

Schur class functions on the unit ball in \mathbb{C}^n

Michael Jury

University of Florida

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(1) implies (2) since f multiplies H^2 into itself contractively.

(1) implies (3) is von Neumann's inequality (von Neumann, 1949).

A (strict) row contraction is a n -tuple of commuting operators

$$T = (T_1, \dots, T_n)$$

such that

$$r^2 I - T_1 T_1^* - \dots - T_n T_n^* \geq 0$$

for some $r < 1$.

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Theorem (Drury, 1978)

Let f be holomorphic in the ball \mathbb{B}^n . TFAE:

1') ~~$|f(z)| \leq 1$ for all $z \in \mathbb{B}^n$.~~

2') *The Hermitian kernel*

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Definition

Say f belongs to the Schur class if it satisfies the conditions of the theorem.

Why are (2') and (3') equivalent?

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(2') implies (3'): Write the kernel as a “sum of squares”
(Aronszajn/Bergman):

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Functional calculus:

$$\begin{aligned} I - f(T)f(T)^* &= \sum_j g_j(T) \left[1 - \sum T_i T_i^* \right] g_j(T)^* \\ &\geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

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(3') implies (2'): Hahn-Banach theorem and GNS construction.

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Example:

Theorem (Uniqueness in the Schwarz lemma in \mathbb{B}^n)

If f is Schur class, $f(0) = 0$ and $Df(0) = \zeta$ with $|\zeta| = 1$, then $f(z) = \sum z_j \zeta_j$.

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(Utterly false assuming only $\|f\|_\infty \leq 1$.)

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Theorem (Cole-Wermer)

Let $q(z_1, z_2)$ be a rational inner function in \mathbb{D}^2 . Then there exist rational functions A_1, \dots, A_m and B_1, \dots, B_n such that

$$1 - q(z)\overline{q(w)} = (1 - z_1\overline{w_1}) \sum A_i(z)\overline{A_i(w)} + (1 - z_2\overline{w_2}) \sum B_j(z)\overline{B_j(w)}.$$

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This is essentially equivalent to Ando's inequality: if f is analytic in \mathbb{D}^2 and $\|f\|_\infty \leq 1$, then

$$\|f(T_1, T_2)\| \leq 1 \text{ for all } \|T_i\| < 1. \quad (*)$$

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$$\|f(T_1, T_2)\| \leq 1 \text{ for all } \|T_i\| < 1. \quad (*)$$

Similarly, every f bounded by 1 in \mathbb{D}^2 admits a SOS decomposition (Agler), but not so in \mathbb{D}^n for $n \geq 3$.

Admitting SOS is equivalent to the n -variable version of (*).

Definition

A function $\varphi : \mathbb{B}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^d$ belongs to the Schur class on \mathbb{B}^d if the Hermitian kernel

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The converse holds when $d = 1$ but fails when $d > 1$.

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Every linear fractional map of \mathbb{B}^d is Schur class.

$$\varphi(z) = \frac{Az + B}{\langle z, C \rangle + D}$$

Define

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Theorem (Littlewood, 1925)

Let φ be a holomorphic self-map of \mathbb{D} with $\varphi(0) = 0$. Then

$$\int_0^{2\pi} |f(\varphi(e^{i\theta}))|^2 d\theta \leq \int_0^{2\pi} |f(e^{i\theta})|^2 d\theta$$

for all $f \in H^2$. Equivalently,

$$\|C_\varphi\| \leq 1.$$

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$$\|C_\varphi\| \leq 1.$$

The analogous result is utterly false when $d > 1$; in fact C_φ is not even bounded on $H^2(\mathbb{B}^d)$ in general, and even for very nice φ .

E.g. $\varphi(z_1, z_2) = (2z_1z_2, 0)$ (More examples: [Cima-Wogen et al.](#))

Proof (J., 2007):

Two observations:

- Since $|\varphi(z)| < 1$ for all $z \in \mathbb{D}$, the kernel

$$\frac{1}{1 - \varphi(z)\overline{\varphi(w)}}$$

is positive semidefinite.

Proof (J., 2007):

Two observations:

- Since $|\varphi(z)| < 1$ for all $z \in \mathbb{D}$, the kernel

$$\frac{1}{1 - \varphi(z)\overline{\varphi(w)}}$$

is positive semidefinite.

