



Off-Spectral Analysis of Bergman Kernels

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Abstract: The asymptotic analysis of Bergman kernels with respect to exponentially varying measures near emergent interfaces has attracted recent attention. Such interfaces typically occur when the associated limiting Bergman density function vanishes on a portion of the plane, *the off-spectral region*. This type of behavior is observed when the metric is negatively curved somewhere, or when we study partial Bergman kernels in the context of positively curved metrics. In this work, we cover these two situations in a unified way, for exponentially varying weights on the complex plane. We obtain a uniform asymptotic expansion of the *coherent state of depth n* rooted at an off-spectral point, which we also refer to as the *root function* at the point in question. The expansion is valid in the entire off-spectral component containing the root point, and protrudes into the spectrum as well. This allows us to obtain error function transition behavior of the density of states along the smooth interface. Previous work on asymptotic expansions of Bergman kernels is typically local, and valid only in the bulk region of the spectrum, which contrasts with our non-local expansions.

1. Introduction

1.1. Bergman kernels and emergent interfaces. This article is a companion to our recent work [15] on the structure of planar orthogonal polynomials. We will make frequent use of methods developed there, and recommend that the reader keep that article available for ease of reference.

The study of Bergman kernel asymptotics has by now a sizeable literature. The majority of the contributions have the flavor of local asymptotics near a given point w_0 , under a positive curvature condition. However, in the study of partial Bergman kernels for the subspace of all functions vanishing to a given order at the point w_0 , the assumption of vanishing has the effect of introducing a negative point mass for the curvature form at w_0 . In addition to the negative curvature which comes from considering partial Bergman kernels defined by vanishing, we allow for the direct effect of patches of negatively curved

geometry. Around the set of negative curvature, a *forbidden region* (or *off-spectral set*) emerges. This forbidden region is typically larger than the set of actual negative curvature, and may consist of several connectivity components. Recently, the asymptotic behavior of Bergman kernels near the interface at the edge of the forbidden region has attracted considerable attention. In this work, we intend to investigate this in the fairly general setting of exponentially varying weights in the complex plane. The restriction of the Bergman kernel to the diagonal gives us the density of states, which drops steeply at the interface. Indeed, in the forbidden region the density of states vanishes asymptotically, with exponential decay. One of our main results is that the density of states across the interface converges to the error function in a blow-up, provided the interface is smooth.

The key to obtaining the above-mentioned result is in fact our main result. It concerns the *expansion of the coherent state* $k_n(z, w_0)$ of depth n rooted at a given off-spectral point w_0 . This is the normalized reproducing kernel function at the point w_0 for the Bergman space defined by vanishing to order n at w_0 . When $n = 0$, the coherent state of depth 0 is just the normalized Bergman kernel $K(w_0, w_0)^{-\frac{1}{2}} K(z, w_0)$. An important feature of the asymptotic expansion is that z and w_0 are allowed to be macroscopically separated. Such truly off-diagonal expansions have, to the best of our knowledge, not appeared elsewhere. It is easy to see that the coherent state of order $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, at w_0 form an orthonormal basis for the Bergman space, which gives an expansion of the density of states, which leads to the error function asymptotics. Similarly, if we want to handle partial Bergman kernels given by vanishing to order n_0 at w_0 , we expand in the basis given by the coherent states of depth $n \geq n_0$.

1.2. Coherent states and elementary potential theory. We now introduce the objects of study. We let m denote a large positive real parameter and $Q : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ a continuous potential, and consider the Bergman space A_{mQ}^2 defined as the collection of all entire functions f in the Lebesgue Hilbert space L_{mQ}^2 with finite weighted norm

$$\|f\|_{mQ}^2 := \int_{\mathbb{C}} |f(z)|^2 e^{-2mQ(z)} dA(z) < +\infty,$$

where dA denotes the planar area element normalized so that the unit disk \mathbb{D} has unit area. The associated sesquilinear form on L_{mQ}^2 is denoted by $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{mQ}$. The Hilbert space A_{mQ}^2 then automatically has continuous point evaluations $f \mapsto f(w)$ for each fixed $w \in \mathbb{C}$, which allows us to define the reproducing kernel K_m for the space A_{mQ}^2 via the Riesz representation theorem: $f(w) = \langle f, K_m(\cdot, w) \rangle_{mQ}$. Note that it is possible that the space A_{mQ}^2 is trivial, for instance if $Q = 0$ identically. Moreover, if the space A_{mQ}^2 is trivial, the kernel K_m is trivial as well, and vice versa. Next, *suppose that A_{mQ}^2 is nontrivial*, so that K_m is nontrivial as well. We consider a point $w_0 \in \mathbb{C}$, and note that $K_m(w_0, w_0) \geq 0$ automatically. We claim that in fact $K_m(w_0, w_0) > 0$. Indeed, if $K_m(w_0, w_0) = 0$, we would have that $f(w_0) = 0$ for each $f \in A_{mQ}^2$. But if $f \neq 0$, we may factor $f(z) = (z - w_0)^N g(z)$, where $N \geq 1$ and g is entire with $g(w_0) \neq 0$. Clearly, $g \in A_{mQ}^2$, since division by $(z - w_0)^N$ makes the function smaller outside a disk of radius 1 about w_0 . Finally, the fact that $g(w_0) \neq 0$ forces $K_m(w_0, w_0) > 0$, a contradiction. For nontrivial A_{mQ}^2 , we consider the *coherent state* (normalized Bergman kernel)

$$k_{m,w_0}(z) := K_m(w_0, w_0)^{-\frac{1}{2}} K_m(z, w_0), \quad (1.2.1)$$

which has norm 1 in A_{mQ}^2 .

We will need these notions in the context of partial Bergman kernels as well. For a non-negative integer n and a point $w_0 \in \mathbb{C}$, we consider the subspace A_{mQ,n,w_0}^2 of A_{mQ}^2 , consisting of those functions that vanish to order at least n at w_0 . It may happen for some n that this space is trivial, for instance when the potential Q has logarithmic growth only, because then the space A_{mQ}^2 consists of polynomials of a bounded degree. We denote its reproducing kernel by K_{m,n,w_0} , and observe that $K_{m,0,w_0} = K_m$. We define the *coherent state of depth n at w_0* (or the *root function* of order n), denoted k_{m,n,w_0} , as the unique solution to the optimization problem

$$\max \{ \operatorname{Re} f^{(n)}(w_0) : f \in A_{mQ,n,w_0}^2, \|f\|_{mQ} \leq 1 \},$$

provided the maximum is positive, in which case the optimizer has norm $\|f\|_{mQ} = 1$. In the remaining case, the maximum equals 0, and this is because the space A_{mQ,n,w_0}^2 is trivial, in which case we declare that $k_{m,n,w_0} = 0$. The argument that $A_{mQ,n,w_0}^2 = \{0\}$ holds if the above maximum vanishes is analogous to the one we already gave (to the effect that if A_{mQ}^2 is nontrivial, then there exists $f \in A_{mQ}^2$ with $f(w_0) \neq 0$), and hence we omit the necessary details. When nontrivial, the root function (or coherent state) of order n at w_0 is connected with the reproducing kernel K_{m,n,w_0} :

$$k_{m,n,w_0}(z) = \lim_{\zeta \rightarrow w_0} K_{m,n,w_0}(\zeta, \zeta)^{-1/2} K_{m,n,w_0}(z, \zeta), \quad (1.2.2)$$

where the point ζ should approach w_0 not arbitrarily but in a fashion such that the limit exists and has positive n -th derivative at w_0 . The root function k_{m,n,w_0} will play a key role in our analysis, similar to that of the orthogonal polynomials in the context of polynomial Bergman kernels. The root functions k_{m,n,w_0} all have norm equal to 1 in A_{mQ}^2 , except when they are trivial and have norm 0. As a result of the relation (1.2.2), we may alternatively call the root function k_{m,n,w_0} a *normalized partial Bergman kernel*.

We now turn to some potential theory aspects. There is a notion of the *spectrum* \mathcal{S} , also called the *spectral droplet*. This is the closed set defined in terms of the following obstacle problem. Let $\operatorname{SH}(\mathbb{C})$ denote the cone of all subharmonic functions on the plane \mathbb{C} , and consider the function

$$\hat{Q}(z) := \sup \{ q(z) : q \in \operatorname{SH}(\mathbb{C}), \text{ and } q \leq Q \text{ on } \mathbb{C} \}.$$

If Q does not have a subharmonic minorant, then the problem degenerates: $\hat{Q} = -\infty$ identically. However, if Q is $C^{1,1}$ -smooth and has some modest growth at infinity, it is known that $\hat{Q} \in C^{1,1}$ as well, and it is a matter of definition that $\hat{Q} \leq Q$ pointwise (see, e.g., [12]). Here, $C^{1,1}$ denotes the standard smoothness class of differentiable functions with Lipschitz continuous first order partial derivatives. We define the *spectrum* (or the *spectral droplet*) as the contact set

$$\mathcal{S} := \{ z \in \mathbb{C} : \hat{Q}(z) = Q(z) \}. \quad (1.2.3)$$

The *forbidden region* is the complement $\mathcal{S}^c = \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathcal{S}$. The spectral droplet \mathcal{S} is associated with the Bergman kernels K_m . There is also the corresponding notion of a spectral droplet

associated with the partial Bergman kernels K_{m,n,w_0} as defined in Sect. 2.1 below, which we now briefly outline. For $0 \leq \tau < +\infty$, let $\text{SH}_{\tau,w_0}(\mathbb{C})$ denote the convex set

$$\text{SH}_{\tau,w_0}(\mathbb{C}) = \{q \in \text{SH}(\mathbb{C}) : q(z) \leq \tau \log|z - w_0| + O(1) \text{ as } z \rightarrow w_0\},$$

so that for $\tau = 0$ we recover $\text{SH}(\mathbb{C})$. We consider the corresponding obstacle problem

$$\hat{Q}_{\tau,w_0}(z) = \sup \{q(z) : q \in \text{SH}_{\tau,w_0}(\mathbb{C}), q \leq Q \text{ on } \mathbb{C}\}, \quad (1.2.4)$$

and observe that $\tau \mapsto \hat{Q}_{\tau,w_0}$ is monotonically decreasing pointwise. We define a family of spectral droplets as the coincidence sets

$$\mathcal{S}_{\tau,w_0} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : Q(z) = \hat{Q}_{\tau,w_0}(z)\}. \quad (1.2.5)$$

Due to the monotonicity, the droplets \mathcal{S}_{τ,w_0} get smaller as τ increases, starting from $\mathcal{S}_{0,w_0} = \mathcal{S}$ for $\tau = 0$. We now come to the connection with partial Bergman kernels. The *partial Bergman density*

$$\rho_{m,n,w_0}(z) := m^{-1} K_{m,n,w_0}(z, z) e^{-2mQ(z)}, \quad z \in \mathbb{C},$$

may be interpreted as the normalized local dimension of the space $A_{mQ,n,w_0}^2(\mathbb{C})$, and, in addition, it can be understood as the intensity of a corresponding (possibly infinite) Coulomb gas. In the case $n = 0$ we omit the word ‘‘partial’’ and speak of the *Bergman density*. In the limit as $m, n \rightarrow +\infty$ with $n = m\tau$, it is known that

$$\rho_{m,n,w_0}(z) \rightarrow 2\Delta Q(z) 1_{\mathcal{S}_{\tau,w_0}}(z),$$

in the sense of convergence of distributions. In particular, $\Delta Q \geq 0$ holds a.e. on \mathcal{S} . Here, we write Δ for differential operator $\partial\bar{\partial}$, which is one quarter of the usual Laplacian. The above convergence reinforces our understanding of the droplets \mathcal{S}_{τ,w_0} as spectra, in the sense that the Coulomb gas may be thought to model eigenvalues (at least in the finite-dimensional case). The *bulk* of the spectral droplet \mathcal{S}_{τ,w_0} is the set

$$\text{bulk}(\mathcal{S}_{\tau,w_0}) := \{z \in \text{int}(\mathcal{S}_{\tau,w_0}) : \Delta Q(z) > 0\},$$

where ‘‘int’’ stands for the operation of taking the interior.

1.3. Further background on Bergman kernel expansions. Our motivation for the above setup originates with the theory of random matrices, specifically the *random normal matrix ensembles*. We should mention that an analogous situation occurs in the study of complex manifolds. The Bergman kernel then appears in the study of spaces of L^2 -integrable global holomorphic sections of L^m , where L^m is a high tensor power of a holomorphic line bundle L over the manifold, endowed with an hermitian fiber metric h . If $\{U_i\}_i$ is a coordinate system on a manifold, then a holomorphic section s to a line bundle L can be written in local coordinates as $s = s_i e_i$, where e_i are local basis elements for L and s_i are holomorphic functions. The pointwise norm of a section s of L^m may be then be written as $|s|_{h^m}^2 = |s_i|^2 e^{-m\phi_i}$ on U_i , for some smooth real-valued functions ϕ_i . Along with a volume form on the base manifold, this defines an L^2 space which shares many characteristics with the spaces considered here.

The asymptotic behavior of Bergman kernels has been the subject of intense investigation. However, the understanding has largely been limited to the analysis of the kernel

inside the bulk of the spectrum, in which case the kernel enjoys a full *local* asymptotic expansion. The pioneering work on Bergman kernel asymptotics begins with the efforts by Hörmander [16] and Fefferman [10]. Developing further the microlocal approach of Hörmander, Boutet de Monvel and Sjöstrand [7] obtain a near-diagonal expansion of the Bergman kernel close to the boundary of the given domain. Later, in the context of Kähler geometry, the influential *peak section method* was introduced by Tian [22]. His results were refined further by Catlin and Zelditch [8, 23], while the connection with microlocal analysis was greatly simplified in the more recent work by Berman, Berndtsson, and Sjöstrand [6]. A key element of all these methods is that the kernel is determined by the local geometry around the given point. This feature is absent when we consider the kernel near an off-spectral point or near a boundary point of the spectral droplet.

In the recent work [15], we analyze the boundary behavior of polynomial Bergman kernels, for which the corresponding spectral droplet is compact, connected, and has a smooth Jordan curve as boundary. The analysis takes the path via a full asymptotic expansion of the orthogonal polynomials, valid off a sequence of increasing compacts which eventually fill the droplet. By expanding the polynomial kernel in the orthonormal basis provided by the orthogonal polynomials, the error function asymptotics emerges along smooth spectral boundaries. This compares with the earlier work [3], which captures the boundary effects at the level of mean field asymptotics, and builds on the methods developed in [2]. Prior to the work [15], little was known about the general behavior of planar orthogonal polynomials for exponentially varying weights. However, in specific situations, such as the two-parameter weight family considered in [5], very detailed analysis was available.

The appearance of an interface for partial Bergman kernels in higher dimensional settings and in the context of complex manifolds has been observed more than once, notably in the work by Shiffman and Zelditch [21] and by Pokorný and Singer [17]. That the error function governs the transition behavior across the interface was observed later in several contexts. For instance, in [18], Ross and Singer investigate the partial Bergman kernels associated to spaces of holomorphic sections vanishing along a divisor, and obtain error function transition behavior under the assumption that the setup is invariant under a holomorphic S^1 -action. This result was later extended by Zelditch and Zhou [24], in the context of S^1 -symmetry. More recently, Zelditch and Zhou [25] obtain the same transition for so-called *spectral partial Bergman kernels*, defined in terms of the Toeplitz quantization of a general smooth Hamiltonian.

Our methods for obtaining asymptotic expansions of coherent states centered at off-spectral points do not easily extend to the higher complex dimensional setting. It appears plausible, however, that our analysis would apply in the context of sections of positive holomorphic line bundles on compact Riemann surfaces.

