WEAK CONVERGENCE OF VARYING MEASURES AND HERMITE-PADÉ ORTHOGONAL POLYNOMIALS

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Abstract

It is known that the common denominator of the Hermite-Padé approximants of a mixed Angelesco-Nikishin system shares orthogonality relations with respect to each function in the system. It is less known that they also satisfy full orthogonality with respect to a varying measure. This problem motivates our interest in extending the class of varying measures with respect to which weak asymptotics of orthogonal polynomials takes place. In particular, for the case of a Nikishin system, we prove weak asymptotics of the corresponding varying measures.

1 Introduction

1. The denominators of interpolating rational functions satisfy orthogonality relations with respect to a measure which depends on the set of interpolation points. This has been the main cause of the increasing interest paid in the past two decades to the asymptotic properties of sequences of polynomials orthogonal with respect to so called varying measures.

Let $\{Q_n\}, n \in \mathbb{N}$, be a sequence of monic polynomials, deg $Q_n = n$, and $\{\mu_n\}$ a sequence of finite positive Borel measures each of which has its support $S(\mu_n)$ contained in the real line \mathbb{R} . We say that the sequence of polynomials is orthogonal with respect to the (sequence of) varying measures if

$$0 = \int x^{\nu} Q_n(x) d\mu_n(x) \ , \ \nu = 0, \dots, n-1 \ .$$

Notice that the n-th polynomial only satisfies orthogonality relations with respect to the n-th measure.

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So far, most of the applications are connected with the case when $d\mu_n(x) = \frac{d\mu(x)}{w_n(x)}$, where μ is a fixed measure and $w_n(x)$ is a polynomial. This situation appears in problems of rational interpolation. The zeros of $w_n(x)$ are the interpolation points by which the rational function is constructed. See, for example, [2], [10], and [11]. But, there are other questions in approximation theory where the varying part has a different expression (see, for example, [1], [3], and [9]).

The most general results have been obtained in connection with the n-th root asymptotic behavior of orthogonal polynomials with respect to varying measures. Here, $d\mu_n(x) =$ $\phi_n(x)d\mu(x)$. Essentially, it is only required that the measure μ be regular ($\mu \in \mathbf{Reg}$) and $\lim_{n\to\infty} \phi_n(x)^{1/n}$ exists uniformly on $S(\mu)$. See [16], also [8]. Thus, the results for n-th root asymptotics parallel to a great extent those known for the case when the measure remains fixed $(\phi_n \equiv 1)$.

This is by far not the situation for other types of asymptotic relations where most results only deal with the case when $d\mu_n(x) = \frac{d\mu(x)}{w_n(x)}$. The main objective of the present paper is to extend the class of varying orthogonality for which weak asymptotics takes place, derive from it other types of asymptotic properties, and apply these results in the study of the asymptotic behavior of the common denominator of Hermite-Padé approximants of a Nikishin system of functions.

2. In the introduction, we limit ourselves to a brief description of the application which we will consider. More details will be found in section 6.

Let us consider two finite positive Borel measure μ and σ such that $Co(S(\mu)) \cap$ $Co(S(\sigma)) = \emptyset$, where $Co(\cdot)$ denotes the convex hull of the set (·). Set

$$f_1(z) = \int \frac{d\sigma(t)}{z-t}$$
, $f_2(z) = \int \frac{\hat{\mu}(t)d\sigma(t)}{z-t}$

In the sequel, $\hat{\mu}$ denotes the Cauchy transform of the measure μ ; that is, the Markov function for the measure. The pair of functions (f_1, f_2) forms what is called a Nikishin system of two functions. Fix two natural numbers $n_1, n_2 \in \mathbb{N}, n = n_1 + n_2$. We say that $(R_{n,1}, R_{n,2})$ is the *n*-th simultaneous Padé approximant of (f_1, f_2) relative to (n_1, n_2) if $R_{n,1} = \frac{P_{n,1}}{Q_n}, R_{n,2} = \frac{P_{n,2}}{Q_n}$, where • $\deg P_{n,1} \le n, \deg P_{n,2} \le n, \deg Q_n \le n, Q_n \ne 0$,

- $(Q_n f_1 P_{n,1})(z) = O\left(\frac{1}{z^{n_1+1}}\right), \ z \to \infty,$

•
$$(Q_n f_2 - P_{n,2})(z) = O\left(\frac{1}{z^{n_2+1}}\right), \ z \to \infty$$
.

It is easy to see that the common denominator Q_n shares orthogonality relations with the two measures $d\sigma(t)$ and $\hat{\mu}(t)d\sigma(t)$. More precisely, one has

$$0 = \int t^{\nu} Q_n(t) d\sigma(t) , \ \nu = 0, \dots, n_1 - 1 ,$$

and

$$0 = \int t^{\nu} Q_n(t) \hat{\mu}(t) d\sigma(t) , \ \nu = 0, \dots, n_2 - 1 .$$

Assume that $n_2 \leq n_1 + 1$. A non-trivial fact is that Q_n also satisfies full orthogonality relation with respect to a varying measure. There exists a polynomial $w_n, \deg w_n = n_2$, whose zeros lie in $Co(S(\mu))$ such that

$$0 = \int t^{\nu} Q_n(t) \frac{d\sigma(t)}{w_n(t)} , \ \nu = 0, \dots, n-1 .$$

It is also known that the polynomials w_n satisfy complete orthogonality relations with respect to a rather complicated type of varying measure

$$0 = \int x^{\nu} \frac{w_n(x)}{Q_n(x)} \int \frac{Q_n^2(t)}{t-x} \frac{d\sigma(t)}{w_n(t)} d\mu(x) , \ \nu = 0, \dots, n_2 - 1$$

(for details see [2], [4] and [9]). We study the asymptotic behavior of the sequences $\{Q_n\}$ and $\{w_n\}$ as well as of the varying measures with respect to which these polynomials are orthogonal when $n_1 = n_2 \to \infty$.

In order to obtain the corresponding results on the real line, we start out with the unit circle.

3. Let ρ_n and ρ be finite positive Borel measures on $[0, 2\pi]$. By $\rho_n \xrightarrow{*} \rho$, we denote the weak * convergence of ρ_n to ρ as *n* tends to infinity. This means that for every continuous real 2π -periodic function f on $[0, 2\pi]$

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int_0^{2\pi} f(\theta) \, d\rho_n(\theta) = \int_0^{2\pi} f(\theta) \, d\rho(\theta). \tag{1}$$

Unless otherwise stated, the limits of integration with respect to θ will always be 0 and 2π , thus they will not be indicated in the following.

Let ρ be a complex regular Borel measure on $[0, 2\pi]$. Set

$$\|\rho\| = |\rho|([0, 2\pi]) ,$$

where $|\rho|$ denotes the positive measure given by the total variation of ρ . This defines a norm on the space of all complex regular Borel measures. A sequence of complex regular Borel measures $\{\rho_n\}$ is said to converge in norm to ρ if

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \| \rho_n - \rho \| = 0.$$

With this norm, the space of complex regular Borel measures on $[0, 2\pi]$ is the dual space of the space of all complex valued 2π -periodic continuous functions on $[0, 2\pi]$. Thus, weak * convergence of a sequence of complex regular Borel measures means that (1) takes place for every complex valued 2π -periodic continuous function on $[0, 2\pi]$. It is well known that any sequence of complex Borel measures uniformly bounded in norm is weak * relatively compact. All finite positive Borel measures are regular; therefore, their difference (usually called real or signed measure) is a complex regular measure. More details on these concepts and results may be found, for example, in chapters 2 and 6 of [15].

Let $\{\rho_n\}_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of finite positive Borel measures on the interval $[0, 2\pi]$ such that for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ the support of ρ_n contains an infinite set of points. By $d\theta$, we denote Lebesgue's measure on $[0, 2\pi]$, and $\rho'_n = d\rho_n/d\theta$, the Radon-Nikodym derivative of ρ_n with respect to $d\theta$. By \mathbb{N} (respectively $\mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$), we denote the set of natural (respectively integer, real, complex) numbers.

Let $\{W_n\}_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of polynomials such that, for each $n\in\mathbb{N}$, W_n has degree n (deg $W_n = n$) and all its zeros $\{w_{n,i}\}, 1 \leq i \leq n$, lie in the closed unit disk. We assume that the indices are taken so that if w = 0 is a zero of W_n of multiplicity m then $w_{n,1} = w_{n,2} = \ldots = w_{n,m} = 0$. Set

$$d\sigma_n(\theta) = rac{d
ho_n(\theta)}{|W_n(z)|^2}, \ z = e^{i\theta}.$$

A certain link is needed between the measures ρ_n and the polynomials W_n .