- Since φ is a contractive multiplier of H^2 , the kernel

$$k_\varphi(z, w) = \frac{1 - \varphi(z)\overline{\varphi(w)}}{1 - z\bar{w}}$$

is positive semidefinite; and since $\varphi(0) = 0$ the kernel

$$k_\varphi(z, w) - \frac{k_\varphi(z, 0)k_\varphi(0, w)}{k_\varphi(0, 0)} = \frac{1 - \varphi(z)\overline{\varphi(w)}}{1 - z\bar{w}} - 1$$

is also positive (Schur complement theorem)

Proof, continued.

Consider the Szegő kernel

$$k_w(z) = \frac{1}{1 - z\bar{w}}$$

Note that $C_\varphi^* k_w = k_{\varphi(w)}$.

Proof, continued.

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Note that $C_\varphi^* k_w = k_{\varphi(w)}$.

We must show $\|C_\varphi\| \leq 1$; or equivalently $I - C_\varphi C_\varphi^* \geq 0$. Test against k :

$$\begin{aligned} \langle (I - C_\varphi C_\varphi^*) k_w, k_z \rangle &= \langle k_w, k_z \rangle - \langle k_{\varphi(w)}, k_{\varphi(z)} \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - z\bar{w}} - \frac{1}{1 - \varphi(z)\overline{\varphi(w)}} \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{1 - \varphi(z)\overline{\varphi(w)}} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{1 - \varphi(z)\overline{\varphi(w)}}{1 - z\bar{w}} - 1 \right) \end{aligned}$$

which is positive, so done. □

Let $H_{d,m}^2$ denote the RKHS with kernel

$$k_m(z, w) = \frac{1}{(1 - \langle z, w \rangle)^m} \quad m = 1, 2, \dots$$

The above proof generalizes immediately to the ball, provided φ belongs to the Schur class:

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The above proof generalizes immediately to the ball, provided φ belongs to the Schur class:

Theorem (J., 2007)

Let φ be a Schur class mapping of \mathbb{B}^d and $\varphi(0) = 0$. Then $\|C_\varphi\| \leq 1$ on $H_{d,m}^2$. In particular (for $m = d$)

$$\int_{\partial\mathbb{B}^d} |f \circ \varphi|^2 d\sigma \leq \int_{\partial\mathbb{B}^d} |f|^2 d\sigma$$

*for all f in the classical Hardy space $H^2(\mathbb{B}^d)$.
($\sigma =$ surface measure on $\partial\mathbb{B}^d$)*

the case $m = 1$.

As in the disk case, the kernels

$$\frac{1}{1 - \langle \varphi(z), \varphi(w) \rangle}, \quad \frac{1 - \langle \varphi(z), \varphi(w) \rangle}{1 - \langle z, w \rangle} - 1$$

are positive (since φ is Schur class!!!)

Thus

$$\langle (I - C_\varphi C_\varphi^*) k_w, k_z \rangle = \left(\frac{1}{1 - \langle \varphi(z), \varphi(w) \rangle} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{1 - \langle \varphi(z), \varphi(w) \rangle}{1 - \langle z, w \rangle} - 1 \right)$$

is a positive kernel. □

If 0 is not fixed, we have:

Theorem

Let φ be a Schur class mapping of \mathbb{B}^d . Then C_φ is bounded on each of the spaces $H_{d,m}^2$, and

$$\left(\frac{1}{1 - |\varphi(0)|^2} \right)^{m/2} \leq \|C_\varphi\|_m \leq \left(\frac{1 + |\varphi(0)|}{1 - |\varphi(0)|} \right)^{m/2}$$

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Two nice things:

- both sides are roughly the same size, $\sim (1 - |\varphi(0)|)^{-m/2}$
- the inequality iterates...

The norm inequality

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iterates to give

$$\|C_\varphi^n\|_m \sim (1 - |\varphi_n(0)|)^{-m/2}$$

[here $\varphi_n = \varphi \circ \cdots \circ \varphi$, n times], and hence

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Corollary (Spectral radius)

Let φ be a Schur class mapping of the ball. The spectral radius of C_φ acting on $H_{d,m}^2$ is

$$r(C_\varphi) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 - |\varphi_n(0)|)^{-m/2n}$$

Can we evaluate this limit?

Theorem (MacCluer, 1983)

Let φ be a holomorphic self-map of \mathbb{B}^d . Then:

- 1 There exists a unique point $\zeta \in \overline{\mathbb{B}^d}$ (the Denjoy-Wolff point) such that

$$\varphi_n(z) \rightarrow \zeta$$

locally uniformly in \mathbb{B}^d .