1.4. Off-spectral and off-diagonal asymptotics of coherent states. The main contribution of the present work, put in the planar context, is a non-local asymptotic expansion of coherent states centered at an off-spectral point. For ease of exposition, we begin with a version that requires as few prerequisites as possible for the formulation. We denote by $Q(z)$ an *admissible potential*, by which we mean the following:

- (i) $Q : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is C^2 -smooth, and has sufficient growth at infinity:

$$\tau_Q := \liminf_{|z| \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{Q(z)}{\log|z|} > 0.$$

- (ii) Q is real-analytically smooth and strictly subharmonic in a neighborhood of ∂S , where S is the contact set of (1.2.3),

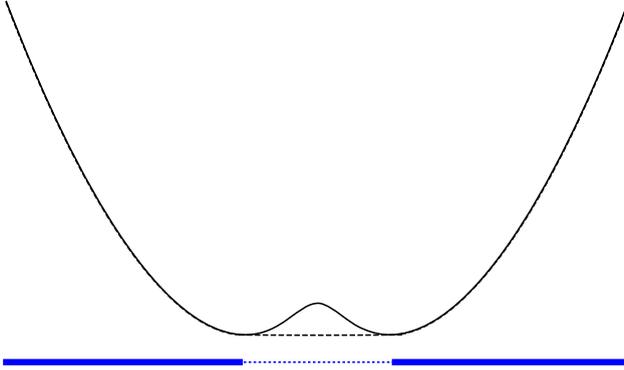


Fig. 1. Illustration of the spectral droplet corresponding to the potential $Q(z) = |z|^2 - \log(a + |z|^2)$, with $a = 0.04$. The spectrum is illustrated with a thick line, and appears as the contact set between Q (solid) and the solution \hat{Q} to the obstacle function (dashed)

(iii) there exists a bounded component Ω of the complement $\mathcal{S}^c = \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathcal{S}$ which is simply connected, and has real-analytically smooth Jordan curve boundary.

We consider the case when there exists a non-trivial off-spectral component Ω which is bounded and simply connected, with real-analytic boundary, and pick a “root point” $w_0 \in \Omega$. To be precise, by an *off-spectral component* we mean a connectivity component of the complement \mathcal{S}^c . This situation occurs, e.g., if the potential is strictly superharmonic in a portion of the plane, as is illustrated in Fig. 1. In terms of the metric, this means that there is a region where the curvature is negative.

A WORD ON NOTATION. To formulate our first main result, we need the function Q_{w_0} , which is bounded and holomorphic in the off-spectral component Ω and whose real part equals Q along the boundary $\partial\Omega$. To fix the imaginary part, we require that $Q_{w_0}(w_0) \in \mathbb{R}$. In addition, we need the conformal mapping φ_{w_0} which takes Ω onto the unit disk \mathbb{D} with $\varphi_{w_0}(w_0) = 0$ and $\varphi'_{w_0}(w_0) > 0$. Since the boundary $\partial\Omega$ is assumed to be a real-analytically smooth Jordan curve, both the function Q_{w_0} and the conformal mapping φ_{w_0} extend analytically across $\partial\Omega$ to a fixed larger domain. By possibly considering a smaller fixed larger domain, we may assume that the extended function φ_{w_0} is conformal on the larger region. These observations are essential for our first main result, since we want the asymptotics to hold across the interface $\partial\Omega$.

Theorem 1.4.1. *Assuming that Q is an admissible potential, we have the following. Given a positive integer κ and a positive real A , there exist a neighborhood Ω^\circledast of the closure of Ω and bounded holomorphic functions \mathcal{B}_{j,w_0} on Ω^\circledast for $j = 0, \dots, \kappa$, as well as domains $\Omega_m = \Omega_{m,A}$ with $\Omega \subset \Omega_m \subset \Omega^\circledast$ which meet*

$$\text{dist}_{\mathbb{C}}(\partial\Omega_m, \partial\Omega) \geq A m^{-\frac{1}{2}} (\log m)^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

such that the normalized Bergman kernel at the point w_0 enjoys the asymptotic expansion

$$\begin{aligned} k_m(z, w_0) &= \frac{K_m(z, w_0)}{K_m(w_0, w_0)^{1/2}} \\ &= m^{\frac{1}{4}} (\varphi'_{w_0}(z))^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{m Q_{w_0}(z)} \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^{\kappa} m^{-j} \mathcal{B}_{j,w_0}(z) + O(m^{-\kappa-1}) \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

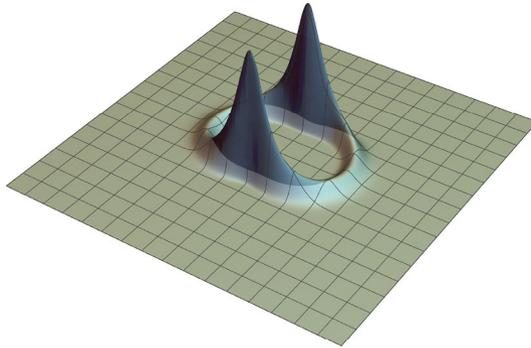


Fig. 2. Illustration of the the Gaussian wave asymptotics of the probability density associated to the coherent state $k_{m,0,0}(z)$, where $Q(z) = \frac{1}{2}|z|^{-2} - \frac{1}{8}\operatorname{Re}(z^{-2}) + \log|z|$. The root point is at the origin, and the asymptotics of Theorem 1.4.1 are valid in the domain Ω (inside the ridge) including a neighborhood of the boundary $\partial\Omega$ of width proportional to $(m^{-1} \log m)^{\frac{1}{2}}$

as $m \rightarrow +\infty$, where the error term is uniform on Ω_m . Here, the main term \mathcal{B}_{0,w_0} is obtained as the unique zero-free holomorphic function on Ω which is smooth up to the boundary with $\mathcal{B}_{0,w_0}(w_0) > 0$, and with prescribed boundary modulus

$$|\mathcal{B}_{0,w_0}(z)| = \pi^{-\frac{1}{4}} [\Delta Q(z)]^{\frac{1}{4}}, \quad z \in \partial\Omega.$$

Moreover, if A is big enough, then

$$\int_{\Omega_m} |k_{m,w_0}(z)|^2 e^{-2mQ(z)} dA(z) = 1 + O(m^{-\kappa}).$$

As an illustration of this result, we show the Gaussian wave character of the Berezin density $k_m(w_0, w_0)^{-1} |k_m(z, w_0)|^2 e^{-2mQ(z)}$ in Fig. 2.

Remark 1.4.2. Using an approach based on Laplace’s method, the functions \mathcal{B}_{j,w_0} may be obtained algorithmically, for $j = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, see Theorem 3.2.2 below. The details of the algorithm are analogous with the case of the orthogonal polynomials presented in [15].

COMMENTARY TO THE THEOREM. The point w_0 may be chosen as any fixed point in Ω , while the point z is allowed to vary anywhere inside the set Ω_m , which contains the entire off-spectral component Ω as well as a shrinking neighborhood of the boundary $\partial\Omega$. Hence, we obtain *macroscopically off-diagonal asymptotics*, where the points z and w_0 are either both off-spectral, or where z is spectral near-boundary and w_0 off-spectral, respectively. To our knowledge, this is the first instance of such asymptotics. Indeed, earlier work covers either diagonal or near-diagonal asymptotics inside the bulk of the spectrum (and to some extent near the spectral boundary). The analysis of Bergman kernel asymptotics for two macroscopically separated points in $\text{bulk}(\mathcal{S}) := \{z \in \text{int } \mathcal{S} : \Delta Q(z) > 0\}$ appears difficult if we ask for high precision, and the same can be said for the case when $w_0 \in \Omega$ is off-spectral and $z \in \text{int } \mathcal{S}$ is a bulk point. To address the latter issue, we may ask what happens in Theorem 1.4.1 if z is not in the set Ω_m . Since Ω_m captures most of the L^2 -mass of the root function in view of Theorem 1.4.1, we see that the coherent state is minuscule outside Ω_m in the L^2 -sense. If we want corresponding pointwise control, we may appeal to e.g. the subharmonicity estimate of Lemma 3.2 of [1].

1.5. Expansion of partial Bergman kernels in terms of root functions. Here we make minimal assumptions on the potential $Q : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$: it should be continuous. As mentioned earlier, we let the root function k_{m,n,w_0} be as in (1.2.2) whenever the associated optimization problem has a positive maximum, while otherwise $k_{m,n,w_0} = 0$.

Theorem 1.5.1. *Under the above assumptions on the potential Q , we have that*

$$K_{m,n,w_0}(z, w) = \sum_{n'=n}^{+\infty} k_{m,n',w_0}(z) \overline{k_{m,n',w_0}(w)}, \quad (z, w) \in \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C}.$$

Proof. For $n', n'' \geq n$ with $n'' < n'$, the functions k_{m,n',w_0} and k_{m,n'',w_0} are orthogonal in A_{mQ}^2 . If one of them is trivial, orthogonality is immediate, while if both are nontrivial, we argue as follows. Let $\zeta', \zeta'' \in \mathbb{C}$ be close to w_0 , and calculate that

$$\begin{aligned} & K_{m,n',w_0}(\zeta', \zeta')^{-\frac{1}{2}} K_{m,n'',w_0}(\zeta'', \zeta'')^{-\frac{1}{2}} \langle K_{m,n',w_0}(\cdot, \zeta'), K_{m,n'',w_0}(\cdot, \zeta'') \rangle_{mQ} \\ &= K_{m,n',w_0}(\zeta', \zeta')^{-\frac{1}{2}} K_{m,n'',w_0}(\zeta'', \zeta'')^{-\frac{1}{2}} K_{m,n',w_0}(\zeta'', \zeta') = O(|\zeta'' - w_0|^{n'-n''}), \end{aligned}$$

which tends to 0 as $\zeta'' \rightarrow w_0$. The claimed orthogonality follows. Moreover, since the root functions k_{m,n',w_0} have unit norm when nontrivial, the expression

$$\sum_{n'=n}^{+\infty} k_{m,n',w_0}(z) \overline{k_{m,n',w_0}(w)}$$

equals the reproducing kernel function for the Hilbert space with the norm of A_{mQ}^2 spanned by the vectors k_{m,n',w_0} with $n' \geq n$. It remains to check that this is the whole partial Bergman space A_{mQ,n,w_0}^2 . To this end, let $f \in A_{mQ,n,w_0}^2$ be orthogonal to all the the vectors k_{m,n',w_0} with $n' \geq n$. By the definition of the space A_{mQ,n,w_0}^2 , this means that $f(z) = O(|z - w_0|^n)$ near w_0 . If f is nontrivial, there exists an integer $N \geq n$ such that $f(z) = c(z - w_0)^N + O(|z - w_0|^{N+1})$ near w_0 , where $c \neq 0$ is complex. At the same time, the existence of such nontrivial f entails that the corresponding root functions k_{m,N,w_0} is nontrivial as well, and that $K_{m,N,w_0}(\zeta, \zeta) \asymp |\zeta - w_0|^{2N}$ for ζ near w_0 . On the other hand, the orthogonality between f and k_{m,N,w_0} gives us that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \langle f, k_{m,N,w_0} \rangle_{mQ} = \lim_{\zeta \rightarrow w_0} K_{m,N,w_0}(\zeta, \zeta)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \langle f, K_{m,N,w_0}(\cdot, \zeta) \rangle_{mQ} \\ &= \lim_{\zeta \rightarrow w_0} K_{m,N,w_0}(\zeta, \zeta)^{-\frac{1}{2}} f(\zeta) \end{aligned}$$

where we approach w_0 only in an appropriate direction so that the limit exists. But this contradicts the given asymptotic behavior of $f(\zeta)$ near w_0 , since $c \neq 0$ tells us that any limit of the right-hand side would be nonzero. \square

1.6. Off-spectral asymptotics of partial Bergman kernels. Given a point $w_0 \in \mathbb{C}$ we recall the partial Bergman spaces A_{mQ,n,w_0}^2 , and the associated spectral droplets \mathcal{S}_{τ,w_0} (see (1.2.5)), where we keep $n = \tau m$. Before we proceed with the formulation of the second result, let us fix some terminology.



Fig. 3. Illustration of a spectral droplet (shaded) in the Riemann sphere with two off-spectral components of the complement. The point w_0 is indicated by the dot near the north pole, and the connectivity component of the off-spectral set containing w_0 is denoted by Ω_{w_0}

Definition 1.6.1. A real-valued potential Q is said to be (τ, w_0) -admissible if the following conditions hold:

- (i) $Q : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is C^2 -smooth and has sufficient growth at infinity:

$$\tau_Q := \liminf_{|z| \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{Q(z)}{\log|z|} > 0.$$

- (ii) Q is real-analytically smooth and strictly subharmonic in a neighborhood of $\partial\mathcal{S}_{\tau, w_0}$.
- (iii) The point w_0 is an off-spectral point, i.e., $w_0 \notin \mathcal{S}_{\tau, w_0}$, and the component Ω_{τ, w_0} of the complement $\mathcal{S}_{\tau, w_0}^c$ containing the point w_0 is bounded and simply connected, with real-analytically smooth Jordan curve boundary.

If for an interval $I \subset [0, +\infty[$, the potential Q is (τ, w_0) -admissible for each $\tau \in I$ and $\{\Omega_{\tau, w_0}\}_{\tau \in I}$ is a smooth flow of domains, then Q is said to be (I, w_0) -admissible.

Generally speaking, off-spectral components may be unbounded. It is for reasons of simplicity that we focus on bounded off-spectral components in the above definition.

A WORD ON NOTATION. We will assume in the sequel that Q is (I, w_0) -admissible for some non-trivial compact interval $I = I_0$. For an illustration of the situation, see Fig. 3.

We let φ_{τ, w_0} denote the surjective Riemann mapping

$$\varphi_{\tau, w_0} : \Omega_{\tau, w_0} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}, \quad \varphi_{\tau, w_0}(0) = 0, \quad \varphi'_{\tau, w_0}(0) > 0, \quad (1.6.1)$$

which by our smoothness assumption on the boundary $\partial\Omega_{\tau, w_0}$ extends conformally across $\partial\Omega_{\tau, w_0}$. We denote by Q_{τ, w_0} the bounded holomorphic function in Ω_{τ, w_0} whose real part equals Q on $\partial\Omega_{\tau, w_0}$ and is real-valued at w_0 . It is tacitly assumed to extend holomorphically across the boundary $\partial\Omega_{\tau, w_0}$. We now turn to our second main result.

