s |P'_{2^s}(y)|$ . Hence,  $|P'_{2^s}(x)| = \beta |P'_{2^s}(y)|$ . Let us estimate  $\beta$  from below. We can take into account only  $y_k \in Y'_s$  with  $y_k > y$ , since otherwise the corresponding term in  $\beta$  exceeds 1. The interval  $I_{j,s-1}$  contains two points  $y_k$  with  $y_k - y > h_{j,s-1}$ . Lemma 3 yields  $1 + \frac{l_{i,s}}{y-y_k} > 1 - \frac{8}{7} \cdot \frac{l_{i,s-1}}{l_{i,s-1}} > 1 - \frac{8}{7} \cdot 4\gamma_s$ .

For the next four points (let  $I_{j,s-1} \subset I_{m,s-2}$ ) we have  $y_k - y > h_{m,s-2}$  and  $1 + \frac{l_{i,s}}{y - y_k} > 1 - \frac{8}{7} \cdot \frac{l_{i,s}}{l_{m,s-2}} > 1 - \frac{8}{7} \cdot 4\gamma_s \cdot 4\gamma_{s-1} \ge 1 - \frac{1}{7} \cdot 4\gamma_s$ , by (5).

We continue in this fashion obtaining  $\log \beta > \sum_{k=1}^{s} 2^k \log(1 - \frac{4}{7} \cdot 8^{2-k} \gamma_s)$ . If  $0 < a < \frac{1}{4}$  then  $\log(1-a) > 4a \log \frac{3}{4} > -1.16a$ . A straightforward calculation shows that  $\log \beta > -16 \gamma_s$ . Thus,

$$\exp(-16\,\gamma_s) \, |P_{2^s}'(y)| < |P_{2^s}'(x)| < |P_{2^s}'(y)|. \tag{6}$$

Combining this inequality with (2) yields the first statement of Lemma. Indeed, let  $x = l_{i_1,m_1} - l_{i_2,m_2} + \cdots - l_{i_{q-1},m_{q-1}} + l_{i_q,m_q}$  with  $1 \le m_1 < \cdots < m_q = s$ . Then  $y \in X_{m_{q-1}}$ . We use (6), then (2) for y, then (6) with y instead of x and  $z = l_{i_1,m_1} - l_{i_2,m_2} + \cdots + l_{i_{q-2},m_{q-2}} \in X_{m_{q-2}}$  instead of y, then (2) for z, etc. Finally,

$$\exp(-16(\gamma_{m_1} + \dots + \gamma_{m_q}))r_1r_2\cdots r_{s-1} < |P'_{2^s}(x)| < r_1r_2\cdots r_{s-1}.$$

If  $m_k = k$  for  $1 \le k \le s$ , then all  $\gamma_k$  are presented in the corresponding sum. Monotonicity of  $|P'_{2^s}|$  on [y, x] gives the desired conclusion.

The second statement of Lemma can be obtained by the Mean Value Theorem, since  $P_{2^s}(y) = 0$ ,  $P_{2^s}(y + l_{i,s}) = -r_s$ . In particular, (6) with  $x = l_{1,s}, y = 0$  yields

$$\delta_s < l_{1,s} < \delta_s \cdot e^{16\,\gamma_s} < 2\,\delta_s. \tag{7}$$

A.F.Beardon and Ch.Pommerenke introduced in [6] the concept of uniformly perfect sets. A dozen of equivalent descriptions of such sets are suggested in [10, p. 343]. We use the following: a compact set  $K \subset \mathbb{C}$  is uniformly perfect if K has at least two points and there exists  $\varepsilon_0 > 0$  such that for any  $z_0 \in K$  and  $0 < r \leq diam(K)$  the set  $K \cap \{z : \varepsilon_0 r < |z - z_0| < r\}$  is not empty.

# **Theorem 2.** The set $K(\gamma)$ , provided (5), is uniformly perfect if and only if $\inf \gamma_s > 0$ .

*Proof*: Suppose  $K(\gamma)$  is uniformly perfect. The values  $z_0 = 0$  and  $r = l_{1,s-1} - l_{2,s}$  in the definition above imply  $l_{1,s} + l_{2,s} > \varepsilon_0 l_{1,s-1}$ . By Lemma 3, we have  $4\gamma_s > \varepsilon_0$ , so  $\inf_s \gamma_s \ge \varepsilon_0/4$ , which is our claim.

For the converse, assume  $\gamma_s \geq \gamma_0 > 0$  for all s. Let us show that  $l_{i,s} > \frac{1}{2} \gamma_0 l_{j,s-1}$  for any intervals  $I_{i,s} \subset I_{j,s-1}$ , which clearly gives uniform perfectness of  $K(\gamma)$ . Fix  $I_{i,s} \subset I_{j,s-1}$ . Let x, y be the endpoints of  $I_{i,s}$  with  $x \in X_s, y \in Y_{s-1}$ .

Suppose first that  $y \in X_{s-1}$ . By the Mean Value Theorem,  $l_{i,s} |P'_{2^s}(\xi)| = r_s$  for some  $\xi \in I_{i,s}$ . By the monotonicity of  $|P'_{2^s}|$  on  $I_{i,s}$ , we have  $|P'_{2^s}(\xi)| < |P'_{2^s}(y)|$ , which is  $r_{s-1} |P'_{2^{s-1}}(y)|$ , by (1). Here,  $|P'_{2^{s-1}}(y)| < |P'_{2^{s-1}}(z)|$ , where  $z \in Y_{s-2}$  is another endpoint of  $I_{j,s-1}$ . Therefore,  $l_{i,s} > \gamma_s r_{s-1}/|P'_{2^{s-1}}(z)|$ . On the other hand,  $l_{j,s-1} = r_{s-1}/|P'_{2^{s-1}}(\eta)|$  with  $\eta \in I_{j,s-1}$ , so  $|P'_{2^{s-1}}(\eta)| > |P'_{2^{s-1}}(z)|/e^{16\gamma_{s-1}}$ , by (6). Hence,  $l_{i,s} > \gamma_s l_{j,s-1}/e^{16\gamma_{s-1}} \ge \frac{1}{2}\gamma_0 l_{j,s-1}$ .

