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Widom's
Conjecture

Spectral Theory of Orthogonal Polynomials

Periodic and Ergodic Spectral Problems

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Lecture 8: Chebyshev Polynomials, II



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- Lecture 1: Introduction and Overview
- Lecture 2: Szegő Theorem for OPUC
- Lecture 3: Three Kinds of Polynomial Asymptotics
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- Lecture 5: Isospectral Tori
- Lecture 6: Fuchsian Groups
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- Lecture 8: Chebyshev Polynomials, II



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[OPUC2] B. Simon, *Orthogonal Polynomials on the Unit Circle, Part 2: Spectral Theory*, AMS Colloquium Series, **54.2**, American Mathematical Society, Providence, RI, 2005.

[SzThm] B. Simon, *Szegő's Theorem and Its Descendants: Spectral Theory for L^2 Perturbations of Orthogonal Polynomials*, M. B. Porter Lectures, Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2011.



Root Asymptotics

This last lecture will discuss some very recent results of Christensen, Simon and Zinchenko. I begin by describing our main new results.

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Observation Totik's result that for any non-polar set $e \subset \mathbb{R}$, there exist period n sets $\tilde{e}_n \supset e$ with $C(\tilde{e}_n) \rightarrow C(e)$ is equivalent to the FFS theorem!

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For $\|T_n\|_e^{1/n} = 2^{1/n} C(e_n)$ with $e_n = T_n^{-1}[-\|T_n\|_e, \|T_n\|_e]$ so FFS \Rightarrow Totik Approximation.



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Theorem For any compact set $e \subset \mathbb{C}$, $|T_n(z)|^{1/n} \rightarrow \exp(-\Phi_e(z))$ uniformly on compact subsets of $\mathbb{C} \setminus \text{cvh}(e)$.



Totik Widom Bounds

Recall that we say that $\epsilon \subset \mathbb{R}$ obeys a Totik-Widom bound if there is a D with $\|T_n\|_\epsilon \leq DC(\epsilon)^n$ and that this was only known for finite gap sets.

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$$\forall x \in \epsilon \forall 0 < \delta < Q \quad |\epsilon \cap (x - \delta, x + \delta)| > c\delta$$

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Theorem *Every homogeneous set obeys a Totik Widom bound.*

Recall that a compact set $\epsilon \subset \mathbb{C}$ is called regular if G_ϵ is continuous on all of \mathbb{C} and vanishes everywhere (rather than only q.e.) on ϵ .



Parreau Widom Sets

We also get rather explicit bounds on D .

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Parreau Widom Sets

We also get rather explicit bounds on D . A set $\mathfrak{e} \subset \mathbb{C}$ is said to be a *Parreau Widom set* if

$$PW(\mathfrak{e}) \equiv \sum_{w \in \mathcal{C}} G_{\mathfrak{e}}(w) < \infty$$

where \mathcal{C} is the set of critical points of $G_{\mathfrak{e}}$ (i.e. points where $G'_{\mathfrak{e}}(w) = 0$).

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Theorem *If $\epsilon \subset \mathbb{R}$ is a regular Parreau-Widom set, then*

$$\|T_n\|_\epsilon \leq 2 \exp(PW(\epsilon)) C(\epsilon)^n$$

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Homogeneous sets are regular and obey a Parreau Widom condition (a theorem of Jones and Marshall). This explicit constant is interesting even for the finite gap case.

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Interesting Open Question Does potential theory regularity + Parreau-Widom \Rightarrow Totik-Widom bound for general $\epsilon \subset \mathbb{C}$ (our proof is only for $\epsilon \subset \mathbb{R}$).

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Widom's Conjecture

Theorem *Widom's conjecture on the almost periodic Szegő asymptotics outside ϵ for the Chebyshev polynomials of finite gap sets is true.*

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Our Proof of Root Asymptotics for $T_n(z)$

We begin with the Bernstein Walsh Lemma which implies that $|T_n(z)| \leq \|T_n\|_\epsilon \exp(nG_\epsilon(z))$.

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$$|T_n(z)|^{1/n} \leq Y(n) \exp(-\Phi_{\epsilon}(z)); \quad Y(n) \equiv \|T_n\|_{\epsilon}^{1/n} / C(\epsilon)$$

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It can be proven that all the zeros of T_n lie in $\text{cvh}(\epsilon)$ so on $\tilde{\Omega} \equiv (\mathbb{C} \cup \infty) \setminus \text{cvh}(\epsilon)$, we have that $h_n(z) \equiv \log Y(n) - \Phi_{\epsilon}(z) - \frac{1}{n} \log |T_n(z)|$ are non-negative harmonic functions

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Note that this theorem implies convergence of the density of zeros when $\epsilon \subset \mathbb{R}$, another result of Saff-Totik.

