

The Bohnenblust-Hille inequality for homogeneous polynomials is hypercontractive

By ANDREAS DEFANT, LEONHARD FRERICK, JOAQUIM ORTEGA-CERDÀ,
MYRIAM OUNAÏES, and KRISTIAN SEIP

Abstract

The Bohnenblust-Hille inequality says that the $\ell^{\frac{2m}{m+1}}$ -norm of the coefficients of an m -homogeneous polynomial P on \mathbb{C}^n is bounded by $\|P\|_\infty$ times a constant independent of n , where $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ denotes the supremum norm on the polydisc \mathbb{D}^n . The main result of this paper is that this inequality is hypercontractive, i.e., the constant can be taken to be C^m for some $C > 1$. Combining this improved version of the Bohnenblust-Hille inequality with other results, we obtain the following: The Bohr radius for the polydisc \mathbb{D}^n behaves asymptotically as $\sqrt{(\log n)/n}$ modulo a factor bounded away from 0 and infinity, and the Sidon constant for the set of frequencies $\{\log n : n \text{ a positive integer} \leq N\}$ is $\sqrt{N} \exp\{(-1/\sqrt{2} + o(1))\sqrt{\log N \log \log N}\}$ as $N \rightarrow \infty$.

1. Introduction and statement of results

In 1930, Littlewood [23] proved the following, often referred to as Littlewood's 4/3-inequality: For every bilinear form $B : \mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ we have

$$\left(\sum_{i,j} |B(e^{(i)}, e^{(j)})|^{4/3} \right)^{3/4} \leq \sqrt{2} \sup_{z^{(1)}, z^{(2)} \in \mathbb{D}^n} |B(z^{(1)}, z^{(2)})|,$$

where \mathbb{D}^n denotes the open unit polydisc in \mathbb{C}^n and $\{e^{(i)}\}_{i=1,\dots,n}$ is the canonical base of \mathbb{C}^n . The exponent 4/3 is optimal, meaning that for smaller exponents it will not be possible to replace $\sqrt{2}$ by a constant independent of n . H. Bohnenblust and E. Hille immediately realized the importance of this result, as well as the techniques used in its proof, for what was known as Bohr's absolute convergence problem: Determine the maximal width T of the vertical strip in

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which a Dirichlet series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n n^{-s}$ converges uniformly but not absolutely. The problem was raised by H. Bohr [7] who in 1913 showed that $T \leq 1/2$. It remained a central problem in the study of Dirichlet series until 1931, when Bohnenblust and Hille [6] in an ingenious way established that $T = 1/2$.

A crucial ingredient in [6] is an m -linear version of Littlewood’s 4/3-inequality: For each m there is a constant $C_m \geq 1$ such that for every m -linear form $B : \mathbb{C}^n \times \dots \times \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ we have

$$(1) \quad \left(\sum_{i_1, \dots, i_m} |B(e^{(i_1)}, \dots, e^{(i_m)})|^{2m} \right)^{\frac{m+1}{2m}} \leq C_m \sup_{z^{(i)} \in \mathbb{D}^n} |B(z^{(1)}, \dots, z^{(m)})|,$$

and again the exponent $\frac{2m}{m+1}$ is optimal. Moreover, if C_m stands for the best constant, then the original proof gives that $C_m \leq m^{\frac{m+1}{2m}} (\sqrt{2})^{m-1}$. This inequality was long forgotten and rediscovered more than forty years later by A. Davie [11] and S. Kaijser [21]. The proofs in [11] and [21] are slightly different from the original one and give the better estimate

$$(2) \quad C_m \leq (\sqrt{2})^{m-1}.$$

In order to solve Bohr’s absolute convergence problem, Bohnenblust and Hille needed a symmetric version of (1). For this purpose, they in fact invented polarization and deduced from (1) that for each m there is a constant $D_m \geq 1$ such for every m -homogeneous polynomial $\sum_{|\alpha|=m} a_\alpha z^\alpha$ on \mathbb{C}^n ,

$$(3) \quad \left(\sum_{|\alpha|=m} |a_\alpha|^{2m} \right)^{\frac{m+1}{2m}} \leq D_m \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}^n} \left| \sum_{|\alpha|=m} a_\alpha z^\alpha \right|;$$