Definition 1 Let $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ be a fixed integer. We say that $(\{\rho_n\}, \{W_n\}, k)$ is admissible on $[0, 2\pi]$ if :

(i) There exists a finite positive Borel measure ρ on $[0, 2\pi]$ such that $\rho_n \xrightarrow{*} \rho$, $n \to \infty$.

(ii)
$$||\sigma_n|| = \int d\sigma_n(\theta) < +\infty$$
, $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$.

(iii)
$$\int \prod_{i=1}^{-\kappa} |z - w_{n,i}|^{-2} d\rho_n(\theta) \leq M < +\infty$$
, $z = e^{i\theta}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$ (this condition applies only to the case when k is a negative integer).

(*iv*) $\lim_{n \to \infty} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (1 - |w_{n,i}|) = +\infty.$

A stronger connection is established by

1.

Definition 2 Let $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ be a fixed integer. We say that $(\{\rho_n\}, \{W_n\}, k)$ is strongly admissible on $[0, 2\pi]$ if it is admissible and additionally

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int |\rho'_n(\theta) - \rho'(\theta)| \, d\theta = 0$$

(ii) $\rho' > 0$ almost everywhere on $[0, 2\pi]$.

In [12] the definition of admissibility is introduced in analogous fashion but the component ρ_n of the varying measures is taken to be constant. Obviously, in that situation, the conditions (i) in both definitions above are trivially satisfied. It is not difficult to prove that $\lim_{n\to\infty} \|\rho_n - \rho\| = 0$ implies (i) of definitions 1 and 2. Condition (ii) of admissibility guarantees that for each pair (n,m) of natural numbers we can construct a polynomial $\varphi_{n,m}(z) = \alpha_{n,m} z^m + \cdots$ that is uniquely determined by the relations of orthogonality

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int \bar{z}^j \varphi_{n,m}(z) \, d\sigma_n(\theta) = 0 \,, \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, m-1 \,, \quad z = e^{i\theta} \,,$$
$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int |\varphi_{n,m}(z)|^2 \, d\sigma_n(\theta) = 1 \,, \quad \deg \varphi_{n,m} = m \,, \quad \alpha_{n,m} > 0 \,.$$

The following results are the key to all further arguments. In their proof (see sections 2 and 3 below), special difficulties arise when the degree of the polynomial W_n exceeds that of of $\varphi_{n,n+k}$ (that is, for negative k). In order to handle these problems, condition (iii) of admissibility was introduced.

Theorem 1 Let $(\{\rho_n\}, \{W_n\}, k)$ be admissible on $[0, 2\pi]$, then

$$\frac{|W_n(z)|^2}{|\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)|^2} d\theta \xrightarrow{*} d\rho(\theta) , \quad z = e^{i\theta} .$$
⁽²⁾

Theorem 2 Let $(\{\rho_n\}, \{W_n\}, k)$ be strongly admissible on $[0, 2\pi]$, then

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int \left| \frac{|\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)|^2}{|\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)|^2} - 1 \right| d\theta = 0 \quad , \tag{3}$$

uniformly in $m \in \mathbb{N}$.

Let $\Phi_{n,m}(z) = z^m + \cdots = (\alpha_{n,m})^{-1} \varphi_{n,m}(z)$ and set $\Phi_{n,m}^*(z) = z^m \overline{\Phi_{n,m}}(1/z)$. For any sequence of positive Borel measures $\{\sigma_n\}$ such that $\int d\sigma_n(\theta) < +\infty, n \in \mathbb{N}$, the following relations hold. They are simple reformulations of known results (notice that n is fixed).

$$\Phi_{n,m+1}(w) = w\Phi_{n,m}(w) + \Phi_{n,m+1}(0)\Phi_{n,m}^*(w) , \qquad (4)$$

$$\Phi_{n,m+1}^*(w) = \Phi_{n,m}^*(w) + \overline{\Phi_{n,m+1}(0)} w \Phi_{n,m}(w) , \qquad (5)$$

$$(\alpha_{n,m+1})^2 = (\alpha_{n,m})^2 + |\varphi_{n,m+1}(0)|^2 , \qquad (6)$$

$$|\Phi_{n,m+1}(0)| \le C \int \left| \frac{|\varphi_{n,m}(z)|^2}{|\varphi_{n,m+1}(z)|^2} - 1 \right| d\theta , \ z = e^{i\theta} ,$$
(7)

where C is an absolute constant independent of n and m. For the proof of (4)-(6) see Chapter 1 of [7], for that of (7) see Theorem 2 in [13]. Combining (4)-(7) and using Theorem 2, we get

Theorem 3 Let $(\{\rho_n\}, \{W_n\}, k)$ be strongly admissible on $[0, 2\pi]$, then

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \Phi_{n,n+k+1}(0) = 0 , \qquad (8)$$

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\alpha_{n,n+k+1}}{\alpha_{n,n+k}} = 1 , \qquad (9)$$

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\Phi_{n,n+k+1}(w)}{\Phi_{n,n+k}(w)} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\varphi_{n,n+k+1}(w)}{\varphi_{n,n+k}(w)} = w, \quad |w| \ge 1$$
(10)

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\Phi_{n,n+k+1}^*(w)}{\Phi_{n,n+k}^*(w)} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\varphi_{n,n+k+1}^*(w)}{\varphi_{n,n+k}^*(w)} = 1, \quad |w| \le 1 ,$$
(11)

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\Phi_{n,n+k}^*(w)}{\Phi_{n,n+k}(w)} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}^*(w)}{\varphi_{n,n+k}(w)} = 0 \quad |w| > 1$$
(12)

where in (10) - (12) the convergence is uniform on each compact subset of the prescribed regions.

2 Proof of Theorem 1

In all that follows $z = e^{i\theta}$, $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$. We make use of the known relations

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int z^j \frac{1}{|\varphi_{n,m}(z)|^2} d\theta = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int z^j d\sigma_n(\theta), \quad |j| \le m$$

(see Chapter 1 of [7]). From this, it follows that for each trigonometric polynomial T_m of degree $\leq m$, we have

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int \frac{T_m(\theta)}{|\varphi_{n,m}(z)|^2} d\theta = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int T_m(\theta) \, d\sigma_n(\theta).$$
(13)

Let $A_n(z) = \prod_{i=1}^{-k} (z - w_{n,i})$ if $k = -1, -2, \ldots$; for $k = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$, we take $A_n(z) \equiv 1$. From (13) and (iii) of admissibility, it follows that

$$\int \frac{1}{|A_n(z)|^2} \frac{|W_n(z)|^2}{|\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)|^2} d\theta = \int \frac{d\rho_n(\theta)}{|A_n(z)|^2} \le M_1 < +\infty , \qquad (14)$$

where $M_1 = \max(M, \sigma[0, 2\pi])$. From (14), we have that the sequence of signed measures $\{h_n\}$ defined by

$$dh_n(\theta) = \frac{1}{|A_n(z)|^2} \left(\frac{|W_n(z)|^2}{|\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)|^2} d\theta - d\rho_n(\theta) \right)$$

is uniformly bounded in norm with respect to n by $2M_1$. Therefore, in order to prove that

$$h_n \xrightarrow{*} 0$$
,

it is sufficient to show that any convergent subsequence $\{h_n\}, n \in \Gamma, \Gamma \subset \mathbb{N}$, of such measures tends to zero.

Let us consider the function

$$e_n(w) = \int \frac{z}{z - w} dh_n(\theta), \quad |w| < 1$$

For each fixed $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $e_n(w)$ belongs to Nevalinna's class. In fact, denote

$$\hat{\beta}_n(w) = \int \frac{z}{z - w} \frac{1}{|A_n(z)|^2} \frac{|W_n(z)|^2}{|\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)|^2} d\theta ,$$

$$\hat{\rho}_n(w) = \int \frac{z}{z - w} \frac{d\rho_n(\theta)}{|A_n(z)|^2} .$$

It is easy to see that

$$-\frac{\pi}{2} < \arg \hat{\beta}_n(w) < \frac{\pi}{2} ,$$
$$-\frac{\pi}{2} < \arg \hat{\rho}_n(w) < \frac{\pi}{2} ,$$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. But

$$\ln^+ |a| \le \frac{|a|^{\delta}}{\delta} \le \frac{Re(a^{\delta})}{\delta \cos(\pi \delta/2)},$$

whenever $-\frac{\pi}{2} < \arg a < \frac{\pi}{2}, a \in \mathbb{C}$, where $\ln^+ x = \max(\ln x, 0), \quad x > 0, \quad \delta \in (0, 1)$. So, for $r \in (0, 1)$ and δ fixed,

$$\int \ln^{+} |\hat{\beta}_{n}(re^{i\theta'})| \, d\theta' \leq \int \frac{Re(\hat{\beta}_{n}(re^{i\theta'})^{\delta})}{\delta \cos(\pi\delta/2)} \, d\theta' = \frac{Re(\hat{\beta}_{n}(0)^{\delta})}{\delta \cos(\pi\delta/2)}$$

$$= \frac{\left(\int \frac{1}{|A_{n}(z)|^{2}} \frac{|W_{n}(z)|^{2}}{|\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)|^{2}} \, d\theta\right)^{\delta}}{\delta \cos(\pi\delta/2)} \leq \frac{(M_{1})^{\delta}}{\delta \cos(\pi\delta/2)} \,. \tag{15}$$