Theorem 1.6.2. Assume that the potential Q is (I_0, w_0) -admissible, where the interval I_0 is compact. Given a positive integer κ and a positive real A , there exists a neighborhood $\Omega_{\tau, w_0}^{\otimes}$ of the closure of Ω_{τ, w_0} and bounded holomorphic functions $\mathcal{B}_{j, \tau, w_0}$ on $\Omega_{\tau, w_0}^{\otimes}$, as well as domains $\Omega_{\tau, w_0, m} = \Omega_{\tau, w_0, m, A}$ with $\Omega_{\tau, w_0} \subset \Omega_{\tau, w_0, m} \subset \Omega_{\tau, w_0}^{\otimes}$ which meet

$$\text{dist}_{\mathbb{C}}(\Omega_{\tau, w_0, m}^c, \Omega_{\tau, w_0}) \geq Am^{-\frac{1}{2}}(\log m)^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

such that the root function of order n at w_0 enjoys the expansion

$$k_{m,n,w_0}(z) = m^{\frac{1}{4}}(\varphi'_{\tau,w_0}(z))^{\frac{1}{2}}(\varphi_{\tau,w_0}(z))^n e^{mQ_{\tau,w_0}(z)} \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^{\kappa} m^{-j} \mathcal{B}_{j,\tau,w_0}(z) + O(m^{-\kappa-1}) \right\}$$

on $\Omega_{\tau,w_0,m}$ as $n = \tau m \rightarrow +\infty$ while $\tau \in I_0$, where the error term is uniform. Here, the main term \mathcal{B}_{0,τ,w_0} is zero-free and smooth up to the boundary on Ω_{τ,w_0} with $\mathcal{B}_{0,\tau,w_0}(w_0) > 0$, and with prescribed boundary modulus

$$|\mathcal{B}_{0,\tau,w_0}(\zeta)| = \pi^{-\frac{1}{4}}[\Delta Q(\zeta)]^{\frac{1}{4}}, \quad \zeta \in \partial\Omega_{\tau,w_0}.$$

Moreover, for A big enough, we have

$$\int_{\Omega_{\tau,w_0,m}} |k_{m,n,w_0}(z)|^2 e^{-2mQ(z)} dA(z) = 1 + O(m^{-\kappa})$$

as $n = \tau m \rightarrow +\infty$.

Remark 1.6.3. As in the case of the normalized Bergman kernels, the expressions \mathcal{B}_{j,τ,w_0} may be obtained algorithmically, for $j = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ (see Theorem 3.2.2 below).

COMMENTARY TO THE THEOREM. (A) As in Theorem 1.4.1, the point w_0 may be chosen as any fixed point in Ω , while the point z is allowed to vary anywhere inside the set $\Omega_{\tau,w_0,m}$. Arguing in a fashion analogous to what we did in the commentary following Theorem 1.4.1, we may conclude that k_{m,n,w_0} is small, both pointwise and in the L^2 -sense, away from the set $\Omega_{\tau,w_0,m}$.

(B) Theorems 1.4.1 and 1.6.2 seemingly cover different instances of the root function asymptotics. In fact, in a certain sense, they are equivalent. Indeed, modulo the necessary technicalities we may obtain Theorem 1.6.2 from Theorem 1.4.1 by replacing the potential $Q(z)$ with the singular potential $\tilde{Q}_{\tau,w_0}(z) = Q(z) - \tau \log|z - w_0|$. On the other hand, the former theorem is the limit case $\tau \rightarrow 0$ of the latter.

(C) Theorem 1.6.2 should be compared with Theorem 4.1 in the work of Shiffman and Zelditch [21]. There, an asymptotic expansion of the diagonal restriction $K_{NP}(z, z)$ of the Bergman kernel associated to a family of scaled Newton polytopes NP is obtained, as $N \rightarrow +\infty$. This expansion is valid deep inside the corresponding forbidden region. In one complex dimension, this is equivalent to studying a certain weighted partial Bergman density for a polynomial Bergman space. Hence there is some overlap with the present work as well as with [15]. The genuinely off-diagonal and off-spectral asymptotic expansion of the coherent states obtained here seem not to have any analogue elsewhere.

1.7. Interface transition of the density of states. As a consequence of Theorem 1.6.2, we obtain the transition behavior of the (partial) Bergman densities at emergent interfaces. We fix a bounded simply connected off-spectral component Ω with real-analytic Jordan curve boundary and a point $w_0 \in \Omega$. Here, we want to cover both of the previously covered instances of components of $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathcal{S}$ and $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathcal{S}_{\tau,w_0}$. In the second instance w_0 is already given and automatically in $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathcal{S}_{\tau,w_0}$, provided that $\tau > 0$, while the first instance may be thought of as the limit case $\tau \rightarrow 0$. We recall the partial Bergman kernel K_{m,n,w_0} of the space $A_m^2 Q_{\tau,n,w_0}$ with the ratio $\tau = \frac{n}{m}$ fixed. The Bergman kernel K_m is as mentioned before K_{m,n,w_0} with $n = 0$. We assume that the potential Q is (I, w_0) -admissible for some (short) open interval containing the point τ if $\tau > 0$, while if $\tau = 0$,

Q is admissible. Fix a point $z_0 \in \partial\Omega$, and denote by $\nu \in \mathbb{T}$ the inward unit normal to $\partial\Omega$ at z_0 . We define the rescaled density $\varrho_m = \varrho_{m,\tau,w_0,z_0}$ by

$$\varrho_m(\xi) = \frac{1}{2m\Delta Q(z_0)} K_{m,\tau m,w_0}(z_m(\xi), z_m(\xi)) e^{-2mQ(z_m(\xi))}, \quad (1.7.1)$$

where the rescaled variable is given by

$$z_m(\xi) = z_0 + \nu \frac{\xi}{\sqrt{2m\Delta Q(z_0)}}.$$

Corollary 1.7.1. *The rescaled density ϱ_m in (1.7.1) has the limit*

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} \varrho_m(\xi) = \operatorname{erf}(2 \operatorname{Re} \xi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{2 \operatorname{Re} \xi}^{\infty} e^{-t^2/2} dt,$$

where the convergence is uniform on compact subsets.

Remark 1.7.2. As in [15], we can use the normal families argument of [4] to obtain the convergence of the rescaled correlation kernel (modulo cocycles) at the boundary point z_0 to the Fadeeva plasma kernel function.

1.8. Comments on the exposition and a guide to the proofs. In Sect. 2, we explain the proofs of the main results, which are Theorems 1.4.1 and 1.6.2 together with Corollary 1.7.1. Our approach is analogous to that of [15], and we make an effort to explain exactly what needs to be modified for the techniques to apply in the present context. As in [15], the proofs involve the construction of a flow of loops near the spectral boundary, called the *orthogonal foliation flow*. The flow is constructed in an iterative procedure, which produces both the terms in the asymptotic expansion of the coherent state as well as the successive terms in the expansion of the flow. The flow $\{\gamma_t\}_t$ is constructed to have the following property. If the normal velocity is denoted by ν_n , we want the Szegő kernel for the point w_0 with respect to the interior of the curve γ_t and the induced weighted arc-length measure $e^{-2mQ} \nu_n d\sigma$ on γ_t to be stationary in t . In turn, this allows us to glue together the Szegő kernels to form the Bergman kernel. In order to obtain the coefficient functions of the expansions in a more straightforward fashion, we apply the method developed in [15] which is based on Laplace's method. Another important ingredient, which allows localization to a neighborhood of each off-spectral component, is Hörmander's $\bar{\partial}$ -estimate, suitably modified to the given needs. Since this is the method which allows us to change the geometry drastically, we sometimes refer to it as *$\bar{\partial}$ -surgery*.

In Sect. 3, we develop a more general version of the foliation flow lemma, which allows us to introduce a conformal factor in the area form. To avoid unnecessary repetition, both the orthogonal foliation flow and the algorithm for computing the coefficient functions in the asymptotic expansions are explained only in this more general setting. We supply a couple of applications of this extension, including a stability result for the root functions and the orthogonal polynomials under a $\frac{1}{m}$ -perturbation of the potential Q (Theorems 3.2.1 and 3.4.2).

2. Off-Spectral Expansions of Normalized Kernels

2.1. A family of obstacle problems and evolution of the spectrum. The spectral droplets (1.2.3) and the partial analogues (1.2.5) were defined earlier. From that point of view, the spectral droplet \mathcal{S} is the instance $\tau = 0$ of the partial spectral droplets \mathcal{S}_{τ, w_0} . We should like to point out here that the partial spectral droplet \mathcal{S}_{τ, w_0} emerges as the full spectrum under a perturbation of the potential Q . To see this, we consider the perturbed potential

$$\tilde{Q}(z) = \tilde{Q}_{\tau, w_0}(z) := Q(z) - \tau \log |z - w_0|,$$

and observe that the coincidence set $\tilde{\mathcal{S}}$ for \tilde{Q} equals the partial spectral droplet \mathcal{S}_{τ, w_0} .

The following proposition summarizes some basic properties of the function \hat{Q}_{τ, w_0} given by (1.2.4). We refer to [12] for the necessary details.

Proposition 2.1.1. *Assume that $Q \in C^2(\mathbb{C})$ is real-valued with the logarithmic growth of condition (i) of Definition 1.6.1. Then for each τ with $0 \leq \tau < \tau_Q$ and for each point $w_0 \in \mathbb{C}$, the function \hat{Q}_{τ, w_0} is a subharmonic function in the plane \mathbb{C} which is $C^{1,1}$ -smooth off w_0 , and harmonic on $\mathbb{C} \setminus (\mathcal{S}_{\tau, w_0} \cup \{w_0\})$. Near the point w_0 we have*

$$\hat{Q}_{\tau, w_0}(z) = \tau \log |z - w_0| + O(1).$$

The evolution of the free boundaries $\partial \mathcal{S}_{\tau, w_0}$, which is of fundamental importance for our understanding of the properties of the normalized reproducing kernels, is summarized in the following.

Proposition 2.1.2. *The continuous chain of off-spectral components Ω_{τ, w_0} for $\tau \in I_0$ deform according to weighted Laplacian growth with weight $2\Delta Q$, that is, for $\tau, \tau' \in I_0$ with $\tau' < \tau$, and for any bounded harmonic function h on Ω_{τ, w_0} , we have that*

$$\int_{\Omega_{\tau, w_0} \setminus \Omega_{\tau', w_0}} h 2\Delta Q dA = (\tau - \tau')h(w_0).$$

Fix a point $\zeta \in \partial \Omega_{\tau, w_0}$, and denote for real ε by ζ_{ε, w_0} the point closest to ζ in the intersection

$$(\zeta + \nu_{\tau}(\zeta)\mathbb{R}_+) \cap \partial \Omega_{\tau - \varepsilon, w_0},$$

where $\nu_{\tau}(\zeta) \in \mathbb{T}$ points in the inward normal direction at ζ with respect to Ω_{τ, w_0} . Then we have that

$$\zeta_{\varepsilon} = \zeta + \varepsilon \nu_{\tau}(\zeta) \frac{|\varphi'_{\tau, w_0}(\zeta)|}{4\Delta Q(\zeta)} + O(\varepsilon^2), \quad \varepsilon \rightarrow 0,$$

and the outer normal $\mathbf{n}_{\tau - \varepsilon, w_0}(\zeta_{\varepsilon})$ satisfies

$$\mathbf{n}_{\tau - \varepsilon, w_0}(\zeta_{\varepsilon}) = \mathbf{n}_{\tau, w_0}(\zeta) + O(\varepsilon).$$

Proof. That the domains deform according to Hele–Shaw flow is a direct consequence of the relation of Ω_{τ, w_0} to the obstacle problem. To see how it follows, assume that h is harmonic on Ω_{τ, w_0} and C^2 -smooth up to the boundary, and apply Green’s formula to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega_{\tau, w_0}} h(z) \Delta Q(z) dA(z) &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega_{\tau, w_0}} \left(h(z) \partial_n Q(z) - Q(z) \partial_n h(z) \right) |dz| \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega_{\tau, w_0}} \left(h(z) \partial_n \hat{Q}_{\tau, w_0}(z) - \hat{Q}_{\tau, w_0}(z) \partial_n h(z) \right) |dz| \\ &= \int_{\Omega_{\tau, w_0}} h(z) \Delta \hat{Q}_{\tau, w_0} dA(z), \end{aligned}$$

where the latter integral is understood in the sense of distribution theory. As \hat{Q}_{τ, w_0} is a harmonic perturbation of τ times the Green function for Ω_{τ, w_0} , the result follows by writing $\int_{\Omega_{\tau, w_0} \setminus \Omega_{\tau', w_0}} h \Delta Q dA$ as the difference of two integrals of the above form, and by approximation of bounded harmonic functions by harmonic functions C^2 -smooth up to the boundary.

The second part follows along the lines of [15, Lemma 2.3.1]. \square

The study of Laplacian growth (also called Hele–Shaw flow) has a long history, see e.g. [11]. In the context of curved surfaces, it was considered by Hedenmalm and Shimorin [14], and further developed in [13] and [19]. Next, we turn to an off-spectral growth bound for weighted holomorphic functions.

Proposition 2.1.3. *Assume that Q is admissible and denote by \mathcal{K}_{τ, w_0} a closed subset of the interior of \mathcal{S}_{τ, w_0} . Then there exist constants c_0 and C_0 such that for any $f \in A_{mQ, n, w_0}^2(\mathbb{C})$ it holds that*

$$|f(z)| \leq C_0 m^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{m \hat{Q}_{\tau, w_0}} \|1_{\mathcal{K}_{\tau, w_0}^c} f\|_{mQ}, \quad \text{dist}(z, \mathcal{K}_{\tau, w_0}) \geq c_0 m^{-\frac{1}{2}}.$$

In case $\mathcal{K}_{\tau, w_0} = \emptyset$, the estimate holds globally.

Proof. This follows immediately by an application of the maximum principle, together with the result of Lemma 2.2.1 in [15], originating from [1]. \square

2.2. Some auxilliary functions. There are a number of functions related to the potential Q that will be useful in the sequel. We denote by \mathcal{Q}_{τ, w_0} the bounded holomorphic function on Ω_{τ, w_0} whose real part on the boundary curve $\partial\Omega_{\tau, w_0}$ equals Q , uniquely determined by the requirement that $\text{Im } \mathcal{Q}_{\tau, w_0}(w_0) = 0$. We also need the function \check{Q}_{τ, w_0} , which denotes the harmonic extension of \hat{Q}_{τ, w_0} across the boundary of the off-spectral component Ω_{τ, w_0} . These two functions are connected via

$$\check{Q}_{\tau, w_0}(z) = \tau \log |\varphi_{\tau, w_0}(z)| + \text{Re } \mathcal{Q}_{\tau, w_0}(z). \quad (2.2.1)$$

Since we work with (τ, w_0) -admissible potentials Q , the off-spectral component Ω_{τ, w_0} is a bounded simply connected domain with real-analytically smooth Jordan curve boundary. Without loss of generality, we may hence assume that \mathcal{Q}_{τ, w_0} , \check{Q}_{τ, w_0} as well as the conformal mapping φ_{τ, w_0} extend to a common domain Ω_0 , containing the closure $\bar{\Omega}_{\tau, w_0}$. By possibly shrinking the interval I_0 , we may moreover choose the set Ω_0 to be independent of the parameter $\tau \in I_0$.

2.3. Canonical positioning. An elementary but important observation for the main result of [15] is that we may ignore a compact subset of the interior of the compact spectral droplet \mathcal{S}_τ associated to polynomial Bergman kernels when we study the asymptotic expansions of the orthogonal polynomials $P_{m,n}$ (with $\tau = \frac{n}{m}$). Indeed, only the behavior in a small neighborhood of the complement \mathcal{S}_τ^c is of interest, and the $\bar{\partial}$ -surgery method allow us to disregard the rest. The physical intuition behind this is the interpretation of the probability density $|P_{m,n}|^2 e^{-2mQ}$ as the net effect of adding one more particle to the system, and since the positions in the interior of the droplet are already occupied we would expect the net effect to occur near the boundary. The fact that we may restrict our attention to a simply connected proper subset of the Riemann sphere $\hat{\mathbb{C}}$ breaks up the rigidity and allows us to apply a conformal mapping to place ourselves in an appropriate model situation.