they showed again, through a highly nontrivial argument, that the exponent $\frac{2m}{m+1}$ cannot be improved. Let us assume that D_m in (3) is optimal. By an estimate of L. A. Harris [18] for the polarization constant of ℓ^∞ , getting from (2) to

$$D_m \leq (\sqrt{2})^{m-1} \frac{m^{\frac{m}{2}} (m+1)^{\frac{m+1}{2}}}{2^m (m!)^{\frac{m+1}{2m}}}$$

is now quite straightforward; see e.g. [17, §4]. Using Sawa’s Khinchine-type inequality for Steinhaus variables, H. Queffelec [25, Th. III-1] obtained the slightly better estimate

$$(4) \quad D_m \leq \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \right)^{m-1} \frac{m^{\frac{m}{2}} (m+1)^{\frac{m+1}{2}}}{2^m (m!)^{\frac{m+1}{2m}}}.$$

Our main result is that the Bohnenblust-Hille inequality (3) is in fact hypercontractive, i.e., $D_m \leq C^m$ for some $C \geq 1$:

THEOREM 1. *Let m and n be positive integers larger than 1. Then we have*

$$(5) \quad \left(\sum_{|\alpha|=m} |a_\alpha|^{\frac{2m}{m+1}} \right)^{\frac{m+1}{2m}} \leq \left(1 + \frac{1}{m-1} \right)^{m-1} \sqrt{m} (\sqrt{2})^{m-1} \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}^n} \left| \sum_{|\alpha|=m} a_\alpha z^\alpha \right|$$

for every m -homogeneous polynomial $\sum_{|\alpha|=m} a_\alpha z^\alpha$ on \mathbb{C}^n .

Before presenting the proof of this theorem, we mention some particularly interesting consequences that serve to illustrate its applicability and importance.

We begin with the Sidon constant $S(m, n)$ for the index set

$$\{\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n) : |\alpha| = m\},$$

which is defined in the following way. Let

$$P(z) = \sum_{|\alpha|=m} a_\alpha z^\alpha$$

be an m -homogeneous polynomial in n complex variables. We set

$$\|P\|_\infty = \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}^n} |P(z)| \quad \text{and} \quad \|P\|_1 = \sum_{|\alpha|=m} |a_\alpha|;$$

then $S(m, n)$ is the smallest constant C such that the inequality $\|P\|_1 \leq C\|P\|_\infty$ holds for every P . It is plain that $S(1, n) = 1$ for all n , and this case is therefore excluded from our discussion. Since the dimension of the space of m -homogeneous polynomials in \mathbb{C}^n is $\binom{n+m-1}{m}$, an application of Hölder's inequality to (5) gives:

COROLLARY 1. *Let m and n be positive integers larger than 1. Then*

$$(6) \quad S(m, n) \leq \left(1 + \frac{1}{m-1} \right)^{m-1} \sqrt{m} (\sqrt{2})^{m-1} \binom{n+m-1}{m}^{\frac{m-1}{2m}}.$$

Note that the Sidon constant $S(m, n)$ coincides with the unconditional basis constant of the monomials z^α of degree m in $H^\infty(\mathbb{D}^n)$, which is defined as the best constant $C \geq 1$ such that for every m -homogeneous polynomial $\sum_{|\alpha|=m} a_\alpha z^\alpha$ on \mathbb{D}^n and any choice of scalars ε_α with $|\varepsilon_\alpha| \leq 1$ we have

$$\sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}^n} \left| \sum_{|\alpha|=m} \varepsilon_\alpha a_\alpha z^\alpha \right| \leq C \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}^n} \left| \sum_{|\alpha|=m} a_\alpha z^\alpha \right|.$$

This and similar unconditional basis constants were studied in [13], where it was established that $S(m, n)$ is bounded from above and below by $n^{\frac{m-1}{2}}$ times constants depending only on m . The more precise estimate

$$(7) \quad S(m, n) \leq C^m n^{\frac{m-1}{2}},$$

with C an absolute constant, can be extracted from [15].