Analogously, one proves that

$$\int \ln^{+} |\hat{\rho}_{n}(re^{i\theta'})| \, d\theta' \leq \frac{Re(\hat{\rho}_{n}(0)^{\delta})}{\delta \cos(\pi\delta/2)} \leq \frac{(M_{1})^{\delta}}{\delta \cos(\pi\delta/2)} \quad . \tag{16}$$

From (15) and (16), it follows that

$$\sup_{n \to \infty} \lim_{r \to 1} \int \ln^+ |(\hat{\rho}_n - \hat{\beta}_n)(re^{i\theta'})| \, d\theta' \leq \frac{2(M_1)^{\delta}}{\delta \cos(\pi\delta/2)} < +\infty \,. \tag{17}$$

Therefore, the functions $e_n(w)$ are in Nevanlinna's class (uniformly with respect to n). Thus (see p. 16 of [5]),

$$e_n(w) = \frac{B_n(w)}{C_n(w)}, \quad n \in \mathbb{N},$$

where

$$\lim_{r \to 1} \max_{|w|=r} |B_n(w)| \le 1, \qquad \lim_{r \to 1} \max_{|w|=r} |C_n(w)| \le 1,$$
(18)

and $C_n(w) \neq 0$, |w| < 1. Also

$$C_{n}(w) = \lim_{r \to 1} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\pi} \int \ln^{+} |(\hat{\rho}_{n} - \hat{\beta}_{n})(re^{i\theta'})| \frac{re^{i\theta'} + w}{re^{i\theta'} - w} d\theta'\right\}.$$
 (19)

Let $\Gamma' \subset \Gamma \subset \mathbb{N}$ be such that

$$\lim_{n \in \Gamma'} B_n(w) = B(w) \text{ and } \lim_{n \in \Gamma'} C_n(w) = C(w)$$

uniformly on each compact subset of the open unit disk. Since, for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $C_n(w)$ is never zero in $\{|w| < 1\}$, then either $C(w) \equiv 0$ or C(w) is never zero in that set. But (see (17) and (19))

$$\inf_{n \in \mathbb{N}} |C_n(0)| = \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2\pi} \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \lim_{r \to 1} \int \ln^+ |(\hat{\rho}_n - \hat{\beta}_n)(re^{i\theta'})| \ d\theta'\right\}$$
$$\geq \exp\left\{-\frac{(M_1)^{\delta}}{\pi\delta\cos(\pi\delta/2)}\right\} > 0.$$

Therefore, C(w) never equals zero in the unit disk.

Let us prove that $B(w) \equiv 0$ in $\{|w| < 1\}$. First, we show that $\hat{\beta}_n$ interpolates $\hat{\rho}_n$ at all the zeros of W_n/A_n inside $\{|w| < 1\}$ according to multiplicity. Let w' be an arbitrary zero of W_n/A_n inside $\{|w| < 1\}$ of multiplicity m > 0. Assume that $w' \neq 0$. From (13) it follows that

$$\int \frac{1}{|A_n(z)|^2} \frac{z}{(z-w)^j} \frac{|W_n(z)|^2}{|\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)|^2} d\theta = \int \frac{z}{(z-w)^j} \frac{d\rho_n(\theta)}{|A_n(z)|^2}, \quad j = 1, \dots, m.$$

Since

$$\frac{1}{z-w} = \sum_{j=1}^{m} \frac{(w-w')^{j-1}}{(z-w')^j} + \frac{(w-w')^m}{(z-w')^m} \frac{1}{z-w} ,$$

then, obviously, $e_n(w)$ has a zero of order m at w = w'. On the other hand, if w' = 0 is a zero of W_n/A_n of order m, then

$$\int \frac{1}{z^j} \frac{1}{|A_n(z)|^2} \frac{|W_n(z)|^2}{|\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)|^2} d\theta = \int \frac{1}{z^j} \frac{d\rho_n(\theta)}{|A_n(z)|^2}, \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, m.$$

Since

$$\frac{1}{z-w} = \sum_{j=1}^{m} \frac{w^{j-1}}{z^j} + \frac{w^{m+1}}{z^{m+1}} \frac{1}{z-w} \,,$$

then $e_n(w)$ has a zero of order m + 1 at w = 0.

Consider the sequence of functions

$$H_n(w) = B_n(w) \prod \frac{1 - \bar{w}_{n,i}w}{w - w_{n,i}}, \quad n \in \Gamma',$$

where \prod denotes the product taken only over those i's such that $w_{n,i}$ is a zero of W_n/A_n of module less than 1. For all $n \in \Gamma'$, $H_n(w)$ is analytic in $\{|w| < 1\}$, and using the maximum principle for analytic functions considering (18), we have that $|H_n(w)| \le 1$, $n \in \Gamma'$, in $\{|w| < 1\}$. Thus

$$|B_n(w)| \le \widetilde{\prod} \ \frac{|w - w_{n,i}|}{|1 - \bar{w}_{n,i}w|}, \quad n \in \Gamma', \quad |w| < 1.$$

The right hand member of this inequality tends to zero because of (iv) of the admissibility condition (see p. 281 of [18]). Since A_n contains no more than |k| zeros of W_n , they have no influence on the divergence of the limit in (iv). We have shown that $B(w) \equiv 0$ and C(w) is never zero in $\{|w| < 1\}$, hence, $\lim_{n \in \Gamma'} e_n(w) = 0$ uniformly on each compact subset of $\{|w| < 1\}$.

Now,

$$e_n(w) = \int \frac{z}{z - w} dh_n(\theta) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \left(\int \frac{1}{z^j} dh_n(\theta) \right) w^i$$

Thus, for each fixed $i = 0, 1, \ldots$,

$$\lim_{n\in\Gamma'}\int\frac{1}{z^j} \ dh_n(\theta) = 0$$

because $\lim_{n\in\Gamma'} e_n(w) = 0$. The measures h_n are real; therefore, the same holds for positive powers of z. Since any complex valued 2π periodic continuous function on $[0, 2\pi]$ can be uniformly approximated by powers of z and z^{-1} , we have proved that $h_n \xrightarrow{*} 0, n \in \Gamma$. Hence

$$h_n \xrightarrow{*} 0$$
, $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

If $k \in \mathbb{N}$, then $A_n \equiv 1$ and the proof would be over. Suppose that k is a negative integer. In this case, since the zeros of $A_n(z)$ are in $\{|w| \leq 1\}$ and A_n is monic, the coefficients of the trigonometric polynomial

$$|A_n(z)|^2 = \sum_{i=k}^{-k} c_{n,i} z^i$$

are uniformly bounded,

$$c_{n,i}| \le C_0, \quad |i| \le |k|, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

For any $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, we have

$$\int z^m |A_n(z)|^2 dh_n(\theta) = \sum_{i=k}^{-k} c_{n,i} \int z^{m+i} dh_n(\theta) \to 0 \quad \text{as} \quad n \to \infty .$$

Using this and the weak * convergence of ρ_n to ρ , we obtain

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int z^m \ \frac{|W_n(z)|^2}{|\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)|^2} \, d\theta = \lim_{n \to \infty} \int z^m \ d\rho_n(\theta) = \int z^m \ d\rho(\theta)$$

for each $m \in \mathbb{Z}$. Thus

$$\frac{|W_n(z)|^2}{|\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)|^2} d\theta \xrightarrow{*} d\rho(\theta) , \quad n \in \mathbb{N} ,$$

as we wanted to prove.

Corollary 1 If $|w_{n,j}| \leq C_1 < 1$, j = 1, 2, ..., n, for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and $\rho_n \xrightarrow{*} \rho$ then

$$\frac{|W_n(z)|^2}{|\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)|^2} d\theta \stackrel{*}{\longrightarrow} d\rho(\theta) .$$

Remark 1. Condition (iv) of admissibility expresses that the zeros of the sequence of polynomials $\{W_n\}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, cannot tend globally very rapidly to the unit circle. If they do tend rapidly, there is still hope for (2) if ρ is sufficiently weak near the accumulation points of zeros of $\{W_n\}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, on $\{|w| < 1\}$. In this more delicate situation, in order to prove Theorem 1 one must use the scheme of [11] instead of the scheme of [12] which was employed here.

