

Composition operators on generalized Hardy spaces

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Abstract

Let $\Omega_1, \Omega_2 \subset \mathbb{C}$ be bounded domains. Let $\phi : \Omega_1 \rightarrow \Omega_2$ holomorphic in Ω_1 and belonging to $W_{\Omega_2}^{1,\infty}(\Omega_1)$. We study the composition operators $f \mapsto f \circ \phi$ on generalized Hardy spaces on Ω_2 , recently considered in [6, 7]. In particular, we provide necessary and/or sufficient conditions on ϕ , depending on the geometry of the domains, ensuring that these operators are bounded, invertible, isometric or compact. Some of our results are new even for Hardy spaces of analytic functions.

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1 Introduction

The present work aims at generalizing properties of composition operators on Hardy spaces of domains of the complex plane to the framework of generalized Hardy spaces. Generalized analytic functions, among which pseudo-holomorphic functions, were considered a long time ago, see [9, 31], and more recently in [20], in particular because of their links with classical partial differential equations (PDEs) in mathematical physics, like the conductivity or Schrödinger equations (see [2, Lem. 2.1], [3]). By generalized analytic functions, we mean solutions (as distributions) to the following $\bar{\partial}$ -type equations (real linear conjugate Beltrami and Schrödinger type elliptic PDEs):

$$\bar{\partial}f = \nu\bar{\partial}\bar{f} \text{ or } \bar{\partial}w = \alpha\bar{w},$$

without loss of generality ([9]). For specific classes of dilation coefficients ν, α , these two PDEs are equivalent to each other (as follows from a trick going back to Bers and Nirenberg, see [9]). They are also related to the complex linear Beltrami equation, with the implicit dilation coefficient $\nu\bar{\partial}\bar{f}/\partial f$, and to quasi-conformal applications [1]. Properties of associated (normed) Hardy classes H_v^p and G_α^p have been established in [6, 7, 14] for $1 < p < \infty$ (these classes seem to have been introduced in [23] for simply connected domains). They share many properties of the classical Hardy spaces of analytic (holomorphic) functions (for $\nu = \alpha = 0$). The proofs of these properties rely on a factorization result from [9] for generalized analytic functions which involve holomorphic functions. This factorization result was extended in [5, 6, 7] to G_α^p functions, through classical Hardy spaces H^p , see Proposition 2.

Note that important applications of these classes come from Dirichlet–Neumann boundary value problems and Cauchy type transmission issues for the elliptic conductivity PDE $\nabla \cdot (\sigma \nabla u) = 0$ with conductivity $\sigma = (1 - \nu)(1 + \nu)^{-1}$ in domains of $\mathbb{R}^2 \simeq \mathbb{C}$, see [3, 7]. Indeed, on simply-connected domains, solutions u coincide with real-parts of solutions f to $\bar{\partial}f = \nu\bar{\partial}\bar{f}$. In particular, this links Calderón’s inverse conductivity problem to similar issues for the real linear conjugate Beltrami equation, as in [2]. Further, these new Hardy classes furnish a suitable framework in order to state and solve families of best constrained approximation issues (bounded extremal problems) [14, 17], from partial

boundary values (given by Dirichlet–Neumann boundary conditions, through generalized harmonic conjugation or Hilbert transform).

In the Hilbertian setting $p = 2$, constructive aspects are available for particular conductivity coefficients ν , for which bases of H_ν^2 may be explicitly constructed, in the disk or the annulus, see [16, 17]. In the annular setting, and in toroidal coordinates, this allows to tackle a free boundary problem related to plasma confinement in tokamaks ([16]). Namely, in toroidal plane sections, the boundary of the plasma is a level curve of the magnetic potential solution to a conductivity PDE. It has to be recovered from available magnetic data on the chamber (Dirichlet–Neumann data on the outer boundary of an annular domain). Bounded extremal problems provide a way to regularize and solve this geometric inverse problem. Observe that the boundary of the annular domain contained between the chamber and the plasma is not made of concentric circles. When it comes to realistic geometries, properties of composition operators on generalized Hardy classes may provide a selection of conformal maps from the disk or circular domains.

The present work is a study of composition operators on these Hardy classes. Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a domain. Hardy spaces $H_\nu^p(\Omega)$ of solutions to the conjugate Beltrami equation $\bar{\partial}f = \nu\bar{\partial}\bar{f}$ a.e on Ω are first considered when Ω is the unit disc \mathbb{D} or in the annulus $\mathbb{A} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : r_0 < |z| < 1\}$. A way to define those spaces in bounded Dini-smooth domains (see below) is to use the conformal invariance property (see [6]); more precisely, if Ω_1 and Ω_2 are two bounded Dini-smooth domains and ϕ a conformal map from Ω_1 onto Ω_2 , then f is in $H_\nu^p(\Omega_2)$, with $\nu \in W_{\mathbb{R}}^{1,\infty}(\Omega_2)$ if and only if $f \circ \phi$ is in $H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\Omega_1)$ and $\nu \circ \phi \in W_{\mathbb{R}}^{1,\infty}(\Omega_1)$. In terms of operator, if $\phi : \Omega_1 \rightarrow \Omega_2$ is an analytic conformal map, the composition operator $C_\phi : f \mapsto f \circ \phi$ maps $H_\nu^p(\Omega_2)$ onto $H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\Omega_1)$. Similar results hold in G_α^p Hardy spaces of solutions to $\bar{\partial}w = \alpha\bar{w}$.

Suppose now that the composition map $\phi : \Omega_1 \rightarrow \Omega_2$ is a function in $W^{1,\infty}(\Omega_1, \Omega_2)$ and analytic in Ω_1 , what can we say about $C_\phi(f) = f \circ \phi$ when $f \in H_\nu^p(\Omega_2)$ in terms of operator properties? This operator has been widely studied when $\Omega_1 = \Omega_2 = \mathbb{D}$ and in the case of analytic (holomorphic) Hardy spaces $H^p(\mathbb{D})$ (*i.e.* $\nu \equiv 0$) giving characterizations of composition operators that are invertible in [24], isometric in [18], similar to isometries in [8], and compact in [27, 29], for example. Fewer results are known concerning composition operators on H^p spaces of an annulus. However, one can find in [11] a sufficient condition on ϕ to have the boundedness of C_ϕ and a characterization of Hilbert-Schmidt composition operators. The study of composition operators has been generalized to many other spaces of analytic functions, such as Dirichlet spaces ([21] and the references therein) or Bergman spaces ([28]).

In this paper, we study some properties (boundedness, invertibility, isometry, compactness) for the composition operator defined on the Hardy space $H_\nu^p(\Omega)$ and $G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$ where Ω will be a bounded Dini-smooth domain (most of the time, Ω will be the unit disc \mathbb{D} or the annulus \mathbb{A}).

In Section 2, we provide definitions of generalized Hardy classes together with some properties. Section 3 is devoted to boundedness results for composition operators on generalized Hardy classes for bounded Dini-smooth domains, while Section 4 is related to their invertibility. Isometric composition operators on generalized Hardy classes of the disk and the annulus are studied in Section 5, that appear to be new in $H^p(\mathbb{A})$ as

well. In Section 6, compactness properties for composition operators are investigated. A conclusion is written in Section 7. We will refer to specific results about analytic Hardy spaces H^p thanks to factorization theorems (Appendix A), while properties of isometric composition operators on $H^p(\mathbb{A})$ are established in Appendix B.

2 Definitions and notations

2.1 Some notations

In this paper, we will denote by Ω a connected open subset of the complex plane \mathbb{C} (also called a domain of \mathbb{C}), by $\partial\Omega$ its boundary, by \mathbb{D} the unit disc and by $\mathbb{T} = \partial\mathbb{D}$ the unit circle. For $0 < r_0 < 1$, let \mathbb{A} be the annulus $\{z \in \mathbb{C} : r_0 < |z| < 1\} = \mathbb{D} \cap (\mathbb{C} \setminus r_0\overline{\mathbb{D}})$, the boundary of which is $\partial\mathbb{A} = \mathbb{T} \cup \mathbb{T}_{r_0}$, where \mathbb{T}_{r_0} is the circle of radius r_0 . More generally, we will consider a circular domain \mathbb{G} defined as follows

$$\mathbb{G} = \mathbb{D} \setminus \bigcup_{j=0}^{N-1} (a_j + r_j\overline{\mathbb{D}}), \quad (1)$$

where $N \geq 2$, $a_j \in \mathbb{D}$, $0 < r_j < 1$, $0 \leq j \leq N-1$. Its boundary is

$$\partial\mathbb{G} = \mathbb{T} \cup \bigcup_{j=0}^{N-1} (a_j + \mathbb{T}_{r_j})$$

where the circles $a_j + \mathbb{T}_{r_j}$ for $0 \leq j \leq N-1$ have a negative orientation whereas \mathbb{T} has the positive orientation. Note that for $N = 2$ and $a_0 = 0$, \mathbb{G} is the annulus \mathbb{A} .

A domain Ω of $\overline{\mathbb{C}}$ is Dini-smooth if and only if its boundary $\partial\Omega$ is a finite union of Jordan curves with non-singular Dini-smooth parametrization. We recall that a function f is said to be Dini-smooth if its derivative is Dini-continuous, *i.e.* its modulus of continuity ω_f is such that

$$\int_0^\varepsilon \frac{\omega_f(t)}{t} dt < \infty, \text{ for some } \varepsilon > 0.$$

Recall that, if Ω is a bounded Dini-smooth domain, there exists a circular domain \mathbb{G} and a conformal map ϕ between \mathbb{G} and Ω which extends continuously to a homeomorphism between $\overline{\mathbb{G}}$ and $\overline{\Omega}$, while the derivatives of ϕ also extend continuously to $\overline{\mathbb{G}}$ ([6], Lemma A.1). If E, F are two Banach spaces, $\mathcal{L}(E, F)$ denotes the space of bounded linear maps from E to F , and $T \in \mathcal{L}(E, F)$ is an isometry if and only if, for all $x \in E$, $\|Tx\|_F = \|x\|_E$.

If $A(f)$ and $B(f)$ are quantities depending on a function f ranging in a set E , we will write $A(f) \lesssim B(f)$ when there is a positive constant C such that $A(f) \leq CB(f)$ for all $f \in E$. We will say that $A(f) \sim B(f)$ if there is $C > 0$ such that $C^{-1}B(f) \leq A(f) \leq CB(f)$ for all $f \in E$.

2.2 Lebesgue and Sobolev spaces

The Lebesgue measure on the complex plane will be denoted by m and for a complex number $z = x + iy$

$$dm(z) = \frac{i}{2} dz \wedge d\bar{z} = dx dy.$$

For $1 \leq p < \infty$, $L^p(\Omega)$ designates the classical Lebesgue space of functions defined on Ω equipped with the norm

$$\|f\|_{L^p(\Omega)} := \left(\int_{\Omega} |f(z)|^p dm(z) \right)^{1/p}, \quad f \in L^p(\Omega),$$

while $L^\infty(\Omega)$ stands for the space of essentially bounded measurable functions on Ω equipped with the norm

$$\|f\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} := \text{ess sup}_{z \in \Omega} |f(z)|.$$

We denote by $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$ the space of smooth functions with compact support in Ω . Let $\mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ be its dual space which is the space of distributions on Ω .

For $1 \leq p \leq \infty$, we recall that the Sobolev space $W^{1,p}(\Omega)$ is the space of all complex valued functions $f \in L^p(\Omega)$ with distributional derivatives in $L^p(\Omega)$. The space $W^{1,p}(\Omega)$ is equipped with the norm

$$\|f\|_{W^{1,p}(\Omega)} = \|f\|_{L^p(\Omega)} + \|\partial f\|_{L^p(\Omega)} + \|\bar{\partial} f\|_{L^p(\Omega)},$$

where the operators ∂ and $\bar{\partial}$ are defined, in the sense of distributions: for all $\phi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega)$,

$$\langle \partial f, \phi \rangle = - \int f \partial \phi, \quad \langle \bar{\partial} f, \phi \rangle = - \int f \bar{\partial} \phi,$$

where

$$\partial = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_x - i\partial_y) \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{\partial} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_x + i\partial_y).$$

Note that, when Ω is C^1 (in particular, when Ω is Dini-smooth), $W^{1,\infty}(\Omega)$ coincides with the space of Lipschitz functions on Ω ([15, Thm 4, Sec 5.8]). We will write $L^p_{\Omega_2}(\Omega)$ and $W^{1,p}_{\Omega_2}(\Omega)$ to specify that the functions have values in $\Omega_2 \subset \mathbb{C}$.

2.3 Hardy spaces

For a detailed study of classical Hardy spaces of analytic functions, see [13, 19]. Let us briefly recall here some basic facts.

