

BEURLING–LANDAU DENSITIES OF WEIGHTED FEKETE SETS AND CORRELATION KERNEL ESTIMATES

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ABSTRACT. Let Q be a suitable real valued function on \mathbb{C} which increases sufficiently rapidly as $z \rightarrow \infty$. An n -Fekete set corresponding to Q is a subset $\{z_{n1}, \dots, z_{nm}\}$ of \mathbb{C} which maximizes the weighted Vandermonde determinant $\prod_{i < j}^n |z_{ni} - z_{nj}|^2 e^{-n(Q(z_{n1}) + \dots + Q(z_{nm}))}$. It is well known that there exists a compact set S known as the “droplet” such that the sequence of measures $\mu_n = n^{-1}(\delta_{z_{n1}} + \dots + \delta_{z_{nm}})$ converges to the equilibrium measure $\Delta Q \cdot \mathbf{1}_S dA$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. In this note we consider a related topic, proving that Fekete sets are in a sense maximally spread out with respect to the equilibrium measure. In general, our results apply only to a part of the Fekete set, which is at a certain distance away from the boundary of the droplet. However, for the Ginibre potential $Q = |z|^2$ we obtain results which hold globally; we conjecture that such global results are true for a wide range of potentials.

In this paper we discuss equidistribution results for weighted Fekete sets in subsets of the plane. More precisely, we show that Fekete sets are maximally spread out relative to a rescaled version of the Beurling–Landau density, in the “droplet” corresponding to the given weight. Our method combines Landau’s idea to relate the density of a family of discrete sets to properties of the spectrum of the concentration operator, with estimates for the correlation kernel of the corresponding random normal matrix ensemble.

1. FEKETE SETS

1.1. Potentials and droplets. We recapture some notions and results from weighted potential theory. Proofs and further results can be found in [25]. Cf. also [2] and [19] where the setting is more tuned to fit the present discussion.

Let $Q : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ be a suitable function (the “potential” or “external field”) satisfying

$$\liminf_{z \rightarrow \infty} \frac{Q(z)}{\log |z|^2} = +\infty.$$

(In detail: we require in addition that the function $w := e^{-Q/2}$ satisfy the mild condition of being an “admissible weight” in the sense of [25], p. 26. This means that w is upper semi-continuous and the set $\{w > 0\}$ has positive logarithmic capacity.)

We associate to Q the “equilibrium potential” \widehat{Q} in the following way: Let SH_Q be the set of all subharmonic functions $u : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $u(z) \leq \log_+ |z|^2 + \text{const.}$ and $u \leq Q$ on \mathbb{C} . One defines

1991 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* 31C20; 82B20; 30E05; 94A20.

Key words and phrases. Weighted Fekete set; droplet; equidistribution; concentration operator; correlation kernel.

This work is a contribution to the research program on “Complex Analysis and Spectral Problems” which was conducted at the CRM in Barcelona during the spring semester of 2011. The first author was supported by grants from Magnussons fond, Vetenskapsrådet, SveFum, and the European Science Foundation. The second author was supported by grants MTM2008-05561-C02-01 and 2009 SGR 1303.

the equilibrium potential as $\widehat{Q}(z) = \sup\{u(z) ; u \in \text{SH}_Q\}$. The droplet associated to Q is the set

$$S = \{z \in \mathbb{C} ; Q(z) = \widehat{Q}(z)\}.$$

This is a compact set.

We will make the standing assumption that Q be C^3 -smooth and strictly subharmonic in some fixed (small) neighbourhood Λ of S . In other words, we assume that the *conformal metric* $ds^2(z) = \Delta Q(z) |dz|^2$ is comparable to the Euclidean metric on Λ .

Under these circumstances, one has that $\Delta Q \geq 0$ on S and that the *equilibrium measure*

$$(1.1) \quad d\sigma(z) = \mathbf{1}_S(z) \Delta Q(z) dA(z)$$

is a probability measure on \mathbb{C} . Here we agree that dA is normalized area measure $dA = \frac{1}{\pi} dx dy$, while $\Delta = \partial \bar{\partial} = \frac{1}{4}(\partial^2/\partial x^2 + \partial^2/\partial y^2)$ is the normalized Laplacian; $\partial = \frac{1}{2}(\partial/\partial x - i\partial/\partial y)$ and $\bar{\partial} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial/\partial x + i\partial/\partial y)$ are the complex derivatives.

1.2. Fekete sets. Consider the weighted Vandermonde determinant

$$V_n(z_1, \dots, z_n) = \prod_{i < j} |z_i - z_j|^2 e^{-n(Q(z_1) + \dots + Q(z_n))}, \quad z_1, \dots, z_n \in \mathbb{C}.$$

A set $\mathcal{F}_n = \{z_{n1}, \dots, z_{nm}\}$ which maximizes V_n is called an *n-Fekete set* corresponding to Q . Notice that Fekete sets are not unique.

Equivalently, the set \mathcal{F}_n minimizes the weighted energy

$$(1.2) \quad \mathbf{H}_n(z_1, \dots, z_n) = \sum_{i \neq j} \log |z_i - z_j|^{-1} + n \sum_{j=1}^n Q(z_j)$$

over all configurations $\{z_j\}_{j=1}^n \subset \mathbb{C}$. If we think of the points z_j as giving locations for n identical repelling point charges with total charge 1 confined to \mathbb{C} under the influence of the external field nQ , then \mathbf{H}_n can be regarded as the energy of the system.

The following classical result displays some fundamental and well-known properties of Fekete sets.

Theorem 1.1. *For any Fekete set $\mathcal{F}_n = \{z_{n1}, \dots, z_{nm}\}$ holds:*

- (1) $\mathcal{F}_n \subset S$
- (2) *Let σ be the equilibrium measure (1.1). We then have convergence in the sense of measures*

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_{z_{nj}} \rightarrow \sigma, \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

A proof can be found in [25], theorems III.1.2 and III.1.3. (Notice that our assumptions on Q imply that $S = S^*$ in the notation of [25].) The theorem 1.1 was generalized to line bundles over complex manifolds in [9], [10].

We remark that the property (1) is essential to the analysis in this paper, and that the standard proof of (1) (e.g. in [25]) depends on the "maximum principle for weighted polynomials", which is reproduced in Lemma 2.8 below.

We will consider related questions concerning the distribution of Fekete points. In a sense, we will prove that these points are maximally spread out with respect to the conformal metric. To quantify this assertion, we introduce some definitions.

Definition 1.2. Let $\mathcal{F} = \{\mathcal{F}_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ be a family of n -Fekete sets. Also let $\zeta = (z_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ be a sequence of points in S . We define the *lower Beurling–Landau’s density* of \mathcal{F} with respect to ζ by

$$D^-(\mathcal{F}; \zeta) = \liminf_{R \rightarrow \infty} \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\left(\mathcal{F}_n \cap D\left(z_n; R/\sqrt{n}\right)\right)}{R^2 \Delta Q(z_n)},$$

and we define the corresponding upper density by

$$D^+(\mathcal{F}; \zeta) = \limsup_{R \rightarrow \infty} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\left(\mathcal{F}_n \cap D\left(z_n; R/\sqrt{n}\right)\right)}{R^2 \Delta Q(z_n)}.$$

We also put

$$d_n(\zeta) = \text{dist}(z_n, \mathbb{C} \setminus S).$$

Here “dist” denotes the Euclidean distance in the plane, and $D(z; r)$ is the open disk with center z and radius r .

We have the following theorem.

Theorem 1.3. Put $\delta_n = \log^2 n / \sqrt{n}$, and suppose that $d_n(\zeta) \geq 3\delta_n$ for all n . Then

$$(1.3) \quad D^-(\mathcal{F}; \zeta) = D^+(\mathcal{F}; \zeta) = 1.$$

A proof is given in §2.3.

Remark 1.4. The function $\rho_n(z)^{-2}$ defined by $n\sigma(D(z; \rho_n(z))) = 1$ can be considered as a regularized version of the Laplacian $\Delta Q(z)$. Replacing $\Delta Q(z_n)$ by $\rho_n(z_n)^{-2}$ in our definition of Beurling–Landau’s densities, it becomes possible to extend our results to cover some situations in which $\Delta Q = 0$ at isolated points of the droplet. We plan to return to this topic in a future publication.

1.3. The Ginibre case. The potential $Q(z) = |z|^2$ is known as the *Ginibre potential*. It is easy to see that for this potential, the droplet is $S = \overline{\mathbb{D}}$, i.e. the closed unit disk with center 0.

Theorem 1.5. Suppose that $Q(z) = |z|^2$. Let $\zeta = (z_n)$ be a sequence in $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$ and assume that the limit $L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{n}(1 - |z_n|)$ exists. Then

- (1) If $L = +\infty$, then (1.3) holds
- (2) If $L < +\infty$, then

$$(1.4) \quad D^-(\mathcal{F}; \zeta) = D^+(\mathcal{F}; \zeta) = \frac{1}{2}.$$

A proof is given in §2.4.

Remark 1.6. The condition that the limit L exists is really superfluous and is made merely for technical convenience. Indeed, we can assert that $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{n}(1 - |z_n|) = +\infty$ then (1.3) holds while if $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{n}(1 - |z_n|) < +\infty$ then (1.4) holds. These somewhat more general statements can be proved without difficulty by using the arguments below.

1.4. A conjecture. The boundary of a droplet corresponding to a smooth potential is in general a quite complicated set. However, owing to Sakai's theory [26], it is known that the situation is more manageable for potentials Q which are *real-analytic* in a neighbourhood of the droplet. Namely, for a real analytic potential Q , the boundary of S is a finite union of real analytic arcs and possibly a finite number of isolated points. The boundary of S may also have finitely many singularities which can be either cusps or double-points. This result can easily be proved using arguments from [20], Section 4.

Suppose that Q is real-analytic and strictly subharmonic in a neighbourhood of S , and assume that ∂S has no singularities. Let S^* denote the set S with eventual singularities and isolated points removed. Also let $\zeta = (z_n)_1^\infty$ be a sequence of points in S^* and assume for simplicity that the limit $L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{n}d_n(\zeta)$ exists, where $d_n(\zeta)$ is the distance of z_n to ∂S . We conjecture that for any sequence $\mathcal{F} = \{\mathcal{F}_n\}$ of weighted Fekete sets, we have (i) if $L = +\infty$, then $D^-(\mathcal{F}, \zeta) = D^+(\mathcal{F}, \zeta) = 1$ and (ii) if $L < +\infty$, then $D^-(\mathcal{F}, \zeta) = D^+(\mathcal{F}, \zeta) = 1/2$.

To wit, the conjecture says that Fekete points are maximally spread out in the droplet, all the way up to the boundary, while outside of the droplet there are no Fekete points whatsoever. The statement that the Beurling–Landau density equals to one-half in the boundary regime thus depends on that one-half is the average of one (inside the droplet) and zero (outside the droplet).

This intuitive picture is supported by the results of the forthcoming paper [5].

1.5. Earlier work and related topics. The topics considered in this note, as well as our basic strategy, were inspired by the paper [21] by Landau, which concerns questions about interpolation and sampling for functions in Paley–Wiener spaces. In particular, our “Beurling–Landau densities” can be seen as straightforward adaptations of the densities defined in [21], and our results are parallel to those of Landau. The historically interested reader should also consult Beurling's lecture notes [11] where some of the basic concepts appeared earlier ⁽¹⁾; in fact Landau's exposition depends in an essential way on Beurling's earlier work.

In the one-component plasma (or “OCP”) setting, one introduces a temperature $1/\beta$, where $\beta > 0$. The probability measure $d\mathbf{P}_n^\beta(z) = (Z_n^\beta)^{-1} e^{-\beta \mathbf{H}_n(z)} dV_n(z)$ on \mathbb{C}^n is known as the density of states at the temperature $1/\beta$. Here dV_n is Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{C}^n , \mathbf{H}_n is the Hamiltonian (1.2), and Z_n^β is a normalizing constant. One then considers configurations $\Psi_n^\beta = \{z_i\}_1^n$ picked randomly with respect to \mathbf{P}_n^β .

Intuitively, Fekete sets should correspond to particle configurations at temperature zero, or rather, the “limiting configurations” as $1/\beta \rightarrow 0$, although the latter “limit” so far has been understood mostly on a physical level. In this interpretation, the methods of the present note prove that the Beurling–Landau density of temperature zero configurations is in fact completely determined by properties at $\beta = 1$. (More precisely: it is determined by the one- and two-point functions of \mathbf{P}_n^1 .)

A more subtle problem is to characterise Fekete sets amongst all configurations of Beurling–Landau density one. It is believed that a certain crystalline structure will manifest itself (known as the “Abrikosov lattice” or “honeycomb lattice”). In the recent paper [27], this structure is analyzed using very different methods, and the results obtained there are in a way complementary to ours; cf. p. 12 of [27] for a comparison to our results. We refer to [16], [27] and the references therein

¹In [21], Landau refers to an unpublished Princeton lecture series due to Beurling. The lecture notes in [11] are part of a similar series of lectures by Beurling, conducted at the Mittag-Leffler institute.

for further details on this topic. A survey of related questions for minimum energy points on manifolds is found in [18].

2. WEIGHTED POLYNOMIALS AND TRIANGULAR LATTICES

Our approach combines the method for characterizing Fekete sets and triangular lattices from the papers [23] and [24] with correlation kernel estimates of the type found in [6], [1], [2], [4]. In the Ginibre case, we use the explicit representation of the correlation kernel available for that potential, as well as estimates from the papers [29], [17], [14], and [12].

