

# THE BLASCHKE CONDITION FOR BOUNDED HOLOMORPHIC FUNCTIONS

BY  
PAK SOONG CHEE

**1. Introduction.** Let  $U$  be the unit disc in the complex plane  $\mathbb{C}$  and  $H^\infty(U)$  the space of all bounded holomorphic functions in  $U$ . Let  $f \in H^\infty(U)$ ,  $f \neq 0$ , and let  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots$  be the zeros of  $f$ , listed according to multiplicities. For  $0 < r < 1$ , let  $n(r)$  be the number of  $\alpha$ 's with  $|\alpha_n| \leq r$ . Then it is well known that the Blaschke condition

$$(1) \quad \int_0^1 n(r) \, dr < \infty$$

is satisfied. This is a consequence of Jensen's formula in the form:

$$(2) \quad \int_0^r \frac{n(x)}{x} \, dx = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \log |f(re^{i\theta})| \, d\theta - \log |f(0)|$$

(see e.g. [11, §3.61]).

The aim of the present paper is to study the generalization of (1) to several variables. We show that the  $N$ -dimensional volume (given in terms of the Hausdorff measure) of the zero-set  $Z(f)$  of a bounded holomorphic function  $f$  in the unit polydisc  $U^{N+1}$  or the unit ball  $B_{N+1}$  in  $\mathbb{C}^{N+1}$  satisfies the generalized condition (Theorem 6.3).

In one variable, the condition (1) is also sufficient for the set  $\{\alpha_n\}$  to be the zero-set of a bounded holomorphic function in  $U$  (see [7, Theorem 15.21]). For more than one variable, this is no longer so, and we give two examples in §7. In this direction, Professor Rudin was the first to obtain a global condition sufficient for a subvariety  $E$  in  $U^N$  to be the zero-set of a bounded holomorphic function, namely the condition  $\text{dist}(E, T^N) > 0$ , where  $T^N$  is the  $N$ -dimensional torus (see [6, Theorem 4.8.3]). Recently, Stout [10] has given a different set of sufficient conditions. No sufficient condition seems to be known in  $B_N$ .

This paper is part of the author's Ph.D. thesis at the University of Wisconsin. I wish to thank my advisor, Professor Walter Rudin, for his generous help and encouragement during the preparation of this work.

**2. Hausdorff measures. A lemma on matrices.** For our later applications, we summarize here the definition and some elementary properties of the Hausdorff measure.

Let  $A$  be a subset of a metric space  $X$ . Let  $\delta(A)$  denote the diameter of  $A$ . Write  $\delta^p(A) = [\delta(A)]^p$  for  $p > 0$ ;  $\delta^0(A) = 1$  if  $A \neq \emptyset$ , and  $\delta^0(\emptyset) = 0$ . For  $p \geq 0$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$ , define

$$(3) \quad H_p(A; \varepsilon) = \inf \left\{ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \delta^p(A_n) : A \subseteq \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \text{ and } \delta(A_n) < \varepsilon \right\},$$

$$(4) \quad H_p(A) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0+} C_p H_p(A; \varepsilon),$$

where  $C_p = \pi^{p/2} / (2^p \Gamma(p/2 + 1))$ .

If  $N$  is an integer, then  $C_N$  is the volume of the ball  $\{x \in \mathbf{R}^N : \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 \leq \frac{1}{4}\}$ .  $H_p(A)$  is called the  $p$ -dimensional Hausdorff measure or the Hausdorff  $p$ -measure of  $A$ . For any  $A \subseteq X$ ,  $H_0(A)$  equals the number of points in  $A$ .

For any  $p \geq 0$ ,  $H_p$  is a regular metric outer measure and hence the Borel sets are  $H_p$ -measurable (see [5, §12]). The Hausdorff measures have the following important elementary properties:

(i) If  $H_p(A) < \infty$  and  $r > p$ , then  $H_r(A) = 0$ ; hence if  $A$  is  $H_p$ - $\sigma$ -finite, then  $H_r(A) = 0$ .

(ii) Let  $Y$  be a metric space and  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  be a Lipschitz map with Lipschitz constant  $\lambda$ . Then for any  $A \subseteq X$  and any  $p \geq 0$ ,  $H_p(f(A)) \leq \lambda^p H_p(A)$ .

(iii) If  $M$  is a  $k$ -dimensional  $C^1$  submanifold of  $\mathbf{R}^N$ , then volume of  $M = H_k(M)$ .

The first two properties follow directly from definitions; for (iii), see Stolzenberg [9].

It follows from (i) that the singular locus  $S$  of a pure  $k$ -dimensional analytic subvariety in  $\mathbf{C}^N$  has Hausdorff  $2k$ -measure zero, since  $S$  is the countable union of manifolds of real dimension at most  $2(k-1)$ . By (ii) we see that the Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbf{R}^N$  is equal to the Hausdorff  $N$ -measure on  $\mathbf{R}^N$ .

We insert here a lemma on matrices which must be well known. We include a proof for lack of a suitable reference. First, some definitions.

Let  $A = (a_{mj})$  be any complex matrix with  $n$  rows and  $k$  columns (an  $n \times k$  matrix). Let  $a_{mj} = b_{mj} + ic_{mj}$ . Then  $\tilde{A}$  will denote the real  $2n \times 2k$  matrix obtained from  $A$  by replacing each  $a_{mj}$  by the  $2 \times 2$  matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_{mj} & c_{mj} \\ -c_{mj} & b_{mj} \end{pmatrix}.$$

It is easy to check that

- (i)  $(A+B)^\sim = \tilde{A} + \tilde{B}$ ,
- (ii)  $(\bar{A}')^\sim = \tilde{A}'$ , where  $\bar{A} = (\bar{a}_{mj})$ ,
- (iii)  $(AB)^\sim = \tilde{A}\tilde{B}$ , whenever the product  $AB$  is defined,
- (iv)  $U$  is unitary implies  $\tilde{U}$  is orthogonal.

The first three statements can be verified by writing out both sides. The fourth follows from (ii) and (iii).

Let  $k \leq n$ , and let  $A$  be any complex  $n \times k$  matrix. Define

$$(5) \quad \Delta(A) = \sum_x |\det A_x|^2,$$

$$(6) \quad \tilde{\Delta}(\tilde{A}) = \left\{ \sum_y |\det \tilde{A}_y|^2 \right\}^{1/2},$$

where  $A_x$  runs over all  $k \times k$  submatrices of  $A$  and  $\tilde{A}_y$  runs over all  $2k \times 2k$  submatrices of  $\tilde{A}$ .

If  $A$  and  $B$  are two  $n \times n$  matrices, then  $\det(BA) = \det B \cdot \det A$ . This has the following generalization.