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Proof modulo Lemma

Lemma Let $\epsilon \subset \epsilon_n \subset \mathbb{R}$ be a compact subset and its canonical period n superset.

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Lemma Let $\epsilon \subset \epsilon_n \subset \mathbb{R}$ be a compact subset and its canonical period n superset. Let K be a gap of ϵ and $d\rho_n$, the equilibrium measure of ϵ_n .

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Accepting this for the moment, let $h(z) \equiv G_\epsilon(z) - G_{\epsilon_n}(z)$ which is harmonic at infinity with

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$$h(\infty) \leq \sum_{j=1}^M \rho_n(K_j) \max_{x \in K_j} (G_\epsilon(x)) \leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^M G_\epsilon(w_j)$$

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since regularity of ϵ implies G_ϵ vanishes at the ends of each gap so the maximum is taken a critical point w_j .

Exponentiating and using $\|T_n\|_\epsilon \leq 2C(\epsilon_n)^n$ we get the result. ■



Proof of the Lemma

Because the integrated equilibrium measure of ϵ_n is $\frac{1}{\pi n} \arccos\left(\frac{T_n(x)}{\|T_n\|_\epsilon}\right)$, each band of ϵ_n has ρ_{ϵ_n} measure $\frac{1}{n}$ and the part of a band from a zero of T_n to a nearby band edge has ρ_{ϵ_n} measure $\frac{1}{2n}$.

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Case 1 (T_n has no zero in K) Then there are zeros above and below K not in K . Thus K contains at most two half bands.

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Case 2 (T_n has a zero in K) By the Alternation Theorem, one of the two extreme points immediately below the zero must lie in ϵ , so there is at most a half band below the zero. Similarly, at most a half band above, so no more than a full band. ■

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Size of $\epsilon_n \setminus e$

In fact, one can prove if there is a zero not too close to a gap edge and n is large, then there is exactly a full exponentially small (in Lebesgue measure) band of ϵ_n totally inside K .

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Size of $\epsilon_n \setminus e$

In fact, one can prove if there is a zero not too close to a gap edge and n is large, then there is exactly a full exponentially small (in Lebesgue measure) band of ϵ_n totally inside K .

This implies that if K is a gap and n_j is such as $j \rightarrow \infty$ and any zeros of T_{n_j} in K go to the edges,

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Similarly if, for j large T_{n_j} has a zero, x_j , in K and $x_j \rightarrow x_{\infty} \in K$, then only x_{∞} is asymptotically in $\epsilon_{n_j} \cap K$ in the sense that $\bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{j=k}^{\infty} (K \cap \epsilon_{n_j}) = \{x_{\infty}\}$.

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Pointwise Asymptotics in Terms of B_n

We fix $\epsilon \subset \mathbb{R}$. We will use $B(z)$ for what we previously called $B_\epsilon(z)$, that is the multivalued function on $\Omega \equiv (\mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}) \setminus \epsilon$,

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We fix $\epsilon \subset \mathbb{R}$. We will use $B(z)$ for what we previously called $B_\epsilon(z)$, that is the multivalued function on $\Omega \equiv (\mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}) \setminus \epsilon$, that on all sheets has $|B(z)| = \exp(G(z))$ where $G(z)$ is what we previously called $G_\epsilon(z)$.

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Pointwise Asymptotics in Terms of B_n

We fix $\epsilon \subset \mathbb{R}$. We will use $B(z)$ for what we previously called $B_\epsilon(z)$, that is the multivalued function on $\Omega \equiv (\mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}) \setminus \epsilon$, that on all sheets has $|B(z)| = \exp(G(z))$ where $G(z)$ is what we previously called $G_\epsilon(z)$. We also use $\tilde{\Omega}$ for $(\mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}) \setminus \text{cvh}(\epsilon)$ and $\tilde{G}(z)$ for the Green's function of $\text{cvh}(\epsilon)$.

As previously, $\epsilon_n \equiv T_n^{-1}[-\|T_n\|_\epsilon, \|T_n\|_\epsilon]$, $G_n(z)$ will be its Green's function and $B_n(z)$ it's B -function.

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$$B_n(z)^n = \frac{T_n(z)}{\|T_n\|} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{T_n(z)}{\|T_n\|}\right)^2 - 1}$$



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which shows once again that $B_n(z)^n$ is single valued on Ω_n .

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which shows once again that $B_n(z)^n$ is single valued on Ω_n . $B_n(z)^{-n}$ has the same formula with a minus in front of the square root.