For $1 \leq p < \infty$, the Hardy space of the unit disc $H^p(\mathbb{D})$ is the collection of all analytic functions $f : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that

$$\|f\|_{H^p(\mathbb{D})} := \left(\sup_{0 < r < 1} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |f(re^{it})|^p dt \right)^{1/p} < \infty. \quad (2)$$

For $p = \infty$, the Hardy space $H^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ is the Banach space of analytic functions which are bounded on \mathbb{D} equipped with the norm

$$\|f\|_{H^\infty(\mathbb{D})} = \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |f(z)|.$$

For $1 \leq p \leq \infty$, any function $f \in H^p(\mathbb{D})$ has a non-tangential limit *a. e.* on \mathbb{T} which we call the trace of f and is denoted by $\text{tr } f$. For all $f \in H^p(\mathbb{D})$, we have that $\text{tr } f \in H^p(\mathbb{T})$ where $H^p(\mathbb{T})$ is a strict subspace of $L^p(\mathbb{T})$, namely

$$H^p(\mathbb{T}) = \left\{ h \in L^p(\mathbb{T}), \hat{h}(n) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} h(e^{it}) e^{-int} dt = 0, n < 0 \right\}.$$

More precisely, $H^p(\mathbb{D})$ is isomorphic to $H^p(\mathbb{T})$ and $\|f\|_{H^p(\mathbb{D})} = \|\text{tr } f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{T})}$, which allows us to identify the two spaces $H^p(\mathbb{D})$ and $H^p(\mathbb{T})$.

Likewise, in [26], the Hardy space $H^p(\mathbb{A})$ of an annulus \mathbb{A} is the space of analytic functions f on \mathbb{A} such that

$$\|f\|_{H^p(\mathbb{A})} = \left(\sup_{r_0 < r < 1} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |f(re^{it})|^p dt \right)^{1/p} < \infty, \quad (3)$$

for $1 \leq p < \infty$. It can also be viewed as the topological direct sum

$$H^p(\mathbb{A}) = H^p(\mathbb{D})|_{\mathbb{A}} \oplus H^p(\overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus r_0\overline{\mathbb{D}})|_{\mathbb{A}}, \quad (4)$$

where $\overline{\mathbb{C}} = \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$ and $H^p(\overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus r_0\overline{\mathbb{D}})$ is isometrically isomorphic to $H^p(r_0\mathbb{D})$ *via* the transformation

$$f \in H^p(\mathbb{D}) \mapsto \tilde{f} \in H^p(\overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus r_0\overline{\mathbb{D}}),$$

where $\tilde{f}(z) = f\left(\frac{r_0}{z}\right)$ for all $z \in \overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus r_0\overline{\mathbb{D}}$. It follows from (4) that any function $f \in H^p(\mathbb{A})$ has a non-tangential limit *a. e.* on $\partial\mathbb{A}$ also denoted by $\text{tr } f$, such that

$$\text{tr } f \in H^p(\partial\mathbb{A}) = \left\{ h \in L^p(\partial\mathbb{A}), \widehat{h}|_{\mathbb{T}}(n) = r_0^n \widehat{h}|_{r_0\mathbb{T}}(n), n \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}.$$

where for $n \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$\widehat{h}|_{\mathbb{T}}(n) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} h(e^{it}) e^{-int} dt$$

and

$$\widehat{h}|_{r_0\mathbb{T}}(n) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} h(r_0 e^{it}) e^{-int} dt.$$

are respectively the n -th Fourier coefficients of $h|_{\mathbb{T}}$ and $h|_{r_0\mathbb{T}}$. Again, the space $H^p(\mathbb{A})$ can be identified to $H^p(\partial\mathbb{A})$ *via* the isomorphic isomorphism $f \in H^p(\mathbb{A}) \mapsto \text{tr } f \in H^p(\partial\mathbb{A})$ and thus $\|f\|_{H^p(\mathbb{A})} = \|\text{tr } f\|_{L^p(\partial\mathbb{A})}$.

The definition of Hardy spaces has been extended in [25] to any complex domain Ω using harmonic majorants. More precisely, for $1 \leq p < \infty$ and $z_0 \in \Omega$, $H^p(\Omega)$ is the space of analytic functions f on Ω such that there exists a harmonic function $u : \Omega \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ such that for $z \in \Omega$

$$|f(z)|^p \leq u(z).$$

The space is equipped with the norm

$$\inf \{u(z_0)^{1/p}, |f|^p \leq u \text{ for } u \text{ harmonic function in } \Omega\}$$

Remark 1 1. *It follows from the Harnack inequality ([4, 3.6, Ch.3]) that different choices of z_0 give rise to equivalent norms in $H^p(\Omega)$.*

2. *If $\Omega = \mathbb{D}$ or \mathbb{A} , the two previously defined norms on $H^p(\Omega)$ are equivalent.*

2.4 Generalized Hardy spaces

2.4.1 Definitions

Let $1 < p < \infty$ and $\nu \in W_{\mathbb{R}}^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{D})$ such that $\|\nu\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{D})} \leq \kappa$ with $\kappa \in (0, 1)$. The generalized Hardy space of the unit disc $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})$ was first defined in [23] and then in [7] as the collection of all measurable functions $f : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $\bar{\partial}f = \nu \bar{\partial}f$ in the sense of distributions in \mathbb{D} and

$$\|f\|_{H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})} := \left(\text{ess sup}_{0 < r < 1} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |f(re^{it})|^p dt \right)^{1/p} < \infty. \quad (5)$$

The definition was extended, in [14], to the annulus \mathbb{A} : for $\nu \in W_{\mathbb{R}}^{1,r}(\mathbb{A})$, $r \in (2, \infty)$, $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{A})$ is the space of functions $f : \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $\bar{\partial}f = \nu \bar{\partial}f$ in the sense of distribution in \mathbb{A} and satisfying

$$\|f\|_{H_\nu^p(\mathbb{A})} := \left(\text{ess sup}_{r_0 < r < 1} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |f(re^{it})|^p dt \right)^{1/p} < \infty. \quad (6)$$

Now, let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a domain and ν such that

$$\nu \in W_{\mathbb{R}}^{1,\infty}(\Omega), \|\nu\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq \kappa, \text{ with } \kappa \in (0, 1). \quad (7)$$

The definition of $H_\nu^p(\Omega)$ was further extended to the case where Ω is a Dini-smooth domain of $\bar{\mathbb{C}}$ (see [6]). In this case, the norm is defined by

$$\|g\|_{H_\nu^p(\Omega)} := \sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \|g\|_{L^p(\partial\Delta_n)}, \quad (8)$$

where $(\Delta_n)_n$ is a fixed sequence of domains such that $\bar{\Delta}_n \subset \Omega$ and $\partial\Delta_n$ is a finite union of rectifiable Jordan curves of uniformly bounded length, such that each compact subset of Ω is eventually contained in Δ_n for n large enough. We refer to [6] for the existence of such sequence.

In parallel with Hardy spaces $H_\nu^p(\Omega)$ (with Ω equal to \mathbb{D} , \mathbb{A} or more generally to a Dini-smooth domain), Hardy spaces $G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$ were defined in [6, 7, 14, 23] for $\alpha \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ as the collection of measurable functions $w : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $\bar{\partial}w = \alpha \bar{w}$ in $\mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ and

$$\|w\|_{G_\alpha^p(\Omega)} = \left(\text{ess sup}_{\rho < r < 1} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} |w(re^{it})|^p dt \right)^{1/p} < \infty, \quad (9)$$

with $\rho = 0$ if $\Omega = \mathbb{D}$ and $\rho = r_0$ if $\Omega = \mathbb{A}$. If Ω is a Dini-smooth domain, the essential supremum is taken over all the $L^p(\partial\Delta_n)$ norm of w for $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Remark 2 *The generalized Hardy spaces $H_\nu^p(\Omega)$ and $G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$ are real Banach spaces (note that when $\nu = 0$ or $\alpha = 0$ respectively, they are complex Banach spaces).*

Recall that if Ω is a bounded Dini-smooth domain, a function g lying in generalized Hardy spaces $H_\nu^p(\Omega)$ or $G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$ has a non-tangential limit *a.e.* on $\partial\Omega$ which is called the trace of g is denoted by $\text{tr } g \in L^p(\partial\Omega)$ and

$$\|g\|_{H_\nu^p(\Omega)} \sim \|\text{tr } g\|_{L^p(\partial\Omega)}, \quad (10)$$

(see [6, 7, 14]). We will denote by $\text{tr}(H_\nu^p(\Omega))$ the space of traces of $H_\nu^p(\Omega)$ -functions; it is a strict subspace of $L^p(\partial\Omega)$. Note also that $g \mapsto \|\text{tr } g\|_{L^p(\partial\Omega)}$ is a norm on $H_\nu^p(\Omega)$, equivalent to the one given by (8). However, contrary to the case of Hardy spaces of analytic functions of the disk, $\|\cdot\|_{H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})}$ and $\|\text{tr } \cdot\|_{L^p(\mathbb{T})}$ are not equal in general (see (10)). Finally, functions in $H_\nu^p(\Omega)$ and $G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$ are continuous in Ω :

Lemma 1 *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a bounded Dini-smooth domain, $\nu \in W_{\mathbb{R}}^{1,\infty}(\Omega)$ meeting (7) and $\alpha \in L^\infty(\Omega)$. Then, all functions in $G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$ and $H_\nu^p(\Omega)$ are continuous in Ω .*

Proof: Indeed, let $\omega \in G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$. By [6, Prop. 3.2], $\omega = e^s F$ with $s \in C(\overline{\Omega})$ (since $s \in W^{1,r}(\Omega)$ for some $r > 2$) and $F \in H^p(\Omega)$. Thus, ω is continuous in Ω . If $f \in H_\nu^p(\Omega)$ and $\omega = \mathcal{J}^{-1}(g)$, then $\omega \in G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$ is continuous in Ω and since ν is continuous and (7) holds, $f \in C(\Omega)$.

2.4.2 An equivalent norm

Throughout the present section, unless explicitly stated, let Ω be an arbitrary bounded domain of \mathbb{C} . For $1 < p < \infty$, we define generalized Hardy spaces on Ω , inspired by the definitions of Hardy spaces of analytic functions given in [25]. Let ν meet (7).

Definition 1 *Define $E_\nu^p(\Omega)$ as the space of measurable functions $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ solving*

$$\bar{\partial}f = \nu \bar{\partial}f \text{ in } \mathcal{D}'(\Omega), \quad (11)$$

and for which there exists a harmonic function $u : \Omega \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ such that

$$|f(z)|^p \leq u(z) \quad (12)$$

for almost every $z \in \Omega$. Fix a point $z_0 \in \Omega$ and define

$$\|f\|_{E_\nu^p(\Omega)} := \inf u^{1/p}(z_0), \quad (13)$$

the infimum being taken over all harmonic functions $u : \Omega \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ such that (12) holds.

Let $\alpha \in L^\infty(\Omega)$. Let us similarly define $F_\alpha^p(\Omega)$:

Definition 2 *Define $F_\alpha^p(\Omega)$ as the space of measurable functions $w : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ solving*

$$\bar{\partial}w = \alpha \bar{w} \text{ in } \mathcal{D}'(\Omega), \quad (14)$$

and for which there exists a harmonic function $u : \Omega \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ such that (12) holds. Define $\|w\|_{F_\alpha^p(\Omega)}$ by

$$\|w\|_{F_\alpha^p(\Omega)} := \inf u^{1/p}(z_0), \quad (15)$$

where the infimum is computed as in Definition 1.

Observe that in the above definitions, different values of z_0 give rise to equivalent norms as in Remark 1. We first check:

Proposition 1 1. *The map $f \mapsto \|f\|_{E_\nu^p(\Omega)}$ is a norm on $E_\nu^p(\Omega)$.*

2. *The analogous conclusion holds for $F_\alpha^p(\Omega)$.*

Proof: It is plain to see that $\|\cdot\|_{E_\nu^p(\Omega)}$ is positively homogeneous of degree 1 and subadditive. Assume now that $\|f\|_{E_\nu^p(\Omega)} = 0$. That $f = 0$ follows at once from the fact that, if $(u_j)_{j \geq 1}$ is a sequence of nonnegative harmonic functions on Ω such that $u_j(z_0) \rightarrow 0$, $j \rightarrow \infty$, for $z_0 \in \Omega$ from Definition 1, then $u_j(z) \rightarrow 0$, $j \rightarrow \infty$, for all $z \in \Omega$. To check this fact, define

$$A := \{z \in \Omega; u_j(z) \rightarrow 0\}.$$

The Harnack inequality ([4, 3.6, Ch.3]) shows at once that A is open in Ω . If $B = \Omega \setminus A$, then the Harnack inequality also shows that B is open. Because $z_0 \in A \neq \emptyset$ and Ω is connected, then $A = \Omega$, which proves point 1 and, similarly, point 2. ■

Let ν satisfying assumption (7) and $\alpha \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ associated with ν in the sense that

$$\alpha = \frac{-\bar{\partial}\nu}{1 - \nu^2}, \quad (16)$$

The link between $E_\nu^p(\Omega)$ and $F_\alpha^p(\Omega)$ is as follows (see [6, 7] in the case of Dini-smooth domains):

Proposition 2 *A function $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ belongs to $E_\nu^p(\Omega)$ if and only if*

$$w = \mathcal{J}(f) := \frac{f - \nu \bar{f}}{\sqrt{1 - \nu^2}} \quad (17)$$

belongs to $F_\alpha^p(\Omega)$. One has $\|f\|_{E_\nu^p(\Omega)} \sim \|w\|_{F_\alpha^p(\Omega)}$.