Note that we also have the following trivial estimate:

$$(8) \quad S(m, n) \leq \sqrt{\binom{n+m-1}{m}},$$

which is a consequence of the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality along with the fact that the number of different monomials of degree m in n variables is $\binom{n+m-1}{m}$. Comparing (6) and (8), we see that our estimate gives a nontrivial result only in the range $\log n > m$. Using the Salem-Zygmund inequality for random trigonometric polynomials (see [20, p. 68]), one may check that we have obtained the right value for $S(m, n)$, up to a factor less than c^m with $c > 1$ an absolute constant (for a different argument see [16, (4.4)]).

We will use our estimate for $S(m, n)$ to find the precise asymptotic behavior of the n -dimensional Bohr radius, which was introduced and studied by H. Boas and D. Khavinson [5]. Following [5], we now let K_n be the largest positive number r such that all polynomials $\sum_{\alpha} a_{\alpha} z^{\alpha}$ satisfy

$$\sup_{z \in r\mathbb{D}^n} \sum_{\alpha} |a_{\alpha} z^{\alpha}| \leq \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}^n} \left| \sum_{\alpha} a_{\alpha} z^{\alpha} \right|.$$

The classical Bohr radius K_1 was studied and estimated by H. Bohr [9] himself, and it was shown independently by M. Riesz, I. Schur, and F. Wiener that $K_1 = 1/3$. In [5], the two inequalities

$$(9) \quad \frac{1}{3} \sqrt{\frac{1}{n}} \leq K_n \leq 2 \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}}$$

were established for $n > 1$. The paper of Boas and Khavinson aroused new interest in the Bohr radius and has been a source of inspiration for many subsequent papers. For some time (see for instance [4]) it was thought that the left-hand side of (9) could not be improved. However, using (7), A. Defant and L. Frerick [15] showed that

$$K_n \geq c \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n \log \log n}}$$

holds for some absolute constant $c > 0$.

Using Corollary 1, we will prove the following estimate which in view of (9) is asymptotically optimal.

THEOREM 2. *The n -dimensional Bohr radius K_n satisfies*

$$K_n \geq \gamma \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}}$$

for an absolute constant $\gamma > 0$.

Combining this result with the right inequality in (9), we conclude that

$$(10) \quad K_n = b(n) \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}}$$

with $\gamma \leq b(n) \leq 2$. We will in fact obtain

$$b(n) \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + o(1)$$

when $n \rightarrow \infty$ as a lower estimate; see the concluding remark of Section 4, which contains the proof of Theorem 2.

Using a different argument, Defant and Frerick have also computed the right asymptotics for the Bohr radius for the unit ball in \mathbb{C}^n with the ℓ^p norm. This result will be presented in the forthcoming paper [14].

Another interesting point is that Theorem 1 yields a refined version of a striking theorem of S. Konyagin and H. Queffelec [22, Th. 4.3] on Dirichlet polynomials, a result that was recently sharpened by R. de la Bretèche [12]. To state this result, we define the Sidon constant $S(N)$ for the index set

$$\Lambda(N) = \{ \log n : n \text{ a positive integer } \leq N \}$$

in the following way. For a Dirichlet polynomial

$$Q(s) = \sum_{n=1}^N a_n n^{-s},$$

we set $\|Q\|_\infty = \sup_{t \in \mathbb{R}} |Q(it)|$ and $\|Q\|_1 = \sum_{n=1}^N |a_n|$. Then $S(N)$ is the smallest constant C such that the inequality $\|Q\|_1 \leq C \|Q\|_\infty$ holds for every Q .

THEOREM 3. *We have*

$$(11) \quad S(N) = \sqrt{N} \exp \left\{ \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + o(1) \right) \sqrt{\log N \log \log N} \right\}$$

when $N \rightarrow \infty$.

The inequality

$$S(N) \geq \sqrt{N} \exp \left\{ \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + o(1) \right) \sqrt{\log N \log \log N} \right\}$$

was established by R. de la Bretèche [12] combining methods from analytic number theory with probabilistic arguments. It was also shown in [12] that the inequality

$$S(N) \leq \sqrt{N} \exp \left\{ \left(-\frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} + o(1) \right) \sqrt{\log N \log \log N} \right\}$$

follows from an ingenious method developed by Konyagin and Queffelec in [22]. The same argument, using Theorem 1 instead of the weaker inequality (4), gives (11). More precisely, following Bohr, we set $z_j = p_j^{-s}$, where p_1, p_2, \dots

denote the prime numbers ordered in the usual way, and make accordingly a translation of Theorem 1 into a statement about Dirichlet polynomials; we then replace Lemme 2.4 in [12] by this version of Theorem 1 and otherwise follow the arguments in Section 2.2 of [12] step by step.