**CAUCHY-BINET THEOREM.** *Let  $k \leq n$ . Let  $A$  be an  $n \times k$  matrix and  $B$  a  $k \times n$  matrix. Then  $\det(BA)$  is equal to the sum of all the  $\binom{n}{k}$  products which can be made by taking a minor of order  $k$  from certain  $k$  columns of  $B$  and a minor of order  $k$  from the corresponding rows of  $A$ . (See Aitken [1, §36].)*

**LEMMA 2.1.** *Let  $A$  be any complex  $n \times k$  matrix,  $k \leq n$ . Then  $\Delta(A) = \tilde{\Delta}(\tilde{A})$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $A'$  denote the transpose of  $A$ . Then by the Cauchy-Binet Theorem,

$$\Delta(A) = \det(\bar{A}'A), \quad \tilde{\Delta}(\tilde{A}) = \{\det(\tilde{A}'\tilde{A})\}^{1/2}.$$

Therefore if  $U$  is a unitary  $n \times n$  matrix, and  $\tilde{U}$  the associated orthogonal matrix, then

$$\Delta(A) = \Delta(UA), \quad \tilde{\Delta}(\tilde{A}) = \tilde{\Delta}(\tilde{U}\tilde{A}).$$

Given  $A$ , we choose a unitary  $n \times n$  matrix  $U$  such that the bottom  $(n-k)$  rows of  $U$  are orthogonal to each of the  $k$  columns of  $A$ . Then the bottom  $(n-k)$  rows of  $UA$  are zero. Let  $B$  be the  $k \times k$  submatrix of  $UA$  formed by the first  $k$  rows. Then

$$\Delta(A) = \Delta(UA) = |\det B|^2.$$

Now  $\tilde{U}\tilde{A} = (UA)^\sim$  has the bottom  $2(n-k)$  rows equal to zero and the  $2k \times 2k$  submatrix formed by the first  $2k$  rows of  $\tilde{U}\tilde{A}$  is  $\tilde{B}$ . Therefore

$$\tilde{\Delta}(\tilde{A}) = \tilde{\Delta}(\tilde{U}\tilde{A}) = |\det \tilde{B}|.$$

It remains to show that  $|\det \tilde{B}| = |\det B|^2$ .

Assume first that  $B$  has  $k$  distinct eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$  and that  $\lambda_i \neq \bar{\lambda}_j$  for all  $i, j$ . To each  $\lambda_j$  corresponds an eigenvector  $(z_1, \dots, z_k)$  of  $B$ . It is easy to verify that then  $(z_1, iz_1, \dots, z_k, iz_k)$  is an eigenvector of  $\tilde{B}$  with the same eigenvalue  $\lambda_j$ . Since  $\tilde{B}$  is real  $\bar{\lambda}_j$  is also an eigenvalue of  $\tilde{B}$ . Thus  $\lambda_1, \bar{\lambda}_1, \dots, \lambda_k, \bar{\lambda}_k$  are  $2k$  distinct eigenvalues of  $\tilde{B}$ , so there are no others. Hence

$$\det \tilde{B} = \lambda_1 \bar{\lambda}_1 \cdots \lambda_k \bar{\lambda}_k = |\lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_k|^2 = |\det B|^2.$$

The general case follows by continuity.

**3. The volume of an analytic variety.** A pure  $k$ -dimensional analytic subvariety in  $\mathbb{C}^N$  is the closure of a complex  $k$ -dimensional manifold, viz., the set of its regular points. A complex analytic manifold is also a real analytic manifold. To get a formula for the volume of an analytic subvariety, we shall use the following facts concerning the volume of manifolds in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . For an account of these, see Schwartz [8, Chapter IV, §10].

Let  $M$  be an open subset of a  $C^1$  submanifold of dimension  $k$  in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . Suppose  $M$  is homeomorphic to an open subset  $\Omega$  in  $\mathbb{R}^k$  under the map  $\Phi: \Omega \rightarrow M$ , where  $\Phi$  and its inverse  $\Phi^{-1}$  are both of class  $C^1$ . Let  $L$  be the Jacobian matrix of  $\Phi$ . Define  $J\Phi = (\Delta(L))^{1/2}$  where  $\Delta(L)$  is given by formula (5). Then by Theorem 107 of [8, p. 688], the  $k$ -dimensional volume of  $M$  is given by

$$(7) \quad H_k(M) = \int_{\Omega} J\Phi(x) dH_k(x).$$

**THEOREM 3.1.** *Let  $\Omega$  be an open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^k$  and let  $\Phi: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^N$  be a  $C^1$  map from  $\Omega$  into  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . Then for any Lebesgue measurable subset  $A$  of  $\Omega$ ,*

$$(8) \quad \int_{\Phi(A)} H_0\{A \cap \Phi^{-1}(y)\} dH_k(y) = \int_A J\Phi(x) dH_k(x).$$

This is proved in Federer [3, Theorem 4.5], for Lipschitz maps and the measure  $\mathcal{L}_N^k$ . The same proof works for  $C^1$  maps and Hausdorff measures.

Now let  $V$  be a pure  $k$ -dimensional analytic subvariety in a domain  $\Omega$  in  $\mathbb{C}^N$ . Let  $S$  be the singular locus of  $V$ . Then as we have seen  $H_{2k}(S) = 0$  and so  $H_{2k}(V) = H_{2k}(V - S)$ . We shall establish the following integral geometric formula for the volume of an analytic variety:

**THEOREM 3.2.** *Let  $V$  be a pure (complex)  $k$ -dimensional analytic subvariety in a domain  $\Omega$  in  $\mathbb{C}^N$ . Let the  $k$ -dimensional coordinate subspaces of  $\mathbb{C}^N$  be enumerated in some order. Let  $\pi_j$  be the projection from  $\mathbb{C}^N$  onto the  $j$ th subspace and write  $\hat{z}_j = \pi_j(z)$ . Then*

$$(9) \quad H_{2k}(V) = \sum_{j=1}^m \int_{\pi_j \Omega} H_0\{V \cap \pi_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j)\} dH_{2k}(\hat{z}_j),$$

where  $m = \binom{N}{k}$ .

**Proof.** Let  $R = V - S$  be the set of regular points of  $V$ . We shall show that (9) holds for  $R$ . Since both sides of (9) are regular Borel measures, it is sufficient to show that it holds for  $R \cap K$ ,  $K$  any compact subset of  $\Omega$ .

For each  $z \in R$ , we can find a neighborhood  $B$  of arbitrarily small diameter which is holomorphically homeomorphic to a closed polydisc  $A$  in  $\mathbb{C}^k$ . The sets  $B \cap K$  form a covering of  $R \cap K$  in the sense of Vitali. By the classical covering theorem of Vitali, there exists a countable disjoint family  $\{B_j \cap K\}_1^\infty$  such that

$$H_{2k}\left(R \cap K - \bigcup_1^\infty B_j \cap K\right) = 0.$$

Hence it suffices to prove the formula (9) for each set  $B_j \cap K$ .