2.1. Weighted polynomials. Let H_n be the space of polynomials p of degree at most $n-1$, normed by $\|p\|_{nQ}^2 := \int_{\mathbb{C}} |p(z)|^2 e^{-nQ(z)} dA(z)$. The reproducing kernel for H_n is $K_n(z, w) = \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} e_j(z) \overline{e_j(w)}$, where $\{e_j\}_0^{n-1}$ is an orthonormal basis for H_n .

For our purposes, it is advantageous to work with spaces \tilde{H}_n of weighted polynomials $f = p \cdot e^{-nQ/2}$, where p is a polynomial of degree $\leq n-1$, and one defines the norm in \tilde{H}_n as the usual $L^2(dA)$ -norm. By convention, the L^2 -norm of a function f will henceforth be denoted in either of the following ways,

$$\|f\|^2 = \|f\|_{L^2}^2 = \int_{\mathbb{C}} |f|^2 = \int_{\mathbb{C}} |f|^2 dA.$$

More generally, whenever an unspecified measure space is indicated (such as in " $\int g''$ " or " L^p ") it will by default be understood that the measure is area measure dA on the plane.

The reproducing kernel for \tilde{H}_n is given by

$$\mathbf{K}_n(z, w) = K_n(z, w) e^{-nQ(z)/2 - nQ(w)/2}.$$

The function \mathbf{K}_n is known as the *correlation kernel* corresponding to the potential Q ; the reproducing property means that

$$f(z) = \langle f, \mathbf{K}_{n,z} \rangle, \quad f \in \tilde{H}_n, \quad z \in \mathbb{C},$$

where $\mathbf{K}_{n,z}(\zeta) = \mathbf{K}_n(\zeta, z)$, and the inner product is the usual one in $L^2 = L^2(\mathbb{C}, dA)$.

When ρn is not an integer, we interpret $\tilde{H}_{\rho n}$ as the space H_k where k is the largest integer satisfying $k < \rho n$. All statements below shall be understood in terms of this convention; in particular, $\mathbf{K}_{\rho n}(z, w) := K_k(z, w) e^{-k(Q(z)+Q(w))/2}$.

2.2. Triangular lattices. Let $\mathcal{Z} = \{\mathcal{Z}_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ be a triangular lattice of points in \mathbb{C} . We write

$$\mathcal{Z}_n = \{z_{n1}, z_{n2}, \dots, z_{nm_n}\}.$$

It will be convenient to introduce some classes of lattices.

Fix a positive parameter ρ . We will only use values of ρ which are as close to $\rho = 1$ as we please. In the following we can thus assume that ρ satisfies $1 - \varepsilon_0 < \rho < 1 + \varepsilon_0$ where ε_0 is some number with $0 < \varepsilon_0 < 1$ whose exact value is not important. This convention is applied tacitly in the rest of this paper.

A family \mathcal{Z} is said to be ρ -*interpolating* if there is some constant C such that, for all families of values $c = \{c_n\}_1^{\infty}$, $c_n = \{c_{nj}\}_{j=1}^{m_n}$, such that

$$\sup_n \frac{1}{n\rho} \sum_{j=1}^{m_n} |c_{nj}|^2 < \infty,$$

there exists a sequence $f_n \in \tilde{H}_{\rho n}$ such that $f_n(z_{nj}) = c_{nj}$, $1 \leq j \leq m_n$, and

$$\|f_n\|^2 \leq C \frac{1}{n\rho} \sum_{j=1}^{m_n} |c_{nj}|^2.$$

We say that a family \mathcal{Z} is *uniformly separated* if there is a number $s > 0$ such that for any two distinct points $z, w \in \mathcal{Z}_n$ we have $|z - w| > s/\sqrt{n}$. In this situation, we will also say that \mathcal{Z} is *s-separated*. The following simple lemma holds.

Lemma 2.1. *Any interpolating family which is contained in S is uniformly separated.*

A proof is given in §3.2.

Intuitively, an interpolating family should be "sparse". We will also need a notion which implies the "density" of a family contained in S . For this purpose, the following classes have turned out to be convenient.

Definition 2.2. Write $S^+ = S + \overline{D(0; s/\sqrt{n})}$, where s is some fixed positive number. Let $\mathcal{Z} \subset S$ be a triangular family. We say that \mathcal{Z} is of class $M_{S, \rho}$ if \mathcal{Z} is uniformly $2s$ -separated and

$$\int_{S^+} |f|^2 \leq C \frac{1}{n\rho} \sum_{z_{nj} \in \mathcal{Z}_n} |f(z_{nj})|^2, \quad f \in \tilde{H}_{n\rho}$$

for all large n .

Definition 2.3. Let $\delta_n = \log^2 n / \sqrt{n}$ and put $S_n = \{z \in S; \text{dist}(z, \partial S) \geq 2\delta_n\}$. We say that a triangular family $\mathcal{Z} \subset S$ is of class $M_{S_n, \rho}$ if \mathcal{Z} is uniformly separated and

$$\int_{S_n} |f|^2 \leq C \frac{1}{n\rho} \sum_{z_{nj} \in \mathcal{Z}_n} |f(z_{nj})|^2, \quad f \in \tilde{H}_{n\rho}$$

for all large n .

2.3. Results in the interior of the droplet. We have the following lemma.

Lemma 2.4. *Let $\zeta = (z_n)$ be a convergent sequence in S with $\text{dist}(z_n, \partial S) \geq 3\delta_n$ for all n . Then*

- (i) *If \mathcal{Z} is of class $M_{S_n, \rho}$, then $D^-(\mathcal{Z}; \zeta) \geq \rho$,*
- (ii) *If \mathcal{Z} is ρ -interpolating, then $D^+(\mathcal{Z}; \zeta) \leq \rho$.*

A proof is given in Section 5.

When \mathcal{F}_n is a Fekete set, we write $\mathcal{F}'_n = \mathcal{F}_n \cap S_n$ and $\mathcal{F}' = \{\mathcal{F}'_n\}$.

Lemma 2.5. *One has that*

- (1) *\mathcal{F} is uniformly separated,*
- (2) *\mathcal{F}' is ρ -interpolating for any $\rho > 1$,*
- (3) *\mathcal{F} is of class $M_{S_n, \rho}$ whenever $\rho < 1$.*

A proof is given in Section 6.

Using lemmas 2.4 and 2.5, we infer that for $\zeta = (z_n)$ with $\text{dist}(z_n, \partial S) \geq 3\delta_n$, we have for any $\varepsilon > 0$ that $D^-(\mathcal{F}; \zeta) \geq 1 - \varepsilon$ and $D^+(\mathcal{F}; \zeta) \leq 1 + \varepsilon$. This finishes the proof of Theorem 1.3, since evidently $D^- \leq D^+$. q.e.d.

2.4. The Ginibre case. Now let $Q = |z|^2$ so that $S = \overline{\mathbb{D}}$, and fix a convergent sequence $\zeta = (z_j)$ in $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$ such that the limit $L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{n}(1 - |z_n|)$ exists.

Lemma 2.6. *Suppose that $Q = |z|^2$, and let \mathcal{Z} be a triangular family contained in $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$.*

(1) *If \mathcal{Z} is of class $M_{\overline{\mathbb{D}}, \rho}$, then*

$$D^-(\mathcal{Z}; \zeta) \geq \begin{cases} \rho & \text{if } L = +\infty, \\ \rho/2 & \text{if } L < +\infty. \end{cases}$$

(2) *If \mathcal{Z} is ρ -interpolating, then*

$$D^+(\mathcal{Z}; \zeta) \leq \begin{cases} \rho & \text{if } L = +\infty, \\ \rho/2 & \text{if } L < +\infty. \end{cases}$$

A proof is given in §8.3.

Lemma 2.7. *Let $\mathcal{F} = \{\mathcal{F}_n\}$ be a family of Fekete sets with respect to the potential $Q = |z|^2$. Then \mathcal{F} is of class $M_{\overline{\mathbb{D}}, \rho}$ for any $\rho < 1$ and ρ -interpolating for any $\rho > 1$.*

A proof is given in §8.5.

To finish the proof of Theorem 1.5 it suffices to combine Lemma 2.6 and Lemma 2.7. q.e.d.

2.5. Auxiliary lemmas. We state a couple of known facts which are used frequently in the following. The following uniform estimate is well-known (see e.g. [25]).

Lemma 2.8. *Let $f \in \tilde{H}_n$ and $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus S$. Assume that $|f| \leq 1$ on S . Then $|f(z)| \leq e^{-n(Q(z) - \widehat{Q}(z))/2}$, $z \in \mathbb{C}$.*

(Proof: Let $f = p \cdot e^{-nQ/2}$. The assumption gives that $\frac{1}{n} \log |p|^2$ is a subharmonic minorant of Q which grows no faster than $\log |z|^2 + \text{const.}$ as $z \rightarrow \infty$. Thus $\frac{1}{n} \log |p|^2 \leq \widehat{Q}$.)

We will also use the following well-known pointwise- L^2 estimate.

Lemma 2.9. *Let $f = ue^{-nQ/2}$ where u is holomorphic and bounded in $D(z_0; c/\sqrt{n})$ for some $c > 0$. Suppose that $\Delta Q(z) \leq K$ for all $z \in D(z_0; c/\sqrt{n})$. Then*

$$(2.1) \quad |f(z_0)|^2 \leq n \cdot e^{Kc^2} c^{-2} \int_{D(z_0; c/\sqrt{n})} |f|^2 dA.$$

In particular, if \mathcal{Z} is $2s$ -separated and $\Omega \subset S$, then for all $f \in \tilde{H}_n$

$$(2.2) \quad \frac{1}{n} \sum_{z_{nj} \in \Omega} |f(z_{nj})|^2 \leq Cs^{-2} \int_{\Omega^+} |f(\zeta)|^2 dA(\zeta),$$

where C depends only on the upper bound of ΔQ on S^+ and $\Omega^+ = \{\zeta \in \mathbb{C}; \text{dist}(\zeta, \Omega) \leq s/\sqrt{n}\}$.

A proof of (2.1) can be found e.g. in [2], Section 3. The estimate (2.2) is immediate from this.

We will also need the following lemma on uniform estimates and "off-diagonal damping" for correlation kernels.

Lemma 2.10. (i) *There is a constant C such that for all $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$,*

$$|\mathbf{K}_n(z, w)| \leq Cne^{-n(Q(z) - \widehat{Q}(z))/2} e^{-n(Q(w) - \widehat{Q}(w))/2}.$$

(ii) Suppose that $z \in S$ and let $\delta = \text{dist}(z, \partial S)$. There are then positive constants C and c such that

$$|\mathbf{K}_n(z, w)| \leq Cn \exp\left(-c\sqrt{n} \min\{|z-w|, \delta\}\right) \cdot e^{-n(Q(w)-\widehat{Q}(w))/2}, \quad w \in \mathbb{C}.$$

Part (i) is standard, see e.g. [2], Sect. 3. For a proof of (ii) we refer to [2], Corollary 8.2 (which also shows that the constant c can be taken proportional to $\inf\{\sqrt{\Delta Q(z)}; z \in S\}$).

Remark 2.11. The following remark allows us to put $\rho = 1$ on several occasions in the sequel, without losing generality.

In all of the above lemmas, the symbol " n " can be replaced by " $n\rho$ " without changing any of the statements. It is moreover clear from the proofs that the constants appearing in the lemmas can be taken independent of ρ for all ρ in a compact subinterval of \mathbb{R}_+ .

We shall later on encounter many statements whose proofs are similar for all values of ρ . These are statements whose proofs depend on the above lemmas and other arguments which easily are seen to work with " n " replaced by " $n\rho$ ".

2.6. Notation. We use the same letter \mathbf{K} to denote a kernel $\mathbf{K}(z, w)$ and its corresponding integral operator $\mathbf{K}(f)(z) = \int_{\mathbb{C}} f(w)\mathbf{K}(z, w)dA(w)$. We will denote by the same symbol " C " a constant independent of n , which can change meaning as we go along. The notation " $A_n \lesssim B_n$ " means that $A_n \leq CB_n$. Given positive numbers s and R with $s < R$, we shall write

$$(2.3) \quad A_n(z) = D(z; R/\sqrt{n}) \quad , \quad A_n^+(z) = D(z; (R+s)/\sqrt{n}) \quad , \quad A_n^-(z) = D(z; (R-s)/\sqrt{n}).$$

Furthermore, when a lattice \mathcal{Z} is given, it will be (usually tacitly) assumed that $2s$ denotes a suitable (sufficiently small) separation constant of \mathcal{Z} .

We shall in the following always denote by the letter Λ some "sufficiently small", fixed (i.e. independent of n) neighbourhood of S . It is always assumed that Q is C^3 -smooth on Λ and that ΔQ is bounded below and above by positive constants on Λ . Under these assumptions, we are free to chose Λ as small as we please.

3. PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES

In this section, we discuss gradient estimates for weighted polynomials; these will be useful in the following. In particular they imply that interpolating families are uniformly separated.

3.1. Inequalities of Bernstein type. The following lemma is analogous to Lemma 18 in [22].

Lemma 3.1. *Let p be a polynomial of degree at most n . Fix a point z such that $p(z) \neq 0$ and $|\Delta Q(z)| < K$. Then*

$$(3.1) \quad \left| \nabla \left(|p| e^{-nQ/2} \right) (z) \right| \leq C \sqrt{n} \| |p| e^{-nQ/2} \|_{L^\infty},$$

and

$$(3.2) \quad \left| \nabla \left(|p| e^{-nQ/2} \right) (z) \right| \leq Cn \| |p| e^{-nQ/2} \|_{L^2},$$

where the constant C depends only on K .