The case  $y \in Y_{s-2}$  is very similar. Here at once y plays the role of z.  $\Box$ 

### 5. $K(\gamma)$ is equilibrium

Here and in the sequel we consider  $r_s$  in the form  $r_s = 2 \exp(-R_s \cdot 2^s)$ . Recall that  $R_s$  is the Robin constant for  $\overline{D}_s$  and  $R_s \uparrow R$ , which is finite if  $K(\gamma)$  is not a polar set. In this case, let  $\rho_s = R - R_s$ . Since  $r_0 = 1$ , we have  $\rho_0 = R - \log 2$ . Clearly,  $\gamma_s = \frac{1}{2} \exp[2^s(\rho_s - \rho_{s-1})]$  and  $\delta_s = 2^{-s} \exp(2^s\rho_s - \sum_{k=1}^{s-1} 2^k\rho_k - 2\rho_0)$ . From this,

$$2^{-s} \log \delta_s \to 0 \quad \text{as} \quad s \to \infty.$$
 (8)

Given  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ , let us uniformly distribute the mass  $2^{-s}$  on each  $I_{j,s}$  for  $1 \leq j \leq 2^s$ . We will denote by  $\lambda_s$  the normalized (in this sense) Lebesgue measure on the set  $E_s$ , so  $d\lambda_s = (2^s l_{j,s})^{-1} dt$  on  $I_{j,s}$ .

If  $\mu$  is a finite Borel measure of compact support then its logarithmic potential is defined by  $U^{\mu}(z) = \int \log \frac{1}{|z-t|} d\mu(t)$ . We will denote by  $\mu_K$  the equilibrium measure of  $K, \stackrel{*}{\to}$  means convergence in the weak<sup>\*</sup> topology.

Let I = [a, b] with  $b - a \leq 1, z \in I$ . By partial integration,

$$\int_{I} \log \frac{1}{|z-t|} dt = b - a - (z-a) \log(z-a) - (b-z) \log(b-z).$$

It follows that

$$(b-a)\,\log\frac{e}{b-a} < \int_{I}\log\frac{1}{|z-t|}\,dt < (b-a)\,\log\frac{2e}{b-a}.$$
(9)

**Lemma 5.** Let  $\gamma$  satisfy (5) and  $R < \infty$ . Then  $U^{\lambda_s}(z) \to R$  for  $z \in K(\gamma)$  as  $s \to \infty$ .

*Proof*: Fix  $z \in K(\gamma)$ . Given s, let  $z \in I_{j,s}$  for  $1 \leq j \leq 2^s$ . From (9) we have  $\int_{I_{j,s}} \log |z-t|^{-1} d\lambda_s(t) < 2^{-s} (2 + \log l_{j,s}^{-1})$ , which is o(1) as  $s \to \infty$ , by Lemma 4 and (8).

To estimate  $\sum_{k=1,k\neq j}^{2^s} \int_{I_{k,s}} \log |z-t|^{-1} d\lambda_s(t)$  we use  $P_{2^s}(x) = \prod_{k=1}^{2^s} (x-y_k)$  with  $y_k \in I_{k,s}$ . As above, let  $I_{j,s} \subset I_{m,s-1} \subset I_{q,s-2} \subset \cdots \subset I_{1,0}$ . Suppose k corresponds to the adjacent to  $I_{j,s}$  subinterval  $I_{k,s}$  of  $I_{m,s-1}$ . Then  $h_{m,s-1} \leq |z-t| \leq |y_j-y_k| \leq |z-t| + l_{j,s} + l_{k,s}$ . Hence,  $1 \leq \frac{|y_j-y_k|}{|z-t|} \leq 1 + \varepsilon_0$ , where  $\varepsilon_0 = \frac{l_{j,s}+l_{k,s}}{h_{m,s-1}} < \frac{1}{7}$ , by Lemma 3. For this k we get

 $2^{-s} \log |y_j - y_k|^{-1} < \int_{I_{k,s}} \log |z - t|^{-1} d\lambda_s(t) < 2^{-s} (\log |y_j - y_k|^{-1} + \varepsilon_0).$ 

In its turn,  $I_{q,s-2} \supset I_{m,s-1}^{i,s} \cup I_{n,s-1}$ , where  $I_{n,s-1}$  contains other two intervals of the *s*-th level. Let *k* correspond to any of them. Then  $|z - t| - l_{j,s} - l_{k,s} \leq |y_j - y_k| \leq |z - t| + l_{j,s} + l_{k,s}$  with  $|z - t| \geq h_{q,s-2}$ . Here,  $1 - \varepsilon_1 \leq \frac{|y_j - y_k|}{|z - t|} \leq 1 + \varepsilon_1$  with  $\varepsilon_1 = \frac{l_{j,s} + l_{k,s}}{h_{q,s-2}} < \frac{8}{7} (\frac{l_{j,s}}{l_{m,s-1}} \frac{l_{m,s-1}}{l_{q,s-2}} + \frac{l_{k,s}}{l_{n,s-1}} \frac{l_{n,s-1}}{l_{q,s-2}}) < \frac{8}{7} \cdot 2 \cdot 4\gamma_s 4\gamma_{s-1} < \frac{1}{7} \cdot \frac{1}{4}$ , by Lemma 3. Repeating this argument leads to the representation

$$\sum_{k=1,k\neq j}^{2^{s}} \int_{I_{k,s}} \log|z-t|^{-1} d\lambda_{s}(t) = 2^{-s} \log \prod_{k=1,k\neq j}^{2^{s}} |y_{j}-y_{k}|^{-1} + \varepsilon,$$

where  $|\varepsilon| \leq 2^{-s+1}(\varepsilon_0 + 2\varepsilon_1 + \dots + 2^{s-1}\varepsilon_{s-1})$  with  $\varepsilon_k < \frac{2}{7} \cdot 8^{-k}$  for  $k \geq 1$ . Here we used the estimate  $|\log(1+x)| \leq 2|x|$  for |x| < 1/2. We see that  $|\varepsilon| < 2^{-s}$ .

The main term above is  $2^{-s} \log |P'_{2^s}(y_j)|^{-1}$ , which is  $2^{-s} \log(\delta_s/r_s) + o(1)$ , by Lemma 4. Thus,

$$\int \log |z-t|^{-1} d\lambda_s(t) = 2^{-s} \log(\delta_s/r_s) + o(1) \quad \text{as} \quad s \to \infty.$$

Finally,  $2^{-s} \log(\delta_s/r_s) = R_s + 2^{-s} \log \frac{\delta_s}{2} \to R$  as  $s \to \infty$ , by (8).  $\Box$ 

**Theorem 3.** Suppose  $\gamma$  satisfies (5) and  $Cap(K(\gamma)) > 0$ . Then  $\lambda_s \xrightarrow{*} \mu_{K(\gamma)}$ .