Thus let  $B$  be a subset of  $R$  which is holomorphically homeomorphic to a closed polydisc  $A$  in  $C^k$ , under the map

$$F: A \rightarrow B, \quad F(x) = (f_1(x), \dots, f_N(x)).$$

Let  $L$  be the complex Jacobian matrix of  $F$  and  $\tilde{L}$  the associated real Jacobian matrix. Let  $JF = \Delta(L)$  and  $\tilde{J}F = \tilde{\Delta}(\tilde{L})$  as given by (5) and (6). Then by (7),

$$H_{2k}(B) = \int_A \tilde{J}F(x) dH_{2k}(x).$$

This holds since the boundary of  $A$  has measure zero and so does its image, the boundary of  $B$ , on account of property (ii) of the Hausdorff measures. By Lemma 2.1,  $\tilde{J}F = JF$  and so

$$(10) \quad H_{2k}(B) = \int_A JF(x) dH_{2k}(x) = \sum_{j=1}^m \int_A |\det L_j(x)|^2 dH_{2k}(x),$$

where the  $L_j$ 's are the  $k \times k$  submatrices of  $L$ . With  $\pi_j$  as defined in the statement of the theorem, each  $L_j$  can be regarded as the Jacobian matrix of the map  $F_j = \pi_j \circ F: A \rightarrow C^N$  mapping  $A$  into the  $j$ th  $k$ -dimensional coordinate subspace of  $C^N$ .  $F$  being a homeomorphism implies

$$H_0\{A \cap F_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j)\} = H_0\{B \cap \pi_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j)\}.$$

So since  $JF_j = |\det L_j|^2$ , Theorem 3.1, formula (8) gives

$$\int_A |\det L_j(x)|^2 dH_{2k}(x) = \int_{\pi_j B} H_0\{B \cap \pi_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j)\} dH_{2k}(\hat{z}_j).$$

Substituting in (10) we get

$$H_{2k}(B) = \sum_{j=1}^m \int_{\pi_j B} H_0\{B \cap \pi_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j)\} dH_{2k}(\hat{z}_j).$$

Noting that  $H_0\{B \cap \pi_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j)\} = 0$  if  $\hat{z}_j \notin \pi_j B$ , we may replace the domain of integration  $\pi_j B$  by  $\pi_j \Omega$  and so complete the proof of (9) for the set  $B$ .

For later application, we give here a generalization of (9):

**THEOREM 3.3.** *With the notation as in Theorem 3.2, let  $f$  be a nonnegative Borel function which vanishes outside  $V$ . Then*

$$(11) \quad \int_{\Omega} f(z) dH_{2k}(z) = \sum_{j=1}^m \int_{\pi_j \Omega} dH_{2k}(\hat{z}_j) \int_{\pi_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j)} f(z) dH_0(z_j).$$

**Proof.** The proof of Theorem 3.2 shows that (9) holds for any open subset of  $V$ . Hence since both sides of (9) are regular Borel measures, it holds for any Borel subset  $A$  of  $V$ . Thus (11) holds if  $f = \chi_A$ , the characteristic function of  $A$ ; hence it holds if  $f$  is any nonnegative simple Borel function vanishing outside  $V$ . If  $f$  is any nonnegative Borel function, then there is an increasing sequence of nonnegative

simple Borel functions  $s_n$  such that  $\lim s_n = f$ . Since (11) holds for each  $s_n$ , the monotone convergence theorem shows that it holds for  $f$ .

**4. The multiplicity function.** Let  $f$  be a holomorphic function in a domain  $\Omega$  in  $\mathbb{C}^N$ . For each  $a \in \Omega$ , we define the zero-multiplicity  $\mu(a) = \mu_f(a)$  of  $f$  at  $a$  as follows: If  $f \equiv 0$ , then  $\mu(a) = \infty$ . If  $f \not\equiv 0$ , then  $f$  has an expansion of the form

$$f(z) = f_m(z-a) + f_{m+1}(z-a) + \cdots$$

in a neighborhood of  $a$ , where  $f_j$  is a homogeneous polynomial of degree  $j$  and  $f_m \not\equiv 0$ . Define  $\mu(a) = m$ .

The following observations can be made:

- (i) If  $f = gh$ , then  $\mu_f = \mu_g + \mu_h$ .
- (ii)  $\mu(a)$  does not depend on the choice of coordinates at  $a$ .
- (iii) If  $0 \in \Omega$  and  $\mu(0) = m > 0$ , then by the Weierstrass preparation theorem, there is a coordinate system  $z_1, \dots, z_N$  such that

$$(12) \quad f = uW$$

in a neighborhood of 0, where  $u$  has no zeros in that neighborhood and  $W$  is a Weierstrass polynomial of degree  $m$  in  $z_N$ .

(iv) The converse of (iii) is also true, viz., if (12) holds, then  $\mu(0) = m$ , the degree of  $W$  in  $z_N$ .

The first two observations follow easily from definition (see [6, 1.1.6]); (iv) is a consequence of the uniqueness of the Weierstrass polynomial for  $f$ .

**PROPOSITION 4.1.** *Let  $f$  be a holomorphic function in a domain  $\Omega$  in  $\mathbb{C}^N$ ,  $N > 1$ . Then  $\mu$  is constant on each (connectivity) component of the set of regular points of  $V = Z(f)$ .*

**Proof.** Without loss of generality, let 0 be a regular point of  $V$ . Let  $\mu(0) = m$ . If  $m = \infty$ , then  $f \equiv 0$  and the proposition is trivial. Suppose  $m < \infty$ . At a regular point,  $V$  is an  $(N-1)$ -dimensional manifold. By the definition of a manifold (see [4, I.B. 8]), there exist a neighborhood  $U_0$  of 0 and a mapping  $F: U_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  which is nonsingular at 0 such that  $V \cap U_0 = Z(F)$ .  $F$  being nonsingular at 0 implies that  $\partial F(0)/\partial z_j \neq 0$  for some  $j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq N$ . By renaming the coordinates, we may assume that  $j = N$  and  $\partial F(0)/\partial z_N \neq 0$ . By the implicit function theorem, there is a disc  $D$  containing  $0 \in \mathbb{C}$  and there is a function  $\varphi(z')$  holomorphic in  $D^{N-1}$  such that  $(z', z_N) \in D^{N-1} \times D$  and  $f(z', z_N) = 0$  if and only if  $z_N = \varphi(z')$ . Define  $p(z) = z_N - \varphi(z')$ ,  $z \in D^N$ . Then in a possibly smaller neighborhood of  $0 \in \mathbb{C}^N$  (again denoted by  $U_0$ ) we have

$$Z(f) \cap U_0 = Z(F) \cap U_0 = Z(p) \cap U_0.$$

Thus in  $U_0$ ,  $f(z) = 0$  if and only if  $p(z) = 0$ . Since  $p(0', z_N) \neq 0$ ,  $f(0', z_N) \neq 0$ . Therefore by the Weierstrass preparation theorem,  $f = uW$  in a neighborhood  $U_1$  of 0, where  $u(z) \neq 0$  for all  $z \in U_1$  and  $W$  is a Weierstrass polynomial of degree  $m$  in  $z_N$ . Let

$W = \prod_{i=1}^s p_i^{n_i}$  be the factorization of  $W$  into irreducible factors. By taking  $U_1$  small enough, we may assume that each  $p_i$  is holomorphic in  $U_1$  and  $U_1 \subseteq U_0$ . Then

$$Z(p) \cap U_1 = Z(f) \cap U_1 = Z(W) \cap U_1 = \bigcup_{i=1}^s Z(p_i).$$

Since  $Z(p)$  is an irreducible variety at 0, the uniqueness of the irreducible decomposition of analytic varieties shows that  $s=1$  and  $p_1=p$ . Thus  $W=p^{n_1}$ . Since  $W$  is of degree  $m$  and  $p$  is of degree 1 in  $z_N$ , we must have  $n_1=m$ . So  $f=up^m$  in  $U_1$ .