Proof. Let $H_z(\zeta) = Q(z) + 2\partial Q(z) \cdot (\zeta - z) + \partial^2 Q(z)(\zeta - z)^2$ and $h_z(\zeta) = \text{Re } H_z(\zeta)$, so that

$$Q(\zeta) = h_z(\zeta) + \Delta Q(z)|\zeta - z|^2 + O(|z - \zeta|^3).$$

In particular, there is a constant C such that

$$(3.3) \quad n|Q(\zeta) - h_z(\zeta)| \leq C \quad \text{when} \quad |\zeta - z| \leq 1/\sqrt{n},$$

where C depends only on K .

Now observe that,

$$(3.4) \quad \left| \nabla \left(|p| e^{-nQ/2} \right) (\zeta) \right| = \left| p'(\zeta) - n \cdot \partial Q(\zeta) \cdot p(\zeta) \right| e^{-nQ(\zeta)/2},$$

and

$$(3.5) \quad \begin{aligned} \left| \nabla \left(|p| e^{-nh_z/2} \right) (\zeta) \right| &= \left| p'(\zeta) - n \cdot \partial h_z(\zeta) \cdot p(\zeta) \right| e^{-nh_z(\zeta)/2} = \\ &= \left| \frac{d}{d\zeta} (p e^{-nH_z/2})(\zeta) \right|. \end{aligned}$$

The expressions (3.4) and (3.5) are identical when $\zeta = z$.

By Cauchy's estimate applied to the circle $C_{1/\sqrt{n}}(z)$ with center z and radius $1/\sqrt{n}$,

$$(3.6) \quad \left| \frac{d}{d\zeta} (p e^{-nH_z/2})(z) \right| = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left| \int_{C_{1/\sqrt{n}}(z)} \frac{p(\zeta) e^{-nH_z(\zeta)/2}}{(z - \zeta)^2} d\zeta \right| \leq \frac{n}{2\pi} \int_{C_{1/\sqrt{n}}(z)} |p(\zeta)| e^{-nh_z(\zeta)/2} |d\zeta|.$$

In view of (3.3), the right side can be estimated by a constant depending only on K , times

$$(3.7) \quad n \int_{C_{1/\sqrt{n}}(z)} |p(\zeta)| e^{-nQ(\zeta)/2} |d\zeta|.$$

To prove (3.1), it suffices to notice that (3.7) can be estimated by $2\pi \sqrt{n} \|p e^{-nQ/2}\|_{L^\infty}$.

Next notice that, by Lemma 2.9,

$$\left| p(\zeta) \right|^2 e^{-nQ(\zeta)} \leq C'n \int_{D(\zeta; 1/\sqrt{n})} |p(\xi)|^2 e^{-nQ(\xi)} dA(\xi) \leq C'n \|p e^{-nQ/2}\|_{L^2}^2$$

with another constant C' depending only on K . We conclude that

$$\left| \nabla \left(|p| e^{-nQ/2} \right) (\zeta) \right| \lesssim n \sqrt{n} \|p e^{-nQ/2}\|_{L^2} \int_{C_{1/\sqrt{n}}(z)} |d\zeta| \lesssim n \|p e^{-nQ/2}\|_{L^2},$$

with a constant depending only on K . This proves (3.2). \square

3.2. Proof of Lemma 2.1. Let \mathcal{Z} be an interpolating family contained in S . (W.l.o.g. put $\rho = 1$, cf. Remark 2.11.)

Fix an index j , $1 \leq j \leq m_n$. Since \mathcal{Z} is interpolating, we can find a function $f = f_n \in \tilde{H}_n$ such that $f(z_{nj'}) = \delta_{jj'}$ and $\|f\|^2 \leq C/n$. Let $\delta > 0$ be small enough that $D(z_{nj}; \delta) \subset \Lambda$, where Λ is a suitable small neighbourhood of S , see §2.6.

Also assume w.l.o.g. that a point $z_{nj'}$ satisfies $|z_{nj} - z_{nj'}| < \delta$; if there is no such j' there is nothing to prove.

Now join z_{nj} and $z_{nj'}$ by a smooth curve γ which does not contain any points of \mathcal{Z}_n except for the end-points. We can choose a curve γ of length at most $(1 + \varepsilon) |z_{nj} - z_{nj'}|$, where $\varepsilon > 0$ is at our disposal.

Integrating $\nabla |f|$ with respect to arclength over γ we find

$$1 = \left| |f(z_{nj})| - |f(z_{nj'})| \right| \leq \|\nabla |f|\|_{L^\infty(\Lambda)} (1 + \varepsilon) |z_{nj} - z_{nj'}|.$$

Thus by the estimate (3.2) in Lemma 3.1, we have

$$1 \leq C_1 n \|f\| (1 + \varepsilon) |z_{nj} - z_{nj'}| \leq CC_1 (1 + \varepsilon) \sqrt{n} |z_{nj} - z_{nj'}|.$$

This proves that \mathcal{Z} is s -separated with $s = 1/(CC_1)$. \square

4. THE SPECTRUM OF THE CONCENTRATION OPERATOR

Let Ω be a measurable subset of the plane. The *concentration operator* $\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^\Omega$ is defined by

$$\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^\Omega(f)(z) = \int_{\Omega} f(w) \mathbf{K}_{n\rho}(z, w) dA(w) = \mathbf{K}_{n\rho}(\mathbf{1}_{\Omega} \cdot f)(z).$$

This is a positive contraction on $\tilde{H}_{n\rho}$.

In this section, we apply a technique which relates the spectrum of the concentration operator to the number of points in $\Omega \cap \mathcal{Z}_n$ when \mathcal{Z} is either an interpolating family or an M -family; the technique essentially goes back to Landau's paper [21]. We here follow the strategy in [24], in a suitably modified form.

We first turn to M -families. We will consider the cases of M_S and of M_{S_n} families separately.

4.1. $M_{S,\rho}$ -families. Fix a point $z \in S$ and let $\lambda_j^{n\rho} = \lambda_j^{n\rho}(z)$ denote the eigenvalues of $\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)} : \tilde{H}_{n\rho} \rightarrow \tilde{H}_{n\rho}$, taken in decreasing order. Let $\phi_j^{n\rho}$ be corresponding eigenvectors of norm one. Given a $2s$ -separated lattice \mathcal{Z} , we write

$$N_{n\rho}^+ = N_{n\rho}^+(z) = \#(\mathcal{Z}_n \cap A_n^+(z)).$$

(See (2.3) for the definitions of the sets A_n and A_n^+ .)

Lemma 4.1. *Suppose that $\mathcal{Z} \subset S$ is of class $M_{S,\rho}$. There is then a constant $\gamma < 1$ and a number n_0 such that for all $z \in S$ and $n \geq n_0$, we have $\lambda_{N_{n\rho}^+(z)+1}^{n\rho} < \gamma$.*

Proof. W.l.o.g. put $\rho = 1$ (see Remark 2.11).

Fix $z \in S$ and suppose that $f \in \tilde{H}_n$ is such that $f(z_{nj}) = 0$ when $z_{nj} \in A_n^+(z)$. Since \mathcal{Z} is $2s$ -separated, we have (see Lemma 2.9, (2.2))

$$(4.1) \quad \int_{S^+} |f|^2 \leq C \frac{1}{n} \sum_{z_{nj} \in S \setminus A_n^+(z)} |f(z_{nj})|^2 \leq Cs^{-2} \int_{S^+ \setminus A_n(z)} |f|^2.$$

Now define $f = \sum_{j=1}^{N_n^++1} c_j^n \phi_j^n$, where the numbers c_j^n (not all zero) are chosen so that $f(z_{nj}) = 0$ for all $z_{nj} \in A_n^+(z)$. This is possible for all large n , because the separation of \mathcal{Z} ensures that $N_n^+ \leq C$ for some constant $C = C(R, s)$.

Since the operator \mathbf{K}_n is the orthogonal projection of L^2 onto \tilde{H}_n , we have

$$(4.2) \quad \sum_{j=1}^{N_n^++1} \lambda_j^n |c_j^n|^2 = \langle \mathbf{K}_n^{A_n(z)} f, f \rangle = \langle \mathbf{1}_{A_n(z)} \cdot \mathbf{K}_n(f), \mathbf{K}_n(f) \rangle = \int_{A_n(z)} |f|^2 dA.$$

We infer by means of (4.1) and (4.2) that

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_{N_n^++1}^n \sum_{j=1}^{N_n^++1} |c_j^n|^2 &\leq \sum_{j=1}^{N_n^++1} \lambda_j^n |c_j^n|^2 = \left(\int_{S^+} - \int_{S^+ \setminus A_n(z)} \right) |f|^2 dA \\ &\leq \left(1 - \frac{s^2}{C} \right) \int_{S^+} |f|^2 \leq \left(1 - \frac{s^2}{C} \right) \|f\|^2 \leq \left(1 - \frac{s^2}{C} \right) \sum_{j=1}^{N_n^++1} |c_j^n|^2, \end{aligned}$$

which proves that $\lambda_{N_n^++1}^n \leq 1 - s^2/C$. \square

Notice that the separability of \mathcal{Z} implies that $\#(\mathcal{Z}_n \cap (D(z; (R+s)/\sqrt{n}) \setminus D(z; R/\sqrt{n}))) \leq CR$. Therefore Lemma 4.1 implies the estimate

$$(4.3) \quad \#(\mathcal{Z}_n \cap D(z; R/\sqrt{n})) \geq \#\{j; \lambda_j^{n\rho} \geq \gamma\} + O(R),$$

where the O -constant is independent of n .

4.2. $M_{S_n, \rho}$ -families. We now modify the construction in the previous subsection.

Recall that $S_n = \{z \in S; \text{dist}(z, \partial S) \geq 2\delta_n\}$ where $\delta_n = \log^2 n / \sqrt{n}$. Fix a sequence (z_n) with $z_n \in S_n$ satisfying

$$\text{dist}(z_n, \partial S) \geq 3\delta_n.$$

As before, we consider the eigenvalues $\lambda_j^{n\rho}$ (decreasing order) and corresponding eigenfunctions $\phi_j^{n\rho}$ of the concentration operator $\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)}$. We will use the following lemma.

Lemma 4.2. *For any positive integer K there is a constant C_K and a number $n_0 = n_0(R)$ such that for all j*

$$\lambda_j^{n\rho} \int_{\mathbb{C} \setminus S_n} |\phi_j^{n\rho}|^2 \leq C_K n^{-K}, \quad n \geq n_0.$$

Proof. W.l.o.g. let $\rho = 1$ (cf. Remark 2.11).

Choose n_0 such that $\text{dist}(A_n(z_n), \mathbb{C} \setminus S_n) \geq \delta_n/2$ when $n \geq n_0$. By Lemma 2.10, we then have an estimate

$$|\mathbf{K}_n(\zeta, w)| \leq C n e^{-c \log^2 n} e^{-n(Q(w) - \widehat{Q}(w))/2}, \quad w \in \mathbb{C} \setminus S_n, \quad \zeta \in A_n(z_n),$$

where c and C are positive constants. This gives (where we write $\phi_j := \phi_j^n$)

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{\mathbb{C} \setminus S_n} \int_{A_n(z_n)} \phi_j(w) \mathbf{K}_n(\zeta, w) \overline{\phi_j(\zeta)} dA(\zeta) dA(w) \right| &\leq C n e^{-c \log^2 n} \left(\int |\phi_j(z)| e^{-n(Q(z) - \widehat{Q}(z))/2} \right)^2 \leq \\ &\leq C_K n^{-K} \|\phi_j\|^2 = C_K n^{-K}, \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality and that $\int e^{-n(Q - \widehat{Q})} = 1 + o(1)$. \square

Lemma 4.3. *Suppose that $\mathcal{Z} \subset S$ is of class $M_{S_n, \rho}$. There is then a constant $\gamma < 1$ and a number $n_0 = n_0(R)$ such that for all $z \in S$ satisfying $\text{dist}(z, \partial S) \geq 3\delta_n$ and all $n \geq n_0$, we have $\lambda_{N_{n_0}^+(z)+1}^{n\rho} < \gamma$.*

Proof. W.l.o.g. put $\rho = 1$ (see Remark 2.11).

Assume that $f \in \tilde{H}_n$ is such that $f(z_{nj}) = 0$ for all $z_{nj} \in \mathcal{Z}_n \cap A_n^+(z)$. Then since \mathcal{Z} is $2s$ -separated for a sufficiently small s ,

$$(4.4) \quad \int_{S_n} |f|^2 \leq C \frac{1}{n} \sum_{z_{nj} \in S \setminus A_n^+(z)} |f(z_{nj})|^2 \leq C s^{-2} \int_{S^+ \setminus A_n(z)} |f|^2 dA.$$

(Cf. (2.2) of Lemma 2.9 for the proof of the second inequality.)

We again define $f = \sum_{j=1}^{N_n^+ + 1} c_j^n \phi_j^n$, where the numbers c_j^n (not all zero) are chosen so that $f(z_{nj}) = 0$ for all $z_{nj} \in \mathcal{Z}_n \cap A_n^+(z)$.