- 2 If $\zeta \in \partial\mathbb{B}^d$, then

$$0 < \liminf_{z \rightarrow \zeta} \frac{1 - |\varphi(z)|^2}{1 - |z|^2} = \alpha \leq 1$$

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If the Denjoy-Wolff point ζ lies in \mathbb{B}^d , then φ is called elliptic.

If $\zeta \in \partial\mathbb{B}^d$, the number α is called the dilatation coefficient of φ .

The map φ is called parabolic if $\alpha = 1$, and hyperbolic if $\alpha < 1$.

We want to evaluate

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 - |\varphi_n(0)|)^{-1/2n}$$

If φ is elliptic or parabolic, it is not hard to show this limit is 1.

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Theorem (C. Cowen, 1983)

If φ is an elliptic or parabolic self-map of \mathbb{D} , then the spectral radius of C_φ (on H^2) is 1.

If φ is hyperbolic with dilatation coefficient α , then the spectral radius is $\alpha^{-1/2}$.

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Goal: Extend this theorem to Schur class mappings of \mathbb{B}^d .

The elliptic and parabolic cases go through (with identical proofs).
The hyperbolic case takes work...

Definition

Given a point $\zeta \in \partial\mathbb{B}^d$ and a real number $c > 0$, the Koranyi region $D_c(\zeta)$ is the set

$$D_c(\zeta) = \left\{ z \in \mathbb{B}^d : |1 - \langle z, \zeta \rangle| \leq \frac{c}{2}(1 - |z|^2) \right\}$$

A function f has K-limit equal to L at ζ if

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow \zeta} f(z) = L$$

whenever $z \rightarrow \zeta$ within a Koranyi region.

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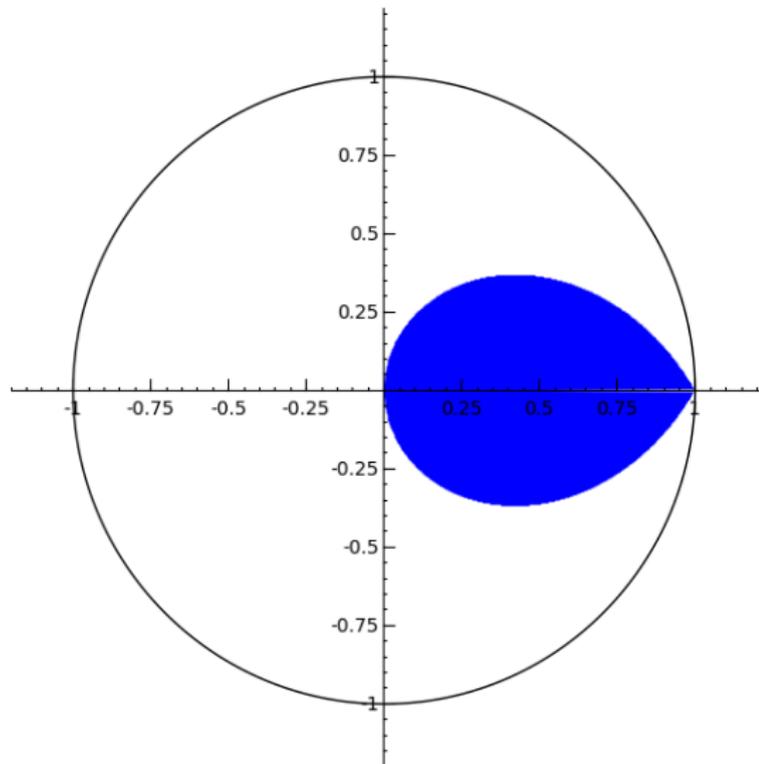
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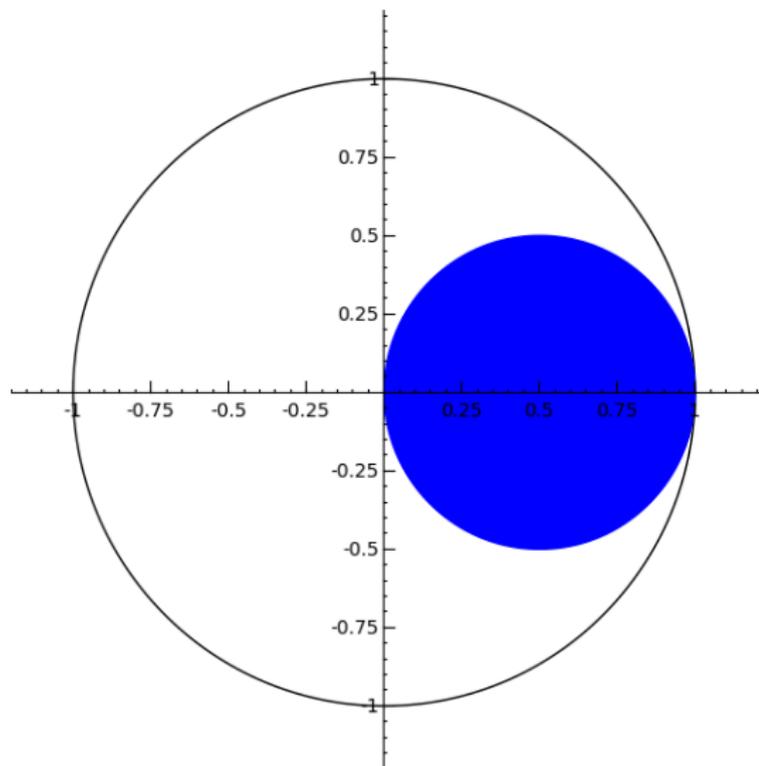
When $d = 1$ (the disk), K-limit is the same as non-tangential limit.
Not so in the ball...