Now let  $b \in U_1 \cap V$ . We claim that  $\mu(b)=m$ . Let  $w=z-b$ ,  $z \in U_1$ . Then  $f(z)=u(z)[p(z)]^m=\tilde{u}(w)[\tilde{p}(w)]^m$ , where

$$\tilde{p}(w) = p(w+b) = w_N + b_N - \varphi(w' + b') = w_N + \tilde{\varphi}(w').$$

Since  $b \in V$ ,  $\tilde{\varphi}(0') = b_N - \varphi(b') = 0$ . Therefore  $\tilde{p}$  is a Weierstrass polynomial at  $b$ , hence so is  $\tilde{p}^m$ . Since  $f = \tilde{u}\tilde{p}^m$ , the observation (iv) above shows that  $\mu(b)=m$ .

It follows then that  $\mu$  is constant on each connected component of the set of regular points of  $V$ . Q.E.D.

This shows that the restriction of  $\mu$  to the regular points of  $V$  is a continuous function. In general we have

**PROPOSITION 4.2.** *Let  $f$  be a holomorphic function in a domain  $\Omega$  in  $C^N$ . Then its multiplicity function  $\mu$  is upper semicontinuous in  $\Omega$ .*

**Proof.** In the definition of  $\mu$ , the homogeneous polynomials  $f_j$  are obtained by rearrangement of the Taylor series of  $f$  at  $a$ . Thus if  $f$  has a partial derivative of total order  $n$  which is different from zero at  $a$ , then  $\mu(a) \leq n$ . Now let  $a \in \Omega$  and  $\mu(a)=m$ . Then  $f$  has a partial derivative of total order  $m$  different from zero at  $a$ . By the continuity of the partial derivative, it is different from zero in a neighborhood  $U$  of  $a$ . So for any  $b \in U$ ,  $\mu(b) \leq m$ .

Combining this with Theorem 3.3, noting that the zero-set of a nontrivial holomorphic function is a pure dimensional subvariety of codimension one, we get

**COROLLARY 4.3.** *Let  $f$  be a holomorphic function in a domain  $\Omega$  in  $C^{N+1}$ ,  $f \not\equiv 0$ . Let  $\mu$  be its multiplicity function. Then*

$$(13) \quad \int_{\Omega} \mu(z) dH_{2N}(z) = \sum_{j=1}^{N+1} \int_{\pi_j \Omega} dH_{2N}(\hat{z}_j) \int_{\pi_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j)} \mu(z) dH_0(z_j)$$

where  $\pi_j: C^{N+1} \rightarrow C^{N+1}$ ,  $\pi_j(z) = (z_1, \dots, z_{j-1}, 0, z_{j+1}, \dots, z_{N+1}) \equiv \hat{z}_j$ .

**5. The mean value of a plurisubharmonic function.** We recall the definition of a plurisubharmonic function: Let  $\Omega$  be a domain in  $C^N$ . A function  $u: \Omega \rightarrow [-\infty, \infty)$  is called plurisubharmonic if

- (i)  $u$  is upper semicontinuous,
- (ii) for any  $z$  and  $w \in C^N$ , the function  $\lambda \rightarrow u(z + \lambda w)$  is subharmonic where it is defined.

For subharmonic functions, the following is well known.

**THEOREM 5.1.** *Let  $u$  be a subharmonic function in the unit disc  $U$ ,  $u \not\equiv -\infty$ . Let  $m_1$  be the Lebesgue measure on  $T$  normalized so that  $m_1(T)=1$ . Let*

$$M_1(r) = \int_T u(r\lambda) dm_1(\lambda), \quad 0 \leq r < 1.$$

Then (i)  $M_1(r) > -\infty$  if  $r > 0$ ,

(ii)  $M_1(r) \leq M_1(s)$  if  $r \leq s$ ,

(iii)  $M_1(r)$  is a convex function of  $\log r$  in the interval  $(0, 1)$ , i.e.  $M_1(r_1^{\alpha} r_2^{1-\alpha}) \leq \alpha M_1(r_1) + (1-\alpha)M_1(r_2)$ , whenever  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ ,  $0 < r_1 \leq r_2 < 1$ .

See [7, Chapter 17] and [12, Chapter 2]. This has been generalized to plurisubharmonic functions (see [12]). We give here a further generalization.

Let  $\Omega$  be a domain in  $C^N$ . Then  $\Omega$  is called a complete circular domain if  $z = (z_1, \dots, z_N) \in \Omega$  and  $|\lambda| \leq 1$  imply  $\lambda z = (\lambda z_1, \dots, \lambda z_N) \in \Omega$ . Thus  $U^N$  and  $B_N$  are complete circular domains. A measure  $m$  on  $\Omega$  is said to be circularly invariant if  $m(E) = m(E_\lambda)$  for any measurable subset  $E$  of  $\Omega$  and any  $\lambda \in T$ , where  $E_\lambda = \{\lambda z : z \in E\}$ . The Lebesgue measure is circularly invariant. Such measures were first considered by Bochner [2]. His method can be applied to prove the following.

**THEOREM 5.2.** *Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded complete circular domain in  $C^N$ . Let  $m$  be a positive circularly invariant measure on  $\Omega$  normalized so that  $m(\Omega)=1$ . Let  $u$  be a plurisubharmonic function in  $\Omega$ ,  $u \not\equiv -\infty$ , and let*

$$M(r) = \int_{\Omega} u(rz) dm(z), \quad 0 \leq r \leq 1.$$

Then (i)  $M(r) > -\infty$  if  $r > 0$  and  $m$  is the Lebesgue measure,

(ii)  $M(r) \leq M(s)$  if  $r \leq s$ ,

(iii)  $M(r)$  is a convex function of  $\log r$  in the interval  $(0, 1)$ .

**Proof.** To prove (ii) and (iii), we define for each  $z \in \Omega$ ,  $u_z(\lambda) = u(\lambda z)$ . Then  $u_z$  is a subharmonic function in a neighborhood of  $\bar{U}$ . So by Theorem 5.1, we have for all  $z \in \Omega$  and  $0 \leq r \leq s \leq 1$ ,

$$(14) \quad \int_T u(r\lambda z) dm_1(\lambda) \leq \int_T u(s\lambda z) dm_1(\lambda).$$

Since  $m$  is circularly invariant,

$$\int_{\Omega} u(rz) dm(z) = \int_{\Omega} u(r\lambda z) dm(z) \quad \text{for all } \lambda \in T.$$

Hence integrating over  $T$ , we get

$$(15) \quad \int_{\Omega} u(rz) dm(z) = \int_T dm_1(\lambda) \int_{\Omega} u(r\lambda z) dm(z) = \int_{\Omega} dm(z) \int_T u(r\lambda z) dm_1(\lambda)$$

by Fubini's theorem.