This time, observe that Lemma 4.2 and the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality implies

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_{N_n^+}^n \int_{\mathbb{C} \setminus S_n} |f|^2 &\leq \sum_{j,k=1}^{N_n^+} \sqrt{\lambda_j^n \lambda_k^n} \int_{\mathbb{C} \setminus S_n} |c_j^n \phi_j^n \cdot c_k^n \phi_k^n| \leq \\ &\leq C_K n^{-K} \sum_{j,k=1}^{N_n^+} |c_j^n c_k^n| \leq C_K n^{-K} (N_n^+ + 1) \sum_{j=1}^{N_n^+} |c_j^n|^2 \leq C' n^{-k} \sum_{j=1}^{N_n^+} |c_j^n|^2. \end{aligned}$$

In view of (4.4), we now conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_{N_n^+}^n \sum_{j=1}^{N_n^+} |c_j^n|^2 &\leq \sum_{j=1}^{N_n^+} \lambda_j^n |c_j^n|^2 = \left(\int_{S^+} - \int_{S^+ \setminus A_n(z)} \right) |f|^2 \, dA \\ &\leq \left(1 - \frac{s^2}{C} \right) \int_{S_n} |f|^2 + \int_{S^+ \setminus S_n} |f|^2 \leq \left(1 - \frac{s^2}{C} \right) \|f\|^2 + \int_{S^+ \setminus S_n} |f|^2 \leq \\ &\leq \left(1 - \frac{s^2}{C} + \frac{C_K n^{-K}}{\lambda_{N_n^+}^n} \right) \sum_{j=1}^{N_n^+} |c_j^n|^2, \end{aligned}$$

where C_K depends only on K, R , and s .

With $\alpha = 1 - s^2/C$, this implies $\lambda_{N_n^+}^n < \sqrt{\alpha^2 + 4C_K n^{-K}}$. Thus if we define γ as any number in the interval $(\alpha, 1)$, we obtain $\lambda_{N_n^+}^n \leq \gamma$ for all n large enough. \square

As a corollary, we obtain the following estimate: Let \mathcal{Z} be as in Lemma 4.3. Then for all $n \geq n_0(R)$

$$(4.5) \quad \#(\mathcal{Z}_n \cap D(z; R/\sqrt{n})) \geq \#\{j; \lambda_j^{np} \geq \gamma\} + O(R),$$

where the O -constant is independent of n .

4.3. Interpolating families. Assume that \mathcal{Z} be a ρ -interpolating sequence contained in S , and let $2s$ be a separation constant for \mathcal{Z} . We can w.l.o.g. assume that $\rho = 1$ (Remark 2.11).

Fix $z \in S$. We define \mathcal{I}_n as the set of indices j such that $z_{nj} \in A_n^-(z)$ and let $N_n^- = N_n^-(z)$ be the cardinality of \mathcal{I}_n . By the separation we have a uniform bound $N_n^- \leq C = C(R, s)$.

Now let $\{c_j\}_1^{m_n}$ be a sequence with $c_j = 0$ when $j \notin \mathcal{I}_n$. Since \mathcal{Z} is interpolating we can choose $f_{nj} \in \tilde{H}_n$ such that $f_{nj}(z_{nj'}) = \delta_{jj'}$ and $\|f_{nj}\|^2 \leq C/n$ for all n and j . The functions f_{nj} , $j \in \mathcal{I}_n$ are linearly independent and span an N_n^- -dimensional subspace of \tilde{H}_n . We denote this subspace by

$$F = \text{span} \{f_{nj}; j \in \mathcal{I}_n\}.$$

Note that an arbitrary $f = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_n} c_j f_{nj} \in F$ satisfies

$$\|f\|^2 \leq C N_n^- \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_n} |c_j|^2 \leq C' \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{I}_n} |f(z_{nj})|^2.$$

Applying (2.2) now gives

$$\|f\|^2 \leq C \int_{A_n(z)} |f|^2 = C \langle \mathbf{K}_n^{A_n(z)} f, f \rangle.$$

With $\delta = 1/C$, we have shown that

$$\frac{\langle \mathbf{K}_n^{A_n(z)} f, f \rangle}{\langle f, f \rangle} \geq \delta, \quad f \in F, f \neq 0.$$

Let λ_j^n be the eigenvalues of the operator $\mathbf{K}_n^{A_n(z)}$ on \tilde{H}_n arranged in decreasing order. By the Weyl–Courant lemma (see [15], p. 908) we have

$$\lambda_{j-1}^n \geq \inf_{g \in E_j} \frac{\langle \mathbf{K}_n^{A_n(z)} g, g \rangle}{\langle g, g \rangle},$$

where E_j ranges over all j -dimensional subspaces of \tilde{H}_n . Since $\dim F = N_n^-$, we obtain $\lambda_{N_n^- - 1}^n \geq \delta$. The construction can obviously be carried out for $\rho \neq 1$ as well. We have proved the following lemma.

Lemma 4.4. *Suppose that \mathcal{Z} is ρ -interpolating, and let $\lambda_j^{n\rho}$ be the eigenvalues of the operator $\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)}$ on $\tilde{H}_{n\rho}$, where $z \in S$. Also let $N_{n\rho}^-$ be the number of points in $\mathcal{Z}_n \cap A_n^-(z)$. Then there is a number $\delta > 0$ independent of n and z such that*

$$\#\{j; \lambda_j^{n\rho} \geq \delta\} \geq N_{n\rho}^- - 1.$$

Next notice that since \mathcal{Z} is $2s$ -separated (Lemma 2.1), there is a constant C such that

$$\#(\mathcal{Z}_n \cap D(z; R/\sqrt{n})) - N_{n\rho}^- \leq C(R^2 - (R-s)^2)/s^2.$$

Using Lemma 4.4, we conclude that

$$(4.6) \quad \#(\mathcal{Z}_n \cap D(z; R/\sqrt{n})) \leq O(R) + \#\{j; \lambda_j^{n\rho} \geq \delta\}, \quad \text{as } R \rightarrow \infty,$$

where the O -constant is independent of n .

5. BEURLING–LANDAU DENSITIES OF M FAMILIES AND OF INTERPOLATING FAMILIES

In this section, we prove Lemma 2.4. Our proof depends partly on trace estimates for the concentration operator, which are proved in Section 7.

5.1. Proof of Lemma 2.4(i). Let $\mathcal{Z} \subset S$ be of class $M_{S, n\rho}$, and let $\zeta = (z_n)$ be a sequence with $\text{dist}(z_n, \mathbb{C} \setminus S) \geq 3\delta_n$.

Consider the eigenvalues $\lambda_j^{n\rho} = \lambda_j^{n\rho}(z_n)$ of the concentration operator $\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)}$, and put $\mu_n = \sum_{j=1}^{m_n} \delta_{\lambda_j^{n\rho}}$ where δ_z is the Dirac measure at z . We then have

$$\text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)}) = \int_0^1 x \, d\mu_n(x) \quad , \quad \text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_n^{A_n(z_n)} \circ \mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)}) = \int_0^1 x^2 \, d\mu_n(x).$$

Let γ and n_0 be given by Lemma 4.3. We then have, for all $n \geq n_0(R)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \#\{j; \lambda_j^{n\rho} > \gamma\} &= \int_\gamma^1 d\mu_n(x) \geq \int_0^1 x \, d\mu_n(x) - \frac{1}{1-\gamma} \int_0^1 x(1-x) \, d\mu_n(x) = \\ &= \text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)}) - \frac{1}{1-\gamma} \left[\text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)}) - \text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)} \circ \mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)}) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

By the estimate (4.5) followed by the trace estimates in lemmas 7.1 and 7.3, we now get

$$\begin{aligned} \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#(\mathcal{Z}_n \cap D(z_n; R/\sqrt{n}))}{R^2 \Delta Q(z_n)} &\geq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{j; \lambda_j^{n\rho} > \gamma\} + O(R)}{R^2 \Delta Q(z_n)} \geq \\ &\geq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{\text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)})}{R^2 \Delta Q(z_n)} - \frac{1}{1-\gamma} \frac{\text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)}) - \text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)} \circ \mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)})}{R^2 \Delta Q(z_n)} \right] + O(1/R) = \\ &= \rho(R+s)^2/R^2 + O(1/R). \end{aligned}$$

Sending $R \rightarrow \infty$, we obtain $D^-(\mathcal{Z}; \zeta) \geq \rho$, and the proof of Lemma 2.4(i) is finished. \square

5.2. Proof of Lemma 2.4(ii). Let \mathcal{Z} be a ρ -interpolating family and let $\zeta = (z_n)$ be a sequence with $z_n \in S_n$ for all n . Again let $\lambda_j^{n\rho}$ be the eigenvalues of the concentration operator $\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)}$.

Let μ_n be the measure $\mu_n = \sum_{j=1}^{m_n} \delta_{\lambda_j^{n\rho}}$. Then for any $\delta \in (0, 1)$

$$\#\{j; \lambda_j^{n\rho} \geq \delta\} = \int_{\delta}^1 d\mu_n(x) \leq \int_0^1 x d\mu_n(x) + \frac{1}{\delta} \int_0^1 x(1-x) d\mu_n(x).$$

In view of the estimate (4.6), we can pick $\delta = \delta(R, s) > 0$ so that

$$\#(\mathcal{Z}_n \cap D(z; R/\sqrt{n})) \leq O(R) + \text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)}) + \frac{1}{\delta} \left[\text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)}) - \text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)} \circ \mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)}) \right].$$

For $z_n \in S_n$, the trace estimates in lemmas 7.3 and 7.1 now imply

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#(\mathcal{Z}_n \cap D(z_n; R/\sqrt{n}))}{R^2 \Delta Q(z_n)} &\leq \\ &\leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)})}{R^2 \Delta Q(z_n)} + \frac{1}{\delta} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)}) - \text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)} \circ \mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z_n)})}{R^2 \Delta Q(z_n)} + O(1/R) = \rho + O(1/R). \end{aligned}$$

Letting $R \rightarrow \infty$ now shows that $D^+(\mathcal{Z}; \zeta) \leq \rho$, which finishes the proof of Lemma 2.4(ii). \square

6. EQUIDISTRIBUTION OF THE BULK PART OF A FEKETE SET

In this section we prove Lemma 2.5. The proof is given modulo some estimates for the correlation kernel, which are postponed to the next section.

6.1. Proof of Lemma 2.5(1). Let $\mathcal{F}_n = \{z_{n1}, \dots, z_{nm}\}$ be a Fekete set and consider the Lagrange interpolation polynomials

$$l_{nj}(z) = \prod_{i \neq j} (z - z_{ni}) / \prod_{i \neq j} (z_{nj} - z_{ni}).$$

To avoid bulky notation, from now on write $z_j := z_{nj}$ etc.

Now consider the *Leja–Siciak function* corresponding to \mathcal{F}_n ,

$$\Phi_n(z) = \max \left\{ |l_j(z)|^2 e^{nQ(z_j)}; j = 1, \dots, n \right\}.$$

It is known that for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$

$$(6.1) \quad \Phi_n(z)^{1/n} \leq e^{\widehat{Q}(z)} \quad \text{and} \quad \Phi_n(z)^{1/n} \rightarrow e^{\widehat{Q}(z)}, \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

We refer to [25], §III.5, notably eq. (5.3) and Corollary 5.3, for proofs of these statements.

Let us write

$$(6.2) \quad \ell_j(z) = l_j(z) e^{-n(Q(z)-Q(z_j))/2},$$

and notice that (6.1) implies that

$$(6.3) \quad |\ell_j(z)| \leq e^{-n(Q(z)-\widehat{Q}(z))/2}.$$

The following lemma concludes our proof for part (1) of Lemma 2.5.

Lemma 6.1. *Let $\mathcal{F} = \{\mathcal{F}_n\}$ be a family of Fekete sets. Then \mathcal{F} is uniformly separated.*

Proof. By (6.3) we have $\|\ell_j\|_{L^\infty} \leq 1$ for all j . Hence Lemma 3.1 implies that there is a neighbourhood Λ of S such that

$$(6.4) \quad \left| \nabla(|\ell_j|) \right| \leq C \sqrt{n} \quad \text{on } \Lambda \setminus \mathcal{F}_n,$$

for some constant C independent of n and j .

Fix $z_{nj} \in \mathcal{F}_n$ and assume that a point $z_{nk} \in \mathcal{F}_n$ is sufficiently close to z_{nj} . We claim that

$$(6.5) \quad 1 = \left| |\ell_j(z_{nj})| - |\ell_j(z_{nk})| \right| \leq C \sqrt{n} |z_{nj} - z_{nk}|,$$

which implies that \mathcal{F} is uniformly separated with best separation constant $\geq 1/C$.

To prove (6.5) we can (as in the proof of Lemma 2.1) join z_{nk} to z_{nj} by a smooth curve γ which does not contain any other points of \mathcal{F}_n and integrate $\nabla|\ell_j|$ with respect to arclength over that curve. Observing that length of γ can be chosen arbitrarily close to $|z_{nj} - z_{nk}|$ and using (6.4), we conclude that the inequality in (6.5) holds. \square

6.2. Proof of Lemma 2.5(2). We now modify the weighted Lagrangian polynomials ℓ_j (6.2), by multiplying by certain "peak polynomials", to localize to a small neighbourhood of z_j . (We remind the reader that $\{z_j\}_{j=1}^n = \mathcal{F}_n$ denotes an n -Fekete set throughout this section.)

Take $\varepsilon > 0$ small; consider the corresponding kernel $\mathbf{K}_{\varepsilon n}(z, w)$, and put

$$(6.6) \quad L_j(z) = \left(\frac{\mathbf{K}_{\varepsilon n}(z, z_j)}{\mathbf{K}_{\varepsilon n}(z_j, z_j)} \right)^2 \cdot \ell_j(z).$$

These are weighted polynomials of degree $(1 + 2\varepsilon)n$; evidently $L_j(z_k) = \delta_{jk}$. We remind the reader that S_n denotes the subset of S consisting of all points whose distance to the boundary of S is at least $2\delta_n$.