Proof: That f solves (11) if and only if w solves (14) was checked in [6, 7]. That $|f|^p$ has a harmonic majorant if and only if the same holds for $|w|^p$ and $\|f\|_{E_\nu^p(\Omega)} \sim \|w\|_{F_\alpha^p(\Omega)}$ are straightforward consequences of (17) and assumption (7). ■

Remark 3 *As [6, Thm 3.5, (ii)] shows, when Ω is a Dini-smooth domain, ν meets (7) and $\alpha \in L^\infty(\Omega)$, $H_\nu^p(\Omega) = E_\nu^p(\Omega)$ and $G_\alpha^p(\Omega) = F_\alpha^p(\Omega)$, with equivalent norms. In this case, if Ω is Dini-smooth, then, for $w \in G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$ we have that*

$$\|w\|_{G_\alpha^p(\Omega)} \sim \inf u^{1/p}(z_0),$$

where the infimum is taken as in Definition 2. The same stands for $f \in H_\nu^p(\Omega)$.

Proposition 2 immediately yields:

Lemma 2 *Let $\nu, \tilde{\nu}$ satisfying (7) and $\alpha, \tilde{\alpha}$ associated with ν (resp. $\tilde{\nu}$) as in equation (16). Then, $T \in \mathcal{L}(H_\nu^p(\Omega), H_{\tilde{\nu}}^p(\Omega))$ if and only if $\tilde{T} \in \mathcal{L}(G_\alpha^p(\Omega), G_{\tilde{\alpha}}^p(\Omega))$ where $\tilde{\mathcal{J}}T = \tilde{T}\mathcal{J}$, and $\tilde{\mathcal{J}}$ is the \mathbb{R} -linear isomorphism from $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})$ onto $G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$ defined by (17) with ν replaced by $\tilde{\nu}$.*

3 Boundedness of composition operators on generalized Hardy spaces

Let Ω_1, Ω_2 be two bounded Dini-smooth domains in \mathbb{C} , ν defined on Ω_2 satisfying assumption (7), and ϕ satisfying:

$$\phi : \Omega_1 \rightarrow \Omega_2 \text{ analytic with } \phi \in W_{\Omega_2}^{1,\infty}(\Omega_1). \quad (18)$$

We consider the composition operator C_ϕ defined on $H_\nu^p(\Omega_2)$ by $C_\phi(f) = f \circ \phi$. Observe first that $\nu \circ \phi \in W_{\mathbb{R}}^{1,\infty}(\Omega_1)$ since ν and ϕ are Lipschitz functions in Ω_2 and Ω_1 respectively and $\|\nu \circ \phi\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_1)} \leq \kappa$; hence $\nu \circ \phi$ satisfies (7) on Ω_1 .

Proposition 3 *The composition operator $C_\phi : H_\nu^p(\Omega_2) \rightarrow H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\Omega_1)$ is continuous.*

Proof: Let $f \in H_\nu^p(\Omega_2)$. Observe that $f \circ \phi$ is a Lebesgue measurable function on Ω_1 and, since $\bar{\partial}\phi = 0$ in Ω_1 ,

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\partial}(f \circ \phi) &= [(\bar{\partial}f) \circ \phi] \bar{\partial}(\bar{\phi}) = (\nu \circ \phi) [\bar{\partial}f \circ \phi] \bar{\partial}(\bar{\phi}) \\ &= (\nu \circ \phi) \overline{(\partial f \circ \phi)} \partial \bar{\phi} = (\nu \circ \phi) \overline{\partial(f \circ \phi)}, \end{aligned}$$

(equalities are considered in the sense of distributions). Now, if u is any harmonic majorant of $|f|^p$ in Ω_2 , then $u \circ \phi$ is a harmonic majorant of $|f \circ \phi|^p$ in Ω_1 , which proves that $C_\phi(f) \in H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\Omega_1)$. Moreover, by the Harnack inequality applied in Ω_2 ,

$$\|C_\phi(f)\|_{H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\Omega_1)} \leq u(\phi(z_0))^{1/p} \leq C u(z_0)^{1/p},$$

for $z_0 \in \Omega_2$ as in Definition 1, and where the constant C depends on Ω_2 , z_0 and $\phi(z_0)$ but not on u , so that, taking the infimum over all harmonic functions $u \geq |f|^p$ in Ω_2 , one concludes

$$\|C_\phi(f)\|_{H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\Omega_1)} \lesssim \|f\|_{H_\nu^p(\Omega_2)}.$$

■

Remark 4 *In the case where $\Omega_1 = \Omega_2 = \mathbb{D}$, if $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})$ and $H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\mathbb{D})$ are equipped with the norms given by (13), the following upper bound for the operator norm of C_ϕ holds:*

$$\|C_\phi\| \leq \left(\frac{1 + |\phi(0)|}{1 - |\phi(0)|} \right)^{1/p}.$$

Indeed, if u is as before, one obtains

$$\begin{aligned} u \circ \phi(0) &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1 - |\phi(0)|^2}{|e^{it} - \phi(0)|^2} u(e^{it}) dt \\ &\leq \frac{1 + |\phi(0)|}{1 - |\phi(0)|} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} u(e^{it}) dt = \frac{1 + |\phi(0)|}{1 - |\phi(0)|} u(0). \end{aligned}$$

In the doubly-connected case, assume that $\Omega = \mathbb{A}$. Let $z_0 \in \mathbb{A}$ and ψ be an analytic function from \mathbb{D} onto \mathbb{A} such that $\psi(0) = z_0$. Arguing as in [11], we obtain an “explicit”

upper bound for $\|C_\phi\|$. Indeed, let u be as before. Using the harmonicity of $u \circ \psi$ in \mathbb{D} , for all s such that $\psi(s) = \phi(z_0)$, one has, for all $r \in (|s|, 1)$,

$$\begin{aligned} u(\phi(z_0)) = u(\psi(s)) &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \operatorname{Re} \left(\frac{r e^{it} + s}{r e^{it} - s} \right) u \circ \psi(r e^{it}) dt \\ &\leq \frac{r + |s|}{r - |s|} u(\psi(0)) = \frac{r + |s|}{r - |s|} u(z_0). \end{aligned}$$

Letting r tend to 1, we obtain

$$u(\phi(z_0)) \leq \inf_{s \in \psi^{-1}(\phi(z_0))} \frac{1 + |s|}{1 - |s|} \cdot u(z_0),$$

which, with Definition 1, yields $\|C_\phi\| \leq \left(\inf_{s \in \psi^{-1}(\phi(z_0))} \frac{1 + |s|}{1 - |s|} \right)^{1/p}$.

Remark 5 Note that the conclusion of Proposition 3 and its proof remain valid when Ω_1 and Ω_2 are arbitrary connected open subsets of \mathbb{C} .

In the sequel, when necessary, we will consider the composition operator defined on G_α^p spaces instead of H_ν^p spaces. The next lemma shows that a composition operator defined on H_ν^p spaces is \mathbb{R} -isomorphic to a composition operator on G_α^p spaces.

Lemma 3 Let ν (resp. ϕ) satisfying (7) (resp. (18)). The composition operator C_ϕ mapping $H_\nu^p(\Omega_2)$ to $H_\nu^p(\Omega_1)$ with $\tilde{\nu} = \nu \circ \phi$ is then equivalent to the composition operator \tilde{C}_ϕ mapping $G_\alpha^p(\Omega_2)$ to $G_\alpha^p(\Omega_1)$, where $\tilde{\alpha}$ is associated with $\tilde{\nu}$ through (16). Moreover,

$$\tilde{\alpha} = (\alpha \circ \phi) \overline{\partial \phi}. \quad (19)$$

In other words, for \mathcal{J} , $\tilde{\mathcal{J}}$ defined as in Lemma 2, we have the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H_\nu^p(\Omega_2) & \xrightarrow{C_\phi} & H_\nu^p(\Omega_1) \\ \mathcal{J} \downarrow & & \tilde{\mathcal{J}} \downarrow \\ G_\alpha^p(\Omega_2) & \xrightarrow{\tilde{C}_\phi} & G_\alpha^p(\Omega_1) \end{array}$$

Proof: The inverse of \mathcal{J} is given by (see [7]):

$$\mathcal{J}^{-1} : w \in G_\alpha^p(\Omega_2) \mapsto f = \frac{w + \nu \bar{w}}{\sqrt{1 - \nu^2}} \in H_\nu^p(\Omega_2). \quad (20)$$

Note that

$$\tilde{\alpha} = \frac{-\bar{\partial} \tilde{\nu}}{1 - \tilde{\nu}^2} = \frac{-\bar{\partial}(\nu \circ \phi)}{1 - \nu^2 \circ \phi} = \frac{-[(\bar{\partial} \nu) \circ \phi] \bar{\partial} \phi}{1 - \nu^2 \circ \phi} = (\alpha \circ \phi) \overline{\partial \phi},$$

and $\tilde{\mathcal{J}}$ is also an \mathbb{R} -linear isomorphism from $H_\nu^p(\Omega_1)$ onto $G_\alpha^p(\Omega_1)$. Now, for any $f \in H_\nu^p(\Omega_2)$, we have that

$$\tilde{\mathcal{J}}(C_\phi(f)) = \frac{f \circ \phi - (\nu \circ \phi) \overline{f \circ \phi}}{\sqrt{1 - \nu^2 \circ \phi}} = \left[\frac{f - \nu \bar{f}}{\sqrt{1 - \nu^2}} \right] \circ \phi = \tilde{C}_\phi(\mathcal{J}(f)).$$

■

4 Invertibility of the composition operator on $H_\nu^p(\Omega)$

In this section, we characterize invertible composition operators between H_ν^p spaces. We will need an observation on the extension of a function ν meeting condition (7). Before stating it, let us recall that, if Ω_1 and Ω_2 are open subsets of \mathbb{C} , the notation $\Omega_1 \subset\subset \Omega_2$ means that $\overline{\Omega_1}$ is a compact included in Ω_2 .

Lemma 4 *Let $\Omega_1 \subset\subset \Omega_2 \subset \mathbb{C}$ be bounded domains and ν be a Lipschitz function on Ω_1 meeting condition (7). There exists a Lipschitz function $\tilde{\nu}$ on \mathbb{C} such that:*

1. $\tilde{\nu}(z) = \nu(z)$ for all $z \in \Omega_1$,
2. the support of $\tilde{\nu}$ is a compact included in Ω_2 ,
3. $\|\tilde{\nu}\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{C})} < 1$.

Proof: Extend first ν to a compactly supported Lipschitz function on \mathbb{C} , denoted by ν_1 . There exists an open set Ω_3 such that $\Omega_1 \subset\subset \Omega_3 \subset\subset \Omega_2$ and $\|\nu_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_3)} < 1$. Let $\chi \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{C})$ be such that $0 \leq \chi(z) \leq 1$ for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$, $\chi(z) = 1$ for all $z \in \Omega_1$ and $\chi(z) = 0$ for all $z \notin \Omega_3$. The function $\tilde{\nu} := \chi\nu_1$ satisfies all the requirements. ■

Let $1 < p < +\infty$, $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a bounded Dini-smooth domain and ν meet (7). For $z \in \Omega$, let $\mathcal{E}_z^\nu, \mathcal{F}_z^\nu$ be the real-valued evaluation maps at z defined on $H_\nu^p(\Omega)$ and $G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$ by

$$\mathcal{E}_z^\nu(f) := \operatorname{Re} f(z) \text{ and } \mathcal{F}_z^\nu(f) := \operatorname{Im} f(z) \text{ for all } f \in H_\nu^p(\Omega), f \in G_\alpha^p(\Omega).$$

Proposition 4 *For $z \in \Omega$, the evaluation maps \mathcal{E}_z^ν and \mathcal{F}_z^ν are continuous on $H_\nu^p(\Omega)$ and $G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$.*

Proof: Let $f \in H_\nu^p(\Omega)$ and $z \in \Omega$. By definition 1 of the norm in $H_\nu^p(\Omega)$, there exists a harmonic function u in Ω such that $|f|^p \leq u$ in Ω with $u^{1/p}(z_0) \lesssim \|f\|_{H_\nu^p(\Omega)}$ for a fixed $z_0 \in \Omega$. The Harnack inequality then yields

$$|f(z)| \leq u^{1/p}(z) \lesssim u^{1/p}(z_0) \lesssim \|f\|_{H_\nu^p(\Omega)}$$

and thus we have

$$|\operatorname{Re} f(z)| \lesssim \|f\|_{H_\nu^p(\Omega)} \text{ and } |\operatorname{Im} f(z)| \lesssim \|f\|_{H_\nu^p(\Omega)},$$

which ends the proof. ■

For the characterization of invertible composition operators on H_ν^p spaces, we will need the fact that $H_\nu^p(\Omega)$ separates points in Ω , when Ω is a Dini-smooth domain:

Lemma 5 *Assume that $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$ is a bounded Dini-smooth domain. Let $z_1 \neq z_2 \in \Omega$. Then, there exists $f \in H_\nu^p(\Omega)$ such that $f(z_1) \neq f(z_2)$.*

Proof: There exists $F \in H^p(\Omega)$ such that $F(z_1) = 0$ and $F(z_2) \neq 0$ (take, for instance, $F(z) = z - z_1$). By Theorem 5 in Appendix A below, there exists $s \in W^{1,r}(\Omega)$, for some $r \in (2, +\infty)$ such that $w = e^s F \in G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$. One has $w(z_1) = 0$ and $w(z_2) \neq 0$.