From (14), we get by integrating over  $\Omega$ ,

$$\int_{\Omega} dm(z) \int_T u(r\lambda z) dm_1(\lambda) \leq \int_{\Omega} dm(z) \int_T u(x\lambda z) dm_1(\lambda).$$

Hence substitution of (15) gives

$$\int_{\Omega} u(rz) dm(z) \leq \int_{\Omega} u(sz) dm(z), \quad 0 \leq r \leq s \leq 1,$$

which is (ii).

Let  $M_z(r) = \int_T u(r\lambda z) dm_1(\lambda)$ ,  $z \in \Omega$ . Then

$$M_z(r_1^\alpha r_2^{1-\alpha}) \leq \alpha M_z(r_1) + (1-\alpha) M_z(r_2)$$

whenever  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$ ,  $0 < r_1 \leq r_2 < 1$ . Integrating over  $\Omega$  and noting that by (15),  $M(r) = \int_{\Omega} M_z(r) dm(z)$ , we get

$$M(r_1^\alpha r_2^{1-\alpha}) \leq \alpha M(r_1) + (1-\alpha) M(r_2).$$

This proves (iii).

To prove (i), let  $m$  be the Lebesgue measure on  $\Omega$ . Then since the Jacobian of the transformation  $z \rightarrow rz$  is  $r^{2N}$ ,

$$M(r) = \frac{1}{r^{2N}} \int_{r\Omega} u(z) dm(z).$$

We note further that the proof of (ii) gives the following: If the ball  $B = B(a, r)$  of center  $a$  and radius  $r$  is contained in  $\Omega$ , then

$$(16) \quad u(a) \leq \frac{1}{m(B)} \int_B u(z) dm(z).$$

Now suppose  $M(r_0) = -\infty$  for some  $r_0 > 0$ . Then there exist an  $a \in r_0\Omega$  and a number  $r_1 > 0$  such that  $B(a, 3r_1) \subseteq \Omega$  and

$$\int_{B(a, r_1)} u(z) dm(z) = -\infty.$$

By (16),  $u(a) = -\infty$ . Let  $z' \in B(a, r_1)$ . Then

$$B(a, r_1) \subseteq B(z', 2r_1) \subseteq B(a, 3r_1).$$

Therefore

$$\int_{B(z', 2r_1)} u(z) dm(z) = -\infty,$$

which implies as before  $u(z') = -\infty$ . So  $\Omega_0$ , the interior of the set  $\{z \in \Omega : u(z) = -\infty\}$ , is a nonempty open set. If  $z$  is a limit point of  $\Omega_0$  in  $\Omega$ , then by the above argument, we also have  $u(z) = -\infty$  and  $z \in \Omega_0$ ; hence  $\Omega_0$  is also closed in  $\Omega$ . Since  $\Omega$  is connected,  $\Omega_0 = \Omega$  and  $u \equiv -\infty$ , a contradiction. Q.E.D.

If  $f$  is a holomorphic function in  $\Omega$ , then  $\log |f|$  is a plurisubharmonic function in  $\Omega$ . Thus we have the following corollary which will be used in the proof of the Blaschke condition.

**COROLLARY 5.3.** Let  $\Omega = U^N$  or  $B_N$  and let  $m$  be the Lebesgue measure on  $\Omega$  normalized so that  $m(\Omega) = 1$ . Let  $f \in H(\Omega)$ ,  $f \neq 0$ . Then

$$\int_{\Omega} \log |f(rz)| \, dm(z) > -\infty \quad \text{if } 0 < r \leq 1.$$

If  $f(0) \neq 0$ , then

$$\int_{\Omega} \log |f(z)| \, dm(z) \geq \log |f(0)|.$$

If  $f \in H^{\infty}(\Omega)$ , then  $\log |f| \in L^1(m)$ .

**6. The Blaschke condition.** We now show that the generalized Blaschke condition holds for bounded holomorphic functions in several complex variables. We begin with a (well-known) lemma.

**LEMMA 6.1.** Let  $X$  be a Lebesgue measurable subset of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $I$  an interval in  $\mathbb{R}$ . For each positive integer  $k$ , let  $m_k$  be the Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{R}^k$ . Let  $f: I \times X \rightarrow [-\infty, \infty]$  be a function satisfying the conditions

- (i) for each  $t \in I$ ,  $x \rightarrow f(t, x)$  is Lebesgue measurable,
- (ii) for each  $x \in X$ ,  $t \rightarrow f(t, x)$  is increasing.

Then  $f$  is a Lebesgue measurable function in  $I \times X$ .

**Proof.** In what follows, measurable will mean Lebesgue measurable. It is sufficient to prove that

$$A = \{(t, x) \in I \times X : f(t, x) > \alpha\}$$

is measurable for every real number  $\alpha$ . Since  $I$  is  $\sigma$ -compact and  $X$  is the union of an  $F_{\sigma}$  and a set of measure zero, we may assume that they are compact.

Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  be given. Choose points  $t_0, t_1, \dots, t_n \in I$  such that  $t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_n$ ,  $[t_0, t_n] = I$  and  $m_1(I_i) \leq \varepsilon$  where  $I_i = [t_i, t_{i+1}]$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq n-1$ . Let  $A_i = \{x : f(t_i, x) > \alpha\}$ . By condition (i), each  $A_i$  is measurable. By (ii),  $A_i \subseteq A_j$  if  $i \leq j$ . Let  $B = \bigcup_{i=0}^{n-1} (I_i \times A_i)$ ,  $C = \bigcup_{i=0}^{n-1} (I_i \times A_{i+1})$ . Then  $B$  and  $C$  are measurable subsets of  $I \times X$  and by the condition (ii), it is easy to check that  $B \subseteq A \subseteq C$ . Now

$$C - B = \bigcup_{i=0}^{n-1} (I_i \times (A_{i+1} - A_i)).$$

Since  $(A_{i+1} - A_i) \cap (A_i - A_{i-1}) = \emptyset$  for all  $i$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} m_{N+1}(C - B) &= \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} m_1(I_i) m_N(A_{i+1} - A_i) \\ &\leq \varepsilon \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} m_N(A_{i+1} - A_i) \\ &= \varepsilon m_N\left(\bigcup_{i=0}^{n-1} (A_{i+1} - A_i)\right) \\ &\leq \varepsilon m_N(X). \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\varepsilon = 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \dots$ . Then we see that there is an increasing sequence  $B_k$  and a decreasing sequence  $C_k$  of measurable sets such that with  $E = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} B_k$ ,  $F = \bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} C_k$ , we have  $E \subseteq A \subseteq F$  and  $m_{N+1}(F-E) = 0$ . Hence  $A$  is Lebesgue measurable.