Proof: All measures  $\lambda_s$  have unit mass. By Helly's Selection Theorem (see for instance [15, Th.0.1.3]), we can select a subsequence  $(\lambda_{s_k})_{k=1}^{\infty}$ , weak\* convergent to some measure  $\mu$ . Approximating the function  $\log |z - \cdot|^{-1}$  by the truncated continuous kernels (see for instance [15, Th.1.6.9]), we get  $\liminf_{k\to\infty} U^{\lambda_{s_k}}(z) = U^{\mu}(z)$  for quasi-every  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ . In particular, by Lemma 5, we have  $U^{\mu}(z) = R$  for quasi-every  $z \in K(\gamma)$ . This means that  $\mu = \mu_{K(\gamma)}$  (see e.g. [15, Th.1.3.3]). The same proof remains valid for any subsequence  $(\lambda_{s_i})_{i=1}^{\infty}$ . Therefore,  $\lambda_s \xrightarrow{*} \mu_{K(\gamma)}$ .  $\Box$ 

**Remark.** Clearly, any compact set K with nonempty interior cannot be equilibrium in our sense since  $supp \mu_k \subset \partial K$ . Neither geometrically symmetric Cantor-type sets of positive capacity are equilibrium. Let us consider the set  $K^{(\alpha)}$  from [1] which is constructed by means of the Cantor procedure with  $l_{s+1} = l_s^{\alpha}$  for  $1 < \alpha < 2$ . The values  $\alpha \geq 2$  give polar sets  $K^{(\alpha)}$ . As above, let  $\lambda_s$  be the normalized Lebesgue measure on  $E_s = \bigcup_{j=1}^{2^s} I_{j,s}$ . Given  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $z_s = l_1 - l_2 + \cdots + (-1)^{s+1} l_s$ . Estimating distances |z - t| for z = 0 and  $z = z_s$ , as in Lemma 5, it can be checked that  $U^{\lambda_s}(0) - U^{\lambda_s}(z_s) > \sum_{k=1}^{s-1} 2^{-k-1} \log \frac{(l_{k-1}-l_k)(l_{k-1}-l_{k+1})}{(l_{k-1}-2l_k)(l_{k-1}-l_{k+1})}$ . It is easily seen that all fractions here exceed 1. Therefore, for each s there exists a point  $z_s \in K^{(\alpha)}$  such that  $U^{\lambda_s}(0) - U^{\lambda_s}(z_s)$  exceeds the constant  $\frac{1}{4} \log \frac{(1-l_1)(1-l_2)}{(1-2l_1)(1-l_1-l_2)}$  and the limit logarithmic potential is not equilibrium. Indeed, if  $K^{(\alpha)}$  is not polar, then it is regular with respect to the Dirichlet problem (see [11]) and  $U^{\mu_{K(\alpha)}}$  must be continuous in  $\mathbb{C}$  and constant on  $K^{(\alpha)}$ .

# 6. Smoothness of $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}$

We proceed to evaluate the modulus of continuity of the Green function corresponding to the set  $K(\gamma)$ . Recall that a modulus of continuity is a continuous non-decreasing subadditive function  $\omega : \mathbb{R}_+ \to \mathbb{R}_+$  with  $\omega(0) = 0$ . Given function f, its modulus of continuity is  $\omega(f, \delta) = \sup_{|x-y| \leq \delta} |f(x) - f(y)|$ .

In what follows the symbol  $\sim$  denotes the strong equivalence:  $a_s \sim b_s$  means that  $a_s = b_s(1 + o(1))$  for  $s \to \infty$ . This gives a natural interpretation of the relation  $\leq$ .

Let  $\gamma$  be as in the preceding theorem. Then, we are given two monotone sequences  $(\delta_s)_{s=1}^{\infty}$  and  $(\rho_s)_{s=1}^{\infty}$  where, as above,  $\delta_s = \gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_s$ ,  $\rho_s = \sum_{k=s+1}^{\infty} 2^{-k} \log \frac{1}{2\gamma_k}$ . We define the function  $\omega$  by the following conditions:  $\omega(0) = 0$ ,  $\omega(\delta) = \rho_1$  for  $\delta \ge \delta_1$ . If  $s \ge 2$  then  $\omega(\delta) = \rho_s + 2^{-s} \log \frac{\delta}{\delta_s}$  for  $\delta_s \le \delta \le \delta_{s-1}/16$  and  $\omega(\delta) = \rho_{s-1} - k_s(\delta_{s-1} - \delta)$  for  $\delta_{s-1}/16 < \delta < \delta_{s-1}$  with  $k_s = \frac{16}{15} \cdot 2^{-s} \delta_{s-1}^{-1} \log 8$ .

**Lemma 6.** The function  $\omega$  is a concave modulus of continuity. If  $\gamma_s \to 0$  then for any positive constant C we have  $\omega(\delta) \sim \rho_s + 2^{-s} \log \frac{C\delta}{\delta_s}$  as  $\delta \to 0$  with  $\delta_s \leq \delta < \delta_{s-1}$ . Proof: The function  $\omega$  is continuous due to the choice of  $k_s$ . In addition,  $\omega'(\delta_{s-1} + 0) < k_s < \omega'(\delta_{s-1}/16 - 0)$ , which provides concavity of  $\omega$ .

If  $\gamma_s = \frac{1}{2} \exp[2^s(\rho_s - \rho_{s-1})] \to 0$  then  $2^s \rho_s \to \infty$  and we have the desired equivalence in the case  $\delta_s \leq \delta \leq \delta_{s-1}/16$ . Suppose  $\delta_{s-1}/16 < \delta < \delta_{s-1}$ . The identity

$$\rho_{s-1} = \rho_s + 2^{-s} \log \frac{\delta_{s-1}}{2\delta_s} \tag{10}$$

yields  $|\rho_s + 2^{-s} \log \frac{C\delta}{\delta_s} - \omega(\delta)| < 2^{-s} [|\log \frac{2C\delta}{\delta_{s-1}}| + \frac{16}{15} \log 8 \cdot (1 - \frac{\delta}{\delta_{s-1}})] < 2^{-s} [|\log C| + 8 \log 2]$ , which is  $o(\omega)$  since here  $\omega(\delta) > \rho_{s-1} - 2^{-s} \log 8$ .  $\Box$ 

**Lemma 7.** Suppose  $\gamma$  satisfies (5) and  $Cap(K(\gamma)) > 0$ . Let  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $z_0 \in K(\gamma)$  with  $dist(z, K(\gamma)) = |z - z_0| = \delta < 1$ . Choose  $s \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $z_0 \in I_{j,s} \subset I_{j_1,s-1}$  with  $l_{j,s} \leq \delta < l_{j_1,s-1}$ . Then  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}(z) < \rho_s + 2^{-s} \log \frac{16\delta}{\delta_s}$ . On the other hand, if  $l_{1,s} \leq \delta < l_{1,s-1}$  then  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}(-\delta) > \rho_s + 2^{-s} \log \frac{\delta}{\delta_s}$ .