If $f := \mathcal{J}^{-1}(w) = \frac{w+\nu\bar{w}}{\sqrt{1-\nu^2}}$, $f \in H_\nu^p(\Omega)$ by Proposition 2, $f(z_1) = 0$ and $f(z_2) \neq 0$, since $\|\nu\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} < 1$. \blacksquare

We will also use in the sequel a regularity result for a solution of a Dirichlet problem for equation (11), where the boundary data is C^1 and only prescribed on one curve of $\partial\Omega$:

Lemma 6 *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a bounded n -connected Dini-smooth domain. Write $\partial\Omega = \cup_{j=0}^n \Gamma_j$, where the Γ_j are pairwise disjoint Jordan curves. Fix $j \in \{0, \dots, n\}$. Let ν meet (7) and $\psi \in C_{\mathbb{R}}^1(\Gamma_j)$. There exists $f \in H_\nu^p(\Omega)$ such that $\operatorname{Re} \operatorname{tr} f = \psi$ on Γ_j and $\|f\|_{H_\nu^p(\Omega)} \lesssim \|\psi\|_{L^p(\Gamma_j)}$. Moreover, $f \in C(\bar{\Omega})$.*

Proof: Step 1: Let us first assume that $\Omega = \mathbb{D}$. Since $\psi \in W_{\mathbb{R}}^{1-1/q, q}(\mathbb{T})$ for some $q > \max(2, p)$, the result [7, Thm 4.1.1] shows that there exists $f \in W^{1, q}(\mathbb{D})$ solving $\partial f = \nu \bar{\partial} f$ in \mathbb{D} with $\operatorname{Re} \operatorname{tr} f = \psi$ on \mathbb{T} . By [7, Prop. 4.3.3], $f \in H_\nu^q(\mathbb{D}) \subset H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})$, and since $q > 2$, f is continuous on $\bar{\mathbb{D}}$.

Step 2: Assume that $\Omega = \mathbb{C} \setminus r_0 \bar{\mathbb{D}}$ for some $r_0 \in (0, 1)$. Let $\psi \in C_{\mathbb{R}}^1(r_0 \mathbb{T})$. For all $z \in \mathbb{T}$, define $\tilde{\psi}(z) := \psi\left(\frac{r_0}{z}\right)$ and, for all $z \in \mathbb{D}$, define $\tilde{\nu}(z) := \nu\left(\frac{r_0}{z}\right)$. Step 1 yields a function $\tilde{f} \in H_{\tilde{\nu}}^p(\mathbb{D})$, continuous on $\bar{\mathbb{D}}$, such that $\operatorname{Re} \operatorname{tr} \tilde{f} = \tilde{\psi}$ on \mathbb{T} . Define now $f(z) := \overline{\tilde{f}\left(\frac{r_0}{z}\right)}$ for all $z \in \Omega$. Then, $f \in H_\nu^p(\Omega)$, f is continuous on $\bar{\Omega}$ and $\operatorname{Re} \operatorname{tr} f = \psi$ on $r_0 \mathbb{T}$.

Step 3: Assume now that $\Omega = \mathbb{G}$ is a circular domain, as in (1). Extend ν to a function $\tilde{\nu} \in W_{\mathbb{R}}^{1, \infty}(\mathbb{C})$ satisfying the properties of Lemma 4. If $\psi \in C_{\mathbb{R}}^1(\mathbb{T})$, step 1 provides a function $f \in H_{\tilde{\nu}}^p(\mathbb{D})$, continuous on $\bar{\mathbb{D}}$, and such that $\operatorname{Re} \operatorname{tr} f = \psi$ on \mathbb{T} . The restriction of f to \mathbb{G} belongs to $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{G})$ and satisfies all the requirements. If $\psi \in C_{\mathbb{R}}^1(a_j + r_j \mathbb{T})$, argue similarly using Step 2 instead of Step 1.

Step 4: Finally, in the general case where Ω is a Dini-smooth n -connected domain, Ω is conformally equivalent to a circular domain \mathbb{G} , via a conformal map which is C^1 up to the boundary of Ω , and we conclude the proof using Step 3. \blacksquare

Let Ω_1, Ω_2 be domains in \mathbb{C} and $\phi : \Omega_1 \rightarrow \Omega_2$ be analytic with $\phi \in W_{\Omega_2}^{1, \infty}(\Omega_1)$. The adjoint of the operator C_ϕ will play an important role in the following arguments. Note first that, by Proposition 3, C_ϕ^* is a bounded linear operator from $(H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\Omega_1))'$ to $(H_\nu^p(\Omega_2))'$. Moreover:

Lemma 7 *For all $z \in \Omega_1$, $C_\phi^*(\mathcal{E}_z^{\nu \circ \phi}) = \mathcal{E}_{\phi(z)}^\nu$ and $C_\phi^*(\mathcal{F}_z^{\nu \circ \phi}) = \mathcal{F}_{\phi(z)}^\nu$.*

Proof: Let $f \in H_\nu^p(\Omega_2)$. Then

$$\langle C_\phi^*(\mathcal{E}_z^{\nu \circ \phi}), f \rangle = \langle \mathcal{E}_z^{\nu \circ \phi}, C_\phi(f) \rangle = \langle \mathcal{E}_z^{\nu \circ \phi}, f \circ \phi \rangle = \operatorname{Re} f(\phi(z)) = \langle \mathcal{E}_{\phi(z)}^\nu, f \rangle,$$

and the argument is analogous for \mathcal{F}_z^ν . \blacksquare

Theorem 1 *Assume that Ω_1, Ω_2 are bounded Dini-smooth domains. Then, the composition operator $C_\phi : H_\nu^p(\Omega_2) \rightarrow H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\Omega_1)$ is invertible if, and only if, ϕ is a bijection from Ω_1 onto Ω_2 .*

Proof: Some ideas of this proof are inspired by [10, Thm 2.1]. If ϕ is invertible, then $C_{\phi^{-1}} = (C_\phi)^{-1}$.

Assume conversely that C_ϕ is invertible. Since C_ϕ is one-to-one with closed range, for all $L \in (H_{\nu\circ\phi}^p(\Omega_1))'$, one has

$$\|C_\phi^* L\|_{(H_{\nu}^p(\Omega_2))'} \gtrsim \|L\|_{(H_{\nu\circ\phi}^p(\Omega_1))'}. \quad (21)$$

Let $z_1, z_2 \in \Omega_1$ be such that $\phi(z_1) = \phi(z_2)$. Then, by Lemma 7,

$$C_\phi^*(\mathcal{E}_{z_1}^{\nu\circ\phi}) = \mathcal{E}_{\phi(z_1)}^\nu = \mathcal{E}_{\phi(z_2)}^\nu = C_\phi^*(\mathcal{E}_{z_2}^{\nu\circ\phi}).$$

Since C_ϕ^* is invertible, it follows that $\mathcal{E}_{z_1}^{\nu\circ\phi} = \mathcal{E}_{z_2}^{\nu\circ\phi}$. Similarly, $\mathcal{F}_{z_1}^{\nu\circ\phi} = \mathcal{F}_{z_2}^{\nu\circ\phi}$, so that $z_1 = z_2$ by Lemma 5, and ϕ is univalent.

Now, suppose that ϕ is not surjective. We claim that

$$\partial\phi(\Omega_1) \cap \Omega_2 \neq \emptyset. \quad (22)$$

Indeed, since ϕ is analytic and not constant in Ω_1 , it is an open mapping, so that $\Omega_2 = \phi(\Omega_1) \cup (\Omega_2 \cap \partial\phi(\Omega_1)) \cup (\Omega_2 \setminus \overline{\phi(\Omega_1)})$, the union being disjoint. Assume now by contradiction that (22) is false. Then Ω_2 is the union of the two disjoint open sets in Ω_2 , $\phi(\Omega_1)$ and $\Omega_2 \setminus \overline{\phi(\Omega_1)}$. One clearly has $\phi(\Omega_1) \neq \emptyset$. The connectedness of Ω_2 therefore yields that $\Omega_2 \setminus \overline{\phi(\Omega_1)} = \emptyset$. In other words,

$$\Omega_2 \subset \overline{\phi(\Omega_1)}. \quad (23)$$

But since ϕ is assumed not to be surjective, there exists $a \in \Omega_2 \setminus \phi(\Omega_1)$, and (23) shows that $a \in \Omega_2 \cap \partial\phi(\Omega_1)$, which gives a contradiction, since we assumed that (22) was false. Finally, (22) is proved.

Let $a \in \partial\phi(\Omega_1) \cap \Omega_2$ and $(z_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of Ω_1 such that

$$\phi(z_n) \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} a.$$

Up to a subsequence, there exists $z \in \overline{\Omega_1}$ such that $z_n \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} z$. Note that $z \in \partial\Omega_1$, otherwise $\phi(z) = a$ which is impossible (indeed, since $a \in \partial\phi(\Omega_1)$ and $\phi(\Omega_1)$ is open, thus $a \notin \phi(\Omega_1)$). Write $\partial\Omega_1 = \cup_{j=0}^n \Gamma_j$, where the Γ_j are pairwise disjoint Jordan curves, so that $z \in \Gamma_m$ for some $m \in \{0, \dots, n\}$.

Now, we claim that

$$\|\mathcal{E}_{z_n}^{\nu\circ\phi}\|_{(H_{\nu\circ\phi}^p(\Omega_1))'} \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} +\infty.$$

Indeed, by the very definition of the norm in $(H_{\nu\circ\phi}^p(\Omega_1))'$,

$$\|\mathcal{E}_{z_n}^{\nu\circ\phi}\|_{(H_{\nu\circ\phi}^p(\Omega_1))'} = \sup_{\substack{g \in H_{\nu\circ\phi}^p(\Omega_1) \\ \|\operatorname{tr} g\|_p \leq 1}} |\operatorname{Re} g(z_n)|. \quad (24)$$

For any $k \in \mathbb{N}$, there is $f_k \in H_{\nu\circ\phi}^p(\Omega_1)$ such that $|f_k(z_n)| \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} k$ and $\|f_k\|_{H_{\nu\circ\phi}^p(\Omega_1)} \leq 1$.

Indeed, let $\psi_k \in C_{\mathbb{R}}^1(\Gamma_m)$ be such that $|\psi_k(z)| = 2k$ and $\|\psi_k\|_{L^p(\Gamma_m)} \leq \frac{1}{C}$, where C is the implicit constant in Lemma 6. It follows from Lemma 6 that there is $f_k \in H_{\nu\circ\phi}^p(\Omega_1)$, continuous on $\overline{\Omega_1}$, such that $\operatorname{Re} \operatorname{tr}(f_k) = \psi_k$ on Γ_m and $\|f_k\|_{H_{\nu\circ\phi}^p(\Omega_1)} \leq 1$. Observe that,

since f_k is continuous in $\overline{\Omega_1}$, $|\operatorname{Re} f_k(z_n)| \rightarrow |\psi_k(z)|$. As a consequence, there is $N_k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$|\operatorname{Re} f_k(z_n)| \geq k$$

for all $n \geq N_k$. Therefore, by (24),

$$\|\mathcal{E}_{z_n}^{\nu \circ \phi}\|_{(H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\Omega_1))'} \geq k, \quad n \geq N_k.$$

Thus, $\|\mathcal{E}_{z_n}^{\nu \circ \phi}\|_{(H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\Omega_1))'} \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, as claimed.

Moreover, by Lemma 1, for all $g \in H_{\nu}^p(\Omega_2)$, $\mathcal{E}_{\phi(z_n)}^{\nu}(g) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}_a^{\nu}(g)$ which proves that

$$\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} |\mathcal{E}_{\phi(z_n)}^{\nu}(g)| < \infty.$$

It follows from the Banach-Steinhaus theorem that the $\|\mathcal{E}_{\phi(z_n)}^{\nu}\|_{(H_{\nu}^p(\Omega_2))'}$ are uniformly bounded. Thus, we have that

$$\frac{\|C_{\phi}^*(\mathcal{E}_{z_n}^{\nu \circ \phi})\|_{(H_{\nu}^p(\Omega_2))'}}{\|\mathcal{E}_{z_n}^{\nu \circ \phi}\|_{(H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\Omega_1))'}} = \frac{\|\mathcal{E}_{\phi(z_n)}^{\nu}\|_{(H_{\nu}^p(\Omega_2))'}}{\|\mathcal{E}_{z_n}^{\nu \circ \phi}\|_{(H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\Omega_1))'}} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0,$$

which contradicts (21). We conclude that ϕ is surjective. ■

Remark 6 1. *To our knowledge, the conclusion of Theorem 1 is new, even for Hardy spaces of analytic functions when Ω_1 or Ω_2 are multi-connected.*

2. *The proof of Theorem 1 does not use the explicit description of the dual of $H_{\nu}^p(\Omega_2)$ and $H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\Omega_1)$. Such a description exists when Ω_1 and Ω_2 are simply connected (see [7, Thm 4.6.1]).*

It follows easily from Theorem 1 and Lemma 3 that:

Corollary 1 *Let Ω_1, Ω_2 be bounded Dini-smooth domains and $\phi \in W_{\Omega_2}^{1, \infty}(\Omega_1)$ be analytic in Ω_1 . Let $\alpha \in L^{\infty}(\Omega_2)$. Then $C_{\phi} : G_{\alpha}^p(\Omega_2) \rightarrow G_{\alpha}^p(\Omega_1)$ is an isomorphism if and only if ϕ is a bijection from Ω_1 onto Ω_2 .*

The characterizations given in Theorem 1 and Corollary 1 are the same as in the analytic case when $\Omega = \mathbb{D}$ (see [30]).

