# Capacity, Carleson Measures, and Exceptional Sets

Nicola Arcozzi (Bologna) Richard Rochberg (St. Louis) Eric Sawyer (Hamilton)

January 2008

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# The Dirichlet Space

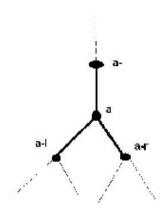
The Dirichlet space,  $\mathcal{D}$ :

$$f \in \operatorname{Hol}(\mathbb{D}), \quad \|f\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 = |f(0)|^2 + \int_{\mathbb{D}} |f'|^2 < \infty.$$

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#### The Tree

The tree, T, a rooted loopless graph, every point other than the root has three nearest neighbors.



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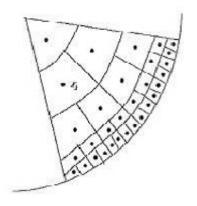
The Tree Boundary

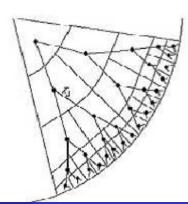
A point of  $\partial T$  is an equivalence class of geodesics infinite in one direction; a a path to the abstract boundary,

The Tree in the Disk

Think of T as sitting inside  $\mathbb D$  with the root o at 0.

Think of  $\partial T$  as being the same as  $\mathbb{T}$ .





#### Operations on functions and measures on T

• "Integration": sum the function along the geodesic from o. If  $(\alpha) = \sum_{o \prec \beta \prec \alpha} f(\beta)$ .

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- ullet A measure  $\mu$  on  $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$  induces a measure  $\mu_T$  on  $\overline{T}=T\cup\partial T$  by.....

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•  $\mathcal{D}_d$  is the Dyadic Dirichlet space:

$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{D}_d}^2 = |f(o)|^2 + \sum_{T\setminus\{o\}} |Df(\alpha)|^2 < \infty.$$

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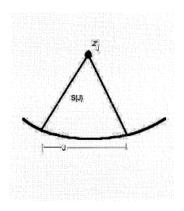
- $\mathcal{D}_d$  is a simple but useful model for  $\mathcal{D}$ .
- More generally, function spaces on T model function spaces on  $\mathbb{D}$ ; Besov spaces, spaces of p-harmonic functions,...

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#### **Tents**

#### Tents in the Disk

The tent over J, the shadow region below  $z_J$ .

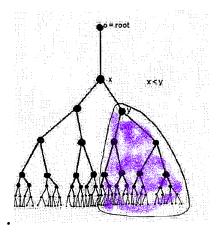


$$S(z) = S(J)$$



# Tents in the Tree

Here S(y) is the shadow region under y, etc.



#### Carleson Measures

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• In either case  $\|\mu\|$  is defined to be the smallest C such that works.



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- $\bullet \ \, \text{For} \,\, E\subset \partial \overline{T}, \mathrm{Cap}_{T}(E)=\inf \Big\{ \|f\|_{\mathcal{D}_{d}}^{2}: f\geq 1 \,\, \text{on} \,\, E \Big\}.$
- In fact  $\operatorname{Cap}(E) = 0$  iff  $\operatorname{Cap}_{\mathcal{T}}(E) = 0$  which is one of the tools in pulling results on  $\mathcal{D}_d$  back to results on  $\mathcal{D}$ .

#### Theorem (Stegenga 1980, ARS 2003)

For a positive measure  $\mu$  on  $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$  the following are equivalent

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- **1**  $\mu_T$  satisfies a tree capacity condition. There is a constant C so that for all sets  $E = \cup_j \partial S(x_j)$  in  $\partial T$ ,

$$\mu_T\left(\cup_j \overline{S(x_j)}\right) \leq C \operatorname{Cap}_T(\cup_j \partial S(x_j)).$$

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**1**  $\mu_T$  satisfies the tree condition. There is a constant C so that  $\forall \alpha \in T$ 

$$I^*(I^*\mu_T)^2(\alpha) \leq CI^*\mu_T(\alpha)$$

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### Two New Things Today

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- Quantitative relation between capacity of a set and properties of Carleson measures supported on the set.
- This establishes equivalence of two classes of null sets and gives an alternative approach to exceptional sets for boundary convergence.

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# Carleson Measures and Capacity

#### Theorem (ARS '07)

For E, a compact subset of  $\partial \overline{T}$ ,

$$\operatorname{Cap}_{T}(E) = \sup_{\operatorname{Supp}(\mu) \subset E} \frac{\mu(E)}{\|\mu\|_{CM(T)}}.$$

#### Corollary

E has capacity zero if and only if E is  $\mu$ -null set for every Carleson measure  $\mu$ .

It is sometimes easier to show a set carries no nontrivial Carleson measures than to estimate its capacity directly.

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- Hence, roughly, the tree condition compares the energy of the measure with its mass.



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### Boundary Values and Exceptional Sets

For the Dirichlet Space-ahistoric

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- Aikawa, Mizuta, Twomey, others (1990's—)
  - For approach regions with contact between algebraic and fully exponential there is convergence with an exceptional set of capacity\* zero; capacity\* is defined with respect to a different space.

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- The Dyadic Dirichlet space is a model case. The approach is rather general and we think it extends to other tree models, non-Hilbert spaces, and spaces of continuous functions (harmonic, holomorphic, p-harmonic,....). "Work in progress."