3 Proof of Theorem 2

We start by proving the stronger statement

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int \left(\left| \frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)} \right| - 1 \right)^2 d\theta = 0.$$
⁽²⁰⁾

The arguments follow closely those in the proof of Theorem 2.1 and Corollary 2.2 in [14]. We have (see (13))

$$0 \leq \int \left\| \frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)} \right\| - 1 \right\|^2 d\theta = \int \left| \frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)} \right\|^2 d\theta + 2\pi$$
$$-2\int \left| \frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)} \right| d\theta = 4\pi - 2\int \left| \frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)} \right| d\theta .$$

In order to obtain (20), the inequalities above show that it is sufficient to prove that

$$\liminf_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int \left| \frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)} \right| \, d\theta \ge 1 \tag{21}$$

Let f be a 2π -periodic nonnegative continuous function, and let m be a nonnegative integer. Applying Cauchy-Schwarz's inequality twice, we obtain

$$\begin{split} &\int \left(f(\theta)\rho_n'(\theta)\right)^{\frac{1}{4}} d\theta = \int \left|\frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)}\right|^{\frac{1}{2}} \left|\frac{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)}{W_n(z)}\right|^{\frac{1}{2}} \rho_n'(\theta)^{\frac{1}{4}} \left|\frac{W_n(z)}{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}\right|^{\frac{1}{2}} f(\theta)^{\frac{1}{4}} d\theta \\ &\leq \left(\int \left|\frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)}\right| d\theta\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\int \left|\frac{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)}{W_n(z)}\right|^2 \rho_n'(\theta) d\theta\right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \left(\int \left|\frac{W_n(z)}{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}\right|^2 f(\theta) d\theta\right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \\ &\leq \left(2\pi\right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \left(\int \left|\frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)}\right| d\theta\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\int \left|\frac{W_n(z)}{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}\right|^2 f(\theta) d\theta\right)^{\frac{1}{4}} . \end{split}$$

Thus

$$\left(\frac{1}{2\pi}\int \left(f(\theta)\rho_{n}'(\theta)\right)^{\frac{1}{4}}d\theta\right)^{4} \leq \left(\frac{1}{2\pi}\int \left|\frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)}\right|^{2}d\theta\right)^{2}\left(\frac{1}{2\pi}\int \left|\frac{W_{n}(z)}{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}\right|^{2}f(\theta)\ d\theta\right)\ .$$
(22)

On the other hand,

$$\left(\frac{1}{2\pi} \int \left| (f\rho'_n)^{\frac{1}{4}} - (f\rho')^{\frac{1}{4}} \right| d\theta \right)^4 \leq \left(\frac{1}{2\pi} \int |f\rho'_n - f\rho'|^{\frac{1}{4}} d\theta \right)^4 \leq \left(\frac{1}{2\pi} \int |f\rho'_n - f\rho'| d\theta \right) .$$

This inequality and condition (i) of strong admissibility give

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \left(\frac{1}{2\pi} \int \left(f(\theta) \rho_n'(\theta) \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} d\theta \right)^4 = \left(\frac{1}{2\pi} \int \left(f(\theta) \rho'(\theta) \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} d\theta \right)^4$$
(23)

Taking limits in (22), by use of (2) and (23), it follows that

$$\left(\frac{1}{2\pi}\int \left(f(\theta)\rho'(\theta)\right)^{\frac{1}{4}}d\theta\right)^{4} \le \liminf_{n\to\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2\pi}\int \left|\frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)}\right|\,d\theta\right)^{2} \left(\frac{1}{2\pi}\int f(\theta)\,d\rho(\theta)\right)$$

By Corollary 3.3 in [14], from this inequality we get (21) and so (20) is satisfied. Notice that this relation holds uniformly in $m \ge 0$, the key reason for this is that m occurs neither in the second factor of the right-hand side of (22) nor in the left-hand side.

Finally, we have that

$$\left(\int \left| \left| \frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)} \right|^2 - 1 \right| d\theta \right)^2 \leq \int \left(\left| \frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)} \right| - 1 \right)^2 d\theta \int \left(\left| \frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)} \right| + 1 \right)^2 d\theta.$$

Because of (20), the first integral on the right-hand side tends to zero and the second remains bounded, hence the proof is complete.

4 Weak Convergence on the Unit Circle

Theorem 4 Let $(\{\rho_n\}, \{W_n\}, k)$ be strongly admissible on $[0, 2\pi]$, then

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int \left\| \frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{W_n(z)} \right\|^2 \rho'_n(\theta) - 1 \right| \, d\theta = 0 \,.$$

$$\tag{24}$$

Moreover, for each $m \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int \left| \frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)\overline{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)}z^m}{|W_n(z)|^2} \rho'_n(\theta) - 1 \right| d\theta = 0.$$
(25)

Proof. The proof of this result follows the same ideas as in Theorem 2. Here, the main step is to show that

$$\liminf_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int \left| \frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{W_n(z)} \right| \sqrt{\rho'_n(\theta)} \ d\theta \ge 1$$

which is done in a similar fashion as in the proof of (21). (25) follows from (24) and (10). For more details see Theorem 4 in [12].

From Theorem 4, we get

Theorem 5 Let $(\{\rho_n\}, \{W_n\}, k)$ be strongly admissible on $[0, 2\pi]$, then for every bounded Borel-measurable function f on $[0, 2\pi]$ and $m \in \mathbb{N}$, we have

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int f(\theta) \, \frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)z^m}{|W_n(z)|^2} \, \rho'_n(\theta) \, d\theta = \int f(\theta) \, d\theta \tag{26}$$

and

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int f(\theta) \, \frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)\overline{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)}z^m}{|W_n(z)|^2} \, d\rho_n(\theta) = \int f(\theta) \, d\theta. \tag{27}$$

Proof. From (25), equation (26) is immediate. To prove (27) notice that

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int \frac{|\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)\overline{\varphi}_{n,n+k+m}(z)z^m|}{|W_n(z)|^2} \ (d\rho_n)_s(\theta) = 0 , \qquad (28)$$

where $(d\rho_n)_s$ represents the singular part of $d\rho_n$ with respect to Lebesgue's measure; that is, $(d\rho_n)_s(\theta) = d\rho_n(\theta) - \rho'_n(\theta)d(\theta)$. To see this, take $f \equiv 1$ in (26) with m = 0 and use the fact that

$$\int \left|\frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{W_n(z)}\right|^2 \rho'_n(\theta) \ d\theta \le \int \left|\frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{W_n(z)}\right|^2 d\rho_n(\theta) = 2\pi \ .$$

We arrive at

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int \left| \frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{W_n(z)} \right|^2 (d\rho_n)_s(\theta) = 0.$$

By Cauchy-Schwarz's inequality

$$\int \frac{|\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)z^{m}|}{|W_{n}(z)|^{2}} (d\rho_{n})_{s}(\theta)$$

$$\leq \left(\int \left|\frac{\varphi_{n,n+k}(z)}{W_{n}(z)}\right|^{2} (d\rho_{n})_{s}(\theta)\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\int \left|\frac{\varphi_{n,n+k+m}(z)}{W_{n}(z)}z^{m}\right|^{2} (d\rho_{n})_{s}(\theta)\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

and both integrals on the right-hand side tend to zero, thus (28) holds. Equations (28) and (26) give (27) and so we are done.

5 Ratio and Weak Convergence on the Real Line

In this section, we provide similar results to those above for sequences $\{\mu_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of finite positive Borel measures on [-1, 1] whose supports contain infinitely many points.

Let $\{w_{2n}\}_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of polynomials with real coefficients such that, for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$: deg $w_{2n} = i_n, 0 \le i_n \le 2n$; and $w_{2n} \ge 0$ on [-1, 1]. If $i_n < 2n$, let $x_{2n,i} = \infty$ for $1 \le i \le 2n - i_n$; if, additionally, $i_n > 0$, then $\{x_{2n,i}\}_{2n-i_n+1\le i\le 2n}$, denotes the set of zeros of w_{2n} . When $i_n = 2n$, then $\{x_{2n,i}\}_{1\le i\le 2n}$, is the set of zeros of w_{2n} .