5 Isometries and composition operators on generalized Hardy spaces

Throughout this section, Ω will denote the unit disc \mathbb{D} or the annulus \mathbb{A} and $G_{\alpha}^p(\Omega)$ is equipped with the norm:

$$\|\omega\|_{G_{\alpha}^p(\Omega)} := \|\operatorname{tr} \omega\|_{L^p(\partial\Omega)}$$

(see (10)).

Let $\tilde{\alpha}_0 := \tilde{\alpha} = (\alpha \circ \phi) \overline{\partial\phi}$ and $\tilde{\alpha}_{n+1} := (\tilde{\alpha}_n \circ \phi) \overline{\partial\phi}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$. The arguments below rely on the following observation:

Lemma 8 *Let Ω be the unit disc \mathbb{D} or the annulus \mathbb{A} , $\phi : \Omega \rightarrow \Omega$ be a function in $W_\Omega^{1,\infty}(\Omega)$ analytic in Ω and $\alpha \in L^\infty(\Omega)$. Assume that C_ϕ is an isometry from $G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$ to $G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$. Then $\phi(\partial\Omega) \subset \partial\Omega$.*

Proof: Assume by contradiction that the conclusion does not hold, so that there exists $B_0 \subset \partial\Omega$ with $m(B_0) > 0$ (where m stands for the 1-dimensional Lebesgue measure) such that $\phi(B_0) \subset \Omega$.

For $\Omega = \mathbb{A}$, either B_0 is entirely contained in \mathbb{T} or in $r_0\mathbb{T}$ or there exists a Borel set $B \subsetneq B_0$ of positive Lebesgue measure such that $B \subset \mathbb{T}$. For the last case, we still write B_0 instead of B and we can assume without loss of generality that $B_0 \subset \mathbb{T}$. Indeed, if $B_0 \subset r_0\mathbb{T}$, it is enough to use the composition with the inversion $\text{Inv} : z \mapsto \frac{r_0}{z}$ since it is easy to check that the composition operator C_{Inv} is a unitary operator (invertible and isometric) on $G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$ using Proposition 3.2 in [6].

The following argument is reminiscent of [8]. Let $\phi_1 := \phi$ and $\phi_{n+1} := \phi \circ \phi_n$ for all integer $n \geq 1$. Note that $\phi_k(B_0) \subset \Omega$ for all $k \geq 1$. For all integer $n \geq 1$, define

$$B_n := \{z \in \partial\Omega; \phi_n(z) \in B_0\}.$$

Observe that the B_n are pairwise disjoint. Indeed, if $z \in B_n \cap B_m \neq \emptyset$ with $n > m$, then

$$\phi_n(z) \in B_0 \text{ and } \phi_m(z) \in B_0,$$

so that

$$\phi_{n-m}(\phi_m(z)) = \phi_n(z) \in B_0 \cap \phi_{n-m}(B_0) \subset B_0 \cap \Omega = \emptyset,$$

which is impossible.

Fix a function $F \in H^p(\Omega)$ such that

$$|\text{tr } F| \begin{cases} = 1 & \text{on } B_0 \\ \leq 1/2 & \text{on } \partial\Omega \setminus B_0. \end{cases} \quad (25)$$

We claim that such a function exists. Indeed, if Ω is the unit disc \mathbb{D} , the outer function F defined as follows

$$F(z) = \exp\left(\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{e^{i\theta} + z}{e^{i\theta} - z} \log |g(e^{i\theta})| d\theta\right), \quad z \in \mathbb{D}, \quad (26)$$

with $g \in L^p(\mathbb{T})$ such that $|g| = 1$ on B_0 and $|g| = \frac{1}{2}$ on $\partial\Omega \setminus B_0$ satisfies the required conditions.

If $\Omega = \mathbb{A}$, we consider the function $f \in H^p(\mathbb{D})$ defined as in Equation (26) and $g : \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is the restriction of f to \mathbb{A} . Observe that g is in $H^p(\mathbb{A})$ for each p , since $|g|^p = |f|^p \leq u$, where u is a harmonic function in \mathbb{D} . Set $M = \max_{\mathbb{T}_{r_0}} |g|$. Now let $\tilde{g}_n(z) = z^n g(z)$, then for $z \in \mathbb{T}$ we have

$$|\tilde{g}_n(z)| = |z^n g(z)| = |g(z)| = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } z \in B_0 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \text{for } z \in \mathbb{T} \setminus B_0 \end{cases}.$$

For $z \in \mathbb{T}_{r_0}$, we get

$$|\tilde{g}_n(z)| = |z^n g(z)| = |r_0^n| \cdot |g(z)| \leq r_0^n M.$$

Now, $r_0 < 1$ so pick N large enough that

$$r_0^N M < 1/2,$$

and $F = \tilde{g}_N$ has the requested properties.

Now, for all integer $j \geq 1$, $F^j \in H^p(\Omega)$ and

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow +\infty} \|F^j\|_{H^p(\Omega)}^p = m(B_0).$$

Moreover, by the maximum principle, since F is not constant in Ω ,

$$|F(z)| < 1 \text{ for all } z \in \Omega. \quad (27)$$

By Theorem 4 and Theorem 5 in Appendix A below, for all $j \geq 1$, there exists a function $s_j \in C(\bar{\Omega})$ (indeed, $s_j \in W^{1,r}(\Omega)$ for some $r > 2$) with $\operatorname{Re} s_j = 0$ on $\partial\Omega$ such that

$$w_j := e^{s_j} F^j \in G_\alpha^p(\Omega) \text{ and } \|s_j\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq 4 \|\alpha\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}.$$

Thus, since $\operatorname{Re} p s_j = 0$ on $\partial\Omega$,

$$\begin{aligned} \|w_j\|_{G_\alpha^p(\Omega)}^p &= \int_{\partial\Omega} |\operatorname{tr} w_j|^p = \int_{\partial\Omega} |e^{p s_j}| |\operatorname{tr} F|^p \\ &= \int_{\partial\Omega} |\operatorname{tr} F|^p = \|F^j\|_{H^p(\Omega)}^p \rightarrow m(B_0). \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

Since C_ϕ is an isometry from $G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$ to $G_{\alpha_n}^p(\Omega)$, for all integers $n, j \geq 1$,

$$\|(C_\phi)^n w_j\|_{G_{\alpha_n}^p(\Omega)}^p = \|w_j\|_{G_\alpha^p(\Omega)}^p. \quad (29)$$

But

$$(C_\phi)^n w_j = w_j \circ \phi_n. \quad (30)$$

For all $z \in B_n$, $\phi_n(z) \in B_0$ so that, for all $j, n \geq 1$,

$$|\operatorname{tr} w_j \circ \phi_n(z)| = |\operatorname{tr} F(\phi_n(z))|^j = 1. \quad (31)$$

For all $z \in \partial\Omega \setminus B_n$, $\phi_n(z) \in \bar{\Omega} \setminus B_0$, so that

$$|w_j \circ \phi_n(z)| \leq e^{4\|\alpha\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}} |F(\phi_n(z))|^j \quad (32)$$

if $\phi_n(z) \in \Omega$ and

$$|\operatorname{tr} w_j \circ \phi_n(z)| \leq e^{4\|\alpha\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}} |\operatorname{tr} F(\phi_n(z))|^j \quad (33)$$

if $\phi_n(z) \in \partial\Omega \setminus B_0$. Gathering (25), (27), (29), (30), (31), (32) and (33), one obtains, by the dominated convergence theorem,

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow +\infty} \|\omega_j\|_{G_\alpha^p(\Omega)}^p = m(B_n). \quad (34)$$

Comparing (28) and (34) yields $m(B_n) = m(B_0)$ for all integer $n \geq 1$. Since $m(B_0) > 0$ and the B_n are pairwise disjoint, we reach a contradiction. Finally, $\phi(\partial\Omega) \subset \partial\Omega$. \blacksquare

5.1 The simply connected case

We can now state:

Theorem 2 *Let $\phi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ satisfying (18), let $\alpha \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ and the associated $\tilde{\alpha}$ given by (19). Then the following assertions are equivalent:*

1. C_ϕ is an isometry from $G_\alpha^p(\mathbb{D})$ to $G_{\tilde{\alpha}}^p(\mathbb{D})$,
2. C_ϕ is an isometry from $H^p(\mathbb{D})$ to $H^p(\mathbb{D})$,
3. $\phi(0) = 0$ and $\phi(\mathbb{T}) \subset \mathbb{T}$.

Proof: The equivalence between 2 and 3 is contained in [18, Thm 1]. We now prove that 1 and 2 are equivalent. Assume first that C_ϕ is an isometry from $G_\alpha^p(\mathbb{D})$ to $G_{\tilde{\alpha}}^p(\mathbb{D})$. Let $F \in H^p(\mathbb{D})$. By Theorem 4 in Appendix A below, there exists $s \in C(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$ such that $\operatorname{Re} s = 0$ on \mathbb{T} and $w := e^s F \in G_\alpha^p(\mathbb{D})$. Then, since $\phi(\mathbb{T}) \subset \mathbb{T}$ by Lemma 8, one obtains

$$\|C_\phi F\|_{H^p(\mathbb{D})} = \|C_\phi w\|_{G_{\tilde{\alpha}}^p(\mathbb{D})} = \|w\|_{G_\alpha^p(\mathbb{D})} = \|F\|_{H^p(\mathbb{D})}.$$

Assume now that C_ϕ is an isometry on $H^p(\mathbb{D})$. Then 3 holds, so that $\phi(\mathbb{T}) \subset \mathbb{T}$. Let $w \in G_\alpha^p(\mathbb{D})$. Pick up $s \in C(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$ and $F \in H^p(\mathbb{D})$ such that $w = e^s F$, with $\operatorname{Re} s = 0$ on \mathbb{T} . Since $|e^s| = 1$ on \mathbb{T} and $\phi(\mathbb{T}) \subset \mathbb{T}$,

$$\|w \circ \phi\|_{G_{\tilde{\alpha}}^p(\mathbb{D})} = \|e^{s \circ \phi} F \circ \phi\|_{G_{\tilde{\alpha}}^p(\mathbb{D})} = \|F \circ \phi\|_{H^p(\mathbb{D})} = \|F\|_{H^p(\mathbb{D})} = \|w\|_{G_\alpha^p(\mathbb{D})}.$$

■

Remark 7 *The conclusion of Theorem 2 shows that C_ϕ is an isometry on $H^p(\mathbb{D})$ if and only if it is an isometry from $G_\alpha^p(\mathbb{D})$ to $G_{\tilde{\alpha}}^p(\mathbb{D})$ for all functions $\alpha \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ and associated $\tilde{\alpha}$ given by (19).*

Corollary 2 *Let $\phi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ be a function satisfying (18), $\alpha \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ and the associated $\tilde{\alpha}$ given by (19). Then C_ϕ is an isometry from $G_\alpha^p(\mathbb{D})$ onto $G_{\tilde{\alpha}}^p(\mathbb{D})$ if and only if there exists $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ with $|\lambda| = 1$ such that $\phi(z) = \lambda z$ for all $z \in \mathbb{D}$.*

Proof: Assume that C_ϕ is an isometry from G_α^p onto $G_{\tilde{\alpha}}^p$. Then C_ϕ is an isomorphism from G_α^p onto $G_{\tilde{\alpha}}^p$, and Theorem 1 shows that ϕ is bijective from \mathbb{D} to \mathbb{D} . Moreover, Theorem 2 yields $\phi(0) = 0$ and $\phi(\mathbb{T}) \subset \mathbb{T}$. These conditions on ϕ imply that there exists $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ with $|\lambda| = 1$ such that $\phi(z) = \lambda z$. The converse is obvious. ■

Let us now turn to the isometry property for the composition operator on $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})$. Here, $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})$ also is equipped with the norm:

$$\|f\|_{H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})} := \|\operatorname{tr} f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{T})}.$$

We prove:

Proposition 5 *Let $\phi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ be a function in $W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{D})$ analytic in \mathbb{D} . If C_ϕ is an isometry from $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})$ to $H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\mathbb{D})$, then $\phi(\mathbb{T}) \subset \mathbb{T}$ and $\phi(0) = 0$.*

Proof: Assume that C_ϕ is an isometry from $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})$ to $H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\mathbb{D})$. We first claim that there exists $C > 0$ such that, for all $w \in G_\alpha^p(\mathbb{D})$ and all integer $n \geq 1$,

$$C^{-1} \|\operatorname{tr} w\|_{L^p(\mathbb{T})} \leq \|\operatorname{tr} (w \circ \phi_n)\|_{L^p(\mathbb{T})} \leq C \|\operatorname{tr} w\|_{L^p(\mathbb{T})}, \quad (35)$$

where, as in the proof of Lemma 8, $\phi_1 := \phi$ and $\phi_{n+1} := \phi \circ \phi_n$ for all integer $n \geq 1$. Indeed, let $w \in G_\alpha^p(\mathbb{D})$ and set $f := \frac{w + \nu \overline{w}}{\sqrt{1 - \nu^2}}$. Then, since $\|\nu\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{D})} < 1$, one has, for almost every $z \in \mathbb{T}$,

$$|\operatorname{tr} w(z)| \sim |\operatorname{tr} f(z)|. \quad (36)$$

As a consequence,

$$\|\operatorname{tr} w\|_{L^p(\mathbb{T})} \sim \|\operatorname{tr} f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{T})} \quad (37)$$

and, for all $n \geq 1$,

$$\|\operatorname{tr} (w \circ \phi_n)\|_{L^p(\mathbb{T})} \sim \|\operatorname{tr} (f \circ \phi_n)\|_{L^p(\mathbb{T})}, \quad (38)$$

where the implicit constant in (38) does not depend on n . Since C_ϕ is an isometry on $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})$, it follows that, for all $n \geq 1$,

$$\|\operatorname{tr} (f \circ \phi_n)\|_{L^p(\mathbb{T})} = \|\operatorname{tr} f\|_{L^p(\mathbb{T})}, \quad (39)$$

and (37), (38) and (39) yield (35).