Lemma 6.2. *There is a constant C depending on ε but not on n such that for all $z_j \in \mathcal{F}_n \cap S_n$, we have*

$$\|L_j\|_{L^1} \leq \frac{C}{n}.$$

Proof. Fix $z_j \in \mathcal{F}_n \cap S_n$. By (6.3) we have

$$|L_j(z)| \leq \frac{|\mathbf{K}_{\varepsilon n}(z, z_j)|^2}{\mathbf{K}_{\varepsilon n}(z_j, z_j)^2} e^{-n(Q(z)-\widehat{Q}(z))/2}.$$

The estimate (7.2) implies that there is $c > 0$ such that

$$(6.7) \quad \mathbf{K}_{\varepsilon n}(z_j, z_j) \geq c\varepsilon n, \quad z_j \in S_n \cap \mathcal{F}_n.$$

Applying this estimate and using that $\widehat{Q} \leq Q$, we conclude that

$$\|L_j\|_{L^1} \leq \frac{C}{(\varepsilon n)^2} \int_{\mathbb{C}} |\mathbf{K}_{n\varepsilon}(z, z_j)|^2 dA(z) = \frac{C}{(\varepsilon n)^2} \mathbf{K}_{n\varepsilon}(z_j, z_j) \leq \frac{C'}{\varepsilon n}.$$

□

Lemma 6.3. *Let*

$$F_n(z) = \sum_{z_j \in S_n} |L_j(z)|.$$

There are then constants $C = C(\varepsilon, s)$ and $n_0 = n_0(\varepsilon)$ such that $\|F_n\|_{L^\infty} \leq C$ when $n \geq n_0$.

Proof. Using Lemma 2.10 and the estimate (6.7), we find that

$$|L_j(z)| \leq CV_j(z), \quad z_j \in S_n, \quad z \in \mathbb{C},$$

where

$$(6.8) \quad V_j(z) = \exp\left(-c\sqrt{n\varepsilon} \min\{|z - z_j|, \delta_n\}\right),$$

where c is a positive constant.

Observe that $V_j(z) \leq e^{-c\sqrt{n\varepsilon} \log^2 n} \leq 1/n$ when $|z - z_j| \geq \delta_n$ and n is large enough. This gives that there is $n_0 = n_0(\varepsilon)$ such that

$$F_n(z) \leq C \sum_{z_j \in D(z; \delta_n)} V_j(z) + 1, \quad n \geq n_0.$$

Now when $z_j \in D(z; \delta_n)$ we have $V_j(z) = e^{-c\sqrt{n\varepsilon}|z - z_j|}$. Hence when $|w - z_j| \leq s/\sqrt{n}$ we have $V_j(z) \leq Ce^{-c\sqrt{n\varepsilon}|z - w|}$, where $C = e^{cs\sqrt{\varepsilon}}$. This gives that

$$V_j(z) \leq C \frac{n}{s^2} \int_{D(z_j; s/\sqrt{n})} e^{-c\sqrt{n\varepsilon}|z - w|} dA(w).$$

By the separation, we then obtain that, when $n \geq n_0$,

$$F_n(z) \leq 1 + C \frac{n}{s^2} \int_{\mathbb{C}} e^{-c\sqrt{n\varepsilon}|z - w|} dA(w) = 1 + C \frac{1}{s^2 \varepsilon} \int_{\mathbb{C}} e^{-c|\zeta|} dA(\zeta) < \infty.$$

The proof of the lemma is finished. □

The following lemma concludes our proof for part (2) of Lemma 2.5.

Lemma 6.4. *Let $\mathcal{F} = \{\mathcal{F}_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ be a sequence of Fekete sets. Then the triangular family \mathcal{F}' given by $\mathcal{F}'_n = \mathcal{F}_n \cap S_n$ is $(1 + 2\varepsilon)$ -interpolating for any $\varepsilon > 0$.*

Proof. Write $\mathcal{F}_n \cap S_n = \{z_{n1}, \dots, z_{nm_n}\}$ and take a sequence $c = (c_j)_{j=1}^{m_n}$. Consider the operator $T : \mathbb{C}^{m_n} \rightarrow L^1 + L^\infty$ defined by $T(c) = \sum_j c_j L_j$, where L_j are given by (6.6). In view of Lemma 6.2

$$\|T\|_{\ell_{m_n}^1 \rightarrow L^1} \leq \sup \|L_j\|_{L^1} \leq C/n,$$

and by Lemma 6.3,

$$\|T\|_{\ell_{m_n}^\infty \rightarrow L^\infty} \leq \|F_n\|_{L^\infty} \leq C.$$

By the Riesz–Thorin theorem, we conclude that

$$\|T\|_{\ell_{m_n}^2 \rightarrow L^2} \leq C/\sqrt{n}.$$

We have shown that, if $f = T(c)$, then $f \in \tilde{H}_{n(1+2\varepsilon)}$, $f(z_{nj}) = c_j$ for all $j \leq m_n$ and

$$\int |f|^2 \leq \frac{C}{n} \sum_{j=1}^{m_n} |f(z_{nj})|^2.$$

I.e., \mathcal{F}' is $(1 + 2\varepsilon)$ -interpolating. \square

6.3. Proof of Lemma 2.5(3). Let $\mathcal{F} = \{\mathcal{F}_n\}$ where the \mathcal{F}_n are n -Fekete sets. We will prove that \mathcal{F} is of class $M_{S_n, 1-2\varepsilon}$ whenever $0 < \varepsilon < 1/2$ (for the definition of this class, see Definition 2.3).

Fix a function $f \in \tilde{H}_{n(1-2\varepsilon)}$ with $\varepsilon > 0$ small and a point $z \in S_n$, and consider the weighted polynomial

$$g_z(\zeta) = f(\zeta) \cdot \left(\frac{\mathbf{K}_{n\varepsilon}(\zeta, z)}{\mathbf{K}_{n\varepsilon}(z, z)} \right)^2 \in \tilde{H}_n.$$

By Lagrange's interpolation formula,

$$g_z(\zeta) = \sum_{j=1}^n g_z(z_j) \ell_j(\zeta),$$

where ℓ_j is given by (6.2). It follows that

$$f(z) = g_z(z) = \sum_{j=1}^n f(z_j) \tilde{L}_j(z) \quad \text{where} \quad \tilde{L}_j(z) = \left(\frac{\mathbf{K}_{n\varepsilon}(z_j, z)}{\mathbf{K}_{n\varepsilon}(z, z)} \right)^2 \ell_j(z).$$

This gives (by (6.3))

$$|f(z)| \leq \sum_{j=1}^n |f(z_j)| \frac{\mathbf{B}_{n\varepsilon}(z; z_j)}{\mathbf{K}_{n\varepsilon}(z, z)} e^{-n(Q(z) - \tilde{Q}(z))/2},$$

where $\mathbf{B}_{n\varepsilon}(z; w) := |\mathbf{K}_{n\varepsilon}(z, w)|^2 / \mathbf{K}_{n\varepsilon}(z, z)$ is the "Berezin kernel" (see the next section).

Lemma 6.5. *Suppose that $z_j \in S$ and let*

$$\tilde{V}_j(z) := |\tilde{L}_j(z)| = \frac{\mathbf{B}_{n\varepsilon}(z; z_j)}{\mathbf{K}_{n\varepsilon}(z, z)} |\ell_j(z)|.$$

There are then constants $C = C(\varepsilon)$ and $n_0 = n_0(\varepsilon)$ such that

$$(6.9) \quad \|\tilde{V}_j\|_{L^1(S_n)} \leq C/n, \quad n \geq n_0.$$

Proof. We shall consider two cases: (i) $\text{dist}(z_j, \partial S) \geq \delta_n$ and (ii) $\text{dist}(z_j, \partial S) \leq \delta_n$.

In case (i) we use the estimates in eq. (7.3) and (6.7), to conclude

$$(6.10) \quad \int_{D(z_j; \delta_n/2)} \frac{\mathbf{B}_{n\varepsilon}(z; z_j)}{\mathbf{K}_{n\varepsilon}(z, z)} dA(z) \lesssim \int e^{-n\varepsilon \Delta Q(z) |z - z_j|^2} dA(z) \leq \frac{C}{\varepsilon n},$$

because ΔQ is bounded below by a positive constant on $D(z_j; \delta_n/2)$.

Now let $z_j \in S$ be arbitrary and use the off-diagonal damping in Lemma 2.10 coupled with the asymptotic estimate $\mathbf{K}_n(z, z) \sim n$ for $z \in S_n$ (Lemma 7.4) to conclude that there are C and $c > 0$ such that

$$(6.11) \quad \tilde{V}_j(z) \leq CV_j(z), \quad z \in S_n,$$

where V_j is given in (6.8).

We conclude that

$$(6.12) \quad \int_{S_n \setminus D(z; \delta_n/2)} \tilde{V}_j(z) dA(z) \leq C e^{-\frac{1}{2}c \sqrt{\varepsilon} \log^2 n} \leq 1/n,$$

provided that n is large enough. In case (i), the estimate (6.9) follows from (6.10) and (6.12); case (ii) is immediate from (6.12). \square

By Lemma 6.3 and the estimate (6.11), one immediately deduces the following lemma.

Lemma 6.6. *Let*

$$\tilde{F}_n(z) = \sum_{j=1}^n \tilde{V}_j(z).$$

There are then constants $C = C(\varepsilon)$ and $n_0 = n_0(\varepsilon)$ such that $\|\tilde{F}_n\|_{L^\infty(S_n)} \leq C$ when $n \geq n_0$.

We can now conclude the proof of Lemma 2.5.

By (6.9) and (6.3), the operator $\tilde{T} : (c_j)_1^n \mapsto \sum c_j \tilde{L}_j(z)$ is bounded from ℓ_n^1 to $L^1(S_n)$, of norm $\leq C/n$; by Lemma 6.6 it is also bounded from ℓ_n^∞ to $L^\infty(S_n)$, of norm $\leq C$. By interpolation it is bounded by C/\sqrt{n} from ℓ_n^2 to $L^2(S_n)$, i.e., we have

$$\int_{S_n} |f|^2 \leq \frac{C}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n |f(z_j)|^2, \quad f \in \tilde{H}_{n(1-2\varepsilon)}.$$

We have shown that the family \mathcal{F} is of class $M_{S_n, 1-2\varepsilon}$, which concludes our proof of Lemma 2.5. \square

7. TRACE ESTIMATES FOR THE CONCENTRATION OPERATOR

In this section, we fill in the gaps in the hitherto discussion, i.e. we prove trace formulas for the concentration operator. These follow from estimates for the correlation kernel of a type which is at this point well-known (see e.g. [6],[1],[2],[4]). However, the estimates used here are more elementary, so it has seemed worthwhile to include a brief account of them.

Fix a point z in a small neighbourhood Λ of S . The trace of the concentration operator $\mathbf{K}_{\rho n}^{A_n(z)} : \tilde{H}_{\rho n} \rightarrow \tilde{H}_{\rho n}$ is given by

$$\text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{\rho n}^{A_n(z)}) = \int_{A_n(z)} \mathbf{K}_{\rho n}(\zeta, \zeta) dA(\zeta),$$

while the trace of the composition of this operator with itself is

$$\text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{\rho n}^{A_n(z)} \circ \mathbf{K}_{\rho n}^{A_n(z)}) = \int_{A_n(z) \times A_n(z)} |\mathbf{K}_{\rho n}(\zeta, w)|^2 dA(\zeta) dA(w).$$

Recall that $S_n = \{z \in S; \text{dist}(z, \partial S) \geq 2\delta_n\}$ and $\delta_n = \log^2 n / \sqrt{n}$. We shall prove the following lemmas.

Lemma 7.1. *Let $z \in S_n$. Then, as $n \rightarrow \infty$,*

$$\text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{\rho n}^{A_n(z)}) = R^2 \rho \Delta Q(z) + O(\varepsilon_n),$$

where $\varepsilon_n = \log^6 n / \sqrt{n}$.

In the rest of this section, we keep the notation $\varepsilon_n = \log^6 n / \sqrt{n}$.

Lemma 7.2. *Let $z \in S_n$. There is then a constant C such that*

$$(7.1) \quad \text{trace} \left(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)} \circ \mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)} \right) \geq R^2 \rho \Delta Q(z) (1 - C\varepsilon_n) - CR^4 \varepsilon_n + O(R),$$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$, where the $O(R)$ constant is independent of n .

Combining the lemmas, we obtain our main auxiliary result on trace estimates in the bulk.

Lemma 7.3. *Let $z \in S_n$. There is a constant C such that*

$$\text{trace} \left(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)} \right) - \text{trace} \left(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)} \circ \mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)} \right) \leq C \left(R^2 \rho \Delta Q(z) + R^4 \right) \varepsilon_n + O(R),$$

where the $O(R)$ constant is independent of n .

Proofs. Define

$$\psi(z, \zeta) = Q(z) + \partial Q(z) \cdot (\zeta - z) + \frac{1}{2} \partial^2 Q(z) \cdot (\zeta - z)^2,$$

and put

$$\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^\#(z, w) = n\rho \Delta Q(z) e^{n\psi(z, \bar{w}) - n(Q(z) + Q(w))/2}.$$

Our proofs of lemmas 7.1–7.3 uses the following asymptotic formula for the correlation kernel.