Proof: Consider the chain of basic intervals containing  $z_0: z_0 \in I_{j,s} \subset I_{j_1,s-1} \subset I_{j_2,s-2} \subset \cdots \subset I_{j_s,0} = [0,1]$ . Here,  $I_{j_i,s-i} \setminus I_{j_{i-1},s-i+1}$  contains  $2^{i-1}$  basic intervals of the *s*-th level. Each of them has certain endpoints x, y with  $x \in X_s, y \in Y_{s-1}$ . Recall that  $Y_{s-1}$  is the set of zeros of  $P_{2^s}$ . Distinguish  $y_j \in I_{j,s}$ . Now for a fixed large n we will express the value  $|P_{2^n}(z)| = \prod_{k=1}^{2^n} |z - x_k|$  in terms of  $\prod_{k=1, k\neq j}^{2^s} |y_j - y_k|$  (compare to Lemma 5). Clearly, each interval of the *s*-th level contains  $2^{n-s}$  zeros of  $P_{2^n}$ , so we will replace these  $2^{n-s}$  points with the corresponding  $y_k$ .

Let us first consider the product  $\pi_0 := \prod_{x_k \in I_{j,s}} |z - x_k|$ . Here,  $|z - x_k| \le \delta + l_{j,s} < 2\delta$ , so  $\pi_0 < (2\delta)^{2^{n-s}}$ .

Let  $\pi_1 := \prod_{x_k \in I_{m,s}} |z - x_k|$ , where  $I_{m,s}$  is adjacent to  $I_{j,s}$ . Then  $|z_0 - x_k| \le l_{j_1,s-1} = |y_j - y_m|$ , since  $y_j$  and  $y_m$  are the endpoints of the interval  $I_{j_1,s-1}$ . Therefore,  $|z - x_k| < 2|y_j - y_m|$  and  $\pi_1 < (2|y_j - y_m|)^{2^{n-s}}$ .

In the general case, given  $2 \leq i \leq s$ , let  $\pi_i$  denote the product of all  $|z - x_k|$  for  $x_k \in J_i := I_{j_i,s-i} \setminus I_{j_{i-1},s-i+1}$ . Suppose  $x_k \in I_{q,s}$ . Then,  $|z - x_k| \leq \delta + l_{j,s} + |y_j - y_q| + l_{q,s} \leq |y_j - y_q| (1 + \frac{\delta + l_{j,s} + l_{q,s}}{h_{j_i,s-i}})$ , since  $y_j$  and  $y_q$  belong to different subintervals of the (s - i + 1)-th level for  $I_{j_i,s-i}$ . Here,  $\frac{\delta}{h_{j_i,s-i}} < \frac{8}{7} \frac{l_{j_1,s-1}}{l_{j_i,s-i}} < \frac{8}{7} 8^{1-i}$ , by Lemma 3. As in the proof of Lemma 5, we obtain  $\frac{l_{j,s}+l_{q,s}}{h_{j_i,s-i}} < \frac{8}{7} \cdot 2 \cdot 8^{-i}$ . From this,  $\prod_{x_k \in I_{q,s}} |z - x_k| \leq [|y_j - y_q| (1 + \frac{80}{7} 8^{-i})]^{2^{n-s}}$ . Since  $J_i$  contains  $2^{i-1}$  basic intervals of the s-th level,  $\pi_i < [(1 + \frac{80}{7} 8^{-i})^{2^{i-1}} \prod_{y_q \in J_i} |y_j - y_q|]^{2^{n-s}}$ .

The product  $\prod_{i=2}^{s} (1 + \frac{80}{7} 8^{-i})^{2^{i-1}}$  is smaller than 2, as is easy to check.

Therefore,  $|P_{2^n}(z)| = \prod_{i=0}^s \pi_i < [8 \cdot \delta \cdot \prod_{k=1, k \neq j}^{2^s} |y_j - y_k|]^{2^{n-s}}$ . The last product in the square brackets is  $|P'_{2^s}(y_j)|$ , which does not exceed  $r_s/\delta_s$ , by Lemma 4. Hence,  $2^{-n} \log |P_{2^n}(z)| < 2^{-s} \log \frac{16\delta}{\delta_s} - R_s$ .

Finally, by Corollary 1,  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}(z) = R + \lim_{n\to\infty} 2^{-n} \log |P_{2^n}(z)|$ , which yields the desired upper bound of the Green function.

Similar, but simpler calculations establish the sharpness of the bound. We have  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}(-\delta) = R + \lim_{n\to\infty} 2^{-n} \log P_{2^n}(-\delta)$ . Now,  $P_{2^n}(-\delta) = \prod_{i=0}^s \pi_i$  with  $\pi_0 = \prod_{x_k\in I_{1,s}} (\delta+x_k) > \delta^{2^{n-s}}$  and  $\pi_i = \prod_{x_k\in I_{2,s-i+1}} (\delta+x_k)$  for  $i \ge 1$ . Suppose  $x_k \in I_{q,s} \subset \frac{1}{2^{n-s}}$ 

$$\begin{split} I_{2,s-i+1}. \text{ Then } \delta + x_k > y_q - l_{q,s}. \text{ Since } y_q > h_{1,s-i} > \frac{7}{8} l_{1,s-i}, \text{ we have } \delta + x_k > y_q (1 - \frac{8}{7} 8^{-i}) \\ \text{and } \pi_i > [(1 - \frac{1}{7} 8^{1-i})^{2^{i-1}} \prod_{y_q \in I_{2,s-i+1}} y_q]^{2^{n-s}}. \text{ Therefore, } P_{2^n}(-\delta) > [\frac{\delta}{2} \prod_{k=1}^{2^s} y_k]^{2^{n-s}} = [\frac{\delta}{2} |P'_{2^s}(0)|]^{2^{n-s}} = [\delta/\delta_s \cdot r_s/2]^{2^{n-s}}, \text{ by (2). Thus, } 2^{-n} \log P_{2^n}(-\delta) > -R_s + 2^{-s} \log \frac{\delta}{\delta_s} \\ \text{and } g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}(-\delta) \ge \rho_s + 2^{-s} \log \frac{\delta}{\delta_s}. \ \Box \end{split}$$

**Theorem 4.** Suppose  $\gamma$  satisfies (5) and  $Cap(K(\gamma)) > 0$ . If  $\delta_s \leq \delta < \delta_{s-1}$  then  $\rho_s + 2^{-s} \log \frac{\delta}{\delta_s} < \omega(g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}, \delta) < \rho_s + 2^{-s} \log \frac{16\delta}{\delta_s}$ . If  $\gamma_s \to 0$  then  $\omega(g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}, \delta) \sim \omega(\delta)$  as  $\delta \to 0$ .

*Proof*: Fix  $\delta$  and s with  $\delta_s \leq \delta < \delta_{s-1}$ . By (7),  $\delta_s < l_{1,s} < 2 \, \delta_s < \delta_{s-1}$ .

If  $l_{1,s} \leq \delta < \delta_{s-1}$  then  $\omega(g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}, \delta) \geq g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}(-\delta)$ , so Lemma 7 yields the desired lower bound. If  $\delta_s \leq \delta < l_{1,s}$ , then  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}(-\delta) > \rho_{s+1} + 2^{-s-1} \log \frac{\delta}{\delta_{s+1}} = \rho_s + 2^{-s-1} \log \frac{2\delta}{\delta_s}$ , by (10). Here,  $2^{-s-1} \log \frac{2\delta}{\delta_s} > 2^{-s} \log \frac{2\delta}{\delta_s}$ , as is easy to check.