Let us now establish that $\phi(\mathbb{T}) \subset \mathbb{T}$. Argue by contradiction and let B_n (for all $n \geq 0$) as in the proof of Lemma 8. Consider a function $F \in H^p(\mathbb{D})$ and define the functions s_j and w_j as in the proof of Lemma 8. By (35), for all integers $n, j \geq 1$,

$$\|\operatorname{tr} w_j \circ \phi_n\|_{L^p(\mathbb{T})}^p \sim \|\operatorname{tr} w_j\|_{L^p(\mathbb{T})}^p. \quad (40)$$

But, as already seen,

$$\|\operatorname{tr} w_j \circ \phi_n\|_{L^p(\mathbb{T})}^p \rightarrow m(B_n),$$

so that, by (40), $m(B_n) \gtrsim m(B_0)$ for all integer $n \geq 1$. Since $m(B_0) > 0$ and the B_n are pairwise disjoint, we reach a contradiction. Finally, $\phi(\mathbb{T}) \subset \mathbb{T}$.

Let us now prove that $\phi(0) = 0$. Recall now that, since C_ϕ is an isometry, for all functions $f, g \in H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})$, see [22, Lem. 1.1]:

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}} (\operatorname{tr} f \circ \phi) |\operatorname{tr} g \circ \phi|^{p-2} \overline{\operatorname{tr} g \circ \phi} = \int_{\mathbb{T}} \operatorname{tr} f |\operatorname{tr} g|^{p-2} \overline{\operatorname{tr} g}. \quad (41)$$

Applying (41) with $g = 1$, one obtains, for all $f \in H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})$,

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}} (\operatorname{tr} f \circ \phi) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} \operatorname{tr} f. \quad (42)$$

Let $u \in L_{\mathbb{R}}^p(\mathbb{T})$ and $f \in H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})$ such that $\operatorname{Re} \operatorname{tr} f = u$. Taking the real part in the both sides of (42) yields

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}} u \circ \phi = \int_{\mathbb{T}} u. \quad (43)$$

Since this is true for all $u \in L_{\mathbb{R}}^p(\mathbb{T})$, one obtains that (42) holds for all $f \in H^p(\mathbb{D})$ (write $\operatorname{tr} f = u + iv$ and apply (43) with u and v), and this yields $\phi(0) = 0$ ($f(z) = z$ in (42)). \blacksquare

As a corollary of Proposition 5, we characterize isometries from $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})$ onto $H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\mathbb{D})$:

Corollary 3 *Let $\phi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ be a function in $W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{D})$ analytic in \mathbb{D} . Then C_ϕ is an isometry from $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})$ onto $H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\mathbb{D})$ if and only if there exists $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ with $|\lambda| = 1$ such that $\phi(z) = \lambda z$ for all $z \in \mathbb{D}$.*

Proof: Proposition 5 shows that $\phi(\mathbb{T}) \subset \mathbb{T}$ and $\phi(0) = 0$, Theorem 1 ensures that ϕ is a bijection from \mathbb{D} onto \mathbb{D} , and the conclusion readily follows. ■

Note that we do not know how to characterize those composition operators which are isometries from $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})$ to $H_{\nu \circ \phi}^p(\mathbb{D})$.

5.2 The case of doubly-connected domains

In the annular case, we obtain a complete description of the composition operators which are isometries on generalized Hardy spaces on \mathbb{A} . Before stating this result, we check:

Lemma 9 *Let $\phi : \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$ be analytic with $\phi \in W_{\mathbb{A}}^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{A})$.*

1. *If C_ϕ is an isometry from $G_\alpha^p(\mathbb{A})$ into $G_\alpha^p(\mathbb{A})$, then $\phi(\partial\mathbb{A}) \subset \partial\mathbb{A}$.*
2. *If C_ϕ is an isometry from $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{A})$ into $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{A})$, then $\phi(\partial\mathbb{A}) \subset \partial\mathbb{A}$.*

Proof: Item 1 is already stated in Lemma 8. For item 2, notice that, if C_ϕ is an isometry from $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{A})$ into $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{A})$, then there exists $C > 0$ such that, for all $w \in G_\alpha^p(\mathbb{A})$,

$$C^{-1} \|\text{tr } w\|_{L^p(\partial\mathbb{A})} \leq \|\text{tr } (w \circ \phi_n)\|_{L^p(\partial\mathbb{A})} \leq C \|\text{tr } w\|_{L^p(\partial\mathbb{A})}. \quad (44)$$

Arguing as in the proof of Proposition 5, one concludes that $\phi(\partial\mathbb{A}) \subset \partial\mathbb{A}$. ■

We can now state and prove our description of the composition operators which are isometries on generalized Hardy spaces on \mathbb{A} :

Theorem 3 *Let $\phi : \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$ be analytic with $\phi \in W_{\mathbb{A}}^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{A})$, $\alpha \in L^\infty(\mathbb{A})$ and ν meeting (7). The following conditions are equivalent:*

1. *C_ϕ is an isometry from $H^p(\mathbb{A})$ into $H^p(\mathbb{A})$,*
2. *C_ϕ is an isometry from $G_\alpha^p(\mathbb{A})$ into $G_\alpha^p(\mathbb{A})$,*
3. *C_ϕ is an isometry from $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{A})$ into $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{A})$,*
4. *either there exists $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ of unit modulus such that $\phi(z) = \lambda z$ for all $z \in \mathbb{A}$, or there exists $\mu \in \mathbb{C}$ of unit modulus such that $\phi(z) = \mu \frac{r_0}{z}$ for all $z \in \mathbb{A}$.*

Proof: The results in Theorem 7 of Appendix B show that 1 and 4 are equivalent since ϕ is continuous on $\overline{\mathbb{A}}$. This shows at once that $1 \Rightarrow 2$ and $1 \Rightarrow 3$. Assume now that 2 holds. Then Lemma 9 shows that $\phi(\partial\mathbb{A}) \subset \partial\mathbb{A}$. The continuity of ϕ on $\partial\mathbb{A}$ implies either $\phi(\mathbb{T}) \subset \mathbb{T}$ and $\phi(r_0\mathbb{T}) \subset r_0\mathbb{T}$ or $\phi(\mathbb{T}) \subset r_0\mathbb{T}$ and $\phi(r_0\mathbb{T}) \subset \mathbb{T}$. By Remark 12 in Appendix B, it follows that 4 holds and therefore item 1. Finally, if 3 is true, Lemma 9 again yields that $\phi(\partial\mathbb{A}) \subset \partial\mathbb{A}$ continuously and Remark 12 entails again item 4 and thus item 1 holds. ■

Note that, even for Hardy spaces of analytic functions on \mathbb{A} , the characterization of isometries on H^p given in Theorem 3 is new.

6 Compactness of composition operators on Hardy spaces

Recall that for $\alpha_i \in L^\infty(\Omega)$, $\tilde{\alpha}_i := (\alpha_i \circ \phi)\overline{\partial\phi}$, $i \in \{1, 2\}$.

Proposition 6 *Let Ω_1, Ω_2 be Dini-smooth domains and $\phi : \Omega_1 \rightarrow \Omega_2$ be a function in $W_{\Omega_2}^{1,\infty}(\Omega_1)$ analytic in Ω_1 . Let $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in L^\infty(\Omega_2)$. Then $C_\phi : G_{\alpha_1}^p(\Omega_2) \rightarrow G_{\tilde{\alpha}_1}^p(\Omega_1)$ is compact if and only if $C_\phi : G_{\alpha_2}^p(\Omega_2) \rightarrow G_{\tilde{\alpha}_2}^p(\Omega_1)$ is compact. In particular, if $\alpha \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$, then $C_\phi : G_\alpha^p(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow G_{\tilde{\alpha}}^p(\mathbb{D})$ is compact if and only if $C_\phi : H^p(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow H^p(\mathbb{D})$ is compact.*

We will use the following observation:

Lemma 10 *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a bounded domain and $\beta \in L^\infty(\Omega)$. Let $(w_k)_{k \geq 1}$ be a sequence of locally integrable functions in Ω and $w \in L_{loc}^1(\Omega)$. Assume that, for all $k \geq 1$, $\bar{\partial}w_k = \beta\overline{w_k}$ and $w_k \rightarrow w$ in $L^1(K)$ for all compact $K \subset \Omega$. Then $\bar{\partial}w = \beta\overline{w}$.*

Proof: Let us first prove Lemma 10. For all $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega)$, since φ is compactly supported in Ω ,

$$\langle w, \bar{\partial}\varphi \rangle = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \langle w_k, \bar{\partial}\varphi \rangle = - \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \langle \beta\overline{w_k}, \varphi \rangle = -\langle \beta\overline{w}, \varphi \rangle,$$

which ends the proof. ■

Proof of Proposition 6: Assume that C_ϕ is compact from $G_{\alpha_1}^p(\Omega_2) \rightarrow G_{\tilde{\alpha}_1}^p(\Omega_1)$. Let $(w_k^2)_{k \geq 1}$ be a bounded sequence in $G_{\alpha_2}^p(\Omega_2)$. By Proposition 8 in Appendix A below, if $r > 2$ is fixed, for all $k \geq 1$, there exists $s_k \in W^{1,r}(\Omega_2)$ with $\operatorname{Re} s_k = 0$ on $\partial\Omega_2$ and $w_k^1 \in G_{\alpha_1}^p(\Omega_2)$ such that

$$\|s_k\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega_2)} \lesssim \|\alpha_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_2)} + \|\alpha_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_2)} \quad (45)$$

and

$$w_k^2 := e^{s_k} w_k^1. \quad (46)$$

Note that, since for all $k \geq 1$,

$$\|s_k\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_2)} \lesssim \|s_k\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega_2)},$$

the sequence $(w_k^1)_{k \geq 1}$ is bounded in $G_{\alpha_1}^p(\Omega_2)$. Since C_ϕ is compact from $G_{\alpha_1}^p(\Omega_2)$ to $G_{\tilde{\alpha}_1}^p(\Omega_1)$, there exist $\psi : \mathbb{N}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^*$ increasing and $w^1 \in G_{\tilde{\alpha}_1}^p(\Omega_1)$ such that

$$w_{\psi(k)}^1 \circ \phi \rightarrow w^1 \text{ in } G_{\tilde{\alpha}_1}^p(\Omega_1).$$

By (45), up to a second extraction, there exists $s \in W^{1,r}(\Omega_2)$ such that $s_{\psi(k)} \rightarrow s$ weakly in $W^{1,r}(\Omega_2)$ and strongly in $C^{0,\beta}(\overline{\Omega_2})$ where $0 < \beta < 1 - \frac{2}{r}$. Define

$$w^2 := e^{s \circ \phi} w^1.$$

For all $k \geq 1$,

$$w_{\psi(k)}^2 \circ \phi = e^{s_{\psi(k)} \circ \phi} w_{\psi(k)}^1 \circ \phi,$$

and, since $e^{s_{\psi(k)}\circ\phi} \rightarrow e^{s\circ\phi}$ uniformly in $\overline{\Omega_1}$ and $w_{\psi(k)}^1 \circ \phi \rightarrow w^1$ in $L^p(\Omega_1)$, one has $w_{\psi(k)}^2 \circ \phi \rightarrow w^2$ in $L^p(\Omega_1)$. Hence, Lemma 10 yields that

$$\overline{\partial}w^2 = \tilde{\alpha}_2 \overline{w^2}.$$

Pick up a sequence $(\Delta_n)_n$ of domains such that $\overline{\Delta_n} \subset \Omega_1$, $\partial\Delta_n$ is a finite union of rectifiable Jordan curves of uniformly bounded length and each compact subset of Ω is eventually contained in Δ_n . For all n ,

$$\begin{aligned} \|w^2\|_{L^p(\partial\Delta_n)} &\leq e^{c(\|\alpha_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_2)} + \|\alpha_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_2)})} \|w^1\|_{L^p(\partial\Delta_n)} \\ &\leq e^{c(\|\alpha_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_2)} + \|\alpha_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_2)})} \|w^1\|_{G_{\tilde{\alpha}_1}^p(\Omega_1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $w^2 \in G_{\tilde{\alpha}_2}^p(\Omega_1)$. Moreover, for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \|w_{\psi(k)}^2 \circ \phi - w^2\|_{L^p(\partial\Delta_n)} &\leq \|(e^{s_{\psi(k)}\circ\phi} - e^{s\circ\phi}) w_{\psi(k)}^1 \circ \phi\|_{L^p(\partial\Delta_n)} + \|e^{s\circ\phi} (w_{\psi(k)}^1 \circ \phi - w^1)\|_{L^p(\partial\Delta_n)} \\ &\leq M \|e^{s_{\psi(k)}\circ\phi} - e^{s\circ\phi}\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_1)} \\ &\quad + e^{c(\|\alpha_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_2)} + \|\alpha_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_2)})} \|w_{\psi(k)}^1 \circ \phi - w^1\|_{G_{\tilde{\alpha}_1}^p(\Omega_1)}, \end{aligned}$$

where $M := \sup_{k \geq 1} \|w_{\psi(k)}^1 \circ \phi\|_{G_{\tilde{\alpha}_1}^p(\Omega_1)}$. This shows that $w_{\psi(k)}^2 \circ \phi \rightarrow w^2$ in $G_{\tilde{\alpha}_2}^p(\Omega_1)$.