In the present context, we consider the Riemann mapping φ_{τ,w_0} which maps the off-spectral region Ω_{τ,w_0} onto the unit disk \mathbb{D} , and has a conformal extension to a neighborhood of $\bar{\Omega}_{\tau,w_0}$. We let the *canonical positioning operator* for the point w_0 with respect to the off-spectral component Ω_{τ,w_0} be given by

$$\Lambda_{m,n,w_0}[v] = \varphi'_{\tau,w_0}(z)(\varphi_{\tau,w_0})^n e^{mQ_{\tau,w_0}} v \circ \varphi_{\tau,w_0}, \quad (2.3.1)$$

and put

$$R_{\tau,w_0} := (Q - \check{Q}_\tau) \circ \varphi_{\tau,w_0}^{-1}. \quad (2.3.2)$$

An essential property of this operator is that Λ_{m,n,w_0} acts isometrically from the space $L^2(e^{-2mR_{\tau,w_0}})$ to $L^2(e^{-2mQ})$, wherever it is well-defined.

As for the coherent states, we will analyze them in terms of the canonical positioning operator Λ_{m,n,w_0} . This simplifies the geometry of Ω_{τ,w_0} by mapping it to the unit disk \mathbb{D} , and simplifies the weight. Indeed, the function R_{τ,w_0} is flat to order 2 at the unit circle, and consequently the weight $e^{-2mR_{\tau,w_0}}$ behaves like a Gaussian ridge.

We summarize the properties of the operator Λ_{m,n,w_0} in the following proposition. For a potential V and a domain Ω with $w_0 \in \Omega$, we denote by $A_{mV,n,w_0}^2(\Omega)$ the space of holomorphic functions on Ω which vanish to order n at $w_0 \in \Omega$, endowed with the topology of $L^2(e^{-2mV}, \Omega)$. In case $n = 0$ we simply denote the space by $A_{mV}^2(\Omega)$.

Proposition 2.3.1. *Let Q be a (τ, w_0) -admissible potential, and let Ω_{τ,w_0} denote the corresponding off-spectral component. Moreover, let R_{τ,w_0} be given by (2.3.2). Then, for $\eta > 1$ sufficiently close to 1, the operator Λ_{m,n,w_0} defines an invertible isometry*

$$\Lambda_{m,n,w_0} : A_{mR_{\tau,w_0}}^2(\mathbb{D}(0, \eta)) \rightarrow A_{mQ,n,w_0}^2(\Omega_0),$$

if $\Omega_0 = \varphi_{\tau,w_0}^{-1}(\mathbb{D}(0, \eta))$. The isometry property remains valid in the context of weighted L^2 -spaces as well.

Proof. The conclusion is immediate by the defining normalizations of the conformal mapping φ_{τ,w_0} . \square

The following definition is an analogue of Definition 3.1.2 in [15]. We denote by Ω_1 a domain containing the closure of the off-spectral component Ω_{τ,w_0} , and let $\chi_{0,\tau}$ denote a C^∞ -smooth cut-off function which vanishes off Ω_1 , and equals 1 in a neighborhood of the closure of Ω_{τ,w_0} .

Definition 2.3.2. Let κ be a positive integer. A sequence $\{F_{m,n,w_0}\}_{m,n}$ of holomorphic functions on Ω_0 is called a *sequence of approximate root functions of order n at w_0 of accuracy κ* for the space A_{mQ,n,w_0}^2 if the following conditions are met as $m \rightarrow +\infty$ while $\tau = \frac{n}{m} \in I_{w_0}$:

(i) For all $f \in A_{mQ,n+1,w_0}^2$, we have the approximate orthogonality

$$\int_{\mathbb{C}} \chi_{0,\tau} F_{m,n,w_0} \bar{f} e^{-2mQ} dA = O(m^{-\kappa - \frac{1}{3}} \|f\|_{mQ}).$$

(ii) The approximate root functions have norm approximately equal to 1,

$$\int_{\mathbb{C}} \chi_{0,\tau}^2 |F_{m,n,w_0}(z)|^2 e^{-2mQ}(z) dA(z) = 1 + O(m^{-\kappa - \frac{1}{3}}).$$

(iii) The functions F_{m,n,w_0} are approximately real and positive at w_0 , in the sense that the leading coefficient $a_{m,n,w_0} = \lim_{z \rightarrow w_0} (z - w_0)^{-n} F_{m,n,w_0}(z)$ satisfies $\operatorname{Re} a_{m,n,w_0} > 0$ and

$$\frac{\operatorname{Im} a_{m,n,w_0}}{\operatorname{Re} a_{m,n,w_0}} = O(m^{-\kappa - \frac{1}{12}}).$$

We remark that the exponents in the above error terms are chosen for reasons of convenience, related to the correction scheme of Sect. 2.5.

2.4. The orthogonal foliation flow. The (approximate) orthogonal foliation flow $\{\gamma_{m,n,t}\}_t$ is a smooth flow of closed curves near the unit circle \mathbb{T} , originally formulated in [15] in the context of orthogonal polynomials. The defining property in that context is that the orthogonal polynomials $P_{m,n}$ should be (approximately) orthogonal to the lower degree polynomials along the curves $\Gamma_{m,n,t} = \phi_\tau^{-1}(\gamma_{m,n,t})$ with respect to the induced measure $e^{-2mQ} \nu_n ds$, where ν_n denotes the normal velocity of the flow $\{\Gamma_{m,n,t}\}_t$ and ds denotes normalized arc length measure.

SMOOTHNESS CLASSES AND POLARIZATION OF SMOOTH FUNCTIONS. We fix the smoothness class of the weights under consideration, and adapt Definition 4.2.1 in [15] to the the present setting. First, we need the notion of polarization, which applies to real-analytically smooth functions. If $R(z)$ is real-analytic, there exists a function of two complex variables, denoted by $R(z, w)$, which is holomorphic in (z, \bar{w}) in a neighborhood of the diagonal, with diagonal restriction $R(z, z) = R(z)$. The function $R(z, w)$ is referred to as the *polarization* of $R(z)$, and it is uniquely determined by its diagonal restriction $R(z)$. If $R(z, w)$ is such a polarization of a function $R(z)$ which is real-analytically smooth near the circle \mathbb{T} and quadratically flat there, then $R(z) = (1 - |z|^2)^2 R_0(z)$ and in polarized form $R(z, w) = (1 - z\bar{w})^2 R_0(z, w)$, where $R_0(z, w)$ is holomorphic in (z, \bar{w}) in a neighborhood of the diagonal where both variables are near \mathbb{T} . The function $R_0(z, w)$ is then the polarization of $R_0(z)$.

Definition 2.4.1. For real numbers η, σ with $\eta > 1$ and $\sigma > 0$, we denote by $\mathfrak{W}(\eta, \sigma)$ the class of non-negative C^2 -smooth functions R on $\mathbb{D}(0, \eta)$ such that R is quadratically flat on \mathbb{T} with $\Delta R|_{\mathbb{T}} > 0$ and satisfies

$$\inf_{z \in \mathbb{D}(0, \eta)} R_0(z) = \frac{R(z)}{(1 - |z|^2)^2} = \alpha(R) > 0,$$

while on the annulus

$$\mathbb{A}(\eta^{-1}, \eta) := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \eta^{-1} < |z| < \eta\}$$

R is real-analytically smooth and has a polarization $R(z, w)$ which is holomorphic in (z, \bar{w}) on the 2σ -fattened diagonal annulus

$$\hat{\mathbb{A}}(\eta, \sigma) = \{(z, w) \in \mathbb{A}(\eta^{-1}, \eta) \times \mathbb{A}(\eta^{-1}, \eta) : |z - w| \leq 2\sigma\},$$

and factors as $R(z, w) = (1 - z\bar{w})^2 R_0(z, w)$, where $R_0(z, w)$ is holomorphic (z, \bar{w}) on the set $\hat{\mathbb{A}}(\eta, \sigma)$, and bounded and bounded away from zero there. We say that a subset $S \subset \mathfrak{W}(\eta, \sigma)$ is a *uniform family*, provided that for each $R \in S$, the corresponding $R_0(z, w)$ is uniformly bounded and bounded away from 0 on $\hat{\mathbb{A}}(\eta, \sigma)$ while the constant $\alpha(R)$ is uniformly bounded away from 0.

The point with above definition is that it lets us encode uniformity properties of the potentials R_{τ, w_0} with respect to the parameter τ and the point w_0 .

For a polarized function $f(z, w)$, we let $f_{\mathbb{T}}(z)$ denote the restriction of $f(z, z)$ for $z \in \mathbb{T}$, wherever it is well-defined. We recall from Proposition 4.2.2 of [15] that if $f(z, w)$ is holomorphic in (z, \bar{w}) on the 2σ -fattened diagonal annulus $\hat{\mathbb{A}}(\eta, \sigma)$ and if the parameters meet $1 < \eta \leq \sqrt{1 + \sigma^2} + \sigma$, then it follows that the function $f_{\mathbb{T}}$ extends holomorphically to the annulus $\mathbb{A}(\eta^{-1}, \eta)$. We may need to restrict the numbers η, σ further. Indeed, it turns out that we need that the functions $\log \Delta R$, $\hat{R} = \sqrt{R}$ (chosen to be positive inside the unit circle and negative outside) as well as $\log(-z\partial_z \hat{R})$ have polarizations which are holomorphic in (z, \bar{w}) for $(z, w) \in \hat{\mathbb{A}}(\eta, \sigma)$ and uniformly bounded there as well. If R belongs to a uniform family of $\mathfrak{W}(\eta_0, \sigma_0)$, then there exist (η_1, σ_1) such that these properties hold for the polarizations with $\eta = \eta_1$ and $\sigma = \sigma_1$ (See Proposition 4.2.3 of [15]), where we moreover require that $1 < \eta_1 \leq \sqrt{1 + \sigma_1^2} + \sigma_1$.

Lemma 2.4.2. *Let \mathcal{K} be a compact subset of each of the domains Ω_{τ, w_0} , where $\tau \in I_0$. Then there exist constants η, σ with $\eta > 1$ and $\sigma > 0$, such that the collection of weights R_{τ, w_0} with $w_0 \in \mathcal{K}$ and $\tau \in I_0$ is a uniform family in $\mathfrak{W}(\eta, \sigma)$.*

This is completely analogous to the corresponding claim in of [15], which was expressed in the context of an exterior conformal mapping.

THE ORTHOGONAL FOLIATION FLOW NEAR THE UNIT CIRCLE. The existence of the orthogonal foliation flow around the circle \mathbb{T} and the asymptotic expansion of the root functions after canonical positioning are stated in the following lemma (compare with Lemma 4.1.2 in [15]). For the proof, we refer to the sketched proof of Lemma 3.3.2 below, as well as the complete proof of Lemma 4.1.2 in [15], for the case of orthogonal polynomials.

Lemma 2.4.3. *Fix an accuracy parameter κ and let $R \in \mathfrak{W}(\eta_0, \sigma_0)$. Then, if η_1 is as above, there exist a radius η_2 with $1 < \eta_2 < \eta_1$, bounded holomorphic functions f_s on $\mathbb{D}(0, \eta_1)$ such that*

$$f_s(z) = \sum_{0 \leq j \leq \kappa} s^j B_j(z), \quad z \in \mathbb{D}(0, \eta_1),$$

and conformal mappings $\psi_{s,t}$ from $\mathbb{D}(0, \rho_2)$ into the plane given by

$$\psi_{s,t} = \psi_{0,t} + \sum_{\substack{(j,l) \in \mathbb{P}_{2\kappa+1} \\ j \geq 1}} s^j t^l \hat{\psi}_{j,l}$$

such that for s, t both close to 0, the domains $\psi_{s,t}(\mathbb{D})$ grow with t , while they remain contained in $\mathbb{D}(0, \eta_1)$. Moreover, for $\zeta \in \mathbb{T}$ we have that

$$\begin{aligned} & |f_s \circ \psi_{s,t}(\zeta)|^2 e^{-2s^{-1}R \circ \psi_{s,t}} \operatorname{Re} \left(\bar{\zeta} \partial_t \psi_{s,t}(\zeta) \overline{\psi'_{s,t}(\zeta)} \right) \\ &= e^{-s^{-1}t^2} \left\{ (4\pi)^{-\frac{1}{2}} + O(|s|^{\kappa+\frac{1}{2}} + |t|^{2\kappa+1}) \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.4.1)$$

For small positive s , when t varies in the interval $[-\beta_s, \beta_s]$ with $\beta_s := s^{1/2} \log \frac{1}{s}$, the flow of loops $\{\psi_{s,t}(\mathbb{T})\}_t$ cover a neighborhood of the circle \mathbb{T} of width proportional to β_s smoothly. In addition, the first term B_0 is zero-free, positive at the origin, and has modulus $|B_0| = \pi^{-\frac{1}{4}} (\Delta R)^{\frac{1}{4}}$ on \mathbb{T} . The other terms B_j are all real-valued at the origin. The implied constant in (2.4.1) is uniformly bounded, provided that R is confined to a uniform family of $\mathfrak{M}(\eta_0, \sigma_0)$.

2.5. $\bar{\partial}$ -corrections and asymptotic expansions of root functions. In this section, we supply a proof of the main result, Theorem 1.6.2. The proof consists of two parts. First, we construct a family of approximate root function of a given order and accuracy, after which we apply Hörmander-type $\bar{\partial}$ -estimates to correct these approximate kernels to entire functions. The precise result needed for the correction scheme runs as follows.

Proposition 2.5.1. *Let $f \in L^\infty(\mathcal{S}_{\tau, w_0})$, where $\tau = \frac{n}{m}$, and denote by $u = u_{m,n, w_0}$ the norm-minimal solution in $L^2_{m\hat{Q}_{\tau, w_0}}$ to the problem*

$$\bar{\partial}u = f,$$

among the functions which vanish at w_0 to order n : $|u(z)| = O(|z - w_0|^n)$ around w_0 . Then u meets the bound

$$\int_{\mathbb{C}} |u|^2 e^{-2m\hat{Q}_{\tau, w_0}} dA \leq \frac{1}{2m} \int_{\mathcal{S}_{\tau, w_0}} |f|^2 \frac{e^{-2mQ}}{\Delta Q} dA.$$

This is an immediate consequence of Corollary 2.4.2 in [15], and essentially amounts to Hörmander's classical bound for the $\bar{\partial}$ -equation in the given setting.

We turn to the proof of Theorem 1.6.2.

Sketch of proof of Theorem 1.6.2. As the proof is analogous to that of Theorems 1.3.3 and 1.3.4 in [15], we supply only an outline of the proof.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF APPROXIMATE ROOT FUNCTIONS. We apply Lemma 2.4.3 with $s = m^{-1}$ and $R = R_{\tau, w_0}$ to obtain a smooth flow $\gamma_{s,t} = \gamma_{m,n,t, w_0}$ of curves, as well as bounded holomorphic functions $f_s = f_{m,n, w_0}^{(\kappa)}$ such that the flow Eq. (2.4.1) is met. The sequence $\{B_j\}_j$ of bounded holomorphic functions produced by the lemma actually

depend (smoothly) on the parameter τ and the root point w_0 , so we put $B_j = B_{j,\tau,w_0}$ and define

$$f_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)} = \sum_{j=0}^{\kappa} m^{-j} B_{j,\tau,w_0}. \quad (2.5.1)$$

If we write

$$\mathcal{B}_{j,\tau,w_0} := (\varphi'_{\tau,w_0})^{\frac{1}{2}} B_{j,\tau,w_0} \circ \varphi_{\tau,w_0},$$

it follows that

$$k_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)} := m^{\frac{1}{4}} \Lambda_{m,n,w_0} [f_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}]$$

has the claimed form. It remains to show that $k_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}$ is an approximate root function of order n at w_0 with the stated uniform error bound, and finally to show that it is close to the true normalized reproducing kernel.

