

**On the boundary behavior in the metric  $L^p$  of subharmonic functions**

by

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1. It is a classical result that if  $u(x) = u(r, \theta)$  is harmonic in the open unit sphere  $|x| < 1$  in  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space and if

$$(1.1) \quad \int_{|x|=1} u^+(r, \theta) d\theta < M < \infty \quad \text{for } r < 1,$$

then the function  $u$  has a non-tangential limit at almost all points on the surface  $|x| = 1$  of the unit sphere.

The natural question whether this result can be extended to a subharmonic function  $v$  satisfying condition (1.1) was answered by Littlewood [2] who showed that for  $n = 2$ ,  $v$  has a radial limit almost everywhere on  $|x| = 1$ . Littlewood's argument and result extend without difficulty to  $n > 2$  [3]. On the other hand, simple examples show that a non-tangential limit may exist almost nowhere for the subharmonic function  $v$ , even when  $v$  is bounded [4].

In this note we obtain a result on the existence almost everywhere of non-tangential limits defined in a somewhat different way. Let  $x \in E_n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ). We say that the function  $v(x)$ ,  $|x| < 1$ , has a *non-tangential limit*  $\lambda$  at a point  $\theta$ ,  $|\theta| = 1$ , in the metric  $L^p$  ( $1 \leq p < \infty$ ) if for every  $0 < \nu < \pi/2$  we have

$$\frac{1}{|T_\delta|} \int_{T_\delta} |v(x) - \lambda|^p dx \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \delta \rightarrow 0,$$

where  $T_\delta = T_\delta(\theta, \nu)$  is the conical region formed by the points  $x$ ,  $|x| < 1$ , whose distance from  $\theta$  is less than  $\delta$ , and such that the angle between the line segment  $x\theta$  and the radius  $O\theta$  is less than  $\nu$ . A prerequisite for the applicability of this definition is that  $v \in L^p(T_\delta)$ . The ordinary non-tangential limit may be considered as the limiting case  $p = \infty$  of this definition<sup>(1)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> The definition of non-tangential limit in  $L^p$  used here was suggested by the work of Calderon and Zygmund [1] on derivatives in  $L^p$ . The author gratefully acknowledges the guidance of Professor A. Zygmund in the preparation of this paper.



The main result of this note is

**THEOREM 1.** *Suppose that  $v(x) = v(r, \theta)$  is subharmonic in  $|x| < 1$ , and that*

$$\int_{|x|=1} v^+(r, \theta) d\theta$$

*is uniformly bounded for  $r < 1$ . Then the function  $v$  has at almost every point on  $|x| = 1$  a non-tangential limit in the metric  $L^p$ , provided  $1 \leq p < n/(n-2)$ . This limit coincides almost everywhere with the (ordinary) radial limit of  $v$ .*

For  $n = 2$ , the  $p$  of the theorem may assume any finite value  $\geq 1$ ; but as mentioned above, the result fails for  $p = \infty$ . We note that the hypothesis of the theorem is satisfied if the function  $v(x)$ ,  $|x| < 1$ , is subharmonic and bounded from above.

The argument that follows uses much of the technique of Littlewood [2] for  $n = 2$ , and Privaloff [3] for  $n \geq 2$ . Those parts of our proof which follow closely [2] or [3] we present in outline only.

**2.** We use the following notation:  $x$  is a point in the  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space  $E_n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ); the open unit sphere  $K$  is the set of all points  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  such that  $|x| = (x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_n^2)^{1/2} < 1$ ;  $\Sigma$ , the surface of the unit sphere, is the set  $|x| = 1$ ;  $x^* = x/|x|^2$  is the conjugate of  $x$  with respect to  $\Sigma$ ; we use the representation  $x = (r, \theta)$  where  $r = |x|$ , and  $\theta = x/|x|$  is a point on  $\Sigma$  (we also use other representations for  $n = 2$  and  $n = 3$ ); for  $x = (r, \theta)$  and  $\xi = (\varrho, \varphi)$  in  $K$ ,  $s = 1 - r$  (the distance from  $x$  to  $\Sigma$ ),  $\sigma = 1 - \varrho$ ; for  $v$ , a function with domain in  $E_n$ , we may write equivalently  $v(x)$ ,  $v(r, \theta)$  etc.;  $v^+ = \max(v, 0)$ ;  $|E|$  is the  $n$ -dimensional volume of a region  $E \subset E_n$ ;  $|\Sigma|$  is the area of  $\Sigma$ ;  $c, c_n$  etc., are suitably chosen positive constants, not always the same (even when repeated in the same expression), and depending upon the parameters indicated. (However, dependence upon the dimension  $n$  will not be indicated. Thus  $c$  denotes absolute constants, or constants depending only on  $n$ .) Limits are understood to be finite.