Theorem 3 enables us to make a nontrivial remark on Bohr’s absolute convergence problem. To this end, we recall that a theorem of Bohr [8] says that the abscissa of uniform convergence equals the abscissa of boundedness and regularity for a given Dirichlet series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n n^{-s}$; the latter is the infimum of those σ_0 such that the function represented by the Dirichlet series is analytic and bounded in $\Re s = \sigma > \sigma_0$. When discussing Bohnenblust and Hille’s solution of Bohr’s problem, it is therefore quite natural to introduce the space \mathcal{H}^{∞} , which consists of those bounded analytic functions f in $\mathbb{C}_+ = \{s = \sigma + it : \sigma > 0\}$ such that f can be represented by an ordinary Dirichlet series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n n^{-s}$ in some half-plane.

COROLLARY 2. *The supremum of the set of real numbers c such that*

$$(12) \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n| n^{-\frac{1}{2}} \exp\{c\sqrt{\log n \log \log n}\} < \infty$$

for every $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n n^{-s}$ in \mathcal{H}^{∞} equals $1/\sqrt{2}$.

This result is a refinement of a theorem of R. Balasubramanian, B. Calado, and H. Queffélec [1, Th. 1.2], which implies that (12) holds for every $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n n^{-s}$ in \mathcal{H}^{∞} if c is less than $1/(2\sqrt{2})$. We will present the deduction of Corollary 2 from Theorem 3 in Section 5 below.

An interesting consequence of the theorem of Balasubramanian, Calado, and Queffélec is that the Dirichlet series of an element in \mathcal{H}^{∞} converges absolutely on the vertical line $\sigma = 1/2$. But Corollary 2 gives a lot more; it adds a level precision that enables us to extract much more precise information about the absolute values $|a_n|$ than what is obtained from the solution of Bohr’s absolute convergence theorem.

2. Preliminaries on multilinear forms

We begin by fixing some useful index sets. For two positive integers m and n , both assumed to be larger than 1, we define

$$M(m, n) = \left\{ i = (i_1, \dots, i_m) : i_1, \dots, i_m \in \{1, \dots, n\} \right\}$$

and

$$J(m, n) = \left\{ j = (j_1, \dots, j_m) \in M(m, n) : j_1 \leq \dots \leq j_m \right\}.$$

For indices $i, j \in M(m, n)$, the notation $i \sim j$ will mean that there is a permutation σ of the set $\{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ such that $i_{\sigma(k)} = j_k$ for every $k = 1, \dots, m$. For a given index i , we denote by $[i]$ the equivalence class of all indices j such that $i \sim j$. Moreover, we let $|i|$ denote the cardinality of $[i]$ or in other words

the number of different indices belonging to $[i]$. Note that for each $i \in M(m, n)$ there is a unique $j \in J(m, n)$ with $[i] = [j]$. Given an index i in $M(m, n)$, we set $i^k = (i_1, \dots, i_{k-1}, i_{k+1}, \dots, i_m)$, which is then an index in $M(m - 1, n)$.

The transformation of a homogeneous polynomial to a corresponding multilinear form will play a crucial role in the proof of Theorem 1. We denote by B an m -multilinear form on \mathbb{C}^n ; i.e., given m points $z^{(1)}, \dots, z^{(m)}$ in \mathbb{C}^n , we set

$$B(z^{(1)}, \dots, z^{(m)}) = \sum_{i \in M(m, n)} b_i z_{i_1}^{(1)} \cdots z_{i_m}^{(m)}.$$

We may express the coefficients as $b_i = B(e^{(i_1)}, \dots, e^{(i_m)})$. The form B is symmetric if for every permutation σ of the set $\{1, 2, \dots, m\}$, $B(z^{(1)}, \dots, z^{(m)}) = B(z^{(\sigma(1))}, \dots, z^{(\sigma(m))})$. If we restrict a symmetric multilinear form to the diagonal $P(z) = B(z, \dots, z)$, then we obtain a homogeneous polynomial. The converse is also true: Given a homogeneous polynomial $P : \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ of degree m , by polarization, we may define the symmetric m -multilinear form $B : \mathbb{C}^n \times \cdots \times \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ so that $B(z, \dots, z) = P(z)$. In what follows, B will denote the symmetric m -multilinear form obtained in this way from P .