Set $d\tau_n = \frac{d\mu_n}{w_{2n}}$. If, for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\int_{-1}^{1} \frac{d\mu_n(x)}{w_{2n}(x)} < +\infty \; ,$$

we can construct the table of polynomials $\{l_{n,m}\}_{n,m\in\mathbb{N}}$, where $l_{n,m}(x) = \beta_{n,m}x^m + \cdots$, $\beta_{n,m} > 0$, is the *m*-th orthonormal polynomial with respect to τ_n ; that is, these polynomials are uniquely determined by having positive leading coefficients and satisfying the relations

$$\int_{-1}^{1} l_{n,k}(x) \, l_{n,m}(x) \, d\tau_n(x) = \delta_{k,m} \; .$$

The limits of integration with respect to x will always be -1 and 1, thus they will not be indicated.

According to the prescribed conditions $w_{2n}(\cos \theta)$ is nonnegative for $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$, thus (see p. 3 of [17]) there exists an algebraic polynomial $W'_{2n}(w)$ of degree i_n whose zeros lie in $\{|w| \leq 1\}$ such that

$$w_{2n}(\cos\theta) = |W'_{2n}(e^{i\theta})|^2$$
, $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$.

It is easy to see that the zeros of W'_{2n} are the points

$$\left\{\frac{1}{\Psi(x_{2n,i})}\right\}_{2n-i_n+1\leq i\leq 2n},$$

where $\Psi(x) = x + \sqrt{x^2 - 1}$ is conformal mapping of $\overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus [-1, 1]$ onto $\{|w| > 1\}$ such that $\Psi(\infty) = \infty$ and $\Psi'(\infty) > 0$ (on [-1, 1] we extend Ψ continuously, considering the interval to have two sides as it is usually done). Take $W_{2n}(w) = w^{2n-i_n}W'_{2n}(w)$; then, deg $W_{2n} = 2n$ and

$$w_{2n}(\cos\theta) = |W_{2n}(e^{i\theta})|^2$$
, $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$.

The polynomials $l_{n,m}$ are closely related to the polynomials $\varphi_{2n,2m}$ orthonormal with respect to the measure σ_{2n} defined by

$$d\sigma_{2n}(\theta) = d\tau_n(\cos\theta) = \frac{d\mu_n(\cos\theta)}{|W_{2n}(z)|^2}, \quad z = e^{i\theta}.$$

That is, $\sigma_{2n}(E) = \tau_n(\{\cos \theta; \theta \in E\})$ whenever $E \subset [0, \pi]$ or $E \subset [\pi, 2\pi]$. Thus, writing $\sigma_{2n}(\theta) = \sigma_{2n}(\{0 \le t \le \theta\})$, we have

$$\sigma_{2n}(\theta) = \begin{cases} G_n(\cos \theta) , & 0 \le \theta \le \pi , \\ -G_n(\cos \theta) , & \pi \le \theta \le 2\pi \end{cases}$$

where $G_n(x) = \int_{-1}^x d\tau_n(t), x \in [-1, 1]$, at every point θ where σ_{2n} is continuous; and so, almost everywhere in $[0, 2\pi]$. Furthermore,

$$\sigma_{2n}'(\theta) = |\sin\theta| G_n(\cos\theta) = |\sin\theta| \frac{\mu_n'(\cos\theta)}{|W_{2n}(e^{i\theta})|^2} = |\sin\theta| \tau_n'(\cos\theta),$$

whenever either side exists (thus almost everywhere). Notice that $\sigma' > 0$ almost everywhere on $[0, 2\pi]$ if and only if $\tau' > 0$ almost everywhere on [-1, 1], where

$$\sigma(\theta) = \begin{cases} \tau(\cos\theta) , & 0 \le \theta \le \pi , \\ -\tau(\cos\theta) , & \pi \le \theta \le 2\pi . \end{cases}$$

For n fixed, we can use the well-known formula (see Theorem V.1.4 of [6])

$$l_{n,m}(x) = \frac{\varphi_{2n,2m}(w) + \varphi_{2n,2m}^*(w)}{w^m \sqrt{2\pi(1 + \Phi_{2n,2m}(0))}},$$
(29)

where $\Phi_{2n,2m} = \frac{\varphi_{2n,2m}}{\alpha_{2n,2m}}$ and $x = \frac{1}{2}(w+1/w)$. If $L_{2n,2m} = \frac{l_{2n,2m}}{\beta_{2n,2m}}$, the previous relation can be written as follows

$$L_{n,m}(x) = \frac{\Phi_{2n,2m}(w) + \Phi_{2n,2m}^*(w)}{(2w)^m (1 + \Phi_{2n,2m}(0))}.$$
(30)

Consequently, using (29) and (30), for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ fixed and $n + k \ge 0$, we have

$$\frac{l_{n,n+k+1}(x)}{l_{n,n+k}(x)} = \frac{1}{w} \frac{\sqrt{1 + \Phi_{2n,2n+2k}(0)}}{\sqrt{1 + \Phi_{2n,2n+2k+2}(0)}} \frac{\varphi_{2n,2n+2k+2}(w)}{\varphi_{2n,2n+2k}(w)} \frac{1 + \frac{\varphi_{2n,2n+2k+2}^*(w)}{\varphi_{2n,2n+2k+2}(w)}}{1 + \frac{\varphi_{2n,2n+2k+2}^*(w)}{\varphi_{2n,2n+2k}(w)}}, \quad (31)$$

$$\frac{L_{n,n+k+1}(x)}{L_{n,n+k}(x)} = \frac{1}{2w} \frac{1 + \Phi_{2n,2n+2k}(0)}{1 + \Phi_{2n,2n+2k+2}(0)} \frac{\Phi_{2n,2n+2k+2}(w)}{\Phi_{2n,2n+2k}(w)} \frac{1 + \frac{\Phi_{2n,2n+2k+2}^*(w)}{\Phi_{2n,2n+2k+2}(w)}}{1 + \frac{\Phi_{2n,2n+2k+2}^*(w)}{\Phi_{2n,2n+2k}(w)}}.$$
 (32)

We define $d\rho_n(\theta) = d\mu_n(\cos \theta)$ as above.

Definition 3 Let $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ be fixed, we say that $(\{\mu_n\}, \{w_{2n}\}, k)$ is strongly admissible on the interval [-1, 1] if $(\{\rho_n\}, \{W_{2n}\}, k)$ is strongly admissible on $[0, 2\pi]$.

From the construction above, it is easy to see that this reduces to $(\{\mu_n\}, \{w_{2n}\}, k)$ satisfying the following conditions

(I) There exists a finite positive Borel measure μ on [-1,1] such that $\mu_n \xrightarrow{*} \mu$, $n \to \infty$, and

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int |\mu'_n(x) - \mu'(x)| \, dx = 0$$

(II) $\mu' > 0$ almost everywhere.

(III) $\|\tau_n\| = \int d\tau_n(x) < +\infty, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}$.

(IV) $\int \prod_{i=1}^{-k} |1 - \frac{x}{x_{2n,i}}|^{-1} d\mu_n(x) \le M < +\infty, \ n \in \mathbb{N} \text{, where } \frac{x}{x_{2n,i}} \equiv 0 \text{ if } x_{2n,i} = \infty$ (this condition applies only to the case when k is a negative integer).

(V)
$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \sum_{i=1}^{2n} \left(1 - \frac{1}{|\Psi(x_{2n,i})|} \right) = +\infty$$

Under these conditions one gets

Theorem 6 Let $(\{\mu_n\}, \{w_{2n}\}, 2k)$ be strongly admissible on the interval [-1, 1], then

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{L_{n,n+k+1}(x)}{L_{n,n+k}(x)} = \frac{1}{2} \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{l_{n,n+k+1}(x)}{l_{n,n+k}(x)} = \frac{1}{2} \Psi(x) , \quad x \in \mathbb{C} \setminus [-1,1] ,$$
(33)

where the limit holds uniformly on each compact subset of $\mathbb{C} \setminus [-1,1]$, and

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{\beta_{n,n+k+1}}{\beta_{n,n+k}} = 2.$$
(34)

Proof. The proof of (33) is immediate using (31), (32), (8), (10) and (12), while (34) is a direct consequence of (33).

The next two results are proved exactly the same way as Theorems 8 and 9 in [12] respectively. At certain points one must substitute the result used from [12] by the corresponding one proved in the sections above. Therefore, we simply state them.