In order to get the upper bound, without loss of generality we can assume that  $\omega(g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}, \delta) = g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}(z)$  where  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  is such that  $dist(z, K(\gamma)) = |z - z_0| = \delta$  for some  $z_0 \in K(\gamma)$ .

Fix m such that  $z_0 \in I_{j,m} \subset I_{j_1,m-1}$  for some j with  $l_{j,m} \leq \delta < l_{j_1,m-1}$ . Then  $m \geq s$ , since otherwise Lemma 4 gives a contradiction  $\delta < \delta_{s-1} \leq \delta_m < l_{j,m} \leq \delta$ .

If m = s then, by Lemma 7, the result is immediate.

If  $m \ge s+1$  then  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}(z) \le \rho_m + 2^{-m} \log \frac{16\delta}{\delta_m}$  that does not exceed  $\rho_s + 2^{-s} \log \frac{16\delta}{\delta_s}$ . Indeed, the function  $f(\delta) = \rho_s - \rho_m + (2^{-s} - 2^{-m}) \log 16\delta - 2^{-s} \log \delta_s + 2^{-m} \log \delta_m$  attains its minimal value on  $[\delta_s, \delta_{s-1})$  at the left endpoint. Here,  $f(\delta_s) = (2^{-s} - 2^{-m}) \log 8 + \sum_{k=s+1}^m (2^{-k} - 2^{-m}) \log \frac{1}{\gamma_k} > 0$ .

The last statement of the theorem is a corollary of Lemma 6.  $\Box$ 

# 7. Model types of smoothness

Let us consider some model examples with different rates of decrease of  $(\rho_s)_{s=1}^{\infty}$ . Recall that for non-polar sets  $K(\gamma)$  with  $R = Rob(K(\gamma))$  we have  $\rho_s \downarrow 0$  and  $R_s - R_{s-1} = \rho_{s-1} - \rho_s = 2^{-s} \log \frac{1}{2\gamma_s}$  with  $\rho_0 = R - \log 2$ . Therefore,  $R = \log 2 - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 2^{-k} \log 2\gamma_k$ . In addition, (5) implies  $\rho_s \ge 2^{-s} \log 16$  and  $R \ge \log 32$ , so  $Cap(K(\gamma)) \le 1/32$ .

If a set K is uniformly perfect, then the function  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K}$  is Hölder continuous (see e.g. [10], p. 119), which means the existence of constants  $C, \alpha$  such that

$$g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K}(z) \leq C (dist(z,K))^{\alpha}$$
 for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

In this case we write  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K} \in Lip \ \alpha$ .

By Theorem 2,  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}$  is Hölder continuous provided  $\gamma_s = const$ . Now we can control the exponent  $\alpha$  in the definition above. In the following examples we suppose that  $dist(z, K(\gamma)) = \delta$  with  $\delta_s \leq \delta < \delta_{s-1}$  for large s.

**Example 2.** Let  $\gamma_s = \gamma_1 \leq \frac{1}{32}$  for all s. Then  $\delta_s = \gamma_1^s, r_s = \gamma_1^{2^{s-1}}, R = \log \frac{1}{\gamma_1}$ , and  $\rho_s = 2^{-s} \log \frac{1}{2\gamma_1}$ . Here,  $\rho_s + 2^{-s} \log \frac{\delta}{\delta_s} \geq \rho_s > 2^{-s} = \delta_s^{\alpha}$  with  $\alpha = -\frac{\log 2}{\log \gamma_1}$ . Since  $\delta_s = \gamma_1 \delta_{s-1} > \gamma_1 \delta$ , we have, by Theorem 4,  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}(-\delta) > \gamma_1^{\alpha} \delta^{\alpha}$ . On the other hand,  $\rho_s + 2^{-s} \log \frac{16\delta}{\delta_s} < \delta^{\alpha} \log \frac{8}{\gamma_1^2}$ . Suppose we are given  $\alpha$  with  $0 < \alpha \leq 1/5$ . Then the value  $\gamma_s = 2^{-1/\alpha}$  for all s provides  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)} \in Lip \ \alpha$  and  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)} \notin Lip \ \beta$  for  $\beta > \alpha$ .

The next example is related to the function  $h(\delta) = (\log \frac{1}{\delta})^{-1}$  that defines the logarithmic measure of sets. Let us write  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K} \in Lip_h \alpha$  if for some constants C we have

$$g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K}(z) \le C h^{\alpha}(dist(z,K))$$
 for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .

**Example 3.** Given  $1/2 < \rho < 1$ , let  $\rho_s = \rho^s$  for  $s \ge s_0$ , where  $\frac{\rho}{1-\rho} \log 16 < (2\rho)^{s_0}$ . This condition provides  $\gamma_s < 1/32$  for  $s > s_0$ . Suppose  $\gamma_s = 1/32$  for  $s \le s_0$ , so we can use Theorem 4. For large s we have  $\delta_s = C 2^{-s} \mu^{(2\rho)^s}$  with  $\mu = \exp(\frac{2\rho-2}{2\rho-1})$  and some constant C. Let us take  $\alpha = \frac{\log(1/\rho)}{\log(2\rho)}$ , so  $(2\rho)^{\alpha} = 1/\rho$ . Then  $h^{\alpha}(\delta) \ge h^{\alpha}(\delta_s) \ge \varepsilon_0(2\rho)^{-s\alpha} = \varepsilon_0 \rho \cdot \rho_{s-1}$  for some  $\varepsilon_0$ . From this we conclude that  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)} \in Lip_h \alpha$  for given  $\alpha$ . Evaluation  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}(-\delta_s)$  from below yields  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)} \notin Lip_h \beta$  for  $\beta > \alpha$ . Now, given  $\alpha > 0$ , the value  $\rho = 2^{-\frac{\alpha}{1+\alpha}}$  provides the corresponding Green function of the exact class  $Lip_h \alpha$  (compare this to [1], [8]).

**Example 4.** Let  $\rho_s = 1/s$ . Then  $\gamma_s = \frac{1}{2} \exp(\frac{-2^s}{s^2-s}) < 1/32$  for  $s \ge 8$ . As above, all previous values of  $\gamma_s$  are 1/32. Here,  $\delta_s = C 2^{-s} \exp[\frac{2^s}{s} - \sum_{k=1}^{s-1} \frac{2^k}{k}]$ . Summation by parts (see e.g. [14], T.3.41) yields  $\delta_s = C 2^{-s} \exp[-2^{s+1}(s^{-2} + o(s^{-2}))]$ . From this,  $\omega(g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}, \delta) \sim \frac{1}{s} \sim \frac{\log 2}{\log \log 1/\delta_s}$ .