We denote by \mathcal{D}_{m,n,w_0} the domain covered by the foliation flow, over the parameter range $-\delta_m \leq t \leq \delta_m$, where $\delta_m := m^{-\frac{1}{2}} \log m$. Moreover, we define the domain \mathcal{E}_{τ,w_0} as the image of $\mathbb{D}(0, \eta_1)$ under φ_{τ,w_0}^{-1} , and let $\chi_0 = \chi_{0,\tau,w_0}$ denote an appropriately chosen smooth cut-off function, which takes the value 1 on a neighborhood of $\bar{\Omega}_{\tau,w_0}$ and vanishes off \mathcal{E}_{τ,w_0} . If we let $\chi_1 := \chi_0 \circ \varphi_{\tau,w_0}^{-1}$ denote the corresponding cut-off extended to vanish off $\mathbb{D}(0, \eta_1)$, we may show that

$$\int_{\mathcal{D}_{m,n,w_0}} |f_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}|^2 e^{-2mR_{\tau,w_0}} dA(z) = m^{-\frac{1}{2}} + O(m^{-\kappa - \frac{5}{6}}), \quad (2.5.2)$$

as follows immediately from integration of the flow equation of Lemma 2.4.3, as well as the estimate

$$\int_{\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathcal{D}_{m,n,w_0}} \chi_1^2 |f_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}|^2 e^{-2mR_{\tau,w_0}} dA(z) = O(m^{-\alpha_0 \log m}), \quad (2.5.3)$$

which holds for some $\alpha_0 > 0$ as a consequence of the Gaussian ridge behavior of the function $e^{-2mR_{\tau,w_0}}$ around the unit circle. We now observe that in view of (2.5.2) and (2.5.3), the isometric property of Λ_{m,n,w_0} implies that $\chi_0 k_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}$ has norm $1 + O(m^{-\kappa - \frac{1}{3}})$ in L_{mQ}^2 .

Let $g \in A_{mQ,n,w_0}^2$ be given, and put $q = m^{-\frac{1}{4}} \Lambda_{m,n,w_0}^{-1} [g]$. Then, by the isometric property of Λ_{m,n,w_0} and the estimate (2.5.3), it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{C}} \chi_0 k_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}(z) \bar{g}(z) e^{-2mQ} dA(z) &= m^{\frac{1}{2}} \int_{\mathbb{C}} \chi_1 f_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}(z) \bar{q}(z) e^{-2mR_{\tau,w_0}} dA(z) \\ &= m^{\frac{1}{2}} \int_{\mathcal{D}_{m,n,w_0}} \chi_1 f_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}(z) \bar{q}(z) e^{-2mR_{\tau,w_0}} dA(z) + O(m^{-\frac{\alpha_0}{2} \log m + \frac{1}{4}} \|g\|_{mQ}), \end{aligned}$$

where we have applied the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality together with the estimate (2.5.3) to obtain the error term.

The function $f_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}$ is zero-free up to the boundary in \mathcal{D}_{m,n,w_0} provided that m is large enough, as the main term is bounded away from 0 in modulus, and consecutive

terms are much smaller. Also, for large enough m , it holds that $\chi_1 = 1$ on \mathcal{D}_{m,n,w_0} . We now introduce the function

$$q_{m,n} := \frac{q}{f_{m,n}^{(\kappa)}}$$

and integrate along the flow:

$$\begin{aligned} & m^{\frac{1}{2}} \int_{\mathcal{D}_{m,n,w_0}} \chi_1 f_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}(z) \bar{q}(z) e^{-2m R_{\tau,w_0}} dA(z) \\ &= m^{\frac{1}{2}} \int_{\mathcal{D}_{m,n,w_0}} q_{m,n}(z) |f_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}(z)|^2 e^{-2m R_{\tau,w_0}(z)} dA(z) \\ &= 2m^{\frac{1}{2}} \int_{-\delta_m}^{\delta_m} \int_{\mathbb{T}} q_{m,n} \circ \psi_{m,n,t}(\zeta) |f_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)} \circ \psi_{m,n,t}(\zeta)|^2 e^{-2m R_{\tau,w_0} \circ \psi_{m,n,t}(\zeta)} \\ &\quad \times \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \bar{\zeta} \partial_t \psi_{m,n,t}(\zeta) \overline{\psi'_{m,n,t}(\zeta)} \right\} ds(\zeta) dt \\ &= 2m^{\frac{1}{2}} \int_{-\delta_m}^{\delta_m} \int_{\mathbb{T}} q_{m,n} \circ \psi_{m,n,t}(\zeta) \left\{ (4\pi)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-mt^2} + O(m^{-\kappa-\frac{1}{3}} e^{-mt^2}) \right\} ds(\zeta) dt, \end{aligned} \tag{2.5.4}$$

where the last step uses the flow equation of Lemma 2.4.3. We now make the crucial observation is that for fixed t , the composition $q_{m,n} \circ \psi_{m,n,t}$ is holomorphic, so that we may apply the mean value property:

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}} q_{m,n} \circ \psi_{m,n,t} ds = q_{m,n} \circ \psi_{m,n,t}(0) = q_{m,n}(0) = \frac{q(0)}{m^{\frac{1}{4}} f_{m,n}^{(\kappa)}(0)}.$$

Consequently, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} & 2m^{\frac{1}{2}} \int_{-\delta_m}^{\delta_m} \int_{\mathbb{T}} q_{m,n} \circ \psi_{m,n,t}(\zeta) \left\{ (4\pi)^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-mt^2} + O(m^{-\kappa-\frac{1}{3}} e^{-mt^2}) \right\} ds(\zeta) dt \\ &= q_{m,n}(0) (1 + O(m^{-\log m})) \\ &\quad + O\left(m^{-\kappa+\frac{1}{6}} \int_{-\delta_m}^{\delta_m} \int_{\mathbb{T}} |q_{m,n} \circ \psi_{m,n,t}(\zeta)| ds(\zeta) e^{-mt^2} dt \right) \\ &= q_{m,n}(0) + O(m^{-\kappa-\frac{1}{3}} \|g\|_{m\mathcal{Q}}) = \frac{q(0)}{f_{m,n}^{(\kappa)}(0)} + O(m^{-\kappa-\frac{1}{3}} \|g\|_{m\mathcal{Q}}). \end{aligned} \tag{2.5.5}$$

Here, in order to obtain the last estimate, we have used (2.5.4) backwards with $q_{m,n}$ replaced by $|q_{m,n}|$, and the estimate (2.5.2) to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \pi^{-\frac{1}{2}} \int_{-\delta_m}^{\delta_m} \int_{\mathbb{T}} |q_{m,n} \circ \psi_{m,n,t}(\zeta)| ds(\zeta) e^{-mt^2} dt \\ &= (1 + O(m^{-\kappa-\frac{1}{3}})) \int_{\mathcal{D}_{m,n,w_0}} \chi_1 |f_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}(z) q(z)| e^{-2m R_{\tau,w_0}} dA(z) \leq 2m^{-\frac{1}{2}} \|g\|_{m\mathcal{Q}}. \end{aligned}$$

Now if $q(0) = 0$, that is, if g vanishes to order $n+1$ or higher at w_0 , then $\chi_0 k_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}$ and g are approximately orthogonal in $L_{m\mathcal{Q}}^2$.

For further details regarding the above computations, we refer to Subsection 4.8 of [15].

THE $\bar{\partial}$ -CORRECTION SCHEME. The approximate normalized reproducing kernels are not globally defined, and are consequently not elements of our Bergman spaces of entire functions. However, by applying the Hörmander-type $\bar{\partial}$ -estimate of Proposition 2.5.1, we obtain a solution $u = u_{m,n,w_0}$ to the equation

$$\bar{\partial}u = k_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)} \bar{\partial}\chi_0$$

with exponential decay of the norm of u_{m,n,w_0} in L^2_{mQ} (for the details, see, e.g. [6], [1]). Moreover, the solution u vanishes to order n at the root point w_0 . As a consequence, the function

$$k_{m,n,w_0}^* := \chi_0 k_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)} - u_{m,n,w_0}$$

is also an approximate normalized partial Bergman kernel of the correct accuracy, but this time it at least is an element of the right space,

$$k_{m,n,w_0}^* \in A^2_{mQ,n,w_0}.$$

We denote by $\mathbf{P}_{m,n+1,w_0}$ the orthogonal projection onto the subspace $A^2_{mQ,n+1,w_0}$ of functions vanishing to order at least $n+1$, and put

$$\tilde{k}_{m,n,w_0} = k_{m,n,w_0}^* - \mathbf{P}_{m,n+1,w_0} k_{m,n,w_0}^*.$$

Here, we have the norm estimate

$$\|\mathbf{P}_{m,n+1,w_0} k_{m,n,w_0}^*\|_{mQ} = \sup_{g \in A^2_{mQ,n+1,w_0}} \frac{|\langle g, k_{m,n,w_0}^* \rangle_{mQ}|}{\|g\|_{mQ}} = O(m^{-\kappa - \frac{1}{3}}) \quad (2.5.6)$$

which shows that the correction is very small. By construction, $k_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}$ vanishes precisely to the order n at the root point w_0 . Moreover, the small perturbations u_{m,n,w_0} and $\mathbf{P}_{m,n+1,w_0} k_{m,n,w_0}^*$ vanish at least to order n at w_0 . It follows that \tilde{k}_{m,n,w_0} vanishes precisely to the correct order, that is to say,

$$\tilde{k}_{m,n,w_0}(z) = C(z - w_0)^n + O(|z - w_0|^{n+1}),$$

holds near w_0 for some complex constant $C \neq 0$. The constant C is close to being positive real, since the $\bar{\partial}$ -correction u_{m,n,w_0} is small. Indeed, we have $C = (1 + O(e^{-\alpha_1 m})) C_1$ where the constant $C_1 > 0$ may depend on all the parameters but the parameter $\alpha_1 > 0$ is a uniform constant. Since the function \tilde{k}_{m,n,w_0} is automatically orthogonal to $A^2_{mQ,n+1,w_0}$, it follows that \tilde{k}_{m,n,w_0} equals a scalar multiple of the true root function k_{m,n,w_0} :

$$\tilde{k}_{m,n,w_0} = c k_{m,n,w_0},$$

for some complex constant $c \neq 0$. In view of the above, we conclude that $c = (1 + O(e^{-\alpha_1 m})) c_1$, where $c_1 > 0$ may depend on all the parameters. As $\tilde{k}_{m,n,w_0}(w_0)$ is approximately real, it follows that $c = c'\gamma$, where c' is real and positive, while $\gamma = 1 + O(m^{-\kappa - \frac{1}{2}})$. It follows from (2.5.6) that we have the estimate

$$\|\tilde{k}_{m,n,w_0} - \chi_0 k_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}\|_{mQ} = O(m^{-\kappa - \frac{1}{3}})$$

and since

$$\|\chi_0 k_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}\|_{mQ} = 1 + O(m^{-\kappa - \frac{1}{3}}) \quad (2.5.7)$$

we obtain that positive constant c_1 has the asymptotics $c_1 = 1 + O(m^{-\kappa - \frac{1}{3}})$, which allows to say that \tilde{k}_{m,n,w_0} and the true root function k_{m,n,w_0} , which differ by a multiplicative constant, are very close. It now follows that

$$\|k_{m,n,w_0} - \chi_0 k_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}\|_{mQ} = O(m^{-\kappa - \frac{1}{3}}),$$

so that k_{m,n,w_0} has the desired asymptotic expansion in norm. In view of Proposition 2.1.3, the pointwise expansion is essentially immediate from the L^2 -estimate, at least in the region $\Omega_{\tau,w_0,m}$ where

$$\text{dist}_{\mathbb{C}}(z, \Omega_{\tau,w_0}) \leq A m^{-\frac{1}{2}} (\log m)^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

which is where the functions \check{Q}_{τ,w_0} and \hat{Q}_{τ,w_0} are comparable in the sense that

$$0 \leq m(\hat{Q}_{\tau,w_0} - \check{Q}_{\tau,w_0}) \leq A^2 D \log m$$

for some fixed positive constant D depending only on Q . The only remaining issue is that the error terms are slightly worse than claimed. However, by replacing κ with an integer larger than $\kappa + 2 + A^2 D$ and by deriving the expansion with the indicated higher accuracy, we conclude that the desired error terms may be obtained as well.

Turning to the norm control on the set $\Omega_{\tau,w_0,m}$, we note that by elementary Hilbert space methods, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega_{\tau,w_0,m}} |k_{m,n,w_0}|^2 e^{-2mQ} dA &= \int_{\Omega_{\tau,w_0,m}} |k_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}|^2 e^{-2mQ} dA \\ &\quad + O\left(\|k_{m,n,w_0} - \chi_0 k_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}\|_{2mQ}\right). \end{aligned}$$

We need to calculate the integral on the right-hand side:

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{\Omega_{\tau,w_0,m}} |k_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}|^2 e^{-2mQ} dA \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{C}} |\chi_0 k_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}|^2 e^{-2mQ} dA - \int_{\text{supp}(\chi_0) \setminus \Omega_{\tau,w_0,m}} |\chi_0 k_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}|^2 e^{-2mQ} dA, \end{aligned}$$

where we use that $\chi_0 = 1$ on Ω_{m,τ,w_0} provided that m is big enough. In view of (2.5.7) the first integral on the right-hand side equals $1 + O(m^{-\kappa - \frac{1}{3}})$. For any $z \in \text{supp}(\chi_0) \setminus \Omega_{\tau,w_0,m}$ we have the bound $2m(Q - \check{Q}_{\tau,w_0})(z) \geq A^2 D \log m$ where D is the positive constant encountered previously. Consequently, we have the estimate

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{\text{supp}(\chi_0) \setminus \Omega_m} |\chi_0 k_{m,n,w_0}^{(\kappa)}|^2 e^{-2mQ} dA \\ &\leq C_0 m^{\frac{1}{2}} |\text{supp}(\chi_0) \setminus \Omega_m|_A e^{-A^2 D \log m} = O(m^{-A^2 D + \frac{1}{2}}). \end{aligned} \quad (2.5.8)$$

If A is chosen large enough, it follows that

$$\int_{\Omega_{\tau,w_0,m}} |k_{m,n,w_0}|^2 e^{-2mQ} dA = 1 + O(m^{-\kappa - \frac{1}{3}}).$$

This completes the outline of the proof. \square

Proof sketch of Theorem 1.4.1. The proof of Theorem 1.4.1 is entirely analogous to the above proof of Theorem 1.6.2, essentially amounting to putting $\tau = 0$ in the latter context. In the setting of Theorem 1.4.1, there exists already a forbidden region around the point w_0 , and hence permits us to consider $\tau = 0$. Indeed, the reason why we required that $\tau > 0$ in the context of Theorem 1.6.2 was to allow for the instance when the off-spectral component Ω_{τ, w_0} shrinks down to the point $\{w_0\}$ as $\tau \rightarrow 0$. \square

2.6. Interface asymptotics of the Bergman density. In this section we show how to obtain the error function transition behavior of Bergman densities at interfaces, where the interface may occur as a result of a region of negative curvature (understood as where $\Delta Q < 0$ holds in terms of the potential Q) or as a consequence of dealing with partial Bergman kernels. Here, we focus on the partial Bergman kernel analysis. In fact, we may think of the first instance of the full Bergman kernel as a special case and maintain that it is covered by the presented material.

The following Corollary of the main theorem summarizes the asymptotics of normalized off-spectral partial Bergman kernels in a suitable form. The domains $\Omega_{\tau, w_0, m}$ are as in Theorem 1.6.2, for a given positive parameter A chosen suitably large.