**3. Proof of theorem 1.** Let the dimension  $n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ) and the power  $p$  ( $1 \leq p < n/(n-2)$ ) be fixed. Assume as known the basic result (see [3]) that if  $v = v(x) = v(r, \theta)$  is subharmonic in  $K$  and satisfies the condition

$$(3.1) \quad \int_{\Sigma} v^+(r, \theta) d\theta < M < \infty, \quad r < 1,$$

then

$$(3.2) \quad v = u - w,$$

where  $u$  is the least harmonic majorant of  $v$ , and  $w$  is a non-negative superharmonic function. Specifically,  $u$  is the limit as  $R \rightarrow 1$  of the Poisson

integral  $u_R$  of the function  $v(R, \theta)$ . It is fundamental here that  $w$  is given by

$$(3.3) \quad w(x) = \int_K g(x, \xi) dF(\xi)$$

where

$$(3.4) \quad g(x, \xi) = \begin{cases} \log \left\{ |x| \frac{|x^* - \xi|}{|x - \xi|} \right\}, & n = 2, \\ |x - \xi|^{2-n} - |x|^2 |x^* - \xi|^{2-n}, & n > 2, \end{cases}$$

is Green's function for the unit sphere, and  $F(\xi)$  is a non-negative mass distribution satisfying the condition

$$(3.5) \quad \int_K (1 - |\xi|) dF(\xi) < \infty.$$

It can be shown [3] that the harmonic function  $u$  in (3.2) satisfies an inequality of the form (3.1) and that consequently  $u$  has, at almost every point  $\theta$  on  $\Sigma$ , an ordinary non-tangential limit  $\lambda(\theta)$ . Also ([2], [3]),  $v$  has at almost every point  $\theta$  on  $\Sigma$  an ordinary radial limit equal to the same limit  $\lambda(\theta)$ . Thus the theorem will be established upon showing that the function  $w$  in (3.3) has a non-tangential limit in the metric  $L^p$  equal to zero at almost every point of  $\Sigma$ .

Without loss of generality, we may replace by zero the masses in  $|\xi| \leq \epsilon_0 < 1$ , where  $\epsilon_0$  is arbitrarily close to 1; and we may assume that  $\int_K \sigma dF(\xi)$  is arbitrarily small.

For  $\theta \in \Sigma$  and  $0 \leq h \leq \pi$ , let  $E = E(\theta, h)$  denote the sector of  $K$  consisting of those points  $x$  of  $K$  for which the angle between the radial segment  $Ox$  and the radius  $O\theta$  is less than  $h$ . Then

$$\Phi(\theta, h) = \int_E \sigma dF(\xi)$$

may be considered as the mass of the open spherical cap on  $\Sigma$  with center  $\theta$  and angular radius  $h$ , induced by the mass distribution  $\sigma dF(\xi)$  in  $E$ . Let

$$(D\Phi)(\theta) = \limsup_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Phi(\theta, h)}{h^{n-1}}.$$

Given  $\epsilon > 0$ , we may assume that the total mass  $\int_K \sigma dF(\xi)$  is small enough so that (see [3]) the derived function  $(D\Phi)(\theta)$  is less than  $\epsilon$  except on a set of points on  $\Sigma$  of measure less than  $\epsilon$ . Choose  $\theta_0 \in \Sigma$ , so that setting  $\Phi(h) = \Phi(\theta_0, h)$  we have,

$$(3.6) \quad \limsup_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Phi(h)}{h^{n-1}} < \epsilon.$$

Assume further that there is zero mass on the diameter of  $K$  terminating at  $\theta_0$ .

4. Consider the point  $\theta_0 \in \Sigma$  chosen in Section 3. Let  $0 < r_0 < 1$ ,  $s_0 = 1 - r_0$ . Let  $K_\alpha(s_0)$ ,  $0 < \alpha < 1$ , denote the sphere with center  $(r_0, \theta_0)$  and radius  $\alpha s_0$ . Let  $K_\beta(s_0)$  be the sphere concentric with  $K_\alpha(s_0)$  and having radius  $\beta = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \alpha)$ .