It will be important for us to be able to relate the norms of P and B . It is plain that $\|P\|_\infty = \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}^n} |P(z)|$ is smaller than $\sup_{\mathbb{D}^n \times \cdots \times \mathbb{D}^n} |B|$. On the other hand, it was proved by Harris [18] that we have, for nonnegative integers m_1, \dots, m_k with $m_1 + \cdots + m_k = m$,

$$(13) \quad |B(\underbrace{z^{(1)}, \dots, z^{(1)}}_{m_1}, \dots, \underbrace{z^{(k)}, \dots, z^{(k)}}_{m_k})| \leq \frac{m_1! \cdots m_k!}{m_1^{m_1} \cdots m_k^{m_k}} \frac{m^m}{m!} \|P\|_\infty.$$

Given an m -homogeneous polynomial in n variables $P(z) = \sum_{|\alpha|=m} a_\alpha z^\alpha$, we will write it as

$$P(z) = \sum_{j \in J(m, n)} c_j z_{j_1} \cdots z_{j_m}.$$

For every i in $M(m, n)$, we set $c_{[i]} = c_j$ where j is the unique element of $J(m, n)$ with $i \sim j$. Observe that in this representation the coefficient b_i of the multilinear form B associated to P can be computed from its corresponding coefficient: $b_i = c_{[i]}/|i|$.

3. Proof of Theorem 1

For the proof of Theorem 1, we will need two lemmas. The first is due to R. Blei [3, Lemma 5.3]:

LEMMA 1. *For all families $(c_i)_{i \in M(m, n)}$ of complex numbers, we have*

$$\left(\sum_{i \in M(m, n)} |c_i|^{\frac{2m}{m+1}} \right)^{\frac{m+1}{2m}} \leq \prod_{1 \leq k \leq m} \left[\sum_{i_k=1}^n \left(\sum_{i^k \in M(m-1, n)} |c_i|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right]^{\frac{1}{m}}.$$

We now let μ^n denote normalized Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{T}^n ; the second lemma is a result of F. Bayart [2, Th. 9], whose proof relies on an inequality first established by A. Bonami [10, Th. 7, Ch. III].

LEMMA 2. *For every m -homogeneous polynomial $P(z) = \sum_{|\alpha|=m} a_\alpha z^\alpha$ on \mathbb{C}^n , we have*

$$\left(\sum_{|\alpha|=m} |a_\alpha|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq (\sqrt{2})^m \left\| \sum_{|\alpha|=m} a_\alpha z^\alpha \right\|_{L^1(\mu^n)}.$$

We note also that Lemma 2 is a special case of a variant of Bayart’s theorem found in [19], relying on an inequality in D. Vukotic’s paper [26]. The latter inequality, giving the best constant in an inequality of Hardy and Littlewood, appeared earlier in a paper of M. Mateljević [24].

Proof of Theorem 1. We write the homogeneous polynomial P as

$$P(z) = \sum_{j \in J(m,n)} c_j z_{j_1} \cdots z_{j_m}.$$

We now get

$$\sum_{j \in J(m,n)} |c_j|^{\frac{2m}{m+1}} = \sum_{i \in M(m,n)} |i|^{-\frac{1}{m+1}} \left(\frac{|c[i]|}{|i|^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right)^{\frac{2m}{m+1}} \leq \sum_{i \in M(m,n)} \left(\frac{|c[i]|}{|i|^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right)^{\frac{2m}{m+1}}.$$

Using Lemma 1 and the estimate $|i|/|i^k| \leq m$, we therefore obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\sum_{j \in J(m,n)} |c_j|^{\frac{2m}{m+1}} \right)^{\frac{m+1}{2m}} &\leq \prod_{k=1}^m \left[\sum_{i_k=1}^n \left(\sum_{i^k \in M(m-1,n)} \frac{|c[i]|^2}{|i|} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right]^{\frac{1}{m}} \\ &\leq \sqrt{m} \prod_{k=1}^m \left[\sum_{i_k=1}^n \left(\sum_{i^k \in M(m-1,n)} |i^k| \frac{|c[i]|^2}{|i|^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right]^{\frac{1}{m}}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus it suffices to prove that

$$(14) \quad \sum_{i_k=1}^n \left(\sum_{i^k \in M(m-1,n)} |i^k| \frac{|c[i]|^2}{|i|^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq \left(1 + \frac{1}{m-1} \right)^{m-1} (\sqrt{2})^{m-1} \|P\|_\infty$$

for $k = 1, 2, \dots, m$.