Corollary 2.6.1. *Under the assumptions of Theorem 1.6.2, we have the asymptotics*

$$\begin{aligned} & |k_{m, n, w_0}(z)|^2 e^{-2mQ(z)} \\ &= \pi^{-\frac{1}{2}} m^{\frac{1}{2}} |\varphi'_{\tau, w_0}(z)| e^{-2m(Q - \check{Q}_{\tau, w_0})(z)} \left\{ e^{2\operatorname{Re} \mathcal{H}_{Q, \tau, w_0}(z)} + O(m^{-1}) \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

on the domain $\Omega_{\tau, w_0, m}$, as $n = \tau m \rightarrow +\infty$ while $\tau \in I_0$, where $\mathcal{H}_{Q, \tau, w_0}$ is the bounded holomorphic function on Ω_{τ, w_0} whose real part equals $\frac{1}{4} \log(2\Delta Q)$ on the boundary, and is real-valued at the root point w_0 .

Proof. In view of the decomposition (2.2.1), this is just the assertion of Theorem 1.6.2 with accuracy $\kappa = 1$. \square

We proceed with a sketch of the error function asymptotics at interfaces, in particular we point out why we may carry on exactly as in the proof of Theorem 1.4.1 of [15].

Proof sketch of Corollary 1.7.1. We expand the partial Bergman kernel K_{m, n, w_0} along the diagonal in terms of the root functions k_{m, n', w_0} , for $n' \geq n$. We keep $\tau = \frac{n}{m}$ throughout. In view of Theorem 1.5.1, we have

$$K_{m, n, w_0}(z_m(\xi), z_m(\xi)) e^{-2mQ(z_m(\xi))} = \sum_{n'=n}^{+\infty} |k_{m, n', w_0}(z_m(\xi))|^2 e^{-2mQ(z_m(\xi))}, \quad (2.6.1)$$

where $z_0 \in \partial\Omega_{\tau, w_0}$ and where $z_m(\xi)$ gives the rescaled coordinate implicitly by

$$z_m(\xi) = z_0 + v \frac{\xi}{\sqrt{2m\Delta Q(z_0)}}.$$

The rescaled Bergman density is then obtained by

$$\varrho_m(\xi) = \frac{1}{2m\Delta Q(z_0)} \sum_{n \geq \epsilon m} |k_{m, n, w_0}(z_m(\xi))|^2 e^{-2mQ(z_m(\xi))}.$$

In view of the assumed (I_0, w_0) -admissibility, we may apply the asymptotic expansion in the main result, specifically in the form of Corollary 2.6.1. Since Proposition 2.1.2 tells us how the smooth Jordan curves $\partial\Omega_{\tau, w_0}$ propagate, a Taylor series expansion of the function $Q - \check{Q}_{\tau, w_0}$ allows us to write the partial Bergman density approximately as a sum of translated Gaussians

$$Q_m(\xi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{j \geq 0} \frac{\gamma_0}{\sqrt{m}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(2\operatorname{Re} \xi + j \frac{\gamma_0}{\sqrt{m}})^2} + O(m^{-\frac{1}{2}}(\log m)^3), \quad (2.6.2)$$

where $\gamma_0 = \gamma_{z_0, w_0}$, Q is a positive constant. As in the proof of Theorem 1.4.1 of [15], we proceed to interpret the above sum (2.6.2) as a Riemann sum for the integral formula for the error function:

$$\operatorname{erf}(2\operatorname{Re} \xi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_0^\infty e^{-\frac{1}{2}(2\operatorname{Re}(\xi) + t)^2} dt.$$

This proof is complete. \square

3. The Foliation Flow for More General Area Forms

3.1. More general area forms. It will be desirable to obtain some flexibility on the part of the weight e^{-2mQ} in the expansion of Theorem 1.6.2. In particular, in the following subsections we will discuss various situations in which one needs asymptotics for root functions and orthogonal polynomials with respect to measures

$$e^{-2mQ} V \, dA,$$

where V is a positive C^2 -smooth function which is real-analytic in a neighborhood of the fixed smooth spectral interface of interest, which meet the polynomial growth bound

$$C_1(1 + |z|^2)^{-N} \leq V(z) \leq C_2(1 + |z|^2)^N, \quad (3.1.1)$$

for some positive constants C_1 and C_2 and some fixed integer $N < +\infty$. We also require that for some positive constant C_3 , it holds that

$$\Delta \log V(z) \leq C_3 \Delta Q(z), \quad z \in \mathbb{C}. \quad (3.1.2)$$

In particular, this covers working with the spherical area measure

$$dA_{\mathbb{S}}(z) := (1 + |z|^2)^{-2} dA(z)$$

in place of planar area measure simply by considering $V(z) = (1 + |z|^2)^{-2}$. Working with the spherical area measure has the advantage of invariance with respect to rotations and inversion. For a more general conformal factor V , we factor $V dA = V_{\mathbb{S}} dA_{\mathbb{S}}$, where $V_{\mathbb{S}}(z) = (1 + |z|^2)^2 V(z)$, and see that our weighted measure is

$$e^{-2mQ} V_{\mathbb{S}} \, dA_{\mathbb{S}},$$

which has a more invariant appearance. If we write $\lambda(z) = z^{-1}$, the spaces of polynomials of degree at most n with respect to the L^2 -space with measure $e^{-2mQ} V_{\mathbb{S}} \, dA_{\mathbb{S}}$ becomes isometrically isomorphic to the L^2 -space of rational functions on the sphere \mathbb{S} with a pole of order at most n at the origin, with respect to the L^2 -space with measure

$e^{-2mQ \circ \lambda} V_{\mathbb{S}} \circ \lambda \, dA_{\mathbb{S}}$. This provides an extension of the scale of root functions to zeros of negative order (i.e. poles), and the apparent similarities between orthogonal polynomials and root functions may be viewed in this light. This analogy goes even deeper than that. Assuming that 0 is an off-spectral point for the weighted L^2 -space with measure $e^{-2mQ \circ \lambda} V_{\mathbb{S}} \circ \lambda \, dA_{\mathbb{S}}$, we may multiply by a suitable power of the conformal mapping from the off-spectral region to the unit disk \mathbb{D} , which preserves the origin, to obtain a space of functions holomorphic in a neighborhood of the off-spectral region. Hörmander-type estimates for the $\bar{\partial}$ -equation then permit us to correct the functions so that they are entire, with small cost in norm.

We note that more general area forms appear naturally from working with perturbations of the potential Q . Indeed, if we consider $\tilde{Q} = Q - m^{-1}h$ for some smooth function h of modest growth, we have that

$$e^{-2m\tilde{Q}} dA = e^{-2mQ} e^{2h} dA,$$

which corresponds precisely to the conformal factor $V = e^{2h}$.

3.2. The asymptotics of root functions and orthogonal polynomials for more general area forms. Our analysis will show that the root function asymptotics of Theorem 1.6.2 holds also in the context of a general area form, with only a slight change in the structure of the coefficients \mathcal{B}_{j,τ,w_0} . Let $A_{mQ,V}^2$ denote the weighted Bergman space of entire functions with respect to the Hilbert space norm

$$\|f\|_{mQ,V}^2 := \int_{\mathbb{C}} |f|^2 e^{-2mQ} V \, dA < +\infty.$$

The corresponding Bergman kernel is denoted by $K_{m,V}$. We also need the partial Bergman spaces A_{mQ,V,n,w_0}^2 , consisting of the functions in $A_{mQ,V}^2$ that vanish at w_0 to order n or higher. These are closed subspaces of $A_{mQ,V}^2$ which get smaller as n increases: $A_{mQ,V,n+1,w_0}^2 \subset A_{mQ,V,n,w_0}^2$. The successive difference spaces $A_{mQ,V,n,w_0}^2 \ominus A_{mQ,V,n+1,w_0}^2$ have dimension at most 1. If the dimension equals 1, we single out an element $k_{m,n,w_0,V} \in A_{mQ,V,n,w_0}^2 \ominus A_{mQ,V,n+1,w_0}^2$ of norm 1, which has positive derivative of order n at w_0 . In the remaining case when the dimension equals 0 we put $k_{m,n,w_0,V} = 0$. As before, we call $k_{m,n,w_0,V}$ *root functions*, and observe that these are the same objects we defined earlier for $V = 1$ in terms of an extremal problem.

Theorem 3.2.1. *Under the assumptions of Theorem 1.6.2 and the above-mentioned assumptions on V , with respect to the interface $\partial\Omega_{\tau,w_0}$, we have, using the notation of the same theorem, for fixed accuracy and a given positive real A , the asymptotic expansion of the root function*

$$k_{m,n,w_0,V}(z) = m^{\frac{1}{4}} (\varphi'_{\tau,w_0}(z))^{\frac{1}{2}} (\varphi_{\tau,w_0}(z))^n e^{mQ_{\tau,w_0}} \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^{\kappa} m^{-j} \mathcal{B}_{j,\tau,w_0,V}(z) + O(m^{-\kappa-1}) \right\},$$

on the domain $\Omega_{\tau,w_0,m}$ which depends on A , where $\tau = \frac{n}{m}$, and the implied constant is uniform. Here, the main term \mathcal{B}_{0,τ,w_0} is zero-free and smooth up to the boundary on Ω_{τ,w_0} , positive at w_0 , with prescribed modulus

$$|\mathcal{B}_{0,\tau,w_0,V}(z)| = \pi^{-\frac{1}{4}} (\Delta Q(z))^{\frac{1}{4}} V(z)^{-\frac{1}{2}}, \quad z \in \partial\Omega_{\tau,w_0}.$$

The proof of this theorem is analogous to that of Theorem 1.6.2, given that we have explained how to modify the orthogonal foliation flow with respect to the general area form in Lemma 3.3.2. The lemma is applied with $s = m^{-1}$. We omit the necessary details.

We turn next to the computation of the coefficients $\mathcal{B}_{j,\tau,w_0,W}$ in the above expansion. We recall that R_{τ,w_0} is the potential induced by Q in the canonical positioning procedure, and we put analogously

$$W_{\tau,w_0}(z) = V \circ \varphi_{\tau,w_0}^{-1}(z), \quad z \in \mathbb{D}(0, \eta).$$

For the formulation, we need the orthogonal projection $\mathbf{P}_{H_0^2}$ of $L^2(\mathbb{T})$ onto the Hardy space H_0^2 of functions f in the Hardy space H^2 that vanish at the origin.

Theorem 3.2.2. *In the asymptotic expansion of root functions in Theorem 3.2.1, the coefficient functions $\mathcal{B}_{j,\tau,w_0,V}$ are obtained by*

$$\mathcal{B}_{j,\tau,w_0,V} = (\varphi'_{\tau,w_0})^{\frac{1}{2}} B_{j,\tau,w_0,V} \circ \varphi_{\tau,w_0}, \quad j = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

If $H_{\tau,w_0,V}$ denotes the unique bounded holomorphic function on \mathbb{D} , whose real part meets

$$\operatorname{Re} H_{\tau,w_0,V} = \frac{1}{4} \log(4\Delta R_{\tau,w_0}) + \frac{1}{2} \log(W_{\tau,w_0}), \quad \text{on } \mathbb{T},$$

with $\operatorname{Im} H_{\tau,w_0,V}(0) = 0$, the functions $B_{j,\tau,w_0,V}$ may be obtained algorithmically as

$$B_{j,\tau,w_0,V} = c_j e^{H_{\tau,w_0,V}} - e^{H_{\tau,w_0,V}} \mathbf{P}_{H_0^2} [e^{\bar{H}_{\tau,w_0,V}} F_j]$$

for some real constants $c_j = c_{j,\tau,w_0,V}$ and real-analytically smooth functions $F_j = F_{j,\tau,w_0,V}$ on the unit circle \mathbb{T} . Here, both the constants c_j and the functions F_j may be computed iteratively in terms of $B_{0,\tau,w_0,V}, \dots, B_{j-1,\tau,w_0,V}$.

One may further derive concrete expressions for the constants c_j and the real-analytic functions F_j in the above result, in terms of the rather complicated explicit differential operators \mathbf{L}_k and \mathbf{M}_k as defined in equation (1.3.4) and Lemma 3.2.1 in [15]. We should mention that the definition of the operator \mathbf{M}_k contains a parameter l , which is allowed to assume only non-negative values. However, the same definition works also for $l < 0$, which is necessary for the present application. In terms of the operators \mathbf{M}_k and \mathbf{L}_k , we have

$$F_j(\theta) = \sum_{k=1}^j \mathbf{M}_k [B_{j-k,\tau,w_0,V} W_{\tau,w_0}]$$

and

$$c_j = -\frac{(4\pi)^{-\frac{1}{4}}}{2} \sum_{(i,k,l) \in \mathfrak{n}_j} \int_{\mathbb{T}} \frac{\mathbf{L}_k [r B_{i,\tau,w_0,V}(re^{i\theta}) \bar{B}_{l,\tau,w_0,V}(re^{i\theta}) W_{\tau,w_0}(re^{i\theta})]}{(4\Delta R_{\tau,w_0}(re^{i\theta}))^{\frac{1}{2}}} \Big|_{r=1} ds(e^{i\theta}).$$

Here, the index set \mathfrak{n}_j is defined as

$$\mathfrak{n}_j = \{(i, k, l) \in \mathbb{Z}_{+,0}^3 : i, l < j, \quad i + k + l = j\},$$

where we use the notation $\mathbb{Z}_{+,0} := \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$. This theorem is obtained in the same fashion as Theorem 1.3.7 in [15] in the context of orthogonal polynomials, and we do not write down a proof here.

3.3. *The flow modified by a conformal factor.* We proceed first to modify the book-keeping slightly by formulating an analogue of Definition 2.4.1, which applies to weights after canonical positioning.

Definition 3.3.1. Let η and σ be given positive numbers, with $\eta > 1$. A pair (R, W) of non-negative C^2 -smooth weights defined on $\mathbb{D}(0, \eta)$ is said to belong to the class $\mathfrak{W}_{\otimes}(\eta, \sigma)$ if $R \in \mathfrak{W}(\eta, \sigma)$ and if the weight W meets the following conditions:

- (i) W is real-analytic and zero-free in the neighborhood $\mathbb{A}(\eta^{-1}, \eta)$ of the unit circle \mathbb{T} ,
- (ii) The polarization $W(z, w)$ of W extends to a bounded holomorphic function of (z, \bar{w}) on the 2σ -fattened diagonal annulus $\hat{\mathbb{A}}(\sigma, \eta)$, which is also bounded away from 0.

A collection S of pairs (R, W) is said to be a uniform family in $\mathfrak{W}_{\otimes}(\eta, \sigma)$ if the weights R with $(R, W) \in S$ are confined to a uniform family in $\mathfrak{W}(\eta, \sigma)$, while $W(z, w)$ is uniformly bounded and bounded away from 0 in $\hat{\mathbb{A}}(\sigma, \eta)$.

Fix a pair (η_0, σ_0) . Just as before, we let (η_1, σ_1) denote a possibly more restrictive pair of positive reals with $\eta_1 > 1$ such that the relevant polarizations are hermitian-holomorphic and uniformly bounded on $\hat{\mathbb{A}}(\eta_1, \sigma_1)$. In connection with this definition, we recall the bound

$$\eta_1 \leq \sqrt{1 + \sigma_1^2} + \sigma_1,$$

which guarantees that if $f(z, w)$ is holomorphic in (z, \bar{w}) on the set $\hat{\mathbb{A}}(\sigma_1, \eta_1)$, then the function $f_{\mathbb{T}}(z) = f(z, \bar{z}^{-1})$ may be continued holomorphically to the annulus $\mathbb{A}(\eta_1^{-1}, \eta_1)$.