Slice of a Koranyi region with vertex at $(1, 0)$ in \mathbb{B}^2 :



$$z_2 = 0$$

Slice of a Koranyi region with vertex at $(1, 0)$ in \mathbb{B}^2 :



$$\operatorname{Im} z_1 = \operatorname{Im} z_2 = 0$$

$$\alpha = \liminf_{z \rightarrow \zeta} \frac{1 - |\varphi(z)|^2}{1 - |z|^2} < \infty. \quad (\text{C})$$

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Theorem (Rudin, 1980)

Suppose $\varphi = (\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_d)$ is a holomorphic mapping from \mathbb{B}^d to itself satisfying condition (C) at e_1 . The following functions are then bounded in every Koranyi region with vertex at e_1 :

- (i) $\frac{1 - \varphi_1(z)}{1 - z_1}$
- (ii) $(D_1 \varphi_1)(z)$
- (iii) $\frac{1 - |\varphi_1(z)|^2}{1 - |z_1|^2}$
- (iv) $\frac{1 - |\varphi(z)|^2}{1 - |z|^2}$

Moreover, each of these functions has **restricted K-limit** α at e_1 .

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What is a restricted K-limit?

Fix a point $\zeta \in \partial\mathbb{B}^d$ and consider a curve $\Gamma : [0, 1) \rightarrow \mathbb{B}^n$ such that $\Gamma(t) \rightarrow \zeta$ as $t \rightarrow 1$. Let $\gamma(t) = \langle \Gamma(t), \zeta \rangle \zeta$ be the projection of Γ onto the complex line through ζ . The curve Γ is called special if

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 1} \frac{|\Gamma - \gamma|^2}{1 - |\gamma|^2} = 0 \quad (1)$$

and restricted if it is special and in addition

$$\frac{|\zeta - \gamma|}{1 - |\gamma|^2} \leq A \quad (2)$$

for some constant $A > 0$.

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Definition

We say that a function $f : \mathbb{B}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ has restricted K-limit L at ζ if $\lim_{z \rightarrow \zeta} f(z) = L$ along every restricted curve.

We have

K-limit \implies restricted K-limit \implies non-tangential limit
and each implication is strict when $d > 1$.

One more fact:

Theorem

Let φ be a hyperbolic, holomorphic self-map of \mathbb{B}^d with Denjoy-Wolff point ζ . Then

$$\varphi_n(z_0) \rightarrow \zeta$$

within a Koranyi region for every $z_0 \in \mathbb{B}^d$.

C. Cowen 1981 ($d = 1$)

Bracci, Poggi-Corradini 2003 ($d > 1$)

One more fact:

Theorem

Let φ be a hyperbolic, holomorphic self-map of \mathbb{B}^d with Denjoy-Wolff point ζ . Then

$$\varphi_n(z_0) \rightarrow \zeta$$

within a Koranyi region for every $z_0 \in \mathbb{B}^d$.