Given $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $n + k - 1 \ge 0$, as in the general theory of orthogonal polynomials, one proves that the polynomial $l_{n,n+k}$ satisfies the three-term relation

$$x l_{n,n+k}(x) = a_{n,k,1} l_{n,n+k+1}(x) + a_{n,k,0} l_{n,n+k}(x) + a_{n,k,-1} l_{n,n+k-1}(x) .$$

With this notation, we have

Theorem 7 Let $(\{\mu_n\}, \{w_{2n}\}, 2k-2)$ be strongly admissible on the interval [-1, 1], then

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} a_{n,k,1} = \lim_{n \to \infty} a_{n,k,-1} = \frac{1}{2} \quad and \quad \lim_{n \to \infty} a_{n,k,0} = 0 .$$
 (35)

Theorem 8 Let $(\{\mu_n\}, \{w_{2n}\}, 2k)$ be strongly admissible on the interval [-1, 1] for each $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and let T_n denote the n-th Chebyshev polynomial, i.e., $T_n(\cos \theta) = \cos n\theta$. Then, for every $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and every bounded Borel-measurable function f on [-1, 1], we have

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int f(x) \, \frac{l_{n,n+k}(x) l_{n,n+k+m}(x)}{w_{2n}(x)} \, \mu'_n(x) \, dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \int f(x) \, T_m(x) \, \frac{dx}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} \tag{36}$$

and

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \int f(x) \, \frac{l_{n,n+k}(x)l_{n,n+k+m}(x)}{w_{2n}(x)} \, d\mu_n(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int f(x) \, T_m(x) \, \frac{dx}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} \,. \tag{37}$$

The only condition of strong admissibility in which k is involved is (IV). If the zeros of w_{2n} are bounded away from [-1, 1] then for all 2k that property holds.

6 Applications

In order to fully understand the interest of this application, we must first explain the connection between the systems of orthogonal polynomials with respect to varying measures which we are about to consider and Hermite-Padé approximation of Nikishin systems of functions. In [9] (see also [1]), the more general construction of mixed Angelesco-Nikishin systems (or generalized Nikishin systems) is studied and the *n*-th root asymptotic behavior of their Hermite-Padé approximants is given. We adopt the notation introduced in [9] and use some of the new orthogonality relations revealed in that paper. Nevertheless, we restrict our attention to purely Nikishin systems because our present methods do not cover the generalized case. Theorem 9 below is useful for obtaining strong (or Szegő-type) asymptotics of Nikishin systems.

Let F_1 and F_2 be two nonintersecting segments of the real line, σ_1 and σ_2 two finite positive Borel measures such that $S(\sigma_1) \subset F_1$, $S(\sigma_2) \subset F_2$. We define a new measure $\langle \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \rangle$

$$d\langle \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \rangle(x) = \int \frac{d\,\sigma_2(t)}{x-t} \, d\,\sigma_1(x) = \hat{\sigma}_2(x) \, d\sigma_1(x)$$

This measure $\langle \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \rangle$, obviously has constant sign on its support F_1 .

For a system of segments F_1, F_2, \ldots, F_m , such that $F_k \cap F_{k+1} = \emptyset$, $k = 1, 2, \ldots, m-1$, and finite, positive Borel measures $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \ldots, \sigma_m$, $S(\sigma_k) \subset F_k$, $k = 1, 2, \ldots, m$, we define inductively the measures

$$\langle \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_{k+1} \rangle = \langle \sigma_1, \langle \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_{k+1} \rangle \rangle, \quad k = 2, \dots, m-1.$$

Thus, on F_1 , we have defined m finite Borel measures each one with constant sign. Set

$$s_1 = \langle \sigma_1 \rangle = \sigma_1 , \ s_2 = \langle \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \rangle , \ \dots , \ s_m = \langle \sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_m \rangle .$$

The system of functions (f_1, f_2, \ldots, f_m) , where

$$f_k(z) = \hat{s}_k(z) = \int \frac{ds_k(x)}{z - x} , \quad k = 1, \dots, m$$

defines what is called a Nikishin system.

Consider a multi-index $n = (n_1, n_2, ..., n_m) \in \mathbb{N}^m$. There exists a polynomials Q_n that satisfies the conditions

$$Q_n \neq 0 , \quad \deg Q_n \leq |n| = n_1 + \dots + n_m (Q_n f_k - P_{n,k})(z) = O\left(\frac{1}{z^{n_k+1}}\right) , \quad z \to \infty , \quad k = 1, \dots, m ,$$
(38)

where $P_{n,k}$ is a polynomial. The rational functions

$$R_{n,k} = \frac{P_{n,k}}{Q_n} , \quad k = 1, \dots, m ,$$

are the Hermite-Padé approximants (or simultaneous Padé approximants) of the system (f_1, \ldots, f_m) relative to the multi-index n.

From (38), it follows that

$$0 = \int x^{\nu} Q_n(x) \, ds_k(x) \,, \quad \nu = 0, \dots, n_k - 1 \,, \quad k = 1, \dots, m \,. \tag{39}$$

Define the functions of second kind

$$\Phi_{n,k}(z) = \int \frac{Q_n(x)}{z-x} \, ds_k(x) , \quad k = 1, \dots, m .$$

From (39), it follows that

$$\Phi_{n,k}(z) = \frac{1}{q(z)} \int \frac{Q_n(x)q(x)}{z-x} \, ds_k(x) \,, \quad k = 1, \dots, m \,, \tag{40}$$

where q is any polynomial of degree $\leq n_k$. Therefore,

$$\Phi_{n,k}(z) = O\left(\frac{1}{z^{n_k+1}}\right) , \quad z \to \infty .$$
(41)

Using (41) (see (38)) and the obvious identity

$$Q_n(z) \int \frac{ds_k(x)}{z-x} - \int \frac{Q_n(z) - Q_n(x)}{z-x} \, ds_k(x) = \int \frac{Q_n(x)}{z-x} \, ds_k(x) \; ,$$

we obtain formulas for the numerators of the Hermite-Padé approximants

$$P_{n,k}(z) = \int \frac{Q_n(z) - Q_n(x)}{z - x} \, ds_k(x) \,, \quad k = 1, \dots, m \,, \tag{42}$$

and for the remainder term

$$f_k(z) - R_{n,k}(z) = \frac{1}{(Q_n q)(z)} \int \frac{(Q_n q)(x)}{z - x} ds_k(x) , \quad k = 1, \dots, m ,$$
(43)

where q is any polynomial of degree $\leq n_k$.

In the sequel, we assume that the multi-index $n = (n_1, \ldots, n_m)$ satisfies

$$j \le k \quad \Rightarrow \quad n_k \le n_j + 1 \ . \tag{44}$$

For each multi-index n (with property (44)), we define inductively the following functions

$$\Psi_{n,0}(z) = Q_n(z) , \quad \Psi_{n,k}(z) = \int \frac{\Psi_{n,k-1}(x)}{z-x} \, d\sigma_k(x) , \quad k = 1, \dots, m .$$
 (45)

For each j = 0, ..., m - 1 and k = j + 1, ..., m, we define the measure

$$s_k^j = \langle \sigma_{j+1}, \ldots, \sigma_k \rangle$$
.

We have

Lemma 1 For each j = 0, ..., m - 1, the functions $\Psi_{n,j}$ satisfy

$$0 = \int x^{\nu} \Psi_{n,j} \, ds_k^j(x) \,, \quad \nu = 0, \dots, n_k - 1 \,, \quad k = j + 1, \dots, m \,. \tag{46}$$

For j = 0, (46) coincides with (39). The proof may be carried out by induction showing that if the statement is true for $j \in \{0, ..., m-2\}$ then it also holds for j+1 (for details see Proposition 1 in [9]).

Taking k = j + 1, $s_{j+1}^j = \sigma_{j+1}$ and (46) indicates that

$$0 = \int x^{\nu} \Psi_{n,j}(x) \, d\sigma_{j+1}(x) \,, \quad \nu = 0, \dots, n_{j+1} - 1 \,, \quad j = 0, \dots, m - 1 \,. \tag{47}$$

From (47), it follows that $\Psi_{n,j}(z)$ has at least n_{j+1} changes of sign on F_{j+1} . Denote by $Q_{n,k}$ the monic polynomial whose zeros are the zeros of $\Psi_{n,k-1}$ on F_k (counting their order). According to (47), deg $Q_{n,k} \ge n_k$. Denote $Q_{n,m+1} \equiv 1$. Set

$$N_{n,k} = \sum_{j=k}^{m} n_j , \quad k = 1, \dots, m$$

Lemma 2 For k = 1, ..., m

$$0 = \int x^{\nu} \Psi_{n,k-1}(x) \frac{d\sigma_k(x)}{Q_{n,k+1}(x)} , \quad \nu = 0, \dots, N_{n,k} - 1 .$$
(48)

For k = m, (48) reduces to (47) with j = m - 1. For the rest of the indicated values of k, the formula may be proved by induction for decreasing values of the index k (for details, see Proposition 2 in [9]).