We proceed with the main result of this section.

Lemma 3.3.2. *Fix an accuracy parameter κ and let $(R, W) \in \mathfrak{W}_{\otimes}(\eta_0, \sigma_0)$. Then there exist a radius η_2 with $1 < \eta_2 < \eta_1$, bounded holomorphic functions f_s on $\mathbb{D}(0, \eta_1)$ of the form*

$$f_s = \sum_{j=0}^{\kappa} s^j B_j + \mathcal{O}(s^{\kappa+1}), \quad z \in \mathbb{D}(0, \eta_1),$$

and normalized conformal mappings $\psi_{s,t}$ on $\mathbb{D}(0, \eta_2)$ given by

$$\psi_{s,t} = \psi_{0,t} + \sum_{\substack{(j,l) \in \mathbb{Y}_{2\kappa+1} \\ j \geq 1}} s^j t^l \hat{\psi}_{j,t}$$

such that for s, t small enough it holds that the domains $\psi_{s,t}(\mathbb{D})$ increase with t , while they remain contained in $\mathbb{D}(0, \eta_1)$. Moreover, for $\zeta \in \mathbb{T}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & |f_s \circ \psi_{s,t}(\zeta)|^2 e^{-2s^{-1}R \circ \psi_{s,t}} \operatorname{Re} \left(\bar{\zeta} \partial_t \psi_{s,t}(\zeta) \overline{\psi'_{s,t}(\zeta)} \right) W \circ \psi_{s,t}(\zeta) \\ &= e^{-s^{-1}t^2} \left\{ (4\pi)^{-\frac{1}{2}} + \mathcal{O}(|s|^{\kappa+\frac{1}{2}} + |t|^{2\kappa+1}) \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.3.1)$$

For small positive s , when t varies in the interval $[-\beta_s, \beta_s]$ with $\beta_s := s^{1/2} \log \frac{1}{s}$, the flow of loops $\{\psi_{s,t}(\mathbb{T})\}_t$ cover a neighborhood of the circle \mathbb{T} of width proportional to β_s smoothly. In addition, the main term B_0 is zero-free, positive at the origin, and has modulus $|B_0| = \pi^{-\frac{1}{4}} (\Delta R)^{\frac{1}{4}} W^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ on \mathbb{T} , and the other terms B_j are all real-valued at the origin. The implied constant in (3.3.1) is uniformly bounded, provided that (R, W) is confined to a uniform family of $\mathfrak{W}_{\otimes}(\eta_0, \sigma_0)$.

In order to obtain this lemma, we need to modify the algorithm which gives the original result. We proceed to sketch an outline of this modification. The omitted details are available in [15], and we try to guide the reader for easy reading.

We recall the following index sets from [15]. For an integer n , we introduce

$$\mathfrak{Y}_n = \{(j, l) \in \mathbb{Z}_{+,0}^2 : 2j + l \leq n\}. \quad (3.3.2)$$

We observe that if $(j, l) \in \mathfrak{Y}_n$, then $2j \leq n$, and that we have the equivalence

$$(j, l) \in \mathfrak{Y}_{n+1} \text{ and } j \geq 1 \iff (j-1, l+1) \in \mathfrak{Y}_n \text{ and } l \geq 0. \quad (3.3.3)$$

We endow the set \mathfrak{Y}_n with the ordering \prec_L induced by the lexicographic ordering, so we agree that $(j, l) \prec_L (a, b)$ if $j < a$ or if $j = a$ and $l < b$.

Proof of Lemma 3.3.2. The conformal mappings $\psi_{s,t}$ are assumed to have the form

$$\psi_{s,t} = \psi_{0,t} + \sum_{\substack{(j,l) \in \mathfrak{Y}_{2\kappa+1} \\ j \geq 1}} s^j t^l \hat{\psi}_{j,l}$$

for some bounded holomorphic coefficients $\hat{\psi}_{j,l}$ and a conformal mapping

$$\psi_{0,t} = \sum_{l=0}^{+\infty} t^l \hat{\psi}_{0,l}.$$

We make the following initial observation. In the limit case $s = 0$, the flow Eq. (3.3.1) of the lemma forces $\psi_{0,t}$ to be a mapping from \mathbb{D} onto the interior of suitably chosen level curves of R , and from this we may obtain the coefficients $\hat{\psi}_{0,l}$. Indeed, if we take logarithms of both sides of the equation and multiply by s we obtain

$$s \log |f_s \circ \psi_{s,t}|^2 - 2R \circ \psi_{s,t} + s \log(1-t) \log J_\Psi + s \log W \circ \psi_{s,t} = -t^2 + \mathcal{O}(s), \quad (3.3.4)$$

where the J_Ψ denotes the associated Jacobian

$$J_{\Psi_s}((1+t)\zeta) := \operatorname{Re} \left(\bar{\zeta} \partial_t \psi_{s,t} \overline{\psi'_{s,t}(\zeta)} \right), \quad \zeta \in \mathbb{T},$$

for t in the interval $[-\beta_s, \beta_s]$, so that J_{Ψ_s} gets defined on the annulus $\mathbb{A}(1-\beta_s, 1+\beta_s)$, provided that the coefficient functions which define $\psi_{s,t}$ can be found. Assuming some reasonable stability with respect to the variable s as $s \rightarrow 0^+$ in (3.3.4), we obtain in the limit that

$$2R \circ \psi_{0,t}(\zeta) = t^2, \quad \zeta \in \mathbb{T}. \quad (3.3.5)$$

In particular, the loop $\psi_{0,t}(\mathbb{T})$ is a part of the level set where $R = \frac{1}{2}t^2$. This level set consists of two disjoint simple closed curves, one on either side of \mathbb{T} , at least for small enough t and locally near \mathbb{T} . For $t > 0$, we choose the curve outside the unit circle, while for $t < 0$ we choose the other one. We normalize the mapping $\psi_{0,t}$ so that it preserves the origin and has positive derivative there. In this fashion, the coefficients $\hat{\psi}_{0,l}$ get determined uniquely by the level set condition. We note that the smoothness of the level curves was worked out in some detail in Proposition 4.2.5 in [15]. Moreover, the

coefficient functions $\hat{\psi}_{0,l}$ are given in terms of Herglotz integrals as in Proposition 4.6.1 of [15], with the obvious modifications.

Our next task is to obtain iteratively the coefficients B_j for $j = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ and the higher order corrections to the conformal mapping, given in terms of the coefficients $\hat{\psi}_{j,l}$ for $j = 1, \dots, \kappa$. It turns out to be advantageous to work instead with $h_s = \log f_s$ as the basic object of study, and make the ansatz

$$h_s(z) = \sum_{j=0}^{\kappa} s^j b_j(z), \quad z \in \mathbb{D}(0, \eta_1), \quad (3.3.6)$$

where b_j are bounded holomorphic functions on $\mathbb{D}(0, \eta_1)$ with $\text{Im } b_j(0) = 0$. It follows that the coefficient function B_j may be expressed as a multivariate polynomial in the coefficients b_0, \dots, b_j , for each $j = 0, \dots, \kappa$. The coefficient functions b_j are obtained by differentiating the logarithm of the flow Eq. (3.3.1). To set things up correctly, we write

$$\omega_{s,t}(\zeta) := |f_s \circ \psi_{s,t}|^2 e^{-2s^{-1}(R \circ \psi_{s,t} - \frac{1}{2}t^2)} (W \circ \psi_{s,t}) \text{Re}(\bar{\zeta} \partial_t \psi_{s,t} \overline{\psi'_{s,t}})$$

for $\zeta \in \mathbb{T}$, where we recall that $R \circ \psi_{0,t} = \frac{1}{2}t^2$, and put

$$\begin{aligned} \varpi_{s,t} &:= \log \omega_{s,t} = 2 \text{Re } h_s \circ \psi_{s,t} - \frac{2}{s} (R \circ \psi_{s,t} - \frac{1}{2}t^2) \\ &\quad + \log \text{Re}(\bar{\zeta} \partial_t \psi_{s,t} \overline{\psi'_{s,t}}) + \log W \circ \psi_{s,t}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.3.7)$$

We need to show that

$$\varpi_{s,t}(\zeta) = -\frac{1}{2} \log(4\pi) + O(|s|^{\kappa+\frac{1}{2}} + |t|^{2\kappa+1}), \quad \zeta \in \mathbb{T} \quad (3.3.8)$$

when $s \rightarrow 0$ while $|t| \leq s^{\frac{1}{2}} \log \frac{1}{s}$. Since $\varpi_{s,t}$ should be smooth in the parameters s and t , by the multivariate Taylor formula, this is equivalent to having the system of equations

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\omega}_{j,l}(\zeta) &= \frac{\partial_s^j \partial_t^l \varpi_{s,t}(\zeta)}{j!l!} \Big|_{s=t=0} \\ &= \begin{cases} -\frac{1}{2} \log(4\pi) & \text{for } \zeta \in \mathbb{T} \text{ and } (j, l) = (0, 0), \\ 0 & \text{for } \zeta \in \mathbb{T} \text{ and } (j, l) \in \mathfrak{P}_{2\kappa} \setminus (0, 0), \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (3.3.9)$$

fulfilled. If, in addition, we can show that the functions b_j and $\hat{\psi}_{j,l}$ remain holomorphic and uniformly bounded in the appropriate domains provided that (R, W) remains confined to a uniform family of $\mathfrak{M}_{\otimes}(\eta_0, \sigma_0)$, the result follows.

HOW TO SOLVE FOR THE UNKNOWN COEFFICIENT FUNCTIONS. We proceed to solve the system (3.3.9). The approach is to first express the Taylor coefficients $\hat{\omega}_{j,l}$ in terms of our unknown coefficient functions b_0, \dots, b_{κ} and $\hat{\psi}_{j,l}$ for $(j, l) \in \mathfrak{P}_{2\kappa+1}$, and then, as a second step, to insert the system of Eq. (3.3.9). We determine the unknowns by an iterative procedure. At a given step in the iteration, some of the coefficient functions will be already found. We split the Eq. (3.3.9) into a term containing precisely one unknown coefficient function and a second term which contains only already determined coefficient functions. Here, we refrain from giving a complete account, which is available

in [15] modulo minor modifications to fit the present setup. The higher order Taylor coefficients of the function $\varpi_{s,t}$ with respect of s and t are given as follows. When $j \geq 0$ and $l \geq 1$, we have

$$0 = \hat{\omega}_{j,l}(\zeta) = -2(4\Delta R(\zeta))^{\frac{1}{2}} \operatorname{Re}(\bar{\zeta} \hat{\psi}_{j+1,l-1}(\zeta)) + \mathfrak{T}_{j,l,W}(\zeta), \quad \zeta \in \mathbb{T}, \quad (3.3.10)$$

while for $j \geq 1$ and $l = 0$, we have

$$0 = \hat{\omega}_{j,0}(\zeta) = 2 \operatorname{Re} b_j(\zeta) + \mathfrak{T}_{j,0,W}(\zeta), \quad \zeta \in \mathbb{T}. \quad (3.3.11)$$

Here, we inserted the Eq. (3.3.9) for added convenience. The expressions $\mathfrak{T}_{j,l,W}$ are real-valued real-analytic functions which are uniformly bounded while (R, W) remains in a uniform family in $\mathfrak{M}_{\otimes}(\eta_0, \sigma_0)$, and may be explicitly written down using the multivariate Faà di Bruno's formula. The crucial point for us is the dependence structure of the functions $\mathfrak{T}_{j,l,W}$, which remains the same as in the algorithm for the orthogonal polynomials:

- (\mathfrak{T} -i) For $l \geq 1$, the function $\mathfrak{T}_{j,l,W}$ is an expression in terms of the functions b_0, \dots, b_j as well $\hat{\psi}_{p,q}$ for indices $(p, q) \in \mathfrak{Y}_{2\kappa+1}$ with $(p, q) \prec_L (j+1, l-1)$, and also involves R and W ,
whereas
- (\mathfrak{T} -ii) For $l = 0$, the function $\mathfrak{T}_{j,0,W}$ is an expression in terms of b_0, \dots, b_{j-1} and $\hat{\psi}_{p,q}$ for indices $(p, q) \in \mathfrak{Y}_{2\kappa+1}$ with $(p, q) \prec_L (j+1, 0)$, and also involves R and W .

The dependence is basically multivariate polynomial dependence, with the need to allow also for partial derivatives of some of the given expressions. This aspect is described in great detail in terms of the polynomial complexity classes introduced in Section 4.8 of [15]. That (\mathfrak{T} -i)-(\mathfrak{T} -ii) hold follows by noticing that Propositions 4.2.5, 4.4.1 and 4.6.1 in [15] remain basically unchanged, while Propositions 4.7.1, 4.9.1, 4.10.1 and 4.12.1 in [15] require the obvious modifications related to our replacing the weight e^{-2mR} on the exterior disk $\mathbb{D}_e(0, \rho)$ by a weight $e^{-2mR}W$ on the disk $\mathbb{D}(0, \eta)$. In particular, it is important that the real-analytic function W is strictly positive in a fixed neighborhood of the unit circle \mathbb{T} , so that $\log W$ is a real-analytic function in the same region. A natural approach to the computations is to write

$$\varpi_{s,t}^I = 2 \operatorname{Re} h_s \circ \psi_{s,t} - \frac{2}{s} \left(R \circ \psi_{s,t} - \frac{1}{2} t^2 \right) + \log \left(\bar{\zeta} \partial_t \psi_{s,t} \overline{\psi'_{s,t}(\zeta)} \right)$$

which is essentially the expression which gets expanded in [15], and introduce the modification $\varpi_{s,t}^{\text{II}} = \log W \circ \psi_{s,t}$, since then $\varpi_{s,t} = \varpi_{s,t}^I + \varpi_{s,t}^{\text{II}}$. If we introduce the notation

$$\hat{\omega}_{j,l}^I = \frac{\partial_s^j \partial_t^l \hat{\omega}_{j,l}^I}{j!l!} \Big|_{s=t=0}, \quad \hat{\omega}_{j,l}^{\text{II}} = \frac{\partial_s^j \partial_t^l \hat{\omega}_{j,l}^{\text{II}}}{j!l!} \Big|_{s=t=0},$$

it follows immediately that $\hat{\omega}_{j,l}^I$ are as in Proposition 4.12.1 of [15], while the latter may be computed explicitly using the multivariate Faà di Bruno formula [9]. The leading behavior of $\hat{\omega}_{j,l}$ comes from the contribution of $\hat{\omega}_{j,l}^I$, which is as in [15], while it is easily verified that $\hat{\omega}_{j,l}^{\text{II}}$ for $(j, l) \in \mathfrak{Y}_{2\kappa}$ is an expression in terms of the coefficient functions $\hat{\psi}_{p,q}$ with $p \leq j$ and $q \leq l$ and of some partial derivatives of $\log W$. But

then in particular $(p, q) \in \mathfrak{P}_{2\kappa}$ with $(p, q) \prec_L (j, l + 1)$. It is now immediate that the remainders $\mathfrak{T}_{j,l,W}$ have the indicated properties.

SKETCH OF THE ALGORITHM. We sketch the solution algorithm below, and indicate where the necessary modifications to the corresponding steps in [15] are required. We need the notation Γ_t for the loop with

$$R(z) = \frac{1}{2}t^2, \quad z \in \Gamma_t.$$

The loop is a perturbation of the unit circle \mathbb{T} for t close to 0. However, for $t \neq 0$ there are two such loops, one which is inside the circle \mathbb{T} , and one which is outside. For $t > 0$ we choose the outside loop, whereas for $t < 0$ we instead choose the inside loop. This way, the domain enclosed by Γ_t grows with t .