We observe that if we write $P_k(z) = B(z, \dots, z, e^{(i_k)}, z, \dots, z)$, then we have

$$\left(\sum_{i^k \in M(m-1,n)} |i^k| \frac{|c[i]|^2}{|i|^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \left(\sum_{i^k \in M(m-1,n)} |i^k| |b_i|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \|P_k\|_2.$$

Hence, applying Lemma 2 to P_k , we get

$$\left(\sum_{i^k \in M(m-1, n)} |i^k| \frac{|c_{[i]}|^2}{|i|^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq (\sqrt{2})^{m-1} \int_{\mathbb{T}^n} |B(z, \dots, z, e^{(i^k)}, z, \dots, z)| \, d\mu^n(z).$$

It is clear that we may replace $e^{(i^k)}$ by $\lambda_{i_k}(z)e^{(i^k)}$ with $\lambda_{i_k}(z)$ any point on the unit circle. If we choose $\lambda_{i_k}(z)$ such that $B(z, \dots, z, \lambda_{i_k}(z)e^{(i^k)}, z, \dots, z) > 0$ and write $\tau_k(z) = \sum_{i_k=1}^n \lambda_{i_k}(z)e^{(i^k)}$, then we obtain

$$\sum_{i_k=1}^n \left(\sum_{i^k \in M(m-1, n)} |i^k| \frac{|c_{[i]}|^2}{|i|^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq (\sqrt{2})^{m-1} \int_{\mathbb{T}^n} B(z, \dots, z, \tau_k(z), z, \dots, z) \, d\mu(z).$$

We finally arrive at (14) by applying (13) to the right-hand side of this inequality. □

4. Proof of Theorem 2

We now turn to multidimensional Bohr radii. In [16, Th. 2.2], a basic link between Bohr radii and unconditional basis constants was given. Indeed, we have

$$\frac{1}{3 \sup_m \sqrt[m]{C_m}} \leq K_n \leq \min\left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{\sup_m \sqrt[m]{C_m}}\right),$$

where C_m is the unconditional basis constant of the monomials of degree m in $H^\infty(\mathbb{D}^n)$. Thus the estimates for unconditional basis constants for m -homogeneous polynomials always lead to estimates for multidimensional Bohr radii.

We still choose to present a direct proof of Theorem 2, as this leads to a better estimate on the asymptotics of the quantity $b(n)$ in (10). We need the following lemma of F. Wiener (see [5]).

LEMMA 3. *Let P be a polynomial in n variables and $P = \sum_{m \geq 0} P_m$ its expansion in homogeneous polynomials. If $\|P\|_\infty \leq 1$, then $\|P_m\|_\infty \leq 1 - |P_0|^2$ for every $m > 0$.*

Proof of Theorem 2. We assume that $\sup_{\mathbb{D}^n} \left| \sum a_\alpha z^\alpha \right| \leq 1$. Observe that for all z in $r\mathbb{D}^n$,

$$\sum |a_\alpha z^\alpha| \leq |a_0| + \sum_{m>1} r^m \sum_{|\alpha|=m} |a_\alpha|.$$

If we take into account the estimates

$$\frac{(\log n)^m}{n} \leq m! \quad \text{and} \quad \binom{n+m-1}{m} \leq e^m \left(1 + \frac{n}{m}\right)^m,$$

then Corollary 1 and Lemma 3 give

$$\sum_{m>1} r^m \sum_{|\alpha|=m} |a_\alpha| \leq \sum_{m>1} r^m e\sqrt{m} (2\sqrt{e})^m \left(\frac{n}{\log n}\right)^{m/2} (1 - |a_0|^2).$$

Choosing $r \leq \varepsilon \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}}$ with ε small enough, we obtain

$$\sum |a_\alpha z^\alpha| \leq |a_0| + (1 - |a_0|^2)/2 \leq 1$$

whenever $|a_0| \leq 1$. Thus the theorem is proved with $\gamma = \varepsilon$. □

A closer examination of this proof shows that we get a better constant if in the range $m > \log n$ we use (8) instead of Corollary 1. By this approach, we get

$$b(n) \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + o(1)$$

when $n \rightarrow \infty$.