In (3.3) we split  $K$ , the domain of integration, into three regions  $R_1, R_2$  and  $R_3$ . Let  $\Gamma$  denote the smaller sector of  $K$  whose lateral boundary is formed by the rays tangent to the sphere  $K_\beta(s_0)$ . We define  $R_1$  to be the complement of  $\Gamma$  in the open unit sphere  $K$ ,  $R_2$  to be the complement of the sphere  $K_\beta(s_0)$  in the sector  $\Gamma$ , and  $R_3$  to be the sphere  $K_\beta(s_0)$ . Thus (3.3) can be written

$$(4.1) \quad w(x) = \left( \int_{R_1} + \int_{R_2} + \int_{R_3} \right) g(x, \xi) dF(\xi) \\ = w_1(x) + w_2(x) + w_3(x).$$

We will estimate  $w$  by estimating separately the  $w_i(x)$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ), with  $x$  confined to the sphere  $K_\alpha(s_0)$  and  $s_0 \rightarrow 0$ . In estimating  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  we follow [2] and [3]. The main novelty here will be the treatment of  $w_3$ . Unlike  $w_1$  and  $w_2$ ,  $w_3$  will be found to be small not at individual points, but on the average only.

For  $x, \xi$  in the open unit sphere  $K$ , let  $\gamma$  ( $0 \leq \gamma \leq \pi$ ) denote the angle between the radial segments  $Ox$  and  $O\xi$ . We obtain from (3.4) the estimates (see [2], [3])

$$(4.2) \quad g(x, \xi) \leq \log \left\{ 1 + \frac{cs\sigma}{|x - \xi|^2} \right\} \quad (n = 2),$$

$$(4.3) \quad g(x, \xi) \leq cs\sigma [(s - \sigma)^2 + \gamma^2]^{-n/2} \quad (s < 1/2, n \geq 2).$$

For  $x$  in  $K_\alpha(s_0)$  we have  $s \leq 2s_0$ . Denote now by  $h = h(\xi)$  ( $0 \leq h \leq \pi$ ) the angle between the radius  $O\theta_0$  and the radial segment  $O\xi$ . Let  $s_0 \leq 1/4$ .

To estimate  $w$ , we begin with  $w_1$ . Let  $x \in K_\alpha(s_0)$  and  $\xi \in R_1$ . We obtain, using (4.3),

$$g(x, \xi) \leq c_\alpha s_0 \sigma h^{-n}.$$

Now  $R_1$  is contained in a region  $H = \{\xi: \xi \in K, c_\alpha s_0 < h \leq \pi\}$ . Hence

$$w_1(x) \leq c_\alpha s_0 \int_H h^{-n} \sigma dF(\xi) \leq c_\alpha s_0 \int_{c_\alpha s_0}^\pi h^{-n} d\Phi(h).$$

Integrating by parts and using (3.6), we obtain

$$(4.4) \quad \limsup w_1(x) \leq c_\alpha \varepsilon \quad \text{as } s_0 \rightarrow 0 \text{ and } x \in K_\alpha(s_0).$$

We now estimate  $w_2$ . Let  $x \in K_\alpha(s_0)$  and  $\xi \in R_2$ . We now have  $(s - \sigma)^2 + \gamma^2 \geq c_\alpha s_0^2$ ,  $s \leq 2s_0$ ,  $h \leq c_\alpha s_0$ . Using (4.3) we obtain

$$w_2(x) \leq \frac{c_\alpha}{s_0^{n-1}} \int_{h \leq c_\alpha s_0} \sigma dF(\xi) \leq c_\alpha \frac{\Phi(c_\alpha s_0)}{s_0^{n-1}}.$$

It follows from (3.6) that

$$(4.5) \quad \limsup w_2(x) \leq c_\alpha \varepsilon \quad \text{as } s_0 \rightarrow 0 \text{ and } x \in K_\alpha(s_0).$$

5. Finally we estimate  $w_3$ . Set  $|x - \xi| = t$ . Let  $x \in K_\alpha(s_0)$  and  $\xi \in K_\beta(s_0)$ . Then  $s, \sigma, t \leq 2s_0$ ; and we obtain from (4.2)

$$g(x, \xi) \leq \log(cs_0^2 t^{-2}) \quad (n = 2).$$

From (3.4) we directly obtain

$$g(x, \xi) \leq t^{2-n} \quad (n > 2).$$

Letting

$$G(t) = \begin{cases} \log(cs_0^2 t^{-2}), & n = 2, \\ t^{2-n}, & n > 2, \end{cases}$$

we obtain, since  $R_3 = K_\beta(s_0)$ ,

$$(5.0) \quad w_3(x) \leq \int_{K_\beta(s_0)} G(t) dF(\xi).$$

It follows from Minkowski's inequality for integrals that

$$(5.1) \quad \left\{ \int_{K_\alpha(s_0)} w_3^p(x) dx \right\}^{1/p} \leq \int_{K_\beta(s_0)} \left[ \int_{K_\alpha(s_0)} G^p(t) dx \right]^{1/p} dF(\xi).$$