**Example 5.** Given  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $F_N(t) = \log \log \cdots \log t$  be the N-th iteration of the logarithmic function. Let  $\rho_s = (F_N(s))^{-1}$  for large enough s. Here,  $\rho_{k-1} - \rho_k \sim [k \cdot \log k \cdot F_2(k) \cdots F_{N-1}(k) \cdot F_N^2(k)]^{-1}$ . Since  $\delta_s = C 2^{-s} \exp[-\sum_{k=1}^s 2^k (\rho_{k-1} - \rho_k)]$ , we have, as above,  $s \sim \frac{\log \log 1/\delta_s}{\log 2}$ . Thus,  $\omega(g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}, \delta) \sim [F_{N+2}(1/\delta)]^{-1}$ .

We see that a more slow decrease of  $(\rho_s)$  implies a less smooth  $g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}$  and conversely. If, in examples above, we take  $\gamma_s = 1/32$  for  $s < s_0$  with rather large  $s_0$ , then the set  $K(\gamma)$  will have logarithmic capacity as closed to 1/32, as we wish.

**Problem.** Given modulus of continuity  $\omega$ , to find  $(\gamma_s)_{s=1}^{\infty}$  such that  $\omega(g_{\mathbb{C}\setminus K(\gamma)}, \cdot)$  coincides with  $\omega$  at least on some null sequence.

## 8. Markov's factors

Let  $\mathcal{P}_n$  denote the set of all holomorphic polynomials of degree at most n. For any infinite compact set  $K \subset \mathbb{C}$  we consider the sequence of Markov's factors  $M_n(K) =$  $\inf\{M : |P'|_K \leq M |P|_K \text{ for all } P \in \mathcal{P}_n\}, n \in \mathbb{N}$ . We see that  $M_n(K)$  is the norm of the operator of differentiation in the space  $(\mathcal{P}_n, |\cdot|_K)$ . In the case of non-polar K, the knowledge about smoothness of the Green function near the boundary of K may help to estimate  $M_n(K)$  from above. The application of the Cauchy formula for P'and the Bernstein-Walsh inequality yields the estimate

$$M_n(K) \le \inf_{\delta} \delta^{-1} \exp[n \cdot \omega(g_{\mathbb{C} \setminus K}, \delta)].$$
(11)

This approach gives an effective bound of  $M_n(K)$  for the cases of temperate growth of  $\omega(g_{\mathbb{C}\backslash K}, \cdot)$ . For instance, the Hölder continuity of  $g_{\mathbb{C}\backslash K}$  implies Markov's property of the set K, which means that there are constants C, m such that  $M_n(K) \leq Cn^m$ for all n. In this case, the infimum m(K) of all positive exponents m in the inequality above is called the best Markov's exponent of K.

**Lemma 8.** Suppose  $\gamma$  satisfies (5) and  $Cap(K(\gamma)) > 0$ . Given fixed  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $f(\delta) = \delta^{-1} \exp[2^s(\rho_k + 2^{-k} \log \frac{16\delta}{\delta_k})]$  for  $\delta_k \leq \delta < \delta_{k-1}$  with  $k \geq 2$ . Then  $\inf_{0 < \delta < \delta_1} f(\delta) = f(\delta_s - 0) = 4\sqrt{2} \delta_s^{-1} \exp(2^s \rho_s)$ .

Proof: Let us fix the interval  $I_k = [\delta_k, \delta_{k-1})$ . In view of the representation  $f(\delta) = C_{s,k} \, \delta^{2^{s-k}-1}$ , the function f increases for k < s, decreases for k > s, and is constant for k = s on  $I_k$ . An easy computation shows that  $f(\delta_{k+1}) < f(\delta_k)$  for  $k \leq s-1$  and  $f(\delta_{k-1}-0) < f(\delta_k-0)$  for  $k \geq s+1$ . Thus, it remains to compare  $f(\delta_s-0)$  and  $f(\delta_s)$ . Here,  $f(\delta_s) = 16 \, \delta_s^{-1} \exp(2^s \, \rho_s)$  exceeds  $f(\delta_s - 0) = \, \delta_s^{-1} (16/\gamma_{s+1})^{1/2} \exp(2^s \rho_{s+1}) = 4\sqrt{2} \, \delta_s^{-1} \exp(2^s \, \rho_s)$ .  $\Box$ 

**Example 6.** Let  $\gamma_s = \gamma_1 \leq \frac{1}{32}$  for  $s \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then, by Lemma 8 and Example 2,  $M_{2^s}(K(\gamma)) \leq \sqrt{8} \cdot \delta_{s+1}^{-1} = \sqrt{8} \gamma_1^{-1} 2^{s/\alpha}$ , where  $\alpha$  is the same as in Example 2.

On the other hand, let  $Q = P_{2^s} + r_s/2$ . Then  $|Q|_{K(\gamma)} = r_s/2$  and  $|Q'(0)| = r_s/\delta_s$ , so  $M_{2^s}(K(\gamma)) \ge 2 \delta_s^{-1} = 2 \cdot 2^{s/\alpha}$ . Now, for each *n* we choose *s* with  $2^s \le n < 2^{s+1}$ . Since the sequence of Markov's factors increases,

$$c \ n^{1/\alpha} \le M_{2^s}(K(\gamma)) \le M_n(K(\gamma)) \le M_{2^{s+1}}(K(\gamma)) \le C \ n^{1/\alpha}$$

with  $c = 2^{1-1/\alpha}$ ,  $C = \gamma_1^{-1} 2^{3/2+1/\alpha}$ . Given  $m \in [5, \infty)$ , the value  $\gamma_s = 2^{-m}$  for all s provides the set  $K(\gamma)$  with  $m(K(\gamma)) = m = 1/\alpha$ .

However, the estimate (11) may be rather rough for compact sets with less smooth moduli of continuity of the corresponding Green's functions. For instance, in the case of  $K(\gamma)$  with  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \gamma_k < \infty$  (then  $2^s \rho_s \to \infty$ ) and  $n = 2^s$ , the exact value of the right side in (11) is  $4\sqrt{2} \delta_s^{-1} \exp(2^s \rho_s)$ , whereas  $M_{2^s}(K(\gamma)) \sim 2 \delta_s^{-1}$ , which will be shown below by means of the Lagrange interpolation. It should be noted that the set  $K(\gamma)$ may be polar here.