Therefore, C_ϕ is compact from $G_{\alpha_2}^p(\Omega_2)$ to $G_{\tilde{\alpha}_2}^p(\Omega_1)$. Taking $\alpha_1 = \alpha \in L^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ and $\alpha_2 \equiv 0$, we obtain the last characterization. ■

The next result is an immediate consequence of Proposition 6 and Lemma 3:

Corollary 4 *Under the assumptions of Proposition 6, C_ϕ is compact from $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})$ to $H_{\nu\circ\phi}^p(\mathbb{D})$ if and only if C_ϕ is compact in $H^p(\mathbb{D})$.*

7 Conclusion

We extended to the case of generalized Hardy spaces some well-known properties of composition operators on classical Hardy spaces of analytic functions H^p for $1 < p < \infty$. Some questions are still open. As mentioned before, it would be interesting to give a complete characterization of isometries among those composition operators on $H_\nu^p(\mathbb{D})$ spaces. As far as compactness is concerned, we proved that the compactness of C_ϕ on generalized Hardy spaces is equivalent to the same property on H^p . While this property is well-understood in simply-connected domains ([12, Thm 3.12],[27]), multiply-connected situations deserve further investigation. We intend to tackle this issue in a forthcoming work.

A Factorization results for generalized Hardy spaces

We first recall here some factorization results relating classical and generalized Hardy spaces H^p and G_α^p for $1 < p < \infty$.

Proposition 7 ([6, Prop. 3.2])

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a bounded Dini-smooth domain, $1 < p < +\infty$ and $\alpha \in L^\infty(\Omega)$. For all function $w \in G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$, there exists $s \in W^{1,r}(\Omega)$ for all $r \in (1, +\infty)$ and $F \in H^p(\Omega)$ such that $w = e^s F$, and $\|s\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} \lesssim \|\alpha\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}$. Moreover, if $\partial\Omega = \bigcup_{j=0}^n \Gamma_j$ is a finite union of pairwise disjoint Jordan curves, s may be chosen so that, for all $0 \leq j \leq n$, $\text{Im } s_j = c_j \in \mathbb{R}$, the c_j are constants, $\sum_{j=0}^n c_j = 0$ and one of the c_j can be chosen arbitrarily.

The next Theorem from [5] is a kind of converse to Proposition 7 in the case of Dini-smooth simply connected domain.

Theorem 4 ([5, Thm 1]) Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a Dini-smooth simply connected domain, $1 < p < +\infty$ and $\alpha \in L^\infty(\Omega)$. For all function $F \in H^p(\Omega)$, there exists $s \in W^{1,r}(\Omega)$ for all $r \in (1, +\infty)$ such that $w := e^s F \in G_\alpha^p(\Omega)$, $\text{Re } s = 0$ on $\partial\Omega$ and $\|s\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} \lesssim \|\alpha\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}$.

We extend Theorem 4 (Theorem 1 in [5]) to the case of n -connected Dini smooth domains.

Theorem 5 Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a n -connected Dini smooth domain. Let $F \in H^p(\Omega)$, $\alpha \in L^\infty(\Omega)$. There exists a function $s \in W^{1,r}(\Omega)$ for all $r \in (2, +\infty)$ such that $\text{tr } \text{Re } s = 0$ on $\partial\Omega$, $w = e^s F$ and $\|s\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} \lesssim \|\alpha\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}$.

The proof is inspired by the one of [5, Theorem 1]. By conformal invariance, it is enough to deal with the case where $\Omega = \mathbb{G}$ is a circular domain. We first assume that $\alpha \in W^{1,2}(\mathbb{G}) \cap L^\infty(\mathbb{G})$. For all $\varphi \in W_{\mathbb{R}}^{1,2}(\mathbb{G})$, let $G(\varphi) \in W_{0,\mathbb{R}}^{1,2}(\mathbb{G})$ be the unique solution of

$$\Delta(G(\varphi)) = \text{Im} \left(\partial(\alpha e^{-2i\varphi}) \right).$$

We claim:

Lemma 11 The operator G is bounded from $W_{\mathbb{R}}^{1,2}(\mathbb{G})$ from $W_{\mathbb{R}}^{2,2}(\mathbb{G})$ and compact from $W_{\mathbb{R}}^{1,2}(\mathbb{G})$ to $W_{\mathbb{R}}^{1,2}(\mathbb{G})$.

Proof: Let $\varphi \in W_{\mathbb{R}}^{1,2}(\mathbb{G})$. As in [5], $\partial(\alpha e^{-2i\varphi}) \in L^2(\mathbb{G})$ and $\|\partial(\alpha e^{-2i\varphi})\|_{L^2(\mathbb{G})} \lesssim \|\varphi\|_{W^{1,2}(\mathbb{G})}$. It is therefore enough to show that the operator T , which, to any function $\psi \in L^2(\mathbb{G})$, associates the solution $h \in W_{0,\mathbb{R}}^{1,2}(\mathbb{G})$ of $\Delta\psi = h$ is continuous from $L^2(\mathbb{G})$ to $W^{2,2}(\mathbb{G})$, which is nothing but the standard $W^{2,2}$ regularity estimate for second order elliptic equations (see [15, Section 6.3, Theorem 4] and note that \mathbb{G} is C^2). This shows that G is bounded from $W_{\mathbb{R}}^{1,2}(\mathbb{G})$ from $W_{\mathbb{R}}^{2,2}(\mathbb{G})$, and its compactness on $W_{\mathbb{R}}^{1,2}(\mathbb{G})$ follows then from the Rellich-Kondrachov theorem. ■

Proof of Theorem 5 : As in the proof of [5, Theorem 1], Lemma 11 entails that G has a fixed point in $W_{\mathbb{R}}^{1,2}(\Omega)$, which yields the conclusion of Theorem 5 when $\alpha \in W^{1,2}(\Omega) \cap L^\infty(\Omega)$, and a limiting procedure ends the proof. ■

Remark 8 Note that, contrary to [5, Thm 1], we did not investigate uniqueness properties of s in Theorem 5.

Combining Proposition 7 and Theorem 5, one easily obtains:

Proposition 8 *Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a bounded Dini-smooth domain, $1 < p < +\infty$ and $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in L^\infty(\Omega)$. For all $w_1 \in G_{\alpha_1}^p(\Omega)$, there exist $s \in W^{1,r}(\Omega)$ for all $r \in (1, +\infty)$ and $w_2 \in G_{\alpha_2}^p(\Omega)$ such that $w_1 = e^s w_2$, $\operatorname{Re} s = 0$ on $\partial\Omega$ and $\|s\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} \lesssim \|\alpha_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + \|\alpha_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}$.*

Proof: Let $w_1 \in G_{\alpha_1}^p(\Omega)$. Proposition 7 provides $s_1 \in W^{1,r}(\Omega)$ for all $r \in (1, +\infty)$ and $F \in H^p(\Omega)$ such that $w_1 = e^{s_1} F$, $\operatorname{Re} s_1 = 0$ on $\partial\Omega$ and $\|s_1\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} \lesssim \|\alpha_1\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}$. Now, Theorem 5 yields $s_2 \in W^{1,r}(\Omega)$ for all $r \in (2, +\infty)$ such that $w_2 := e^{s_2} F \in G_{\alpha_2}^p(\Omega)$, $\operatorname{Re} s_2 = 0$ on $\partial\Omega$ and $\|s_2\|_{W^{1,r}(\Omega)} \lesssim \|\alpha_2\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}$. Finally, $s := s_1 - s_2$ and $w_1 = e^s w_2$ meet all the requirements. \blacksquare

B Appendix: composition operators on the analytic Hardy spaces of the annulus

Recall first that, if $\phi : \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$ is analytic, then $\underline{\phi}$ has a nontangential limit almost everywhere on $\partial\mathbb{A}$. In the sequel, define, for all $z \in \mathbb{A}$,

$$\phi^*(z) := \begin{cases} \phi(z) & \text{if } z \in \mathbb{A}, \\ \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \phi(rz) & \text{if } z \in \mathbb{T}, \\ \lim_{r \rightarrow r_0} \phi(rz) & \text{if } z \in r_0\mathbb{T}. \end{cases} \quad (47)$$

For an analytic function $\phi : \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$, we define the Borel set, for $r_0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$,

$$\Omega_{\phi,\alpha} = \{t \in [0, 2\pi], |\phi^*(z)| = \alpha, z = r_0 e^{it}\} \cup \{t \in [0, 2\pi], |\phi^*(z)| = \alpha, z = e^{it}\}.$$

With a slight abuse of notation, write

$$\Omega_{\phi,\alpha} \cap r_0\mathbb{T} = \{t \in [0, 2\pi], |\phi^*(z)| = \alpha, z = r_0 e^{it}\}$$

and by

$$\Omega_{\phi,\alpha} \cap \mathbb{T} = \{t \in [0, 2\pi], |\phi^*(z)| = \alpha, z = e^{it}\}.$$

Note that $m(\Omega_{\phi,\alpha}) \in [0, 2]$. Let us state:

Theorem 6 *Let $\phi : \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$ be analytic. If C_ϕ is an isometry on $H^p(\mathbb{A})$, then*

$$\phi^*(\partial\mathbb{A}) \subset \partial\mathbb{A} \text{ and } m(\Omega_{\phi,r_0}) = m(\Omega_{\phi,1}) = 1.$$

Proof: To prove that $\phi^*(\partial\mathbb{A}) \subset \partial\mathbb{A}$, we use arguments analogous to the proof of Lemma 8. Suppose toward a contradiction that there is $B_0 \subset \mathbb{A}$ such that $\phi(B_0) \subset \mathbb{A}$. As in the proof of Lemma 8, we can assume that $B_0 \subset \mathbb{T}$. Let $F \in H^p(\mathbb{A})$ satisfying (25) with $\Omega = \mathbb{A}$. Define also $\phi_1^* := \phi^*$ (see (47)) and $\phi_{n+1}^* := \phi^* \circ \phi_n^*$ for all integer $n \geq 1$. For all integer $n \geq 1$, define

$$B_n := \{z \in \partial\Omega; \phi_n^*(z) \in B_0\}.$$

For all integer $j \geq 1$, $F^j \in H^p(\mathbb{A})$ and for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we have that

$$m(B_0) = \lim_{j \rightarrow +\infty} \|F^j\|_{H^p(\mathbb{A})}^p = \lim_{j \rightarrow +\infty} \|C_{\phi_n^*} F^j\|_{H^p(\mathbb{A})}^p = m(B_n),$$

which leads to a contradiction since the $(B_n)_n$ are pairwise disjoint. Moreover, we have that

$$\|C_\phi(Id)\|_p^p = \int_0^{2\pi} |\phi(r_0 e^{it})|^p dt + \int_0^{2\pi} |\phi(e^{it})|^p dt = r_0^p + 1,$$

which implies that

$$r_0^p m(\Omega_{\phi, r_0}) + m(\Omega_{\phi, 1}) = r_0^p + 1. \quad (48)$$

Since $m(\Omega_{\phi, r_0}) + m(\Omega_{\phi, 1}) = 2$, we have (48) if and only if $m(\Omega_{\phi, r_0}) = m(\Omega_{\phi, 1}) = 1$. ■

For further use, let us consider the subsurface of the logarithm surface, introduced by Sarason in [26] and defined by

$$\hat{A} = \{(r, t) : r_0 < r < 1 \text{ and } t \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

Let ψ be the function from \hat{A} onto \mathbb{A} defined by $\psi(r, t) = re^{it}$. We now recall some definitions needed in the sequel.

Definition 3 [26] *A meromorphic function F defined on \hat{A} is said to be modulus automorphic if and only if, for each $(r, t) \in \hat{A}$,*

$$|F(r, t + 2\pi)| = |F(r, t)|.$$

By the maximum modulus principle, there is a constant λ of unit modulus such that, for all $(r, t) \in \hat{A}$,

$$F(r, t + 2\pi) = \lambda F(r, t).$$

Definition 4 *Such a λ is called a multiplier of F and the unique real number $\gamma \in [0, 1)$ such that $\lambda = e^{2i\pi\gamma}$ is called the index of F .*

Remark 9 *If $\phi : \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$ is analytic, then, $\hat{\phi} : \hat{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$, defined by $\hat{\phi} := \phi \circ \psi$ is analytic on \hat{A} with index equal to 0 since for each $(r, t) \in \hat{A}$, $\hat{\phi}(r, t + 2\pi) = \phi(re^{i(t+2\pi)}) = \phi(re^{it})$ (the analyticity of $\hat{\phi}$ following from the analyticity of ϕ and ψ).*

We recall the definition of the $\mathcal{H}_\gamma^p(\mathbb{A})$ Hardy spaces introduced by Sarason.