Fix  $\xi \in K_\beta(s_0)$ . Since  $K_\alpha(s_0)$  is contained in the sphere with center  $\xi$  and radius  $2s_0$ , we have

$$\int_{K_\alpha(s_0)} G^p(t) dx \leq |\Sigma| \int_0^{2s_0} G^p(t) t^{n-1} dt.$$

Thus, for  $n = 2$

$$\int_{K_\alpha(s_0)} G^p(t) dx \leq 2\pi \int_0^{2s_0} \log^p \left( \frac{cs_0^2}{t^2} \right) t dt \leq c_p s_0 \int_0^2 \log^p \left( \frac{c}{t} \right) t dt \leq c_p s_0^2 (2);$$

(\*) If  $F(\xi)$  is absolutely continuous and  $F'(\xi) = o[(1 - \varrho)^{-2}]$  then the left hand side of (5.0) is

$$\sigma (s_0^{-2}) \int_{K_\beta(s_0)} \log \frac{cs_0^2}{t^2} t dt = o(1) \int_0^2 \log \left( c \frac{s_0^2}{t^2} \right) t dt = o(1)$$

and  $w_3 \rightarrow 0$  as  $\delta \rightarrow 0$  for  $x \in K_\alpha(s_0)$ . Thus under this hypothesis it will follow as in the sequel, that  $v$  has a nontangential limit in the classical sense almost everywhere. In this connection see M. G. Arsove and Alfred Huber, Notices A. M. S., 634-30, April, 1966.

and for  $n > 2$ , since  $p \leq n/(n-2)$ ,

$$\int_{K_\alpha(s_0)} G^p(t) dx \leq |\Sigma| \int_0^{2s_0} t^{p(2-n)+n-1} dt \leq c_p s_0^{n+p(2-n)}.$$

It follows from (5.1) that (for  $n \geq 2$ )

$$\int_{K_\alpha(s_0)} w_s^p(x) dx \leq c_p s_0^{n+p(2-n)} \left( \int_{K_\beta(s_0)} dF(\xi) \right)^p.$$

Since  $\xi \in K_\beta(s_0)$ , we have  $s_0 \leq c_\alpha \sigma$ , and consequently

$$(5.2) \quad \int_{K_\alpha(s_0)} w_s^p(x) dx \leq c_{\alpha,p} s_0^n \left( \int_{K_\beta(s_0)} \sigma^{2-n} dF(\xi) \right)^p.$$

For  $\theta \in \Sigma$ , and  $0 < \eta < 1$ , let  $\Omega(\theta) \subset K$  denote the conical region with vertex at  $\theta$ , with lateral boundary formed by the tangents to the sphere  $K_\eta: |x| \leq \eta$  and with base the smaller spherical cap of  $K_\eta$ . Let

$$(5.3) \quad I(\theta) = I_\eta(\theta) = \int_{\Omega_\eta(\theta)} \sigma^{2-n} dF(\xi).$$

Then

$$\int_\Sigma I(\theta) d\theta \leq c_\eta \int_K \sigma dF(\xi).$$

(See [5], vol. II, p. 209, where the proof is for Lebesgue integrals and  $n = 2$ . However the proof is readily adapted to Lebesgue-Stieltjes integrals and  $n \geq 2$ .) By hypothesis (3.5),  $\int_K \sigma dF(\xi) < \infty$ . Hence  $I(\theta)$  is finite for almost all  $\theta$ . Suppose that  $I(\theta_0)$  is finite. Having chosen  $\eta = \eta(\alpha)$  in (5.3) sufficiently close to 1 so that the sphere  $K_\beta(s_0)$  is contained in  $\Omega_\eta(\theta_0)$  for  $s_0$  sufficiently small, we have

$$\int_{K_\beta(s_0)} \sigma^{2-n} dF(\xi) = o(1) \quad \text{as} \quad s_0 \rightarrow 0.$$

It follows from (5.2) that

$$(5.4) \quad \int_{K_\alpha(s_0)} w_s^p(x) dx = o(1) \quad \text{as} \quad s_0 \rightarrow 0.$$

6. It is now easy to complete the proof of the theorem. We immediately deduce from the decomposition (4.1) and the estimates (4.4), (4.5) and (5.4) that (for  $\varepsilon < 1$ )

$$(6.1) \quad \int_{K_\alpha(s_0)} w^p(x) dx \leq c_\alpha \varepsilon s_0^n,$$

provided  $s_0$  is sufficiently close to zero.