5. Proof of Corollary 2

We need the following auxiliary result [1, Lemma 1.1].

LEMMA 4. *If $f(s) = \sum_{n=1}^\infty a_n n^{-s}$ belongs to \mathcal{H}^∞ , then we have*

$$(15) \quad \left\| \sum_{n=1}^N a_n n^{-s} \right\|_\infty \leq C \log N \sup_{\sigma>0} |f(\sigma + it)|$$

for an absolute constant C and every $N \geq 2$.

Proof of Corollary 2. For this proof, we will use the notation $n_k = 2^k$. Assume first that $c < 1/\sqrt{2}$, and suppose we are given an arbitrary element $f(s) = \sum_{n=1}^\infty a_n n^{-s}$ in \mathcal{H}^∞ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^\infty |a_n| n^{-\frac{1}{2}} \exp\{c\sqrt{\log n \log \log n}\} \\ \leq \sum_{k=0}^\infty n_k^{-\frac{1}{2}} \exp\{c\sqrt{\log n_k \log \log n_k}\} \sum_{n=1}^{n_{k+1}} |a_n|. \end{aligned}$$

Applying Theorem 3 and Lemma 4 to each of the sums $\sum_{n=1}^{n_{k+1}} |a_n|$, we see that the right-hand is finite.

On the other hand, assume instead that $c > 1/\sqrt{2}$. By Theorem 3, we may find a positive constant δ and a sequence of Dirichlet polynomials

$$Q_k(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{n_{2k}-1} a_n^{(k)} n^{-s}$$

such that $\|Q_k\|_\infty = 1$ and

$$\sum_{n=1}^{n_{2k}-1} |a_n^{(k)}| \geq \delta n_{2k}^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp\{-c\sqrt{\log n_{2k} \log \log n_{2k}}\}$$

for $k = 1, 2, \dots$. In fact, by the construction in [12, §2.1], we may assume that

$$(16) \quad \sum_{n=n_{2(k-1)}}^{n_{2k}-1} |a_n^{(k)}| \geq \delta n_{2k}^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp\left\{-c\sqrt{\log n_{2k} \log \log n_{2k}}\right\}$$

for $k = 1, 2, \dots$. We observe that the function

$$f(s) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \exp\left\{-\varepsilon\sqrt{\log n_{2k} \log \log n_{2k}}\right\} Q_k(s)$$

is an element in \mathcal{H}^{∞} for every positive ε . Setting $f(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n n^{-s}$ and assuming again that Q_k has been constructed as in [12, §2.1], we get that

$$\sum_{n=n_{2(k-1)}}^{n_{2k}-1} |a_n| \geq C \sum_{n=n_{2(k-1)}}^{n_{2k}-1} |a_n^{(k)}| \exp\left\{-\varepsilon\sqrt{\log n_{2k} \log \log n_{2k}}\right\}$$

for some constant C independent of k and ε . (Here the point is that $a_n^{(j)}$ decays sufficiently fast when j grows because $n_{2(j+1)} = 4n_{2j}$.) Combining this estimate with (16), we see that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n| n^{-\frac{1}{2}} \exp\left\{(c + \varepsilon)\sqrt{\log n \log \log n}\right\} = \infty.$$

Since this can be achieved for arbitrary $c > 1/\sqrt{2}$ and $\varepsilon > 0$, the result follows. \square

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CARL VON OSSIETZKY UNIVERSITY, OLDENBURG, GERMANY

E-mail: defant@mathematik.uni-oldenburg.de

UNIVERSITÄT TRIER, TRIER, GERMANY

E-mail: frerick@uni-trier.de

UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA, BARCELONA, SPAIN

E-mail: jortega@ub.edu

UNIVERSITÉ DE STRASBOURG, STRASBOURG, FRANCE

E-mail: ounaies@math.u-strasbg.fr

NORWEGIAN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, TRONDHEIM, NORWAY

E-mail: seip@math.ntnu.no