Lemma 7.4. *Suppose that $z \in S_n$. There is then a positive number C independent of z and n such that for all $w \in D(z; \delta_n)$,*

$$\left| \mathbf{K}_{n\rho}(z, w) - \mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^\#(z, w) \right| \leq C (n\rho)^2 \delta_n^3.$$

The statement is a suitably modified version of [4], Theorem 3.2, but it does not follow immediately because the regularity assumption on Q is relaxed in our situation. A short proof is given in the appendix. Related bulk expansions for correlation kernels are well known, see [6], [1] and the references given there.

It is useful to note that it follows from Lemma 7.4 that there is a positive constant c such that

$$(7.2) \quad \mathbf{K}_n(z, z) \geq cn, \quad z \in S_n.$$

Observe that Lemma 7.1 is immediate from Lemma 7.4. It remains to prove Lemma 7.2. To this end, we can apply arguments from [4], §3.2. To avoid unnecessary repetition, we shall be brief.

The *Berezin kernel* rooted at a point $\zeta \in \mathbb{C}$ is given by

$$w \mapsto \mathbf{B}_{\rho n}(\zeta; w) := \frac{|\mathbf{K}_{\rho n}(\zeta, w)|^2}{\mathbf{K}_{\rho n}(\zeta, \zeta)}.$$

Notice that $\int_{\mathbb{C}} \mathbf{B}_{\rho n}(\zeta; w) dA(w) = 1$, and that we can write

$$\text{trace} \left(\mathbf{K}_{\rho n}^{A_n(z)} \circ \mathbf{K}_{\rho n}^{A_n(z)} \right) = \int_{A_n(z)} \mathbf{K}_{\rho n}(\zeta, \zeta) \left[\int_{A_n(z)} \mathbf{B}_{\rho n}(\zeta; w) dA(w) \right] dA(\zeta).$$

Now consider the “heat kernel”

$$\mathbf{G}_{n\rho}(\zeta; w) = n\rho \Delta Q(\zeta) e^{-n\rho \Delta Q(\zeta) |\zeta - w|^2}.$$

Using Lemma 7.4, one easily proves that

$$(7.3) \quad \mathbf{B}_{n\rho}(z; w) = \mathbf{G}_{n\rho}(z; w) \cdot \left(1 + O(n\delta_n^3) \right) + O(n^2 \delta_n^3), \quad w \in D(z; \delta_n).$$

Next notice that $w \mapsto \mathbf{G}_{n\rho}(\zeta; w)$ is a probability density on (\mathbb{C}, dA) and that $\int_{D(\zeta; R/\sqrt{n})} \mathbf{G}_{n\rho}(\zeta; w) dA(w) = 1 - e^{-R^2 \rho \Delta Q(\zeta)}$. Combining with (7.3) we then have, for $\zeta \in S_n$.

$$\int_{D(\zeta; R/\sqrt{n})} \mathbf{B}_{n\rho}(\zeta; w) dA(w) \geq (1 - e^{-R^2 \rho \Delta Q(\zeta)}) (1 - C\varepsilon_n) + R^2 \cdot O(\varepsilon_n).$$

We can now continue to estimate

$$\begin{aligned} \text{trace} \left(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)} \circ \mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)} \right) &\geq \int_{A_n(z)} \mathbf{K}_{n\rho}(\zeta, \zeta) \left[\int_{D(\zeta; R/\sqrt{n-|z-\zeta|})} \mathbf{B}_{n\rho}(\zeta; w) dA(w) \right] dA(\zeta) = \\ &= \int_{D(z; R/\sqrt{n})} (n\rho \Delta Q(\zeta) + O(n\varepsilon_n)) \left[\int_{D(\zeta; R/\sqrt{n-|z-\zeta|})} (\mathbf{G}_{n\rho}(\zeta; w) \cdot (1 + O(\varepsilon_n)) + O(n\varepsilon_n)) dA(w) \right] dA(\zeta) = \\ &= \int_{D(z; R/\sqrt{n})} (n\rho \Delta Q(\zeta) + O(n\varepsilon_n)) \left(1 - e^{-(R-\sqrt{n}|z-\zeta|)^2 \rho \Delta Q(z)} + R^2 \cdot O(\varepsilon_n) \right) dA(\zeta). \end{aligned}$$

Changing variables by $\omega = \sqrt{n}(\zeta - z)$ and writing $r = |\omega|$, we conclude that the dominating term, as $n \rightarrow \infty$, in the last integral is

$$\rho \Delta Q(z) \int_0^R 2r \left(1 - e^{-(R-r)^2 \rho \Delta Q(z)} \right) dr = \rho \Delta Q(z) (R^2 + O(R)).$$

The estimate (7.1) follows from this. \square

8. THE GINIBRE CASE

In this section we prove lemmas 2.6 and 2.7, and, as a consequence, Theorem 1.5. We start with some preliminaries on real analytic potentials.

8.1. Real analytic potentials. Let Q be real-analytic in some neighbourhood of the droplet. Consider the function ("joint intensity k -point function")

$$R_{n\rho}^k(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_k) = \det(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}(\xi_i, \xi_j))_{i,j=1}^k.$$

We now fix a convergent sequence $(z_n)_1^\infty$ in S and consider the rescaled functions

$$\widehat{R}_{n\rho}^k(\zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_k) = \frac{1}{(n\rho)^k} R_{n\rho}^k(z_n + \zeta_1/\sqrt{n\rho}, \dots, z_n + \zeta_k/\sqrt{n\rho}).$$

We also define the function (*Ginibre*(∞)-correlation kernel)

$$\mathbf{k}(\zeta, \eta) = e^{\zeta\bar{\eta} - |\zeta|^2/2 - |\eta|^2/2}.$$

We will use the following lemma.

Lemma 8.1. *Assume that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{n} \text{dist}(z_n, \partial S) = +\infty$. Then for each $k \geq 1$,*

$$(8.1) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \widehat{R}_{n\rho}^k(\zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_k) = \det(\mathbf{k}(\zeta_i, \zeta_j))_{i,j=1}^k$$

with uniform convergence on compact subsets of \mathbb{C}^k .

Proof. In the case when z_n converges to a point of the interior of S , the lemma follows from Lemma 7.4. The same is true if z_n converges to a point of ∂S and $\text{dist}(z_n, \partial S) \geq \log^2 n / \sqrt{n}$. In the general case we can use the sharper asymptotic estimate for the correlation kernel corresponding to a real analytic potential from the proof of Lemma 4.4 of [4] (or Theorem 2.1 of [1]), together with the rescaling argument in [3], §7.5. Details are omitted. \square

8.2. Trace estimates near the boundary: Ginibre case. We now specialize to $Q(z) = |z|^2$. We shall write

$$s_n(\zeta) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{\zeta^k}{k!}.$$

It is well known that $\mathbf{K}_n(z, w) = ns_n(nz\bar{w})e^{-n\frac{|z|^2+|w|^2}{2}}$. We fix a point $z_0 \in \mathbb{T}$ and consider the function

$$\widetilde{R}_{n\rho}^k(\zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_k) = \frac{1}{(n\rho)^k} R_{n\rho}^k(z_0(1 + \zeta_1/\sqrt{n\rho}), \dots, z_0(1 + \zeta_k/\sqrt{n\rho})).$$

We will denote by

$$\Phi(z) = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{erfc}\left(-\frac{z}{\sqrt{2}}\right).$$

This is the analytic continuation to \mathbb{C} of the d.f. of a standard normal random variable. Also let

$$\mathbf{F}(z, w) = e^{z\bar{w}-|z|^2/2-|w|^2/2}\Phi(-z-\bar{w}).$$

Lemma 8.2. *Suppose that $Q = |z|^2$ and that $z_0 \in \mathbb{T}$. Then for each $k \geq 1$,*

$$(8.2) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \widetilde{R}_{n\rho}^k(\zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_k) = \det(\mathbf{F}(\zeta_i, \zeta_j))_{i,j=1}^k$$

with uniform convergence on compact subsets of \mathbb{C}^k .

A proof is given in [14], Theorem C.1(2).

Remark 8.3. Since \mathbf{F} is the correlation kernel of a determinantal process, we have $|\mathbf{F}(z, w)|^2 \leq \mathbf{F}(z, z)\mathbf{F}(w, w)$, which implies $|\mathbf{F}(z, w)| < 1$. (A correlation kernel of a det-process in the plane is a Hermitian function \mathbf{F} satisfying $\det(\mathbf{F}(\lambda_i, \lambda_j))_{i,j=1}^k \geq 0$ for all configurations $\{\lambda_j\}_{j=1}^k \in \mathbb{C}$, $k \geq 0$, cf. e.g. [13].)

Remark 8.4. Let $\mathbb{D}^+ = \mathbb{D} + D(0; s/\sqrt{n})$ where $s > 0$. We can then assert that there is a positive constant c such that $\mathbf{K}_n(z, z) \geq cn$ for all $z \in \mathbb{D}^+$. (To see this, let $r = |z|^2$, so that $\mathbf{K}_n(z, z) = nf(nr)$ where $f(t) = \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \frac{t^j}{j!} e^{-t}$. We have $f'(t) = -t^{n-1}e^{-t}/(n-1)!$ so f is decreasing on $[0, \infty)$. Also, by Lemma 8.2, $f(n(1+s/\sqrt{n})^2) \rightarrow \Phi(-2s) > 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.)

By the preceding lemmas, we conclude the following.

(i) Suppose that $\sqrt{n}(1 - |z_n|) \rightarrow +\infty$. Then

$$(8.3) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \operatorname{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)}) = R^2\rho \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \operatorname{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)} \circ \mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)}) = R^2\rho + O(R).$$

(ii) If $\sqrt{n}(1 - |z_n|) \rightarrow L < +\infty$, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \operatorname{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)}) = \rho \int_{D(L; R)} \Phi(-2\sqrt{\rho} \operatorname{Re} \zeta) dA(\zeta),$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \operatorname{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)} \circ \mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)}) = \rho^2 \iint_{D(L; R) \times D(L; R)} e^{-\rho|\zeta-\eta|^2} \left| \Phi(-\sqrt{\rho}(\zeta + \bar{\eta})) \right|^2 dA(\zeta) dA(\eta).$$

Clearly Lemma 8.1 implies (i) while (ii) follows from Lemma 8.2.

We need to compare the integrals in (ii). To this end, fix a sequence $z = (z_n) \in \overline{\mathbb{D}}$ and suppose that the limit $L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{n}(1 - |z_n|)$ exists and is finite. Observe that

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)})}{R^2} = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\rho}{R^2} \int_{D(L;R)} \Phi(-2\sqrt{\rho} \text{Re } \zeta) dA(\zeta).$$

To compute the integral in the right hand side, we apply the change of variables $\omega = (\zeta - L)/R$. It yields

$$\frac{\rho}{R^2} \int_{D(L;R)} \Phi(-2\sqrt{\rho} \text{Re } \zeta) dA(\zeta) = \rho \int_{\mathbb{D}} \Phi(-2\sqrt{\rho}R\omega - 2\sqrt{\rho}L) dA(\omega).$$

As $R \rightarrow \infty$ the right hand side above converges to $\rho \int_{\mathbb{D}} \mathbf{1}_{[\text{Re } \omega < 0]} dA(\omega) = \frac{\rho}{2}$. We have shown that

$$(8.4) \quad \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\text{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)})}{R^2} = \frac{\rho}{2}.$$

We also need to calculate the trace of the composition of $\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)}$ with itself. For this purpose, it will be convenient to use the *Dawson's function*

$$F(t) := e^{-t^2} \int_0^t e^{x^2} dx, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Lemma 8.5. *For all $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$ holds*

$$(8.5) \quad |\mathbf{F}(z, w)| \leq e^{-|z-w|^2/2} + e^{-[\text{Re}(z-w)]^2/2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} F\left(\frac{\text{Im}(z-w)}{\sqrt{2}}\right).$$

In particular, $\mathbf{F}(z, w) \leq C/(1 + |z - w|)$.

Proof. We have $|\mathbf{F}(z, w)| = e^{-|z-w|^2/2} |\Phi(-z - \bar{w})|$. By Cauchy's theorem we can unambiguously write $\Phi(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^z e^{-\zeta^2/2} d\zeta$. Let $-z - \bar{w} = a + ib$ with $a = -\text{Re}(z + w)$ and $b = \text{Im}(w - z)$, and put $\Gamma = (-\infty, a] \cup [a, a + ib]$. An obvious estimate of the integral over Γ gives

$$|\Phi(-z - \bar{w})| \leq \Phi(a) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^b e^{t^2/2} dt,$$

so, since $\Phi(a) \leq 1$,

$$|\mathbf{F}(z, w)| \leq e^{-c^2/2} + e^{-c^2/2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^b e^{t^2/2} dt, \quad c = |z - w|.$$

This is equivalent to (8.5).