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- The approach focuses on tree geometry and tree combinatorics; in terms of the boundary values the approach is doing bookkeeping according to scale and position.

Beurling's Theorem for the Dyadic Dirichlet Space

#### Proof.

 $\bullet \ \mathsf{Pick} \ F \in \mathcal{D}_d.$ 

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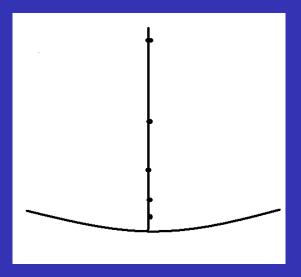
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- and thus finite radial limits off a set of capacity zero.



Extending this analysis to more complicated geometries.

# Radial Approach



We control F on the radius using |DF| at the nodes.

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# NonTangential Approach

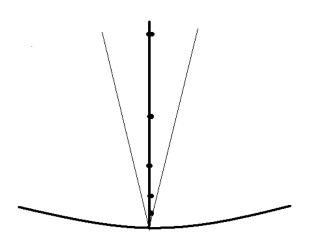


Figure: For control in a wedge we need to use |DF| at more points.

# NonTangential Approach—Constructing a Majorant

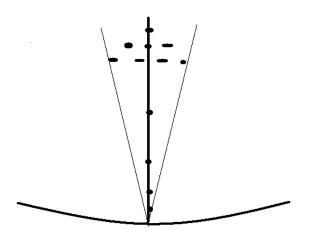


Figure: Each point on the radius looks after finitely many other points.and then the previous proof works.

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# Approach with Algebraic Contact

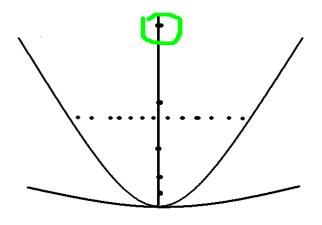


Figure: With algebraic contact there are more loci of variation to control. We use one point to control several long rows.

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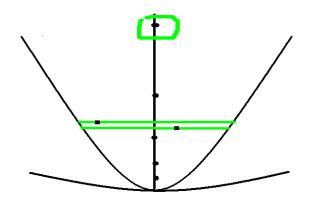
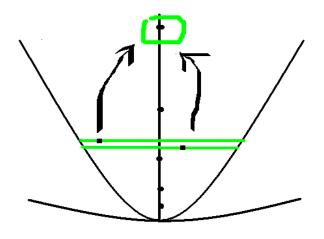


Figure: Use  $\sum \max\{|DF| \text{ on a row}\}$ .

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# Approach with Algebraic Contact

The values of the majorant at the circled point controls the variation down two the green rows.

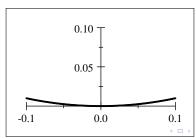


#### In Terms of Euclidean Geometry

Think of the upper halfplane and a contact region that touches the boundary at the origin. The coordinates of an index point n steps from o are  $\sim (0, 2^{-n})$ . The rows being majorized are kn steps further so their y coordinates are  $\sim 2^{-n-kn}$ . At that height the horizontal step size is  $2^{-n-kn}$ . These rows are kn steps below the index point so the width of the row is

number of steps 
$$\times$$
 step size  $= 2^{kn}2^{-n-kn} = 2^{-n}$ 

Hence the coordinates of the edge of the row are  $(2^{-n}, 2^{-n-kn})$ ; we are on the curve  $y = |x|^{k+1}$ .



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# Semi-exponential Contacts-Constructing a Majorant

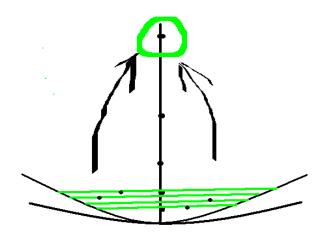


Figure: Now there are more rows to deal with.

 The same idea is used but now the base point has to take responsibility for a number of later rows which grows.

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- Cauchy Schwarz is used to estimate the sum of the squares of DG and a factor  $\sqrt{\text{number of terms}}$  shows up.

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- The conclusion is that DG is not in  $I^{2}(T)$  but is in  $I^{2}(T, 2^{\alpha d(o, \cdot)})$  for some  $\alpha, 0 < \alpha < 1$ .

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- The conclusion is that DG is not in  $I^{2}(T)$  but is in  $I^{2}(T, 2^{\alpha d(o, \cdot)})$  for some  $\alpha$ ,  $0 < \alpha < 1$ .
- Hence the previous proof goes through but now it shows that the set on which G is infinite—and hence F has boundary limits—will have null capacity but for the capacity associated to  $I^2(T, 2^{\alpha d(o, \cdot)})$ .

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- ullet We construct a comparison function G which is a dyadic martingale.
- Use the fact that such a G has limits on a set of full measure.

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- Discrete vs. Continuous; would like to know discrete capacity (E) = 0 if and only if continuous capacity (E) = 0, compare both to a graph capacity.
- In general when a tree model captures the geometry and there is summability information for the local oscillation these ideas can be used; for instance p—harmonic functions.

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  - F has boundary limits through sets making exponential contact except of a set of capacity zero.
  - F has boundary limits through sets making doubly exponential contact except of a set of measure zero.

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