Let us interpolate  $P \in \mathcal{P}_{2^s}$  at zeros  $(x_k)_{k=1}^{2^s}$  of  $P_{2^s}$  and at one extra point  $l_{1,s}$ . Then the fundamental Lagrange interpolating polynomials are  $L_*(x) = -P_{2^s}(x)/r_s$  and  $L_k(x) = \frac{(x-l_{1,s})P_{2^s}(x)}{(x-x_k)(x_k-l_{1,s})P'_{2^s}(x_k)}$  for  $k = 1, 2, \cdots, 2^s$ . Let  $\Delta_s$  denote  $\sup_{x \in K(\gamma)} [|L'_*(x)| + \sum_{k=1}^{2^s} |L'_k(x)|]$ . For convenience we enumerate  $(x_k)_{k=1}^{2^s}$  in increasing way, so  $x_k \in I_{k,s}$ for  $1 \leq k \leq 2^s$ .

**Lemma 9.** Suppose  $\gamma$  satisfies (5) and  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \gamma_k < \infty$ . Then  $\Delta_s \sim 2 \, \delta_s^{-1}$ .

*Proof*: We use the following representation:

$$L'_{k}(x) = \frac{P'_{2^{s}}(x)}{(x_{k} - l_{1,s})P'_{2^{s}}(x_{k})} + \frac{P_{2^{s}}(x)}{(x - x_{k})P'_{2^{s}}(x_{k})} \sum_{j=1, j \neq k}^{2^{s}} \frac{1}{x - x_{j}} =: A_{k} + B_{k}.$$
(12)

In particular,  $L'_1(0) = -l_{1,s}^{-1} - \sum_{j=2}^{2^s} x_k^{-1}$ . By (2),  $|L'_*(0)| = \delta_s^{-1}$ , so  $\Delta_s > |L'_*(0)| + |L'_1(0)| > \delta_s^{-1} + l_{1,s}^{-1} > \delta_s^{-1}(1 + e^{-16\gamma_s})$ , by (7). Thus,  $\Delta_s \gtrsim 2 \delta_s^{-1}$ .

We proceed to estimate  $\Delta_s$  from above. Lemma 4 gives the uniform bound  $|L'_*(x)| \leq$  $\delta_s^{-1}$ .

Let us examine separately the sum  $\sum_{k=1}^{2^s} |A_k|$ , where  $A_k$  are defined by (12). Let  $C_0 = \exp(16 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \gamma_k)$ . Then, by Lemma 4,  $|P'_{2^s}(x)| \leq |P'_{2^s}(0)| = r_s/\delta_s < C_0|P'_{2^s}(x_k)|$  for  $x \in K(\gamma)$ . Therefore,  $|A_1| \leq l_{1,s}^{-1} < \delta_s^{-1}$  and  $\sum_{k=2}^{2^s} |A_k| < C_0 \sum_{k=2}^{2^s} (x_k - l_{1,s})^{-1}$ . Here,  $\sum_{k=2}^{2^s} (x_k - l_{1,s})^{-1} < 2 l_{1,s-1}^{-1}$ , as is easy to check. Thus,  $\sum_{k=1}^{2^s} |A_k| < \delta_s^{-1} + 2C_s \delta^{-1}$  $2C_0\delta_{s-1}^{-1}$ .

In order to estimate the sum of the addends  $B_k$ , let us fix  $x \in K(\gamma)$  and  $1 \leq m \leq 2^s$ such that  $x \in I_{m,s}$ . Suppose first that  $k \neq m$ . Then

$$\sum_{j=1, j \neq k}^{2^{s}} \left| \frac{P_{2^{s}}(x)}{x - x_{j}} \right| < 2 \left| \frac{P_{2^{s}}(x)}{x - x_{m}} \right| \le 2 \left| P_{2^{s}}'(\xi) \right|$$
(13)

with a certain  $\xi \in I_{m,s}$ . Indeed, if  $x = x_m$  then this sum is exactly  $|P'_{2^s}(x_m)|$ , so  $\xi = x_m$ . Otherwise we take the main term out of the brackets:

$$\left|\frac{P_{2^s}(x)}{x-x_m}\right| \left[1+\sum_{\substack{j=1, j\neq k, j\neq m}}^{2^s} \left|\frac{x-x_m}{x-x_j}\right|\right].$$

Here the sum in the square brackets can be handled in the same way as in the proof of Lemma 3. Let  $I_{m,s} \subset I_{q,s-1} \subset I_{r,s-2} \subset \cdots$ . Then  $[\cdots] \leq 1 + l_{m,s}(h_{q,s-1}^{-1} + 2h_{r,s-2}^{-1} + \cdots) \leq 1 + \frac{8}{7}l_{m,s}(l_{q,s-1}^{-1} + 2l_{r,s-2}^{-1} + \cdots) < 1 + \frac{8}{7}(4\gamma_s + 2 \cdot 4\gamma_s 4\gamma_{s-1} + \cdots) < 2.$ 

On the other hand, by Taylor's formula,  $P_{2^s}(x) = P'_{2^s}(\xi)(x-x_m)$  with  $\xi \in I_{m,s}$ , which establishes (13).

Therefore,

$$\sum_{k=1,k\neq m}^{2^{s}} |B_{k}| < \sum_{k=1,k\neq m}^{2^{s}} \frac{2C_{0}}{|x-x_{k}|}.$$

As above,  $\sum_{k=1,k\neq m}^{2^{s}} |B_{k}| < 2C_{0}(h_{q,s-1}^{-1} + 2h_{r,s-2}^{-1} + \cdots) < 4C_{0}h_{q,s-1}^{-1} < 5C_{0}l_{q,s-1}^{-1}.$ 

It remains to consider  $B_m = \frac{P_{2^s}(x)}{(x-x_m)P'_{2^s}(x_m)} \sum_{j=1, j \neq m}^{2^s} \frac{1}{x-x_j}$ . Let us take the interval 
$$\begin{split} &I_{n,s} \text{ adjacent to } I_{m,s}, \text{ so } I_{n,s} \cup I_{m,s} \subset I_{q,s-1}. \text{ Then, as above, } \sum_{j=1, j \neq m}^{2^{s}} |x - x_{j}|^{-1} < \\ &2 |x - x_{n}|^{-1} \text{ and } |B_{m}| < 2 C_{0} |x - x_{n}|^{-1} < 3 C_{0} l_{q,s-1}^{-1}, \text{ since } |x - x_{n}| > h_{q,s-1}. \\ &\text{This gives } \sum_{k=1}^{2^{s}} |B_{k}| < 8 C_{0} l_{q,s-1}^{-1} < 8 C_{0} \delta_{s-1}^{-1}, \text{ by Lemma 4. Finally, } \Delta_{s} < 2 \delta_{s}^{-1} + \\ &10 C_{0} \delta_{s-1}^{-1} = \delta_{s}^{-1} (2 + 10 C_{0} \gamma_{s}) \sim 2 \delta_{s}^{-1}. \quad \Box \end{split}$$

**Theorem 5.** With the assumptions of Lemma 8,  $M_{2^s}(K(\gamma)) \sim 2 \delta_s^{-1}$ .

*Proof*: On the one hand,  $|P_{2^s} + r_s/2|_{K(\gamma)} = r_s/2$  and  $|P'_{2^s}(0)| = r_s/\delta_s$ , so  $M_{2^s}(K(\gamma)) \ge 1$  $2\delta_s^{-1}$ .