Definition 5 *Let $\gamma \in [0, 1)$ and $1 \leq p < \infty$. A function F is in $\mathcal{H}_\gamma^p(\mathbb{A})$ if and only if F is holomorphic, modulus automorphic of index γ such that*

$$\sup_{r_0 < r < 1} \int_0^{2\pi} |F(r, t)|^p dt < \infty.$$

In particular, $\mathcal{H}_0^p(\mathbb{A})$ is the space of all functions on \hat{A} obtained by lifting functions in $H^p(\mathbb{A})$. A function in $\mathcal{H}_\gamma^p(\mathbb{A})$ has non-tangential limits at almost every point of $\partial\hat{A}$.

We now give the definitions of singular inner functions and outer functions in \hat{A} (see [26], p. 27).

Definition 6 1. Let μ be a finite real Borel measure on the boundary of \mathbb{A} and u be the function on \mathbb{A} defined by

$$u(re^{it}) = \mu * K = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} K(r, t-s) d\mu(e^{is}) + \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} K\left(\frac{r_0}{r}, t-s\right) d\mu(r_0 e^{is}),$$

where the function K is defined on \hat{A} by

$$K(r, t) = \frac{\frac{1}{q_0} \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{q_0} \ln(r/r_0^{1/2})\right)}{ch\left(\frac{\pi t}{q_0}\right) - \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{q_0} \ln(r/r_0^{1/2})\right)}$$

and $q_0 = -\ln(r_0)$. Let U be the harmonic function defined on \hat{A} obtained by lifting u and V be a harmonic conjugate of U . The modulus automorphic function defined by $F = e^{U+iV}$ is said to be associated with the measure μ .

2. Say that F is an outer function (resp. a singular inner function) if and only if μ is absolutely continuous (resp. singular) with respect to the Lebesgue measure.

Remark 10 By Corollary 1 in [26], if μ is a singular measure on $\partial\mathbb{A}$ and F is a bounded singular function associated with μ , then μ is non-positive.

Every function $F \in \mathcal{H}_\gamma^p(\mathbb{A})$ has a Riesz-Nevanlinna factorization : $F = HSF_e$ where H is a Blaschke product in \hat{A} , S is a singular inner function and F_e is an outer function. We refer to [26] for more details about Blaschke product on \hat{A} .

Proposition 9 Any function $F : \hat{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$ in $\mathcal{H}_\gamma^p(\mathbb{A})$ is an outer function.

The proof relies on the following lemma:

Lemma 12 If μ is a non-negative singular measure, then,

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mu((\theta - h, \theta + h))}{2h} = +\infty \text{ for } \mu \text{ almost all } \theta.$$

This can be proved as in Lemma 5.4 Chapter I of [19], by means of the covering Lemma 4.4 Chapter I of [19]. Let us now turn to the proof of Proposition 9.

Proof: By the Riesz-Nevanlinna factorization, one can write $F = HSF_e$. Since F does not vanish on \hat{A} (recall that $F : \hat{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$), the Blaschke product H is identically equal to 1. Since $S = e^{U+iV}$, we have that $|S| = e^U$ where

$$U(r, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} K(r, t-s) d\mu(e^{is}) + \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} K\left(\frac{r_0}{r}, t-s\right) d\mu(r_0 e^{is}). \quad (49)$$

To prove that F has no singular inner factor, we show that for $t \in \mathbb{R}$ fixed,

$$U(r, t) \xrightarrow[r \rightarrow 1]{} -\infty.$$

Since the second term of the right-hand side of (49) is bounded when $r \rightarrow 1$, it suffices to prove that for $t \in \mathbb{R}$ fixed,

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} K(r, t-s) d\mu(e^{is}) \xrightarrow[r \rightarrow 1]{} -\infty.$$

First, note that, since $q_0 = -\ln(r_0)$,

$$\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{q_0} \ln(r/r_0^{1/2})\right) = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{q_0} \ln(r) + \pi/2\right) = -\sin\left(\frac{\pi \ln(r)}{q_0}\right)$$

and

$$\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{q_0} \ln(r/r_0^{1/2})\right) = \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{q_0} \ln(r) + \pi/2\right) = \cos\left(\frac{\pi \ln(r)}{q_0}\right).$$

Therefore, K can be rewritten as follows

$$K(r, t-s) = \frac{1}{q_0} \frac{-\sin\left(\frac{\pi \ln(r)}{q_0}\right)}{\operatorname{ch}\left(\frac{\pi(t-s)}{q_0}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{\pi \ln(r)}{q_0}\right)}. \quad (50)$$

By [26, Thm 7], since F is not identically 0, S is bounded, and Remark 10 yields that μ is nonpositive. Then, by the positivity of K on \hat{A} and (50), we have that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} K(r, t-s) d(-\mu(e^{is})) \geq \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1}{q_0} \frac{-\sin\left(\frac{\pi \ln(r)}{q_0}\right)}{\operatorname{ch}\left(\frac{\pi(t-s)}{q_0}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{\pi \ln(r)}{q_0}\right)} d(-\mu(e^{is})).$$

For fixed r , let s be such that

$$|t-s| < |\ln(r)| = -\ln(r). \quad (51)$$

It follows at once from (51) that there exist two constants C_1 and C_2 (only depending on r_0) such that

$$-\sin\left(\frac{\pi \ln(r)}{q_0}\right) \geq C_1 |\ln(r)|,$$

and,

$$\operatorname{ch}\left(\frac{\pi(t-s)}{q_0}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{\pi \ln(r)}{q_0}\right) \leq C_2 \ln(r)^2.$$

Define $h := 1 - r$. By the mean-value theorem, there exists $c \in (0, h)$ such that

$$h \leq |\ln(1-h)| = \frac{h}{1-c} \leq \frac{h}{r_0}. \quad (52)$$

As a consequence, there is a constant C (only depending on r_0) such that

$$K(r, t-s) \geq \frac{C}{2(1-r)} = \frac{C}{2h}.$$

Observe that, by (52), if $|t-s| \leq h$, one has $|t-s| \leq |\ln r|$, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} K(r, t-s) d(-\mu(e^{is})) &\geq \int_{t-h}^{t+h} \frac{C}{2h} d(-\mu(e^{is})) \\ &= C \frac{\mu((t-h, t+h))}{2h} \xrightarrow{h \rightarrow 0} +\infty. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, $U(r, t) \xrightarrow{r \rightarrow 1} -\infty$ which implies that

$$|S(r, t)| \xrightarrow{r \rightarrow 1} 0. \quad (53)$$

Moreover, F_e is bounded on \hat{A} . Indeed, for all $(r, t) \in \hat{A}$,

$$|F_e(r, t)| = \exp \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} K(r, t-s) \ln |F(1, s)| ds + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} K\left(\frac{r_0}{r}, t-s\right) \ln |F(r_0, s)| ds \right),$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned} |F_e(r, t)| &\leq \exp \left(\|\ln |F|\|_{L^\infty(\partial \hat{A})} \right) \left(\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} K(r, t-s) + K\left(\frac{r_0}{r}, t-s\right) ds \right) \\ &\leq \exp \left(\|\ln |F|\|_{L^\infty(\partial \hat{A})} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Gathering (53) and the fact that F_e is bounded, one concludes that, for $t \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$|F(r, t)| \xrightarrow{r \rightarrow 1} 0,$$

which is impossible since F takes its values in \mathbb{A} . So, we deduce that F has no singular inner factor, and thus, F is an outer function. ■

Now, one can prove the following proposition.

Proposition 10 *Let $\phi : \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$ be an analytic function. Suppose that C_ϕ is an isometry. Then, only three situations can happen:*

- 1) $|\phi| = r_0$ almost everywhere on \mathbb{T}_{r_0} and $|\phi| = 1$ almost everywhere on \mathbb{T} ;
- 2) $|\phi| = 1$ almost everywhere on \mathbb{T}_{r_0} and $|\phi| = r_0$ almost everywhere on \mathbb{T} ;
- 3) $m(\Omega_{\phi, r_0} \cap \mathbb{T}_{r_0}) = m(\Omega_{\phi, r_0} \cap \mathbb{T}) = \frac{1}{2}$.

Proof: Let $\hat{\phi} : \hat{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$ be the function obtained by lifting the analytic function ϕ . By Definition 5, $\hat{\phi}$ is in $\mathcal{H}_0^p(\mathbb{A})$ and by Proposition 9, $\hat{\phi}$ is an outer function. By Theorem 6 in [26], the index of $\hat{\phi}$ (equal to 0) is congruent modulo 1 to

$$\frac{1}{2\pi q_0} \left(\int_0^{2\pi} \ln |\hat{\phi}(1, t)| dt - \int_0^{2\pi} \ln |\hat{\phi}(r_0, t)| dt \right),$$

which is equal to

$$\frac{1}{2\pi q_0} \left(\int_0^{2\pi} \ln |\phi(e^{it})| dt - \int_0^{2\pi} \ln |\phi(r_0 e^{it})| dt \right),$$

which leads after computations to

$$m(\Omega_{\phi, r_0} \cap \mathbb{T}_{r_0}) - m(\Omega_{\phi, r_0} \cap \mathbb{T}) \equiv 0 \text{ modulo } 1.$$

Since C_ϕ is an isometry, by Theorem 6, $m(\Omega_{\phi, r_0}) = 1$. Writing $s := m(\Omega_{\phi, r_0} \cap \mathbb{T}_{r_0})$, one has

$$s - (1 - s) \equiv 0 \text{ modulo } 1,$$

which gives that

$$2s \equiv 0 \text{ modulo } 1.$$

Since $s \in [0, 1]$, either $s = 0$, either $s = 1$, or $s = \frac{1}{2}$, which gives at once the desired conclusion. ■

Remark 11 *Note that the second case described in Proposition 10 follows from the first one after composition by the inversion $z \mapsto \frac{r_0}{z}$.*

The next theorem completely describes the composition operators on $H^p(\mathbb{A})$ which are isometries in the cases 1 and 2 of Proposition 10.

Theorem 7 *Let $\phi : \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$ be an analytic function satisfying Case 1) (respectively Case 2)) of Proposition 10. Then, C_ϕ is an isometry on $H^p(\mathbb{A})$ if and only if $\phi(z) = cz$ (respectively $\phi(z) = c\frac{r_0}{z}$) where c is a constant of unit modulus.*

The proof relies on the following Theorem (Theorem 6 in [26]):

Theorem 8 *Let F be a modulus automorphic outer function. Then,*

- *If $|F| \leq C_1$ almost everywhere on $\partial\hat{A}$, then, $|F| \leq C_1$ in \hat{A} .*
- *If $|F| \geq C_2$ almost everywhere on $\partial\hat{A}$, then, $|F| \geq C_2$ in \hat{A} .*

Proof: Let us first assume that ϕ satisfies Case 1 of Proposition 10. So, the boundary values of ϕ are in $L^p(\partial\mathbb{A})$ and

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \ln |\phi(e^{it})| dt + \int_0^{2\pi} \ln |\phi(r_0 e^{it})| dt > -\infty.$$

Furthermore, by the proof of Proposition 10, we know that

$$\frac{1}{2\pi q_0} \left(\int_0^{2\pi} \ln |\phi(e^{it})| dt - \int_0^{2\pi} \ln |\phi(r_0 e^{it})| dt \right) \equiv 0 \text{ modulo } 1.$$

Applying Theorem 9 in [26], there exists a unique outer function (up to a multiplicative constant of unit modulus) $F \in \mathcal{H}_0^p(\mathbb{A})$ such that the modulus of F on $\partial\hat{\mathbb{A}}$ is equal almost everywhere to the modulus of ϕ on $\partial\mathbb{A}$.

Likewise, it follows from Theorem 8 (with $C_1 = 1$ and $C_2 = r_0$) that $r_0 \leq |F| \leq 1$ in $\overline{\hat{\mathbb{A}}}$ and thus, for $(r, t) \in \hat{\mathbb{A}}$, $F(r, t) \in \mathbb{A}$.

Now, if we consider the function $\hat{\phi}$ defined on $\hat{\mathbb{A}}$ obtained by lifting ϕ on $\hat{\mathbb{A}}$, Proposition 9 implies that $\hat{\phi}$ is an outer function in $\mathcal{H}_0^p(\hat{\mathbb{A}})$. So, by uniqueness, F is identically equal to $c\hat{\phi}$ where c is a unit modulus constant. But, if \hat{G} denotes the function defined on $\hat{\mathbb{A}}$ obtained by lifting $z \mapsto z$, then, \hat{G} is also an outer function in $\mathcal{H}_0^p(\hat{\mathbb{A}})$ with values in \mathbb{A} . By uniqueness, it follows that, up to a multiplicative constant, F is identically equal to \hat{G} and thus, ϕ is the identity on \mathbb{A} . Argue similarly when ϕ satisfies Case 2. ■

Remark 12 *More generally, we proved that any analytic function $\phi : \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}$ and continuous on $\overline{\mathbb{A}}$ such that $\phi(\partial\mathbb{A}) \subset \partial\mathbb{A}$ is either the identity map on \mathbb{A} or the inversion map ($\phi(z) = \frac{r_0}{z}$), up to a unimodular multiplicative constant.*

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