It remains to be shown that $|\mathbf{F}(z, w)| \rightarrow 0$ as $|z - w| \rightarrow \infty$. It is well-known that F has asymptotic expansion $F(t) = 1/2t + 1/4t^3 + \dots$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ (see [28], p. 406), so $F(t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$. Writing $s = |\text{Re}(z - w)|$ and $t = |\text{Im}(z - w)|$, we notice that it follows from (8.5) that

$$|z - w| |\mathbf{F}(z, w)| \leq |z - w| e^{-|z-w|^2/2} + s e^{-s^2/2} F(t/\sqrt{2}) + e^{-s^2/2} \cdot t F(t/\sqrt{2}) \leq C,$$

with a C independent of z and w . This finishes the proof, since $|\mathbf{F}| < 1$ (Remark 8.3). \square

Lemma 8.6. *For any $z \in \mathbb{C}$ we have*

$$\rho^2 \int_{\mathbb{C}} e^{-\rho|z-w|^2} \left| \Phi(-\sqrt{\rho}(z + \bar{w})) \right|^2 dA(w) = \rho \Phi(-2\sqrt{\rho} \text{Re } z).$$

Proof. By an obvious change of variables, we can assume that $\rho = 1$. Thus consider the integral

$$I(z) = \int_{\mathbb{C}} e^{-|z-w|^2} |\Phi(-z-\bar{w})|^2 dA(w).$$

Putting $w = z + re^{i\theta}$ gives

$$(8.6) \quad I(z) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \left[\int_0^\infty re^{-r^2} |\Phi(-2\operatorname{Re} z - re^{-i\theta})|^2 dr \right] d\theta.$$

Let $J(z)$ be the inner integral, $J(z) = \int_0^\infty re^{-r^2} |\Phi(-2\operatorname{Re} z - re^{-i\theta})|^2 dr$. An integration by parts gives

$$J(z) = \left[-\frac{1}{2} e^{-r^2} |\Phi(-2\operatorname{Re} z - re^{-i\theta})|^2 \right]_{r=0}^\infty + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty e^{-r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} |\Phi(-2\operatorname{Re} z - re^{-i\theta})|^2 dr.$$

By Lemma 8.5, we have for all θ

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} e^{-r^2} |\Phi(-2\operatorname{Re} z - re^{-i\theta})|^2 = 0.$$

This shows that

$$(8.7) \quad J(z) = \frac{1}{2} \Phi(-2\operatorname{Re} z) + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty e^{-r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} |\Phi(-2\operatorname{Re} z - re^{-i\theta})|^2 dr.$$

But

$$(8.8) \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial r} |\Phi(-2\operatorname{Re} z - re^{-i\theta})|^2 = -\frac{1}{ir} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} |\Phi(-2\operatorname{Re} z - re^{-i\theta})|^2.$$

Using (8.7) and (8.8) in (8.6) we get

$$I(z) = \Phi(-2\operatorname{Re} z) + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty e^{-r^2} \frac{1}{r} \left[\int_0^{2\pi} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} |\Phi(-2\operatorname{Re} z - re^{-i\theta})|^2 d\theta \right] dr.$$

The inner integral in the right hand side clearly vanishes, so $I(z) = \Phi(-2\operatorname{Re} z)$, as desired. \square

Suppose now that $L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{n}(1 - |z_n|) < \infty$. By the last lemma, then

$$(8.9) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \operatorname{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)} \circ \mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)}) = \rho \int_{D(L;R)} \Phi(-2\operatorname{Re} \sqrt{\rho}\zeta)(1 + o(1)) dA(\zeta) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \operatorname{trace}(\mathbf{K}_{n\rho}^{A_n(z)}) + o(R^2).$$

We now have the trace estimates needed for our discussion of Beurling-Landau densities close to the boundary.

8.3. Proof of Lemma 2.6. Let \mathcal{Z} be a triangular family contained in $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$. Fix a sequence $\zeta = (z_n)$ in $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$ and let $L := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{n}(1 - |z_n|)$.

Assume first that \mathcal{Z} is of class $M_{\mathbb{D},\rho}$. Using the estimate (4.3) and the trace estimates in the preceding subsection, one can finish the argument exactly as in Section 5 above. More precisely, if $L = +\infty$ we use the estimates in (8.3) to obtain that $D^-(\mathcal{Z}, \zeta) \geq \rho$, and if $L < \infty$ we use instead the estimates in equations (8.4) and (8.9) to obtain $D^-(\mathcal{Z}, \zeta) \geq \rho/2$.

Similarly, if \mathcal{Z} is ρ -interpolating, we repeat the argument in Section 5 using the trace estimates above. It yields that $D^+(\mathcal{Z}, \zeta) \leq \rho$ if $L = \infty$ and $D^+(\mathcal{Z}, \zeta) \leq \rho/2$ if $L < \infty$. \square

8.4. Off-diagonal damping in the Ginibre case. The aim of this subsection is to prove the following proposition, which will be used in the next subsection to prove Lemma 2.7.

Proposition 8.7. *Let $Q = |z|^2$ be the Ginibre potential. There exists a constant C such that*

$$(8.10) \quad |\mathbf{K}_n(z, w)| \leq Cn \frac{1}{1 + \sqrt{n}|z - w|}, \quad z, w \in \mathbb{D}^+ = D(0; 1 + s/\sqrt{n}).$$

We may w.l.o.g. assume that the separation constant s has $s \leq 1$, this will be done below.

Our proof consists of checking a number of cases. The argument is somewhat lengthy, but straightforward.

It will facilitate to note that we have rotational symmetry $\mathbf{K}_n(z, w) = \mathbf{K}_n(e^{i\theta}z, e^{i\theta}w)$, so we may w.l.o.g. assume that $w = r$ is real and non-negative when proving (8.10).

Also notice that we trivially have

$$(8.11) \quad |\mathbf{K}_n(z, w)| \leq Cn \leq C(1 + M)n \frac{1}{1 + \sqrt{n}|z - w|}, \quad |z - w| \leq M/\sqrt{n}.$$

We shall dispose of another simple case.

Lemma 8.8. *Suppose that $z, r \in \mathbb{D}^+$ and $r \geq 1/2$. Then $|z - r| \leq 2|zr - 1| + 4s/\sqrt{n}$.*

Proof. First assume that $z, r \in \mathbb{D}$. Let $z = x + iy$. The inequalities

$$(x - r)^2 \leq (rx - 1)^2, \quad (-1 \leq x \leq 1) \quad \text{and} \quad y^2 \leq 4(ry)^2$$

show that $|z - r|^2 \leq (rx - 1)^2 + 4(ry)^2 \leq 4|zr - 1|^2$.

It is now straightforward to check the cases when z and/or r are in $\mathbb{D}^+ \setminus \mathbb{D}$; we omit details. \square

The lemma implies that $|\mathbf{K}_n(z, r)| \leq Cn \frac{1}{1 + \sqrt{n}|z - r|}$ when $z, r \in \mathbb{D}^+$ are such that $r \geq 0$ and $|zr - 1| \leq M/\sqrt{n}$.

In the following we can thus assume that $|zr - 1| \geq M/\sqrt{n}$ where the constant M is at our disposal. We make the following observation.

Fact 8.9. If $M \geq 8s$, then for all $z, r \in \mathbb{D}^+$ such that $r \geq 1/2$ and $|z - r| \geq M/\sqrt{n}$ we have that $|z - r| \leq 4|zr - 1|$.

Proof. The hypothesis gives that $4s/\sqrt{n} \leq |z - r|/2$. Hence Lemma 8.8 shows that $|z - r| \leq 2|zr - 1| + |z - r|/2$. \square

Lemma 8.10. *There are constants $\delta > 0$ and C such that for all $z, w \in D(0; 2)$ such that $M/\sqrt{n} \leq |z\bar{w} - 1| \leq \delta$, we have $|\mathbf{K}_n(z, w)| \leq Cn \left(e^{-n|z-w|^2/2} + \frac{1}{1 + \sqrt{n}|z\bar{w} - 1|} \right)$.*

Proof. Let $\phi(\zeta) = \zeta - 1 - \log \zeta$ for ζ close to 1, with the principal branch of the logarithm. It was observed in [12], Appendix B, that ϕ has an analytic square-root $\xi = \sqrt{\phi}$, which is moreover conformal in a neighbourhood of 1. We fix $\xi(z)$ by requiring it to be negative for real $z \in (0, 1)$.

We will now apply [12], Theorem B.1, which yields that there exists $\delta > 0$ such that for any $M > 1$ and all ζ with $M/\sqrt{n} \leq |\zeta - 1| \leq \delta$, we have the following, partially overlapping, asymptotic expansions:

$$s_n(n\zeta)e^{-n\zeta} = \begin{cases} 1 - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2\xi'(\zeta)}} \operatorname{erfc}(-\sqrt{n}\xi(\zeta))(1 + O(1/\sqrt{n})), & |\arg(\zeta - 1) - \pi| \leq 2\pi/3, \\ \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2\xi'(\zeta)}} \operatorname{erfc}(\sqrt{n}\xi(\zeta))(1 + O(1/\sqrt{n})), & |\arg(\zeta - 1)| \leq 2\pi/3. \end{cases}$$

Applying the asymptotic expansion (found in [12], eq. (B.36))

$$\operatorname{erfc}(-z) = -\frac{e^{-z^2}}{\sqrt{\pi z}}(1 + O(1/z^2)) \quad \text{as } z \rightarrow \infty, \quad |\arg(z-1) - \pi| < 3\pi/4 - \varepsilon,$$

and the fact that $\operatorname{erfc}(-z) + \operatorname{erfc}(z) = 2$, we obtain in both cases

$$|s_n(nz\bar{w})e^{-nz\bar{w}}| \leq C \left(1 + \frac{|z\bar{w}|^{n+1} e^{-n \operatorname{Re}(z\bar{w})+n}}{\sqrt{n} |z\bar{w} - 1|} \right), \quad M/\sqrt{n} \leq |z\bar{w} - 1| \leq \delta.$$

We have shown that

$$|\mathbf{K}_n(z, w)| = n |s_n(nz\bar{w})e^{-nz\bar{w}}| \left| e^{nz\bar{w} - n \frac{|z|^2 + |w|^2}{2}} \right| \leq Cn \left(e^{-n|z-w|^2/2} + \frac{|z\bar{w}|}{\sqrt{n} |z\bar{w} - 1|} |z\bar{w}|^n e^{-n \left(\frac{|z|^2 + |w|^2}{2} - 1 \right)} \right).$$

Using that $x^n e^{-n(x-1)} \leq 1$ for $x > 0$ we find that

$$|\mathbf{K}_n(z, w)| \leq Cn \left(e^{-n|z-w|^2/2} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n} |z\bar{w} - 1|} \right), \quad M/\sqrt{n} \leq |z\bar{w} - 1| \leq \delta.$$

This finishes the proof of the lemma. \square

If $z, r \in \mathbb{D}^+$ and $M/\sqrt{n} \leq |zr - 1| \leq \delta$, then $|z|, r \geq 1/2$ provided that δ is sufficiently small. Hence Lemma 8.10 and Fact 8.9 show that, provided $M \geq 8s$, we have the estimate

$$|\mathbf{K}_n(z, r)| \leq Cn \left(e^{-n|z-r|^2/2} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n} |z-r|/4} \right).$$

Since $xe^{-x^2/2} < 1$, it yields that $|\mathbf{K}_n(z, r)| \lesssim \sqrt{n}/|z-r|$.

There now only remains to handle the case when $|zr - 1| \geq \delta$. To this end, we shall use the following lemma.

Lemma 8.11. *If $z, w \in D(0; 2)$ satisfy $|1 - z\bar{w}| \geq \delta > 0$ then $|\mathbf{K}_n(z, w)| \leq C\sqrt{n} \left(1 + \frac{1}{|z-w|} \right)$ where C depends only on δ .*

Proof. We shall use some classical asymptotic estimates due to Szegő. Namely, by [29], Hilfssatz 1, it holds that for all $\zeta \in \mathbb{C}$ with $|\zeta - 1| \geq \delta$ we have two partially overlapping possibilities. Viz. there are open sets Ω_1, Ω_2 with $\Omega_1 \cup \Omega_2 = \mathbb{C} \setminus \{1\}$ such that

$$s_n(n\zeta)e^{-n\zeta} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi n}} (\zeta e^{1-\zeta})^n \frac{\zeta}{1-\zeta} (1 + \varepsilon_n^{(1)}(\zeta)), & \zeta \in \Omega_1, \\ 1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi n}} (\zeta e^{1-\zeta})^n \frac{\zeta}{1-\zeta} (1 + \varepsilon_n^{(2)}(\zeta)), & \zeta \in \Omega_2. \end{cases}$$

where $\varepsilon_n^{(j)}(\zeta)$ denotes a quantity converging to zero, uniformly on compact subsets of Ω_j .

These relations imply

$$|\mathbf{K}_n(z, w)| \leq n \left(e^{-n|z-w|^2/2} + C \frac{1}{\sqrt{n} |z\bar{w} - 1|} \right) \leq n \left(e^{-n|z-w|^2/2} + C\delta^{-1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \right),$$

for (z, w) in a compact subset of $\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \{(z, w); |z\bar{w} - 1| \leq \delta\}$. The lemma follows. \square

The lemma shows that $|\mathbf{K}_n(z, r)| \leq C\delta^{-1}\sqrt{n}$ when $z, r \in \mathbb{D}^+$ satisfy $|1 - zr| \geq \delta$ and $r \geq 0$. Thereby, Proposition 8.7 is completely proved. \square

8.5. Proof of Lemma 2.7. Let $\mathcal{F} = \{\mathcal{F}_n\}$ be a family of Fekete sets corresponding to $Q = |z|^2$. Also fix a small $\varepsilon > 0$. We will prove that \mathcal{F} is of class $M_{\overline{\mathbb{D}}, 1-3\varepsilon}$ and that \mathcal{F} is $(1 + 3\varepsilon)$ -interpolating.