For our application, we note that the Lebesgue measure in  $R^N$  coincides with the Hausdorff measure  $H_N$  in  $R^N$ . For what follows, we shall use the following notation:  $N$  will denote a positive integer. For  $j = 1, 2, \dots, N+1$ ,  $\pi_j$  will denote the projection on  $C^{N+1}$  defined by

$$\pi_j(z) = (z_1, \dots, z_{j-1}, 0, z_{j+1}, \dots, z_{N+1})$$

and we write  $\hat{z}_j = \pi_j(z)$ .  $\Omega$  will denote  $U^{N+1}$  or  $B_{N+1}$  and for  $0 < r < 1$ ,  $\Omega(r)$  is the corresponding domain of radius  $r$ .

LEMMA 6.2. Let  $f \in H(\Omega)$ ,  $f \neq 0$  and  $\mu$  its multiplicity function. Let  $V_r = Z(f) \cap \bar{\Omega}(r)$ . Then for each  $j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq N+1$ , the function

$$F(r, \hat{z}_j) = \int_{V_r \cap \pi_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j)} \mu(z) dH_0(z_j)$$

is Lebesgue measurable in  $(0, 1) \times \pi_j \Omega$ .

**Proof.** Fix  $j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq N+1$ . Clearly  $F(r, \hat{z}_j)$  is an increasing function of  $r$  for each  $\hat{z}_j$ . Thus in view of Lemma 6.1, we need only show that  $F_r: \hat{z}_j \rightarrow F(r, \hat{z}_j)$  is Lebesgue measurable for each  $r$ .

Fix  $r \in (0, 1)$ . Let  $S$  be the singular locus of  $Z(f)$ . Then  $H_{2N}(S) = 0$ ; hence by property (ii) of the Hausdorff measures,  $H_{2N}(\pi_j S) = 0$ . We shall show that  $F_r$  is a Borel function on  $R = \pi_j \Omega - \pi_j S$ . This will imply that  $F_r$  is Lebesgue measurable on  $\pi_j \Omega$ .

The value  $n = F(r, \hat{z}_j)$  is a nonnegative integer or  $\infty$ . Suppose  $n \neq 0$  or  $\infty$ . Then  $V_r \cap \pi_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j)$  consists of only a finite number of points. If  $\hat{z}_j \in R$ , then each point of  $V_r \cap \pi_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j)$  is a regular point of  $Z(f)$ . By Proposition 4.1,  $\mu(z)$  is constant in a neighborhood of each such point. So  $F_r$  is constant in a neighborhood of  $\hat{z}_j$ . If  $n = 0$ , then  $f$  has no zeros on  $V_r \cap \pi_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j)$ . By the continuity of  $f$ , it has no zeros in a neighborhood of  $V_r \cap \pi_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j)$ . Thus for each integer  $n$ ,  $0 \leq n < \infty$ , the set  $A_n = \{\hat{z}_j \in R: F(r, \hat{z}_j) = n\}$  is an open set in  $R$ . Since  $A_\infty = \{\hat{z}_j \in R: F(r, \hat{z}_j) = \infty\} = R - \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$ , we see that  $A_\infty$  is a closed set of  $R$ . This shows that  $F_r$  is a Borel function on  $R$  and the proof is complete.

THEOREM 6.3. Let  $f \in H^\infty(\Omega)$ ,  $f \neq 0$  and  $|f| \leq 1$ . Let  $\mu$  be its multiplicity function. Then

$$(17) \quad \int_0^1 dr \int_{\bar{\Omega}(r)} \mu(z) dH_{2N}(z) < \infty.$$

If  $f(0) \neq 0$ , then

$$(18) \quad \int_0^1 dr \int_{\bar{\Omega}(r)} \mu(z) dH_{2N}(z) \leq c(\Omega) \log \frac{1}{|f(0)|}$$

where  $c(U^{N+1}) = (N+1)\pi^N$ ,  $c(B_{N+1}) = (N+1)\pi^N/N!$ .

**Proof.** Assume first that  $f(\hat{z}_j) \neq 0$  for all  $j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq N+1$ . Let  $f_{\hat{z}_j}(z_j) = f(z)$  and let  $\mu_{\hat{z}_j}(z_j)$  be the zero-multiplicity of  $f_{\hat{z}_j}$  at  $z_j$ . It is easily seen that  $\mu_{\hat{z}_j}(z_j) \geq \mu(z)$ . Let  $n_{\hat{z}_j}(r)$  be the number of zeros of  $f_{\hat{z}_j}$  in  $\pi_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j) \cap \bar{\Omega}(r)$ , counting multiplicities. Let  $V_r = Z(f) \cap \bar{\Omega}(r)$ . By Corollary 4.3,

$$\int_{\bar{\Omega}(r)} \mu(z) dH_{2N}(z) = \sum_{j=1}^{N+1} \int_{\pi_j \bar{\Omega}(r)} dH_{2N}(\hat{z}_j) \int_{\bar{\Omega}(r) \cap \pi_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j)} \mu(z) dH_0(z_j).$$

Since  $\hat{z}_j \notin \pi_j \bar{\Omega}(r)$  implies  $V_r \cap \pi_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j) = \emptyset$ , this can be written

$$(19) \quad \begin{aligned} \int_{\bar{\Omega}(r)} \mu(z) dH_{2N}(z) &= \sum_{j=1}^{N+1} \int_{\pi_j \Omega} dH_{2N}(\hat{z}_j) \int_{V_r \cap \pi_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j)} \mu(z) dH_0(z_j) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{N+1} \int_{\pi_j \Omega} F(r, \hat{z}_j) dH_{2N}(\hat{z}_j) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$F(r, \hat{z}_j) = \int_{V_r \cap \pi_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j)} \mu(z) dH_0(z_j).$$

By Lemma 6.2,  $F$  is Lebesgue measurable in  $(0, 1) \times \pi_j \Omega$  and Fubini's theorem applies to give

$$(20) \quad \int_0^1 dr \int_{\pi_j \Omega} F(r, \hat{z}_j) dH_{2N}(\hat{z}_j) = \int_{\pi_j \Omega} dH_{2N}(\hat{z}_j) \int_0^1 F(r, \hat{z}_j) dr.$$

Since  $\mu(z) \leq \mu_{\hat{z}_j}(z_j)$ , we have

$$F(r, \hat{z}_j) \leq \int_{V_r \cap \pi_j^{-1}(\hat{z}_j)} \mu_{\hat{z}_j}(z_j) dH_0(z_j) = n_{\hat{z}_j}(\rho)$$

where  $\rho = r$  if  $\Omega = U^{N+1}$  and  $\rho = (r^2 - \|\hat{z}_j\|^2)^{1/2}$  if  $\Omega = B_{N+1}$  ( $\|\hat{z}_j\|$  is Euclidean norm of  $\hat{z}_j$ ). Noting that  $dr/d\rho = \rho/r \leq 1$ , we get by Jensen's formula (2),

$$\int_0^1 n_{\hat{z}_j}(\rho) dr = \int_0^1 n_{\hat{z}_j}(r) dr \leq \log \frac{1}{|f(\hat{z}_j)|} \quad \text{if } \Omega = U^{N+1};$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 n_{\hat{z}_j}(\rho) dr &= \int_0^a n_{\hat{z}_j}(\rho) \frac{\rho}{r} d\rho \leq \int_0^a n_{\hat{z}_j}(\rho) d\rho, \quad (a = (1 - \|\hat{z}_j\|^2)^{1/2}) \\ &\leq \log \frac{1}{|f(\hat{z}_j)|} \quad \text{if } \Omega = B_{N+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$(21) \quad \int_0^1 F(r, \hat{z}_j) dr \leq \log \frac{1}{|f(\hat{z}_j)|}.$$

Integrating (19) with respect to  $r$  and substituting (20) and (21), we get

$$\int_0^1 dr \int_{\bar{\Omega}(r)} \mu(z) dH_{2N}(z) \leq \sum_{j=1}^{N+1} \int_{\pi_j \Omega} \log \frac{1}{|f(\hat{z}_j)|} dH_{2N}(\hat{z}_j).$$

Since  $f(\hat{z}_j) \neq 0$  for all  $j$ , Corollary 5.3 shows that each integral on the right is finite and (17) is proved.