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which shows once again that $B_n(z)^n$ is single valued on Ω_n . $B_n(z)^{-n}$ has the same formula with a minus in front of the square root. Thus, we obtain the crucial formula

$$2 \frac{T_n(z)}{\|T_n\|} = B_n(z)^n + B_n(z)^{-n}$$

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As we've seen, as sets in \mathbb{R} increase, the Green's functions decrease,

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As we've seen, as sets in \mathbb{R} increase, the Green's functions decrease, so for all n , we have that $G_n(z) \geq \tilde{G}(z)$,

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$$2 \frac{T_n(z)}{\|T_n\|} = B_n(z)^n + B_n(z)^{-n}$$

As we've seen, as sets in \mathbb{R} increase, the Green's functions decrease, so for all n , we have that $G_n(z) \geq \tilde{G}(z)$, which implies that uniformly on compact subsets of $\tilde{\Omega}$, $B_n(z)^{-2n} \rightarrow 0$. Thus on such compacts

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2T_n(z)}{\|T_n\| B_n(z)^n} = 1$$

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Pointwise Asymptotics in Terms of B_n

We want to prove that uniformly on compact subsets of Ω ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{T_n(z)}{C(\epsilon)^n B(z)^n} - F_n(z) \right] = 0$$

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Pointwise Asymptotics in Terms of B_n

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which given what we proved above, and $\|T_n\| = 2C(\epsilon_n)^n$ is equivalent to

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Please don't miss something that may have gone by too fast for you notice. The whole issue here is factors of 2. There are two of them which canceled: namely the 2 in the formula relating $T_n(z)$ to $B(z)^n$ and the 2 relating $\|T_n\|$ to $2C(\epsilon_n)$.

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Please don't miss something that may have gone by too fast for you notice. The whole issue here is factors of 2. There are two of them which canceled: namely the 2 in the formula relating $T_n(z)$ to $B(z)^n$ and the 2 relating $\|T_n\|$ to $2C(\epsilon_n)$. They arise from slightly different causes but they still cancel. Also, the equivalence is only true for $z \in \Omega_n$ so we'll initially focus on proving the last limit on $\tilde{\Omega}$.

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Pointwise Asymptotics on $\tilde{\Omega}$

Once, we have things in this form, we can essentially follow one of Widom's arguments. Define

$$H_n(z) = \left[\frac{C(\mathbf{e}_n)^n B_n(z)^n}{C(\mathbf{e})^n B(z)^n} \right]$$

which is character automorphic on Ω_n with essentially the same character as $B(z)^{-n}$ since $B_n(z)^n$ is automorphic.

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$$|H_n(z)| \leq \left[\frac{C(\mathbf{e}_n)}{C(\mathbf{e})} \right]^n$$

which the Totik-Widom bound says is uniformly bounded in z and n .

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Pointwise Asymptotics on $\tilde{\Omega}$

To prove that the limit we want is zero, it suffices to prove any subsequence has a subsubsequence converging to zero, so we'll pick the subsubsequence obeying:

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Pointwise Asymptotics on $\tilde{\Omega}$

To prove that the limit we want is zero, it suffices to prove any subsequence has a subsubsequence converging to zero, so we'll pick the subsubsequence obeying:

- The characters $\chi_{n_j} \rightarrow \chi_\infty \Rightarrow F_{n_j}$ has a limit, F_∞

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- The characters $\chi_{n_j} \rightarrow \chi_\infty \Rightarrow F_{n_j}$ has a limit, F_∞
- $\left[\frac{C(\epsilon_{n_j})}{C(\epsilon)} \right]^{n_j}$ has a limit which is $\|F_\infty\|_\Omega$ by Widom

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- $\left[\frac{C(\epsilon_{n_j})}{C(\epsilon)} \right]^{n_j}$ has a limit which is $\|F_\infty\|_\Omega$ by Widom
- In each gap, K_ℓ , of ϵ , either T_{n_j} has a zero for j large and the limit of the zeros is $x_\ell \in K_\ell$

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- In each gap, K_ℓ , of ϵ , either T_{n_j} has a zero for j large and the limit of the zeros is $x_\ell \in K_\ell$ or any zero in the gap, K_ℓ , approaches ϵ in the limit

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Pointwise Asymptotics on $\tilde{\Omega}$

To prove that the limit we want is zero, it suffices to prove any subsequence has a subsubsequence converging to zero, so we'll pick the subsubsequence obeying:

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- On $\tilde{\Omega}$, the $H_{n_j}(z)$ have a limit $H_\infty(z)$ (by Montel's Theorem)

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Pointwise Asymptotics on $\tilde{\Omega}$

To prove that the limit we want is zero, it suffices to prove any subsequence has a subsubsequence converging to zero, so we'll pick the subsubsequence obeying:

- The characters $\chi_{n_j} \rightarrow \chi_\infty \Rightarrow F_{n_j}$ has a limit, F_∞
- $\left[\frac{C(\epsilon_{n_j})}{C(\epsilon)}\right]^{n_j}$ has a limit which is $\|F_\infty\|_\Omega$ by Widom
- In each gap, K_ℓ , of ϵ , either T_{n_j} has a zero for j large and the limit of the zeros is $x_\ell \in K_\ell$ or any zero in the gap, K_ℓ , approaches ϵ in the limit
- On $\tilde{\Omega}$, the $H_{n_j}(z)$ have a limit $H_\infty(z)$ (by Montel's Theorem)

Let \mathcal{J} be the set of gaps, K_ℓ , with a limit point of zeros.