Using (48), we have that deg $Q_{n,k} \ge N_{n,k}$. Using (45), (48), and Cauchy's integral formula, it is easy to deduce that if for some k, deg $Q_{n,k} > N_{n,k}$, then deg $Q_{n,k-1} > N_{n,k-1}$. Since $\Psi_{n,0} = Q_n$, and deg $Q_n \le |n| = N_{n,1}$, we obtain (for details, see Proposition 3 in [9])

Lemma 3 For each k = 1, ..., m, the polynomial $Q_{n,k}$ has exactly $N_{n,k}$ simple zeros on the interval F_k and deg $Q_{n,k} = N_{n,k}$. In particular, $Q_{n,1} = Q_n$.

Set $Q_{n,0} \equiv 1$. For each k = 1, ..., m, (48) may be rewritten as follows

$$0 = \int x^{\nu} Q_{n,k}(x) \left| \frac{Q_{n,k-1}(x)\Psi_{n,k-1}(x)}{Q_{n,k}(x)} \right| \frac{d\sigma_k(x)}{|Q_{n,k-1}(x)Q_{n,k+1}(x)|}, \quad \nu = 0, \dots, N_{n,k} - 1.$$
(49)

On the other hand, for k = 1, ..., m, $\frac{\Psi_{n,k}}{Q_{n,k+1}}$ is holomorphic in $\overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus F_k$, and (recall that $Q_{n,m+1} \equiv 1$)

$$\frac{\Psi_{n,k}(z)}{Q_{n,k+1}(z)} = O\left(\frac{1}{z^{N_k+1}}\right) , \quad z \to \infty .$$

This follows from (47) for j = k - 1, formulas (45), and the fact that deg $Q_{n,k+1} = N_{k+1}$ ($N_{m+1} = 0$). In particular,

$$\frac{Q_{n,k}(z)\Psi_{n,k}(z)}{Q_{n,k+1}(z)} = O\left(\frac{1}{z}\right) \;, \quad z \to \infty \;.$$

Let Γ be any contour surrounding the interval F_k such that F_{k+1} and z lie outside Γ . For k = m, Γ surrounds F_k and z lies outside this curve. From Cauchy's integral formula and (45), we obtain

$$\begin{split} &\frac{Q_{n,k}(z)\Psi_{n,k}(z)}{Q_{n,k+1}(z)} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} \frac{Q_{n,k}(\zeta)\Psi_{n,k}(\zeta)}{Q_{n,k+1}(\zeta)} \frac{d\zeta}{z-\zeta} \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} \frac{Q_{n,k}(\zeta)d\zeta}{Q_{n,k+1}(\zeta)(z-\zeta)} \int \frac{\Psi_{n,k-1}(t)}{\zeta-t} d\sigma_k(t) \\ &= \int \frac{\Psi_{n,k-1}(t)d\sigma_k(t)}{2\pi i} \int_{\Gamma} \frac{Q_{n,k}(\zeta)}{Q_{n,k+1}(\zeta)(z-\zeta)} \frac{d\zeta}{\zeta-t} \\ &= \int \frac{Q_{n,k}(t)\Psi_{n,k-1}(t)}{Q_{n,k+1}(t)} \frac{d\sigma_k(t)}{z-t} \,. \end{split}$$

We can rewrite the equality above in the more symmetric form

$$\frac{Q_{n,k}(z)\Psi_{n,k}(z)}{Q_{n,k+1}(z)} = \int \frac{Q_{n,k-1}(t)\Psi_{n,k-1}(t)}{Z-t} \frac{Q_{n,k-1}(t)\Psi_{n,k-1}(t)}{Q_{n,k-1}(t)Q_{n,k+1}(t)} \frac{d\sigma_k(t)}{Q_{n,k-1}(t)Q_{n,k+1}(t)} , \quad k = 1, \dots, m .$$
(50)

Set

$$K_{n,k} = \left(\int Q_{n,k}^2(x) \left| \frac{Q_{n,k-1}(x)\Psi_{n,k-1}(x)}{Q_{n,k}(x)} \right| \frac{d\sigma_k(x)}{|Q_{n,k-1}(x)Q_{n,k+1}(x)|} \right)^{-1/2}, \quad k = 1, \dots, m.$$

Take

$$K_{n,0} = 1$$
, $\kappa_{n,k} = \frac{K_{n,k}}{K_{n,k-1}}$, $k = 1, \dots, m$.

Define

$$q_{n,k} = \kappa_{n,k} Q_{n,k}$$
, $F_{n,k}(z) = K_{n,k-1}^2 \left| \frac{Q_{n,k-1}(z)\Psi_{n,k-1}(z)}{Q_{n,k}(z)} \right|$, $k = 1, \dots, m$.

With this notation, $q_{n,k}$ is orthonormal with respect to the varying measure

$$\frac{F_{n,k}(x)d\sigma_k(x)}{|Q_{n,k-1}(x)Q_{n,k+1}(x)|} \; .$$

From the statement of the following result, it is obvious that the main tool in its proof is Theorem 8. Because of the change in notation in this section, in order to avoid confusion, we wish to emphasize what the different indices in Theorem 8 mean in relation with their use in the present situation. In Theorem 8, $n \in \mathbb{N}$ is not a multi-index, it controls the connection between the orthonormal polynomial, the measure with respect to which it satisfies orthogonality relations, and together with k the relation between the degree of $l_{n,n+k}$ and w_{2n} (we take m = 0 in Theorem 8, which has nothing to do with the m functions in the Nikishin system).

The first important observation is that in Theorem 8 there is no need that the index n covers the whole sequence of natural numbers. If the conditions of strong admissibility are satisfied for $n \in \Lambda \subset \mathbb{N}$ then the statement is valid taking limit as $n \to \infty$ for $n \in \Lambda$. Next, notice that deg $w_{2n} \leq 2n$. Thus, the degree of the orthonormal polynomials can increase to infinity much faster than deg w_{2n} . Moreover, one can even take $w_{2n} \equiv 1$, for all n, so that their degrees may not tend to infinity at all. On the other hand,

$$\deg w_{2n} - 2 \deg l_{n,n+k} \le 2n - 2(n+k) \le 2|k| ,$$

where k is a fixed integer, so as n tends to infinity this difference of degrees must remain bounded above. This restriction is essential in the method by which we reached Theorem 8 (moreover, it is in the matter of things). In proving Theorem 1, which is the cornerstone of this paper, we pass over to the left hand of (13) as much of W_n as relation (12) allows. Then, at the end of the proof, we are able to deal with what was left behind thanks to the fact that deg A_n remains bounded as n tends to infinity.

Finally, it is easy to see that Theorem 8 remains valid if for each $n \in \Lambda$, the sign of w_{2n} on the interval of orthogonality F = [a, b] is fixed (positive or negative depending on n). The only changes in the expressions (35) and (36) is that on the left hand you must place $|w_{2n}(x)|$ instead of $w_{2n}(x)$, and on the right you substitute $\sqrt{1-x^2}$ by $\sqrt{(b-x)(x-a)}$.

We are ready for

Theorem 9 Let Λ be a sequence of multi-indices such that (44) takes place, $n_{k-1} - n_k \leq C, k = 2, \ldots, m$, where C is a constant independent of $n \in \Lambda$, and $n_1 \to \infty$ as n varies over Λ . Assume that for each $k = 1, \ldots, m, \sigma'_k > 0$ almost everywhere on F_k . Then, for each $k = 1, \ldots, m$, and every bounded Borel measureable function f on $F_k = [a_k, b_k]$

$$\lim_{n \in \Lambda} \int f(x) \frac{q_{n,k}^2(x)}{|Q_{n,k-1}(x)Q_{n,k+1}(x)|} F_{n,k}(x) \sigma_k'(x) dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{a_k}^{b_k} f(x) \frac{dx}{\sqrt{(b_k - x)(x - a_k)}}$$
(51)

and

$$\lim_{n \in \Lambda} \int f(x) \frac{q_{n,k}^2(x)}{|Q_{n,k-1}(x)Q_{n,k+1}(x)|} F_{n,k}(x) d\sigma_k(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{a_k}^{b_k} f(x) \frac{dx}{\sqrt{(b_k - x)(x - a_k)}} \,. \tag{52}$$

Proof. It will be carried out by induction on the index k (according to its meaning in Theorem 9) and using Theorem 8. For each $k \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$ the role of μ_n is carried by $F_{n,k}d\sigma_k$, that of w_{2n} is taken by $Q_{n,k-1}Q_{n,k+1}$, and $l_{n,n+k}$ is $q_{n,k}$. The multi-indices n will run over the sequence Λ .