If  $f(0) \neq 0$ , Corollary 5.3 gives

$$\int_{\pi_j \Omega} \log \frac{1}{|f(\hat{z}_j)|} dH_{2N}(\hat{z}_j) \leq H_{2N}(\pi_j \Omega) \log \frac{1}{|f(0)|}.$$

Hence,

$$\int_0^1 dr \int_{\bar{\Omega}(r)} \mu(z) dH_{2N}(z) \leq \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{N+1} H_{2N}(\pi_j \Omega) \right\} \log \frac{1}{|f(0)|}.$$

Putting  $c(\Omega) = \sum_{j=1}^{N+1} H_{2N}(\pi_j \Omega)$ , we get (18).

The case when  $f(\hat{z}_j) \equiv 0$  for some  $j$  can be reduced to the first case as follows. We do this separately for  $U^{N+1}$  and  $B_{N+1}$ .

For  $U^{N+1}$ . If  $f(\hat{z}_j) \equiv 0$  for some  $j$ , then there is a positive integer  $\alpha_j$  such that  $g_j(z) = f(z)/z_j^{\alpha_j}$  is holomorphic in  $U^{N+1}$  and  $g_j(\hat{z}_j) \neq 0$ . Doing this for all  $j$ , we get nonnegative integers  $\alpha_j$  such that

$$f(z) = z_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots z_{N+1}^{\alpha_{N+1}} g(z)$$

where  $g$  is holomorphic in  $U^{N+1}$  and  $g(\hat{z}_j) \neq 0$  for all  $j$ . Since  $|f(z)| \leq 1$  as  $z$  tends to  $T^{N+1}$ , the same is true for  $g$ , so that  $|g| \leq 1$  in  $U^{N+1}$  by the maximum modulus theorem. Thus the first part of the proof applies to  $g$ . An easy computation shows that each factor  $z_j^{\alpha_j}$  contributes  $\alpha_j \pi^N / (2N+1)$  to the integral in (17). Thus with  $\mu_g =$  multiplicity function of  $g$ ,

$$\int_0^1 dr \int_{\bar{\Omega}(r)} \mu(z) dH_{2N}(z) = \int_0^1 dr \int_{\bar{\Omega}(r)} \mu_g(z) dH_{2N}(z) + \frac{\pi^N}{2N+1} \left( \sum_{j=1}^{N+1} \alpha_j \right) < \infty.$$

For  $B_{N+1}$ , we have the following lemma.

**LEMMA 6.4.** *Let  $f \in H(B_N)$ ,  $f \neq 0$ . Then there exists a coordinate system  $z_1, \dots, z_N$  such that  $f(\hat{z}_j) \neq 0$  for all  $j$ .*

**Proof.** Without loss of generality, we may assume that  $f \in H(\bar{B}_N)$ . Let  $e_1, \dots, e_N$  be  $N$  points on  $S^{2N-1}$  which form an orthogonal basis for  $\mathbb{C}^N$ . We shall show that there exists a unitary transformation  $A$  such that  $f(Ae_1)f(Ae_2) \cdots f(Ae_N) \neq 0$ . Then  $Ae_1, \dots, Ae_N$  will give the required coordinate system.

If  $f(e_1) \neq 0$ , we take  $A_1 = I$  the identity transformation. If  $f(e_1) = 0$ , then since  $f$  is not identically zero on  $S^{2N-1}$ , there is an  $\tilde{e}_1 \in S^{2N-1}$  such that  $f(\tilde{e}_1) \neq 0$ . Since the unitary transformations are transitive on  $S^{2N-1}$ , we can find a unitary transformation  $A_1$  such that  $A_1 e_1 = \tilde{e}_1$ . By the continuity of  $f$ , there is a neighborhood  $W_1$  of  $\tilde{e}_1$  such that  $f(e) \neq 0$  for all  $e \in W_1$ .

If  $f(A_1 e_2) \neq 0$ , we take  $A_2 = I$ . If  $f(A_1 e_2) = 0$ , then since  $Z(f)$  is nowhere dense on  $S^{2N-1}$ , there is an  $\tilde{e}_2$  arbitrarily close to  $A_1 e_2$  such that  $f(\tilde{e}_2) \neq 0$ . Then  $\tilde{e}_2 = A_2 A_1 e_2$  for some unitary transformation  $A_2$ . We can choose  $\tilde{e}_2$  so close to  $A_1 e_2$  that  $A_2 \tilde{e}_1 \in W_1$ . Fix such an  $A_2$ . Then there exists a neighborhood  $W_2$  of  $\tilde{e}_2$  such that  $f(e) \neq 0$  for all  $e \in W_2$ .

Continuing the process  $N$  times, we get unitary transformations  $A_1, \dots, A_N$  such that if  $A = A_N A_{N-1} \cdots A_1$ , then  $f(Ae_j) \neq 0$  for all  $j$ . This completes the proof of the lemma and that of the theorem.

**7. Examples.** In contrast to the theorem in one variable, the Blaschke condition is not sufficient for an analytic subvariety to be the zero-set of a bounded holomorphic function in  $U^2$  or  $B_2$ . In fact there are analytic subvarieties which satisfy the Blaschke condition and which are determining sets for bounded holomorphic functions.

EXAMPLE 1. Let  $\alpha_n = 1 - 1/n$  and

$$V = \{(\alpha_n, w) : |\alpha_n|^2 + |w|^2 < 1, n = 1, 2, 3, \dots\}.$$

Then (by Cartan's Theorem B)  $V$  is the zero-set of a holomorphic function in  $B_2$ . But  $V$  is a  $D$ -set for bounded holomorphic functions in  $B_2$ , although it satisfies the Blaschke condition.

An easy calculation shows that  $H_2(V_r) = \pi \sum_{|\alpha_n| \leq r} (r^2 - \alpha_n^2)$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 H_2(V_r) dr &= \pi \int_0^1 \sum_{|\alpha_n| \leq r} (r^2 - \alpha_n^2) dr = \pi \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_{|\alpha_n|}^1 (r^2 - \alpha_n^2) dr \\ &= \frac{\pi}{3} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - \alpha_n)^2 (1 + 2\alpha_n) = \frac{\pi}{3} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \left(3 - \frac{2}{n}\right) < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Now suppose  $f \in H^\infty(B_2)$  and  $f=0$  on  $V$ . We shall show that then  $f \equiv 0$ .