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Pointwise Asymptotics on $\tilde{\Omega}$

The H_{n_j} are defined and character automorphic on sets which converge to the universal cover of Ω with the points that map into the $\{x_\ell\}_{\{K_\ell \in \mathcal{J}\}}$ removed,

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Pointwise Asymptotics on $\tilde{\Omega}$

The H_{n_j} are defined and character automorphic on sets which converge to the universal cover of Ω with the points that map into the $\{x_\ell\}_{\{K_\ell \in \mathcal{J}\}}$ removed, so by Vitali's theorem, H_∞ has a continuation to that set.

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Pointwise Asymptotics on $\tilde{\Omega}$

The H_{n_j} are defined and character automorphic on sets which converge to the universal cover of Ω with the points that map into the $\{x_\ell\}_{\{K_\ell \in \mathcal{J}\}}$ removed, so by Vitali's theorem, H_∞ has a continuation to that set. By the Widom norm asymptotic result, where it is defined, $|H_\infty(z)| \leq \|F_\infty\|_\Omega$. Thus, the x_ℓ are removable singularities.

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Since near ∞ , $B_{\mathfrak{g}}(z) = \frac{z}{C(\mathfrak{g})} + O(1)$, we see that for each n , $H_n(\infty) = 1 \Rightarrow H_\infty(\infty) = 1$.

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Pointwise Asymptotics on $\tilde{\Omega}$

The H_{n_j} are defined and character automorphic on sets which converge to the universal cover of Ω with the points that map into the $\{x_\ell\}_{\{K_\ell \in \mathcal{J}\}}$ removed, so by Vitali's theorem, H_∞ has a continuation to that set. By the Widom norm asymptotic result, where it is defined, $|H_\infty(z)| \leq \|F_\infty\|_\Omega$. Thus, the x_ℓ are removable singularities.

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The H_{n_j} are defined and character automorphic on sets which converge to the universal cover of Ω with the points that map into the $\{x_\ell\}_{\{K_\ell \in \mathcal{J}\}}$ removed, so by Vitali's theorem, H_∞ has a continuation to that set. By the Widom norm asymptotic result, where it is defined, $|H_\infty(z)| \leq \|F_\infty\|_\Omega$. Thus, the x_ℓ are removable singularities.

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Pointwise Asymptotics on $\tilde{\Omega}$

The H_{n_j} are defined and character automorphic on sets which converge to the universal cover of Ω with the points that map into the $\{x_\ell\}_{\{K_\ell \in \mathcal{J}\}}$ removed, so by Vitali's theorem, H_∞ has a continuation to that set. By the Widom norm asymptotic result, where it is defined, $|H_\infty(z)| \leq \|F_\infty\|_\Omega$. Thus, the x_ℓ are removable singularities.

Since near ∞ , $B_{\mathfrak{g}}(z) = \frac{z}{C(\mathfrak{g})} + O(1)$, we see that for each n , $H_n(\infty) = 1 \Rightarrow H_\infty(\infty) = 1$. Thus, H_∞ is a trial function for the problem where F_∞ is the minimizer. Since $\|H_\infty\|_\Omega \leq \|F_\infty\|_\Omega$, the uniqueness of the minimizer implies that $H_\infty = F_\infty$, proving the desired convergence on $\tilde{\Omega}$.

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Pointwise Asymptotics on $\tilde{\Omega}$

We have thus proven that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{T_n(z)}{C(\epsilon)^n B(z)^n} - F_n(z) \right] = 0$$

for $z \in \tilde{\Omega}$.

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Pointwise Asymptotics on $\tilde{\Omega}$

We have thus proven that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{T_n(z)}{C(\mathfrak{e})^n B(z)^n} - F_n(z) \right] = 0$$

for $z \in \tilde{\Omega}$. But we've proven these functions are uniformly bounded character automorphic functions on the universal cover of Ω so, by Vitali's theorem, we get convergence on that entire cover.

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Pointwise Asymptotics on $\tilde{\Omega}$

We have thus proven that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{T_n(z)}{C(\mathfrak{e})^n B(z)^n} - F_n(z) \right] = 0$$

for $z \in \tilde{\Omega}$. But we've proven these functions are uniformly bounded character automorphic functions on the universal cover of Ω so, by Vitali's theorem, we get convergence on that entire cover. ■ ■

Main Results

Root Asymptotics

Totik Widom
Bounds

Widom's
Conjecture