STEP 1. Take as above $\psi_{0,t}$ to be the conformal mapping $\psi_{0,t} : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow D_t$, where $\psi_{0,t}(0) = 0$ and $\psi'_{0,t}(0) > 0$, and D_t denotes the bounded domain enclosed by the curve Γ_t . It follows from the smoothness of the flow of the level curves Γ_t (for details see Proposition 4.2.5 in [15]) that we have an expansion

$$\psi_{0,t} = \sum_{l=0}^{+\infty} t^l \hat{\psi}_{0,l},$$

which determines the coefficient functions $\hat{\psi}_{0,l}$ for all $l = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ (see Proposition 4.6.1 [15]). In particular, we have

$$\operatorname{Re}(\bar{\zeta} \hat{\psi}_{0,1}(\zeta)) = (4\Delta R(\zeta))^{-\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \zeta \in \mathbb{T}. \quad (3.3.12)$$

STEP 2. The Eq. (3.3.9) for $(j, l) = (0, 0)$ together with (3.3.12) gives that

$$2 \operatorname{Re} b_0(\zeta) - \frac{1}{2} \log(4\Delta R(\zeta)) + \log W(\zeta) = -\frac{1}{2} \log(4\pi), \quad \zeta \in \mathbb{T},$$

which in its turn determines b_0 . Indeed, the only holomorphic function which is real-valued at the origin and meets this equation is

$$b_0 = -\frac{1}{4} \log(4\pi) + \frac{1}{4} \mathbf{H}_{\mathbb{D}}[\log(4\Delta R) - 2 \log W] \quad \text{on } \mathbb{T}, \quad (3.3.13)$$

where the Herglotz operator $\mathbf{H}_{\mathbb{D}}$ is given by

$$\mathbf{H}_{\mathbb{D}}[f](z) := \int_{\mathbb{T}} \frac{1 + \bar{w}z}{1 - \bar{w}z} f(w) \, ds(w), \quad z \in \mathbb{D}.$$

The definition of the Herglotz operator is extended to the boundary \mathbb{T} via nontangential boundary values, and, whenever possible, across the circle \mathbb{T} by analytic continuation. As a consequence of the assumptions on the potential Q and the conformal factor V as well as the regularity of the conformal mapping φ_{τ,w_0} , the function W is real-analytic and positive in a neighborhood of \mathbb{T} , and moreover the pair (R, W) meets the regularity requirements of Definition 3.3.1. This means that essentially we are in the same setting as explained in [15]. For instance, we may conclude that the function b_0 given by (3.3.13) extends as a bounded holomorphic function on a disk $\mathbb{D}(0, \eta_1)$ with radius $\eta_1 > 1$.

We proceed to Step 3 with $j_0 = 1$. We note that $(j, l) \in \mathfrak{P}_{2\kappa+1}$ entails that $0 \leq j \leq \kappa$.

STEP 3. To begin with, we have an integer $1 \leq j_0 \leq \kappa$ for which we have already successfully determined the coefficient functions b_j for $0 \leq j \leq j_0 - 1$ as well as $\hat{\psi}_{j,l}$

for all $(j, l) \in \mathfrak{P}_{2\kappa+1}$ with $(j, l) \prec_L (j_0, 0)$. Note that is known to be so for $j_0 = 1$, by Steps 1 and 2. In this step, we intend to determine all the coefficient functions $\hat{\psi}_{j,l}$ with $(j, l) \in \mathfrak{P}_{2\kappa+1}$ and $(j, l) \prec_L (j_0+1, 0)$, and keep track of the Eq. (3.3.9) with $(j, l) \in \mathfrak{P}_{2\kappa}$ that get solved along the way. The induction hypothesis includes the assumption that the system of Eq. (3.3.9) holds for all $(j, l) \in \mathfrak{P}_{2\kappa}$ with $l \geq 1$ and $(j, l) \prec_L (j_0 - 1, 1)$ (this is vacuous for $j_0 = 1$), as well as for (j, l) with $0 < j < j_0$ and $l = 0$.

We need only find $\hat{\psi}_{j,l}$ for $(j, l) \in \mathfrak{P}_{2\kappa+1}$ with $j = j_0$. We do this by induction in the parameter l , starting with $l = 0$. Assume for the moment that it has been carried out for all $l = 0, \dots, l_0 - 1$. The coefficient $\hat{\psi}_{j_0, l_0}$ which we are looking for appears as the leading term in the Eq. (3.3.10) corresponding to $(j, l) = (j_0 - 1, l_0 + 1)$, which reads

$$-2(4\Delta R)^{\frac{1}{2}} \operatorname{Re}(\bar{\zeta} \hat{\psi}_{j_0, l_0}) + \mathfrak{T}_{j_0-1, l_0+1} = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{T},$$

where $\mathfrak{T}_{j_0-1, l_0+1}$ is an expression in the already determined coefficient functions, by property $(\mathfrak{T}$ -i). We solve for the coefficient function $\hat{\psi}_{j_0, l_0}$ in terms of the Herglotz operator:

$$\hat{\psi}_{j_0, l_0} = \frac{1}{2} \zeta \mathbf{H}_{\mathbb{D}} \left[\frac{\mathfrak{T}_{j_0-1, l_0+1, W}}{(4\Delta R)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right].$$

As for the first step $l_0 = 0$, the above formula applies in that case as well. What is important is that then, the function $\mathfrak{T}_{j_0-1, 1, W}$ only depends data known at the beginning of Step 3, in view of $(\mathfrak{T}$ -i). By the correspondence (3.3.3) and the induction hypothesis, we have made sure that the system of Eq. (3.3.9) holds for all pairs $(j, l) \in \mathfrak{P}_{2\kappa}$ with $l \geq 1$ and $(j, l) \prec_L (j_0, 1)$ as well as for (j, l) with $0 < j < j_0$ and $l = 0$. This completes Step 3.

STEP 4. After having completed Step 3, we find ourselves in the following situation: the coefficient functions b_j are known for $j < j_0$, while $\hat{\psi}_{j,l}$ are all known for $(j, l) \in \mathfrak{P}_{2\kappa+1}$ with $(j, l) \prec_L (j_0+1, 0)$. We proceed to determine b_{j_0} using the Eq. (3.3.11) with index $(j, l) = (j_0, 0)$. That equation asserts that

$$2 \operatorname{Re} b_{j_0} + \mathfrak{T}_{j_0, 0, W} = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{T},$$

where $\mathfrak{T}_{j_0, 0, W}$ depends on the known data, by property $(\mathfrak{T}$ -ii). We solve for b_{j_0} using the formula

$$b_{j_0} = -\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{H}_{\mathbb{D}_e} [\mathfrak{T}_{j_0, 0}],$$

and we get a function b_{j_0} with $b_{j_0}(0) \in \mathbb{R}$. In view of Step 3, this choice makes sure that (3.3.9) holds for all pairs (j, l) with $l = 0$ and $0 < j \leq j_0$, as well as for all $(j, l) \in \mathfrak{P}_{2\kappa}$ with $l \geq 1$ and $(j, l) \prec_L (j_0, 1)$. This completes Step 4, and we have extended the set of known data so that we may proceed to Step 3 with j_0 replaced with $j_0 + 1$. Here, we should insert a word on smoothness. If f is real-analytically smooth along \mathbb{T} , then $\mathbf{H}_{\mathbb{D}}[f]$ gets to be holomorphic in a larger disk $\mathbb{D}(0, \eta)$ for some $\eta > 1$. Hence real-analytic smoothness carries over to the next step in the iterative procedure.

The above algorithm continues until all the unknowns have been determined, up to the point where the whole index set $\mathfrak{P}_{2\kappa+1}$ has been exhausted. In the process, we have in fact solved the system of Eq. (3.3.9) for all indices $(j, l) \in \mathfrak{P}_{2\kappa}$. This means that if we form h_s and $\psi_{s,t}$ in terms of the functions b_j and $\hat{\psi}_{j,l}$ obtained with the above algorithm, and put $f_s = \exp(h_s)$, we find by exponentiating the Taylor series expansion of $\varpi_{s,t}$ in the parameters s and t that the flow Eq. (3.3.1) holds. This completes the sketch of the proof of the lemma. \square

3.4. *Orthogonal polynomial asymptotics for a general area form.* The results concerning root functions for more general area forms apply also to the setting of orthogonal polynomials. Although many things are pretty much the same, we make an effort to explain what the precise result is in this context.

We need an appropriate notion of admissibility of the potential Q which applies to the setting of orthogonal polynomials. We recall that the spectral droplet \mathcal{S}_τ is the contact set

$$\mathcal{S}_\tau = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \hat{Q}_\tau(z) = Q(z)\},$$

which is typically compact, where \hat{Q}_τ is the function

$$\hat{Q}_\tau(z) := \sup \{q(z) : q \in \text{SH}(\mathbb{C}), q \leq Q \text{ on } \mathbb{C}, q(z) \leq \tau \log(|z| + 1) + O(1)\}.$$

Definition 3.4.1. We say that the potential Q is τ -admissible if the following conditions are met:

- (i) $Q : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is C^2 -smooth,
- (ii) Q meets the growth bound

$$\tau_Q := \liminf_{|z| \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{Q(z)}{\log |z|} > \tau > 0,$$

- (iii) The unbounded component Ω_τ of the complement of the spectral droplet \mathcal{S}_τ is simply connected on the Riemann sphere $\hat{\mathbb{C}}$, with real-analytic Jordan curve boundary,
- (iv) Q is strictly subharmonic and real-analytically smooth in a neighborhood of the boundary $\partial\Omega_\tau$.

As before, we consider measures $e^{-2mQ} V dA$, where the conformal factor V is assumed to be nonnegative, positive near the curve $\partial\Omega_\tau$, and real-analytically smooth in a neighborhood of $\partial\Omega_\tau$ with at most polynomial growth or decay at infinity (3.1.1). We denote by ϕ_τ the surjective conformal mapping

$$\phi_\tau : \Omega_\tau \rightarrow \mathbb{D}_e,$$

which preserves the point at infinity and has $\phi'_\tau(\infty) > 0$. The function \mathcal{Q}_τ is defined as the bounded holomorphic function on Ω_τ whose real part equals Q on the boundary $\partial\Omega_\tau$, and whose imaginary part vanishes at infinity.

The orthogonal polynomials $P_{m,n,V}$ have degree n , positive leading coefficient, and unit norm in $A^2_{mQ,V}$. They have the additional property that

$$\langle P_{m,n,V}, P_{m,n',V} \rangle_{mQ,V} = 0, \quad n \neq n'.$$

We will work with $\tau = \frac{n}{m}$.

Theorem 3.4.2. *Suppose Q is τ -admissible for $\tau \in I_0$, where I_0 is a compact interval of the positive half-axis. Suppose in addition that V meets the above regularity requirements. Given a positive integer κ and a positive real A , there exists a neighborhood Ω_τ^\otimes of the closure of Ω_τ and bounded holomorphic functions $\mathcal{B}_{j,\tau,V}$ on Ω_τ^\otimes , as well as domains $\Omega_{\tau,m} = \Omega_{\tau,m,\kappa,A}$ with $\Omega_\tau \subset \Omega_{\tau,m} \subset \Omega_\tau^\otimes$ which meet*

$$\text{dist}_{\mathbb{C}}(\Omega_{\tau,m}^c, \Omega_\tau) \geq Am^{-\frac{1}{2}}(\log m)^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

such that the orthogonal polynomials enjoy the expansion

$$P_{m,n,V}(z) = m^{\frac{1}{4}} (\phi'_\tau(z))^{\frac{1}{2}} (\phi_\tau(z))^n e^{mQ_\tau} \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^{\kappa} m^{-j} \mathcal{B}_{j,\tau,V}(z) + O(m^{-\kappa-1}) \right\},$$

on $\Omega_{\tau,m}$ as $n = \tau m \rightarrow +\infty$ while $\tau \in I_0$, where the error term is uniform. Here, the main term $\mathcal{B}_{0,\tau,V}$ is zero-free and smooth up to the boundary on Ω_τ , positive at infinity, with prescribed modulus

$$|\mathcal{B}_{0,\tau,V}(\zeta)| = \pi^{-\frac{1}{4}} [\Delta Q(\zeta)]^{\frac{1}{4}} V(\zeta)^{-\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \zeta \in \partial\Omega_\tau.$$

In view of Lemma 3.3.2, the construction of approximately orthogonal quasi-polynomials may be carried out in the same way as in the case when $V = 1$.

3.5. $\bar{\partial}$ -surgery in the context of more general area forms. As for the $\bar{\partial}$ -surgery technique in the presence of a conformal factor V , we need to mention some modifications that are required. We recall that V meets the conditions (3.1.1) and (3.1.2) and put

$$Q_m = Q - \frac{1}{2m} \log V.$$

We note that by (3.1.2), the modified potential Q_m is subharmonic and that Q_m is strictly subharmonic uniformly in a neighborhood of $\partial\Omega_\tau$, provided that m is large enough. Here, Ω_τ is the unbounded component of the off-spectral set \mathcal{S}_τ^c . Moreover, it follows from the growth and decay bounds (3.1.1) that Q_m meets the required growth bound for large enough m . We consider the solution $\hat{Q}_{\tau,m}$ to the obstacle problem

$$\hat{Q}_{\tau,m}(z) = \sup \{u(z) : u \in \text{SH}_\tau(\mathbb{C}), u(z) \leq Q_m(z) \text{ on } \mathbb{C}\}.$$

The standard regularity theory applies, and implies that $\hat{Q}_{\tau,m}$ is $C^{1,1}$ -smooth. By our smoothness assumptions on \mathcal{S}_τ , as well as the assumed regularity of the potential Q and the conformal factor V , the coincidence set

$$\mathcal{S}_{\tau,m} := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \hat{Q}_{\tau,m}(z) = Q(z)\}$$

moves only very little away from \mathcal{S}_τ for large m . Indeed, by the main theorem of [20], the free boundary moves with a smooth normal velocity under a smooth perturbation, and it follows that $\partial\mathcal{S}_{\tau,m}$ is contained in a $O(m^{-1})$ -neighborhood of $\partial\mathcal{S}_\tau$. We note that $\hat{Q}_{\tau,m}$ is automatically harmonic off $\mathcal{S}_{\tau,m}$ and that $\Delta \hat{Q}_{\tau,m} \geq 0$ holds generally.

We now apply Hörmander's classical $\bar{\partial}$ -estimate with the obstacle solution $\hat{Q}_{\tau,m}$ as potential. Let $f \in L^\infty(\mathcal{S}_{\tau,m})$, which vanishes whenever $\Delta \hat{Q}_{\tau,m} = \Delta Q_m = 0$ on $\mathcal{S}_{\tau,m}$. Then there exists a solution u to the problem

$$\bar{\partial}u = f$$

which meets the L^2 -bound

$$\int_{\mathbb{C}} |u|^2 e^{-2m\hat{Q}_{\tau,m}} dA \leq \frac{1}{2m} \int_{\mathcal{S}_{\tau,m}} |f|^2 \frac{e^{-2mQ} V}{\Delta Q - \frac{1}{2m} \Delta \log V} dA,$$

provided that the right-hand side is finite. Moreover, since u is holomorphic off the compact set $\mathcal{S}_{\tau,m}$, this estimate implies a polynomial growth bound $u(z) = O(|z|^{n-1})$ as $|z| \rightarrow +\infty$.

After these modifications, the $\bar{\partial}$ -surgery may be performed as in the earlier context of the planar area measure dA . For the details, we refer to Section 4.9 in [15] and the comments in Sect. 2.5 above.

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