For each  $c \in C$ , let  $D(c)$  be the disc in the  $z$ -plane passing through the point  $z=1$  and having center at  $z = |c|^2/(1 + |c|^2)$ .  $D(c) \subset U$  for all  $c$ . Let

$$P(c) = \{(z, c(1-z)) : z \in D(c)\}.$$

Then  $P(c)$  is a disc imbedded in  $B_2$  and its boundary passes through the point  $(1, 0)$  for all  $c$ .

For each  $c$ , let  $f_c(z) = f(z, c(1-z))$ ,  $z \in D(c)$ . When  $n$  is sufficiently large,  $\alpha_n \in D(c)$  and  $f_c(\alpha_n) = 0$ . Therefore the zero-set of  $f_c$  violates the Blaschke condition. Since  $f_c$  is bounded,  $f_c \equiv 0$ , i.e.  $f|_{P(c)} \equiv 0$  for all  $c$ . Since  $B_2 = \bigcup_{c \in C} P(c)$ , we have  $f \equiv 0$ .

EXAMPLE 2. Fix  $\delta$ ,  $\frac{1}{2} < \delta < 1$ . Let  $\alpha_n = 1 - 1/n^\delta$  and

$$V = \{(z, 2\alpha_n - z) : |z| < 1, |2\alpha_n - z| < 1, n = 1, 2, 3, \dots\}.$$

Then  $V$  is the zero-set of a holomorphic function in  $U^2$ . We shall show that it satisfies the Blaschke condition and is a  $D$ -set for bounded holomorphic functions.

For each  $n$ , the area of the set  $\{(z, 2\alpha_n - z) : |z| \leq r, |2\alpha_n - z| \leq r\}$  is  $\leq 2\pi(r^2 - \alpha_n^2)$ . So  $H_2(V_r) \leq 2\pi \sum_{|\alpha_n| \leq r} (r^2 - \alpha_n^2)$ . The computation in Example 1 shows that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 H_2(V_r) dr &\leq \frac{2\pi}{3} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - \alpha_n)^2 (1 + 2\alpha_n) \\ &= \frac{2\pi}{3} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{2\delta}} (1 + 2\alpha_n) \\ &< \infty \quad \text{since } 2\delta > 1. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $f \in H^\infty(U^2)$  and  $f=0$  on  $V$ . Let

$$A = \{c \in C : \operatorname{Re} c > 1, |\arg c| < (1 - \delta)\pi/2\}.$$

For  $c \in A$ , the boundary of the disc  $U(c)$  of radius  $1/|c|$  and center at  $1-1/c$  makes an angle  $k\pi/2$  with the real axis, where  $\delta < k < 1$ . The real axis divides  $U(c)$  into two regions; let  $U_1(c)$  be the smaller one. Let  $D(c)$  be the region formed by  $U_1(c)$  and its reflection in the real axis. Then  $D(c)$  is contained in the unit disc  $U$  and is bounded by two circular arcs meeting at an angle  $k\pi$  at the point  $z=1$  and  $z=z_0$ , where  $z_0 = 1 - 2 \operatorname{Re} c/|c|^2$ . Let  $P(c) = \{(z, c(z-1)+1) : z \in D(c)\}$ . For every  $c \in A$ ,  $P(c)$  is a subset of  $U^2$  such that the point  $(1, 1)$  lies on its boundary.

Fix  $c \in A$ . Define  $f_c(z) = f(z, c(z-1)+1)$ ,  $z \in D(c)$ . Let  $\tilde{\alpha}_n = 1 - (2/(1+c))(1/n^\delta)$ . For all sufficiently large  $n$ ,  $\tilde{\alpha}_n \in D(c)$  and since  $f=0$  on  $V$ ,  $f_c(\tilde{\alpha}_n) = 0$ . Under the mapping  $\varphi_c(z) = ((1-z)/(z-z_0))^{1/k}$ ,  $D(c)$  is mapped onto the right half-plane. Let  $\beta_n = \varphi_c(\tilde{\alpha}_n)$ . Then it is easy to check that for fixed  $c \in A$ ,  $\operatorname{Re} \beta_n \geq \gamma n^{-\delta/k}$  for sufficiently large  $n$ , where  $\gamma$  is positive and does not depend on  $n$ . Since  $\delta/k < 1$ , it follows that

$$(22) \quad \sum \operatorname{Re} \beta_n = \infty.$$

Thus the function  $\tilde{f}_c = f_c \cdot \varphi_c^{-1}$  is a bounded holomorphic function in the right half-plane whose zeros  $\beta_n$  satisfy (22). So  $\tilde{f}_c \equiv 0$  which implies that  $f_c \equiv 0$ , i.e.  $f|_{P(c)} \equiv 0$  for all  $c \in A$ . Let  $P = \bigcup_{c \in A} P(c)$ . Then  $P$  contains an open subset of  $U^2$  since the open subset  $D \times \Delta$  of  $C^2$ , where  $D = D(1+i)$  and  $\Delta = A \cap \{c : |c-1| < 1\}$ , is mapped into  $P$  by  $\Phi : (z, c) \rightarrow (z, c(z-1)+1)$  which is nonsingular when  $z \neq 1$ . So  $f=0$  on  $P$  implies  $f \equiv 0$  in  $U^2$ .

**Added in proof.** Recently the author has extended Theorem 6.3 to wider classes of functions, namely the Nevanlinna classes on  $U^N$  and  $B^N$ .

#### REFERENCES

1. A. C. Aitken, *Determinants and matrices*, 9th ed., Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh, 1956.
2. S. Bochner, *Classes of holomorphic functions of several variables in circular domains*, Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. **46** (1960), 721-723. MR **22** #11144.
3. H. Federer, *Surface area*. II, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. **55** (1944), 438-456. MR **6**, 45.
4. R. C. Gunning and H. Rossi, *Analytic functions of several complex variables*, Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N. J., 1965. MR **31** #4927.
5. P. R. Halmos, *Measure theory*, Van Nostrand, Princeton, N. J., 1950. MR **11**, 504.
6. W. Rudin, *Function theory in polydiscs*, Math. Lecture Notes, Benjamin, New York, 1969.
7. ———, *Real and complex analysis*, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1966. MR **35** #1420.
8. L. Schwartz, *Cours d'analysis*. I, Hermann, Paris, 1967.
9. G. Stolzenberg, *Volumes, limits and extensions of analytic varieties*, Lecture Notes in Math., no. 19, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1966. MR **34** #6156.
10. E. L. Stout, *The second cousin problem with bounded data*, Pacific J. Math. **26** (1968), 379-387.
11. E. C. Titchmarsh, *The theory of functions*, 2nd ed., Oxford Univ. Press, London, 1939.
12. V. S. Vladimirov, *Methods of the theory of functions of several complex variables*, "Nauka", Moscow, 1964; English transl., M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1966. MR **30** #2163; MR **34** #1551.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
MADISON, WISCONSIN