Taking into consideration that the zeros of $Q_{n,k-1}Q_{n,k}$ remain uniformly bounded away from F_k (inside $F_{k-1} \cup F_{k+1}$ which does not intersect F_k) it is easy to check that all the conditions of strong admissibility from (III) to (V) are fulfilled. Moreover $(N_{m+1} = 0)$, for k = 2, ..., m

$$\deg Q_{n,k-1}Q_{n,k+1} - 2\deg Q_{n,k} = N_{n,k-1} + N_{n,k+1} - 2N_{n,k} = n_{k-1} - n_k \le C ,$$

while

$$\deg Q_{n,0}Q_{n,2} - 2\deg Q_{n,1} = N_{n,2} - 2N_{n,1} = -n_1 - N_{n,1} \le 0 ,$$

Thus the difference between the degree of the denominator and the numerator of the rational function $\frac{q_{n,k}^2}{Q_{n,k-1}Q_{n,k+1}}$ in (51)-(52) remains uniformly bounded as required.

Conditions (I)-(II) will be checked step by step as we carry out the induction process. For $k = 1, F_{n,1}(x) \equiv 1$ and the conditions (I)-(II) are immediate, taking as limit the measure σ_1 , because $F_{n,1}(x)d\sigma_1(x) = d\sigma_1(x)$ remains fixed. Since $q_{n,1}$ is orthonormal with respect to $d\sigma_1(x)/|Q_{n,0}(x)Q_{n,2}(x)|$ (recall that $Q_{n,0} \equiv 1$) then (51) and (52) follow directly from (35) and (36) respectively (taking into consideration the remarks made before the statement of this theorem). Assume that (51) and (52) take place for some k - 1, where $k \in \{2, \ldots, m\}$, and let us prove that then they also hold for k.

To this end, it is sufficient to show that condition (I)-(II) of strong admissibility take place. More precisely, we must show that there exists a finite positive Borel measure σ on F_k such that $F_{n,k}(x)d\sigma_k(x) \xrightarrow{*} d\sigma(x)$ as *n* runs over the sequence of multi-indices Λ and

$$\lim_{n \in \Lambda} \int |F_{n,k}(x)\sigma'_k(x) - \sigma'(x)| dx$$

Such a measure is easy to find if we prove that the sequence of functions $\{F_{n,k}\}$ converges uniformly on F_k to a strictly positive continuous function as n varies over Λ .

In (50) substitute k by k - 1, multiply either sides by $K_{n,k-1}^2$ and take the modulus. We obtain (notice that $K_{n,k-1} = \kappa_{n,k-1}K_{n,k-2}$)

$$F_{n,k}(z) = \left| \int \frac{1}{z-t} \frac{q_{n,k-1}^2(t)}{|Q_{n,k-2}(t)Q_{n,k}(t)|} F_{n,k-1}(t) d\sigma_{k-1}(t) \right| .$$
(53)

Using (52) for k-1, taking $f(t) = (z-t)^{-1}$, we obtain for each $z \in \overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus F_{k-1}$ the pointwise limit

$$\lim_{n \in \Lambda} \int \frac{1}{z - t} \frac{q_{n,k-1}^2(t)}{|Q_{n,k-2}(t)Q_{n,k}(t)|} F_{n,k-1}(t) d\sigma_{k-1}(t) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{a_{k-1}}^{b_{k-1}} \frac{1}{z - t} \frac{dt}{\sqrt{(b_{k-1} - t)(t - a_{k-1})}}.$$
(54)

The integrals on the left hand of (54) define a sequence of analytic functions in $\overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus F_{k-1}$ which is uniformly bounded on each compact subset K of $\overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus F_{k-1}$ by $\frac{1}{d(K,F_{k-1})}$, where $d(K,F_{k-1})$ denotes the distance between the non-intersecting compact sets K and F_{k-1} . Therefore, the limit in (54) is uniform on K. In particular, it is uniform on F_k . It is well known and easy to verify using Cauchy's integral formula that

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int_{a_{k-1}}^{b_{k-1}} \frac{1}{z-t} \frac{dt}{\sqrt{(b_{k-1}-t)(t-a_{k-1})}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(z-b_{k-1})(z-a_{k-1})}} ,$$
(55)

where the square root is taken so that $\sqrt{(z-b_{k-1})(z-a_{k-1})} > 0$ for $z = x > b_{k-1}$. From (53), (54), and (55) it follows that

$$\lim_{n \in \Lambda} F_{n,k}(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|(x - b_{k-1})(x - a_{k-1})|}},$$

uniformly on F_k , which is what we wanted to prove. Conditions (I)-(II) follow taking $d\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|(x-b_{k-1})(x-a_{k-1})|}} d\sigma_k(x)$. With this, the proof of Theorem 9 is complete.

From Lemma 3 and the fact that $F_{k-1} \cap F_k = \emptyset = F_k \cap F_{k+1}$, for each $n \in \Lambda$ and $k \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$, the function $\frac{Q_{n,k-1}\Psi_{n,k-1}}{Q_{n,k-1}Q_{n,k}Q_{n,k+1}}$ has a constant sign on F_k . If it is positive, from (50), we have

$$\frac{Q_{n,k}(z)\Psi_{n,k}(z)}{Q_{n,k+1}(z)} = \int \frac{Q_{n,k}^2(t)}{z-t} \frac{Q_{n,k-1}(t)\Psi_{n,k-1}(t)}{Q_{n,k}(t)} \frac{d\sigma_k(t)}{Q_{n,k-1}(t)Q_{n,k+1}(t)}$$

$$= \int \frac{Q_{n,k}^2(t)}{z-t} \left| \frac{Q_{n,k-1}(t)\Psi_{n,k-1}(t)}{Q_{n,k}(t)} \right| \frac{d\sigma_k(t)}{|Q_{n,k-1}(t)Q_{n,k+1}(t)|} \, .$$

If negative,

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{Q_{n,k}(z)\Psi_{n,k}(z)}{Q_{n,k+1}(z)} &= \int \frac{Q_{n,k}^2(t)}{z-t} \frac{-Q_{n,k-1}(t)\Psi_{n,k-1}(t)}{Q_{n,k}(t)} \frac{d\sigma_k(t)}{Q_{n,k-1}(t)Q_{n,k+1}(t)} \\ &= \int \frac{Q_{n,k}^2(t)}{z-t} \left| \frac{Q_{n,k-1}(t)\Psi_{n,k-1}(t)}{Q_{n,k}(t)} \right| \frac{d\sigma_k(t)}{|Q_{n,k-1}(t)Q_{n,k+1}(t)|} \,. \end{aligned}$$

Normalize $\Psi_{n,k}$ according to the following rule. In the first case above, take $\psi_{n,k} = K_{n,k}^2 \Psi_{n,k}$, in the second $\psi_{n,k} = -K_{n,k}^2 \Psi_{n,k}$. In either cases, multiplying either sides of the two previous formulas by $K_{n,k}^2$, we obtain

$$\frac{Q_{n,k}(z)\psi_{n,k}(z)}{Q_{n,k+1}(z)} = \int \frac{q_{n,k}^2(t)}{z-t} F_{n,k}(t) \frac{d\sigma_k(t)}{|Q_{n,k-1}(t)Q_{n,k+1}(t)|}$$
(56)

Corollary 2 Assume that the conditions of Theorem 9 take place, then for each $k \in \{1, \ldots, m\}$

$$\lim_{n \in \Lambda} Q_{n,k}(z) \prod_{j=k}^{m} \psi_{n,j}(z) = \prod_{j=k}^{m} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(z-b_j)(z-a_j)}}$$
(57)

where the limit is uniform on each compact subset of $\overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \left(\bigcup_{j=k}^{m} F_j \right)$ and for each k the square root is taken so that $\sqrt{(z-b_k)(z-a_k)} > 0$ for $z = x > b_k$.

Proof. From (56),

$$Q_{n,k}(z)\prod_{j=k}^{m}\psi_{n,j}(z) = \prod_{j=k}^{m}\frac{Q_{n,j}(z)\psi_{n,j}(z)}{Q_{n,j+1}(z)} = \prod_{j=k}^{m}\int\frac{q_{n,j}^{2}(t)}{z-t}F_{n,j}(t)\frac{d\sigma_{j}(t)}{|Q_{n,j-1}(t)Q_{n,j+1}(t)|}$$

Using Theorem 9, for $f(t) = (z - t)^{-1}$, we obtain pointwise convergence for each $z \in \overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \left(\bigcup_{j=k}^{m} F_j \right)$. In the proof of Theorem 9, we showed that for each $j \in \{1, \ldots, m-1\}$ fixed, this limit is uniform in $\overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus F_j$. The same arguments are valid for j = m (we didn't need to consider this case in the proof of that result). Therefore, (57) immediately follows and the proof is complete.

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