Let  $T_\delta$  be the conical region (of Section 1) with vertex  $\theta_0$ . It is geometrically clear that if the number  $a$  in  $K_\alpha(s_0)$  is sufficiently close to 1, and

$\lambda < 1$  is also sufficiently close to 1, then the family of spheres  $K_\alpha(\delta\lambda^m)$ ,  $m = 0, 1, \dots$ , covers  $T_\delta$ . If  $\delta$  is sufficiently small, we now obtain from (6.1)

$$\int_{T_\delta} w^p(x) dx \leq \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \int_{K_\alpha(\delta\lambda^m)} w^p(x) dx \leq \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} c_\alpha \varepsilon (\delta\lambda^m)^n \leq c_{\alpha,\lambda} \varepsilon \delta^n.$$

Thus

$$(6.2) \quad \limsup_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{|T_\delta|} \int_{T_\delta} w^p(x) dx \leq c_{\alpha,\lambda} \varepsilon.$$

Since  $\varepsilon$  is arbitrarily small, and (6.2) holds on  $\Sigma$  except for a set of points on  $\Sigma$  of measure less than  $\varepsilon$ , it readily follows that there is a set  $S \subset \Sigma$ , having the same measure as  $\Sigma$ , such that at all points of  $S$  and for all  $p$ ,  $1 \leq p < n/(n-2)$ ,  $w$  has a non-tangential limit equal to zero in the metric  $L^p$ . The theorem is established.

7. The conclusion of the theorem is false for  $p = n/(n-2)$ . For  $n = 2$  (and  $p = \infty$ ) this is well known and was mentioned above. A counter example for that case (see [4]), suitably modified, extends without difficulty to  $n > 2$ . The case  $n = 3$  (and  $p = 3$ ) is typical and we present a counter-example for it.

We use spherical coordinates  $x = (r, \theta, \varphi)$ ,  $\theta$  being the longitude and  $\varphi$  the polar angle. For each  $m = 2, 3, \dots$ , let  $S_m$  denote the system of  $\lambda_m = 2m^2(m^2-1)$  points situated on the spherical surface  $\Sigma_m: |x| = r_m = 1-1/m$ , and having coordinates  $(r_m, \theta_i, \varphi_j)$ , where  $\theta_i = \pi i/m^2$ ,  $i = 0, 1, \dots, 2m^2-1$ , and  $\varphi_j = \pi j/m^2$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, m^2-1$ .

(We may here think of the points of  $S_m$  as being uniformly distributed on  $\Sigma_m$ .) We now place a mass  $\mu_m = 2^{-m}$  at each of the points of  $S_m$  and consider the mass distribution  $F$  consisting of all the masses for all  $m$ . Now

$$\int_K \sigma dF(\xi) = \sum_{m=2}^{\infty} (1-r_m) \lambda_m \mu_m$$

is finite, and we obtain the subharmonic function

$$v(x) = - \int_K g(x, \xi) dF(\xi) \leq 0, \quad x \in K.$$

Thus  $v$  satisfies the hypothesis of Theorem 1. Since  $n = 3$ ,

$$g(x, \xi) = |x-\xi|^{-1} - |x|^{-1} |x^* - \xi|^{-1},$$

and  $v$  has a pole of order 1 at each point of  $S = \bigcup_{m=2}^{\infty} S_m$ . Consequently, in the neighborhood of any  $x \in S$ ,  $v^3$  is not integrable. But every conical region  $T$ , situated except for its vertex entirely in the open unit sphere  $K$ , contains points of  $S$ . Thus  $v^3$  is not integrable over  $T$ ; and so, everywhere on  $\Sigma$ ,  $v$  fails to have a non-tangential limit in the metric  $L^3$ .

8. In the preceding sections we considered functions subharmonic in a sphere of any number of dimensions. We shall now restrict ourselves to the case  $n = 2$  and prove a result concerning functions subharmonic in any domain bounded by a simple closed rectifiable curve. Presumably the analogue of the theorem that follows holds for any  $n$ , but the proof we give uses conformal mapping and is therefore valid for  $n = 2$  only.