On the other hand, for each polynomial  $P \in \mathcal{P}_{2^s}$  and  $x \in K(\gamma)$  we have  $|P'(x)| \leq |P'(x)| < |P'(x$  $|P|_{K(\gamma)}\Delta_s$ , and the theorem follows.  $\Box$ 

We are now in a position to construct a compact set with preassigned growth of subsequence of Markov's factors. Suppose we are given a sequence of positive terms  $(M_{2^s})_{s=0}^{\infty}$  with  $\sum_{s=0}^{\infty} M_{2^s}/M_{2^{s+1}} < \infty$ . The case of polynomial growth of  $(M_n)$  was considered before, so let us assume that  $C n^m M_n^{-1} \to 0$  as  $n \to \infty$  for fixed C and m. Fix  $s_0$  such that  $M_{2^s}/M_{2^{s+1}} \leq 1/32$  for  $s \geq s_0$  and  $M_{2^{s_0}} \geq 2 \cdot 2^{5s_0}$ .

Let us take  $\gamma_s = M_{2^{s-1}}/M_{2^s}$  for  $s > s_0$  and  $\gamma_s = (2/M_{2^{s_0}})^{1/s_0}$  for  $s \le s_0$ . Then  $\gamma_s \le 1/32$  for all s and we can use Theorem 5. Here,  $\delta_s = 2/M_{2^s}$ , so  $M_{2^s}(K(\gamma)) \sim M_{2^s}$ .

It should be noted that the growth of  $(M_n(K))$  is restricted for a non-polar compact set K ([5], Pr.3.1). It is also interesting to compare Theorem 5 with Theorem 2 in [16].

#### 9. The best Markov's exponent

If a compact set K has Markov's property, then the Markov inequality is not necessarily valid on K with the best Markov's exponent m(K). An example of such compact set in  $\mathbb{C}^N$ ,  $N \ge 2$  was presented in [4], where the authors posed the problem (5.1): is the same true in  $\mathbb{C}$ ? The compact set  $K(\gamma)$  with a suitable choice of  $\gamma$  gives the answer in the affirmative.

**Example 7.** Fix  $m \geq 5$ . Let  $\varepsilon_k = \sqrt{k} - \sqrt{k-1}$  and  $\gamma_k = 2^{-(m+\varepsilon_k)}$  for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then,  $\delta_s = 2^{-(ms+\sqrt{s})}$  and  $\rho_s = \sum_{k=s+1}^{\infty} 2^{-k} \log 2^{m-1+\varepsilon_k}$ . Since  $\varepsilon_k \leq 1$ , we have  $\exp(2^s \rho_s) < 2^m$ . By Lemma 8 and (11),  $M_{2^s}(K(\gamma)) < C_0 \delta_s^{-1}$  with  $C_0 = 4\sqrt{2} \cdot 2^m$ .

On the other hand, as in Example 6,  $M_{2^s}(K(\gamma)) \ge 2 \delta_s^{-1}$ .

Let us show that for each  $k \geq 2$  the value  $m_k := m + \frac{\sqrt{k}}{k-1}$  is the Markov exponent for  $K(\gamma)$ . We want to find a constant  $C_k$  such that  $M_n(K(\gamma)) \leq C_k n^{m_k}$  holds for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $2^{s-1} < n \leq 2^s$ . Then  $M_n(K(\gamma)) \leq M_{2^s}(K(\gamma)) < C_0 2^m n^{m_s}$ . If s > k then  $m_s < m_k$ . If  $s \leq k$  then  $M_n \leq M_{2^k}$ . Therefore,  $C_k = \max\{C_0 2^m, M_{2^k}\}$  satisfies the desired condition.

However, the Markov inequality on  $K(\gamma)$  does not hold with the exponent  $m(K(\gamma)) = \inf m_k = m$ . Indeed,  $M_{2^s}(K(\gamma)) \geq 2 \, \delta_s^{-1} = 2 \cdot 2^{m \cdot s} \cdot 2^{\sqrt{s}}$ . Therefore, given constant C, the inequality  $M_{2^s}(K(\gamma)) \leq C \, 2^{m \cdot s}$  is impossible for large s.

#### References

[1] M. Altun and A. Goncharov, "On smoothness of the Green function for the complement of a rarefied Cantor-type set", *Constr.Approx.*, vol.33, pp.265-271, 2011.

[2] V. V. Andrievskii, "On the Green function for a complement of a finite number of real intervals", *Constr. Approx.*, vol.20, pp.565-583, 2004.

[3] V. V. Andrievskii, "Constructive function theory on sets of the complex plane through potential theory and geometric function theory", *Surv.Approx.Theory*, vol.2, pp.1-52, 2006.

[4] M. Baran, L. Białas-Cieź, and B. Milowka, "On the best exponent in Markov's inequality", Manuscript.

[5] L. Bialas Bialas-Ciez, "Smoothness of Green's functions and Markov-type inequalities", submitted to Banach Center Publications. [6] A. F. Beardon and Ch. Pommerenke, "The Poincare metric of plane domains", J. London Math. Soc., vol.2, iss.3, pp.475-483, 1978.

[7] L. Carleson and V. Totik, "Hölder continuity of Green's functions", *Acta Sci.Math.* (Szeged), vol.70, pp.557-608, 2004.

[8] S. Celik and A. Goncharov, "Smoothness of the Green Function for a Special Domain", submitted.

[9] R. A. DeVore and G. G. Lorentz, *Constructive Approximation*, Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1993.

[10] J. B. Garnett and D. E. Marshall, *Harmonic measure*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

[11] W. Pleśniak, "A Cantor regular set which does not have Markov's property", *Ann.Polon.Math.*, vol.51, pp.269-274, 1990.

[12] T. Ransford, *Potential theory in the complex plane*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

[13] T. Ransford and J. Rostand, "Hölder exponents of Green's functions of Cantor sets", *Comput.Methods Funct. Theory*, vol.1, pp.151-158, 2008.

[14] W. Rudin, *Principles of mathematical analysis. Third edition*, McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York-Auckland-Dsseldorf, 1976.

[15] E. B. Saff and V. Totik, *Logarithmic potentials with external fields*, Springer-Verlag, 1997.

[16] V. Totik, "Markoff constants for Cantor sets, Acta Sci. Math. (Szeged), vol.60, no. 3-4, pp.715734, 1995.

[17] V. Totik, *Metric Properties of Harmonic Measures*, Mem.Amer. Math.Soc., vol.184, 2006.

Alexander Goncharov Department of Mathematics Bilkent University Ankara, Turkey goncha@fen.bilkent.edu.tr