To this end, write $\mathcal{F}_n = \{z_1, \dots, z_n\}$ and introduce the auxiliary functions

$$\ell_j(z) = \left(\prod_{i \neq j} (z - z_i) / \prod_{i \neq j} (z_j - z_i) \right) e^{-n(Q(z) - Q(z_j))/2},$$

as well as

$$L_j(z) = \left(\frac{\mathbf{K}_{\varepsilon n}(z, z_j)}{\mathbf{K}_{\varepsilon n}(z_j, z_j)} \right)^3 \ell_j(z) \quad , \quad \tilde{L}_j(z) = \left(\frac{\mathbf{K}_{\varepsilon n}(z_j, z)}{\mathbf{K}_{\varepsilon n}(z, z)} \right)^3 \ell_j(z).$$

By general results, we have that $\mathcal{F} \subset \overline{\mathbb{D}}$, \mathcal{F} is uniformly separated, and $|\ell_j| \leq 1$ on \mathbb{C} (see Theorem 1.1 and Lemma 6.1). We also recall:

(i) To prove that \mathcal{F} is $(1 + 3\varepsilon)$ -interpolating it suffices to show that the operator $T : (c_j)_{j=1}^n \mapsto \sum_{j=1}^n c_j L_j(z)$ is bounded from ℓ_2^n to L^2 , of norm at most C/\sqrt{n} . (Consider the weighted polynomial $f = T(c) \in \tilde{H}_{n(1+3\varepsilon)}$.)

(ii) Similarly, to prove that \mathcal{F} is of class $M_{\overline{\mathbb{D}}, 1-3\varepsilon}$ it suffices to show that the operator $\tilde{T} : (c_j)_{j=1}^n \mapsto \sum_{j=1}^n c_j \tilde{L}_j(z)$ is bounded from ℓ_2^n to $L^2(\mathbb{D}^+)$, of norm at most C/\sqrt{n} . This follows from the representation $f = \tilde{T}(c)$, $f \in \tilde{H}_{n(1-3\varepsilon)}$, where $c_j = f(z_j)$. (See §6.3.)

Next observe that since $\mathbf{K}_{n\varepsilon}(z, z) \geq cn\varepsilon$ for $z \in \mathbb{D}^+$ (Remark 8.4), and since $|\mathbf{K}_n(z_j, z)| \leq Cn$, we have

$$|L_j(z)| \leq \frac{C}{n^2 \varepsilon^3} |\mathbf{K}_{n\varepsilon}(z_j, z)|^2, \quad z \in \mathbb{C}$$

and

$$|\tilde{L}_j(z)| \leq \frac{C}{n^2 \varepsilon^3} |\mathbf{K}_{n\varepsilon}(z_j, z)|^2, \quad z \in \mathbb{D}^+.$$

Since

$$\int_{\mathbb{C}} |\mathbf{K}_{n\varepsilon}(z_j, z)|^2 dA(z) = \mathbf{K}_{\varepsilon n}(z_j, z_j) \leq Cn\varepsilon,$$

we conclude that $\|L_j\|_{L^1} \leq C/(n\varepsilon^2)$ and $\|\tilde{L}_j\|_{L^1} \leq C/(n\varepsilon^2)$. We have shown that $\|T\|_{\ell_2^n \rightarrow L^1} \leq C/(n\varepsilon^2)$ and $\|\tilde{T}\|_{\ell_2^n \rightarrow L^1(\mathbb{D}^+)} \leq C/(n\varepsilon^2)$.

Next notice that by Proposition 8.7 and Remark 8.4 we have

$$|L_j(z)| \leq CV_j(z) \quad \text{and} \quad |\tilde{L}_j(z)| \leq CV_j(z), \quad z \in \mathbb{D}^+,$$

where

$$V_j(z) = \frac{1}{(1 + \sqrt{n\varepsilon} |z - z_j|)^3}.$$

Let us introduce the function

$$F_n(z) = \sum_{j=1}^n V_j(z).$$

Since

$$V_j(z) \leq Cns^{-2} \int_{D(z_j, s/\sqrt{n})} V_j(w) dA(w), \quad z \in \mathbb{D}^+,$$

with a constant C depending only on s and ε , the separation implies that

$$F_n(z) \leq Cns^{-2} \int_{\mathbb{D}^+} \frac{1}{(1 + \sqrt{n\varepsilon} |z - w|)^3} dA(w) \leq C\varepsilon^{-1} s^{-2} \int_{\mathbb{C}} \frac{1}{(1 + |\zeta|)^3} dA(\zeta) < \infty, \quad z \in \mathbb{D}^+.$$

This implies $\|F_n\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{D}^+)} \leq C\varepsilon^{-1}s^{-2}$, which gives $\|T\|_{\ell_n^\infty \rightarrow L^\infty(\mathbb{D}^+)} \leq C\varepsilon^{-1}s^{-2}$ and $\|\tilde{T}\|_{\ell_n^\infty \rightarrow L^\infty(\mathbb{D}^+)} \leq C\varepsilon^{-1}s^{-2}$.

We now recall that the bound $\|T\|_{\ell_n^\infty \rightarrow L^\infty(\mathbb{D})} \leq C$ means that, for all $(c_j)_1^n$,

$$\left\| \sum_{j=1}^n c_j L_j \right\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{D})} \leq C \max |c_j|.$$

But by the maximum principle (Lemma 2.8), the weighted polynomial $\sum c_j L_j(z)$ assumes its maximum on $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$, which means that

$$\left\| \sum_{j=1}^n c_j L_j \right\|_{L^\infty} \leq C \max |c_j|.$$

We have shown that $\|T\|_{\ell_n^\infty \rightarrow L^\infty} \leq C\varepsilon^{-1}s^{-2}$.

By interpolation we now infer that $\|T\|_{\ell_n^2 \rightarrow L^2} \leq C/\sqrt{n}$ and $\|\tilde{T}\|_{\ell_n^2 \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{D}^+)} \leq C/\sqrt{n}$ with a constant depending on ε and s . The proof of the lemma is finished. q.e.d.

APPENDIX: THE PROOF OF LEMMA 7.4

Let Q be C^3 -smooth in some neighbourhood of S ; we assume that $\Delta Q \geq \text{const.} > 0$ there. To prove Lemma 7.4, we shall use a simplified form of the argument used in the appendix of [4].

To simplify the discussion we put $\rho = 1$; for the general case one needs simply to replace "n" by " $n\rho$ ".

It will be useful to keep in mind the following elementary properties of the equilibrium potential \widehat{Q} : (i) \widehat{Q} is C^1 -smooth on \mathbb{C} and the gradient of \widehat{Q} is Lipschitz continuous on \mathbb{C} , (ii) \widehat{Q} is harmonic on $\mathbb{C} \setminus S$, (iii) one has that

$$(8.12) \quad \widehat{Q}(\zeta) = \log |\zeta|^2 + O(1) \quad \text{as } z \rightarrow \infty.$$

For proofs of these statements, we refer to [25], Theorem I.4.7 and [19].

Fix a point $z \in S$ with $\text{dist}(z, \partial S) \geq 3\delta_n$. We can here take $\delta_n = M\sqrt{\log n/n}$ for some large M , but any fixed positive sequence with $n\delta_n^3 \rightarrow 0$ and $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} n\delta_n^2/\log n$ large enough will also work. (So $\delta_n = \log^2 n/\sqrt{n}$ will work, which is the choice made throughout the rest of this paper; in particular, in our statement and proof of Theorem 1.3.)

Recall that

$$\psi(z, \zeta) = Q(z) + \partial Q(z) \cdot (\zeta - z) + \frac{1}{2} \partial^2 Q(z) \cdot (\zeta - z)^2.$$

Put

$$k_z^\#(\zeta) = n\Delta Q(z) e^{n\psi(z, \zeta)}.$$

Observe that, by Taylor's formula,

$$(8.13) \quad \overline{k_z^\#(\zeta)} e^{-nQ(\zeta)} = n\Delta Q(z) e^{-nH_z(\zeta) - n\Delta Q(z)|z-\zeta|^2} e^{n\varepsilon_z(\zeta)},$$

where

$$H_z(\zeta) = \partial Q(z)(\zeta - z) + \frac{1}{2} \partial^2 Q(z)(\zeta - z)^2$$

and $\varepsilon_z(\zeta) = O(|z - \zeta|^3)$.

Let $\chi_z = \chi_{z,n}$ be a sequence of cut-off functions with $\chi_z = 1$ in $D(z; 3\delta_n/2)$ and $\chi_z = 0$ outside $D(z; 2\delta_n)$, and also $\|\overline{\partial} \chi_z\|_{L^2} \leq C$. Recall the notation $\|f\|_{nQ}^2 = \int_{\mathbb{C}} |f|^2 e^{-nQ} dA$.

Let f be holomorphic in $D(z; 2\delta_n)$. Observe that (since $e^x = 1 + O(x)$ as $x \rightarrow 0$)

$$\langle \chi_z \cdot f, k_z^\# \rangle_{nQ} = (1 + O(n\delta_n^3)) n\Delta Q(z) \int \chi_z \cdot F_n e^{-n\Delta Q(z)|\zeta-z|^2} dA(\zeta),$$

where we have put

$$F_n = f \cdot e^{-nH_z}.$$

It yields

$$\langle \chi_z \cdot f, k_z^\# \rangle_{nQ} = -(1 + O(n\delta_n^3)) \int \frac{\chi_z(\zeta) \cdot F_n(\zeta)}{\zeta - z} \cdot \bar{\partial}_\zeta (e^{-n\Delta Q(z)|\zeta-z|^2}) dA(\zeta),$$

or by Cauchy's formula,

$$\langle \chi_z \cdot f, k_z^\# \rangle_{nQ} = (1 + O(n\delta_n^3)) \left(F_n(z) + \int_{|\zeta-z| \geq \delta_n} \frac{\bar{\partial} \chi_z(\zeta) \cdot F_n(\zeta)}{\zeta - z} e^{-n\Delta Q(z)|\zeta-z|^2} dA(\zeta) \right).$$

Since $F_n(z) = f(z)$, it yields (using Cauchy-Schwarz)

$$|f(z) - \langle \chi_z \cdot f, k_z^\# \rangle_{nQ}| \leq Cn\delta_n^3 |f(z)| + \delta_n^{-1} e^{-n\delta_n^2} \left\| \bar{\partial} \chi_z \right\|_{L^2} \cdot \left(\int_{D(z; 2\delta_n)} |F_n(\zeta)|^2 e^{-n\Delta Q(z)|z-\zeta|^2} dA(\zeta) \right)^{1/2}.$$

But in view of Lemma 2.9, we have an estimate

$$|f(z)| \lesssim \sqrt{n} \|f\|_{nQ} e^{nQ(z)/2}.$$

Observing that $|F_n(\zeta)|^2 e^{-n\Delta Q(z)|z-\zeta|^2} \lesssim |f(\zeta)|^2 e^{-nQ(\zeta)} e^{nQ(z)}$ when $\zeta \in D(z; 2\delta_n)$, we conclude

$$(8.14) \quad |f(z) - \langle \chi_z \cdot f, k_z^\# \rangle_{nQ}| \leq Cn^{3/2} \delta_n^3 \|f\|_{nQ} e^{nQ(z)/2}.$$

Let $k_w(z) = K_n(z, w)$ be the reproducing kernel for the subspace H_n of $L_{nQ}^2 = L^2(e^{-nQ}, dA)$ consisting of all analytic polynomials of degree $\leq n-1$; let $P_n f(z) = \langle f, k_z \rangle_{nQ}$ and $P_n^\# f(z) = \langle f, k_z^\# \rangle_{nQ}$. Then

$$P_n^\# [\chi_z \cdot k_w](z) = \langle \chi_z \cdot k_w, k_z^\# \rangle_{nQ} = \overline{\langle \chi_z k_z^\#, k_w \rangle_{nQ}} = \overline{P_n [\chi_z \cdot k_z^\#](w)}.$$

This gives (since $k_z(w) = \overline{k_w(z)}$)

$$\left| k_z(w) - P_n [\chi_z \cdot k_z^\#](w) \right| = \left| k_w(z) - P_n^\# [\chi_z \cdot k_w](z) \right|,$$

and, since $\|k_w\|_{nQ} \lesssim \sqrt{n} e^{nQ(w)/2}$, we get from (8.14) that

$$(8.15) \quad \left| k_z(w) - P_n [\chi_z \cdot k_z^\#](w) \right| \leq Cn^2 \delta_n^3 e^{nQ(z)/2} e^{nQ(w)/2}.$$

To finish the proof of Lemma 7.4, fix $z \in S_n$ and $w \in D(z; \delta_n)$ and let

$$u(\zeta) = \chi_z(\zeta) k_w^\#(\zeta) - P_n [\chi_z k_w^\#](\zeta).$$

By a well known version of Hörmander's estimate for the L^2 -minimal solution to the $\bar{\partial}$ -equation (see [6] or [1], §5.2) we have a pointwise estimate

$$|u(z)| \leq Cn e^{-cn\delta_n^2} e^{n(Q(z)+Q(w))/2},$$

where C and c are positive constants.

Since $ne^{-cn\delta_n^2} = o(1)$, we obtain

$$\left| K_n(z, w) - k_w^\#(z) \right| e^{-n(Q(z)+Q(w))/2} \leq Cn^2 \delta_n^3.$$

To finish the proof of Lemma 7.4, it now suffices to recall that

$$\mathbf{K}_n(z, w) = K_n(z, w)e^{-n(Q(z)+Q(w))/2} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{K}_n^\#(z, w) = k_z^\#(w)e^{-n(Q(z)+Q(w))/2}.$$

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