**THEOREM 2.** *Let  $u(z)$  be a function subharmonic in a domain  $D$  bounded by a simple closed rectifiable curve  $C$ . Suppose that there is a set  $E$  on  $C$  of positive measure (length) with the following property: with each point  $z_0 \in E$  we can associate an open triangle  $\Delta = \Delta(z_0) \subset D$  with vertex at  $z_0$ , such that  $u(z)$  is bounded from above in  $\Delta$ . Then at almost all points  $z_0 \in E$ , the function  $u(z)$  has a non-tangential limit in the metric  $L^p$ ,  $1 \leq p < \infty$ .*

We say that  $u(z)$  has a non-tangential limit equal to  $\lambda$  in the metric  $L^p$  at the point  $z_0 \in C$  if for every family of homothetic open triangles  $\Delta \subset D$  with common vertex  $z_0$ , shrinking to  $z_0$ , we have

$$\frac{1}{|\Delta|} \int_{\Delta} |u(z) - \lambda|^p dA(z) = o(1),$$

where  $dA(z)$  denotes the element of area in  $\Delta$ . Since  $C$  has a tangent at almost all points of  $E$ , it follows that the angle of  $\Delta$  at  $z_0$  may, for almost all  $z_0 \in E$ , be as close to  $\pi$  as we wish. The present definition is consistent with the one given in Section 1.

**Proof of Theorem 2.** The proof resembles an argument from the theory of analytic functions ([5], Vol. II, p. 199-201) and we may be brief. We first prove the theorem for the special case where  $D$  is the unit circle  $|z| < 1$ .

Let  $z_0$  vary over  $E$ . We may assume (perhaps after a denumerable decomposition) that  $E$  is closed; that the triangles  $\Delta(z_0)$  are all congruent and small; that each  $\Delta(z_0)$  is symmetric with respect to the radius of  $D$  terminating at  $z_0$ ; and that the upper bound of  $u(z)$  in all the  $\Delta(z_0)$  is less than a fixed constant. The union of the  $\Delta(z_0)$  suitably extended inward in  $D$  yields a star-shaped domain  $D_1 \subset D$  with a rectifiable boundary  $C_1 \supset E$ , such that the function  $u(z)$  is bounded from above in  $D_1$ .

Let  $z = \Phi(\zeta)$  be a conformal mapping of the unit circle  $|\zeta| < 1$  onto  $D_1$ , extended so as to be bicontinuous from  $|\zeta| \leq 1$  onto  $D_1 \cup C_1$ ; and let  $u_1(\zeta) = u[\Phi(\zeta)] = u(z)$ . The function  $u_1(\zeta)$  is subharmonic and bounded from above for  $|\zeta| < 1$ . For a given  $\theta$  ( $0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$ ) denote by  $\Delta_\theta$  members of a family of homothetic open triangles situated in  $D$ , with common vertex  $e^{i\theta}$ , and shrinking to  $e^{i\theta}$ . By Theorem 1,  $u_1$  has a non-tangential limit at almost all points  $e^{i\theta}$  of  $|\zeta| = 1$ . Hence for almost all  $e^{i\theta} \in \Phi^{-1}(E)$  there is a number  $\lambda = \lambda(e^{i\theta})$  such that

$$(8.1) \quad \frac{1}{|\Delta_\theta|} \int_{\Delta_\theta} |u_1(\zeta) - \lambda|^p dA(\zeta) \rightarrow 0$$

as the sides of  $\Delta_\theta$  shrink to 0. At almost all points  $e^{i\theta} \in \Phi^{-1}(E)$ ,  $z = \Phi(\zeta)$  is conformal (with the derivative  $\Phi'(\zeta)$  approaching a non-zero limit as  $\zeta$  approaches  $e^{i\theta}$  non-tangentially). Also, under  $\Phi$ , the sets of measure zero on  $|\zeta| = 1$  correspond to the sets of measure zero on  $C_1$  ([5], Vol. I, p. 289-295). Using (8.1) and the specified properties of  $\Phi$ , we obtain the conclusion of the theorem for the case where the domain  $D$  is the open unit circle.

Now let  $D$  be any domain bounded by a simple closed rectifiable curve. Using a conformal mapping of the open unit circle  $K$  onto  $D$  and an argument paralleling the one in the paragraph above, we see that the theorem holds for  $D$ , since it holds for  $K$ .

#### References

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