C. Cowen 1981 ($d = 1$)

Bracci, Poggi-Corradini 2003 ($d > 1$)

If we knew that some orbit $\{\varphi_n(z_0)\}$ approached the Denjoy-Wolff point restrictedly, this combined with Rudin's Julia-Caratheodory theorem would imply

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 - |\varphi_n(z_0)|)^{-1/2n} = \alpha^{-1/2}$$

It is not known if such orbits always exist. (Yes, if φ is an LFT.)

Indeed, if we know some orbit $z_n := \varphi_n(z_0)$ approaches ζ restrictedly, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1 - |\varphi(z_n)|}{1 - |\varphi(z_{n-1})|} = \alpha$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 - |\varphi_n(z_0)|)^{1/n} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\prod_{k=1}^n \frac{1 - |\varphi(z_k)|}{1 - |\varphi(z_{k-1})|} \right)^{1/n} \\ &= \alpha \end{aligned}$$

$$\alpha = \liminf_{z \rightarrow \zeta} \frac{1 - |\varphi(z)|^2}{1 - |z|^2} < \infty. \quad (C)$$

Theorem (J., 2008)

Let φ be a Schur class map and $\zeta \in \partial\mathbb{B}^d$. Then the following are equivalent:

- 1 Condition (C).
- 2 There exists $\xi \in \partial\mathbb{B}^d$ such that the function

$$h(z) = \frac{1 - \langle \varphi(z), \xi \rangle}{1 - \langle z, \zeta \rangle}$$

belongs to $\mathcal{H}(\varphi)$.

- 3 Every $f \in \mathcal{H}(\varphi)$ has a finite K -limit at ζ .

$d = 1$ case: **Sarason 1994**

Theorem (J., 2008)

Suppose $\varphi = (\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_d)$ is a holomorphic **Schur class** mapping from \mathbb{B}^d to itself satisfying condition (C) at e_1 . The following functions are then bounded in every Koranyi region with vertex at e_1 :

- (i) $\frac{1-\varphi_1(z)}{1-z_1}$
- (ii) $(D_1\varphi_1)(z)$
- (iii) $\frac{1-|\varphi_1(z)|^2}{1-|z_1|^2}$
- (iv) $\frac{1-|\varphi(z)|^2}{1-|z|^2}$

Moreover, each of these functions (i)-(iii) has **restricted K-limit** α at e_1 .

Unfortunately, our attempted argument works only if (iv) has a K-limit at e_1 , which is not true in general even if φ is Schur class. Nonetheless, this theorem is sufficient to solve the spectral radius problem, in a more indirect way....

For $0 < \alpha < 1$, let θ_α denote the disk automorphism

$$\theta_\alpha(z) = \frac{z + \left(\frac{1-\alpha}{1+\alpha}\right)}{1 + \left(\frac{1-\alpha}{1+\alpha}\right)z}$$

Theorem (J., 2009)

Let φ be a hyperbolic Schur class self-map of \mathbb{B}^d with dilatation coefficient α . Then there exists a nonconstant Schur class map $\sigma : \mathbb{B}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ such that

$$\sigma \circ \varphi = \theta_\alpha \circ \sigma$$

Proof needs¹ strengthened Julia-Caratheodory theorem.

($d = 1$: Valiron, 1931; also Pommerenke 1979, C. Cowen 1981)

($d > 1$, under different assumptions:

Bracci, Gentili, Poggi-Corradini, 2007)

¹Probably.

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Suppose F is holomorphic in \mathbb{D} and $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ satisfies

$$F \circ \theta_\alpha = \lambda F$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} F \circ \sigma \circ \varphi &= F \circ \theta_\alpha \circ \sigma \\ &= \lambda F \circ \sigma \end{aligned}$$

Formally, σ transfers eigenfunctions of C_{θ_α} to eigenfunctions of C_φ .

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KEY FACT: If $F \in H^2(\mathbb{D})$ and σ Schur class, then $F \circ \sigma \in H_{d,1}^2$.

The transference technique then proves:

Theorem (J., 2009)

Let φ be a hyperbolic Schur class map of \mathbb{B}^d with dilatation coefficient α . Then the spectral radius of C_φ acting on $H_{d,m}^2$ is $\alpha^{-m/2}$. Moreover every complex number λ in the annulus

$$\alpha^{m/2} < |\lambda| < \alpha^{-m/2}$$

is an eigenvalue of C_φ of infinite multiplicity.

($d = 1$ case: [C. Cowen, 1983](#))

If $d > 1$ and φ is an automorphism, the closure of this annulus is equal to the spectrum of C_φ ([MacCluer, 1984](#))