

# COMPOSITION OPERATORS ON SPACES OF ENTIRE FUNCTIONS

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ABSTRACT. In this paper we study composition operators on spaces of entire functions. We determine which entire functions induce bounded composition operators on the Paley-Wiener space,  $L^2_\pi$ , and on the  $E^2(\gamma)$  spaces. In addition, we characterize compact composition operators on these spaces. We also study the cyclic properties of composition operators acting on  $L^2_\pi$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARIES

Let  $\text{Hol}(D)$  denote the space of all analytic functions in a domain  $D \subset \mathbb{C}$  endowed with the topology of uniform convergence on compact subsets of  $D$ , and let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a linear subspace of  $\text{Hol}(D)$ . If  $\varphi$  is an analytic self-map of  $D$  such that  $f \circ \varphi$  belongs to  $\mathcal{H}$  for all  $f \in \mathcal{H}$ , then  $\varphi$  induces a linear operator  $C_\varphi : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  defined as  $C_\varphi(f) := f \circ \varphi$ .

$C_\varphi$  is called the *composition operator* with symbol  $\varphi$ .

A Hilbert subspace  $\mathfrak{H}$  of  $\text{Hol}(D)$  is said to be a *functional Hilbert space* if for all  $w \in D$ , the evaluation functional:

$$\delta_w : \mathfrak{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}; \quad f \mapsto f(w),$$

is continuous. In this case, as a consequence of the Riesz representation theorem, for each  $w \in D$ , there exists a function  $k_w \in \mathfrak{H}$  such that

$$f(w) = \langle f, k_w \rangle, \quad f \in \mathfrak{H}.$$

Each function  $k_w$  ( $w \in D$ ) is known as a *reproducing kernel* of  $\mathfrak{H}$ .

A straightforward application of the closed graph theorem shows that a holomorphic function  $\varphi : D \rightarrow D$  induces a continuous operator  $C_\varphi : \mathfrak{H} \rightarrow \mathfrak{H}$  if and only if  $f \circ \varphi \in \mathfrak{H}$  for each  $f \in \mathfrak{H}$ .

In this paper we will study bounded composition operators acting on certain functional Hilbert spaces of entire functions. In a recent paper ([6]), composition operators acting on the Fock space of entire functions were studied.

We refer the reader to [3] or [13] for the background on entire functions that we will use here. As usual, given an entire function  $f$ , we can estimate

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its radial growth by means of the function

$$M_f(r) := \max_{|z|=r} |f(z)|.$$

We recall that an entire function  $f$  is said to be of *finite order* if the inequality  $M_f(r) < \exp(r^k)$  holds for sufficiently large values of  $r$ , for some  $k > 0$ . The *order* of an entire function  $f$  of finite order is the greatest lower bound of those values of  $k$  for which this asymptotic inequality is satisfied.

An entire function  $f$ , of order  $\rho$ , is said to be of *finite type* if for some  $A > 0$  the inequality  $M_f(r) < e^{Ar^\rho}$  holds for sufficiently large values of  $r$ . The greatest lower bound of those values of  $A$  for which this asymptotic inequality is satisfied is called the *type* of the function  $f$ . Following [3], we will say that an entire function  $f$ , is of *exponential type*  $\sigma$  if it is of order  $\rho \leq 1$  and type  $\sigma \in (0, \infty)$ .

Another interesting issue in this context, is the study of the cyclic properties of composition operators. See, for example [5] and [10]. A bounded operator  $T$  acting on the Hilbert space  $\mathfrak{H}$  is called *cyclic* if there is a vector  $x \in \mathfrak{H}$  whose orbit under  $T$

$$\text{Orb}(T, x) := \{T^n x : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

have dense linear span. If the set of all scalar multiples of  $\text{Orb}(T, x)$  is dense in  $\mathfrak{H}$ , then  $T$  is called *supercyclic*, and if the  $\text{Orb}(T, x)$  itself is dense in  $\mathfrak{H}$ , then  $T$  is called *hypercyclic*. As usual,  $x$  is called a cyclic (resp. supercyclic, hypercyclic) vector for  $T$ .

In Section 2, we will study composition operators on the so called Paley-Wiener space,  $L_\pi^2$ . We will characterize bounded and compact composition operators on  $L_\pi^2$ . On the other hand, we will investigate some aspects of the cyclic behavior of these operators. In Section 3, we will study composition operators on the Hilbert spaces of entire functions  $E^2(\gamma)$  studied in [7].

## 2. COMPOSITION OPERATORS ON THE PALEY-WIENER SPACE

**2.1. The Paley-Wiener space.** The *Paley-Wiener space*  $L_\pi^2$  is the space of those entire functions of exponential type less or equal than  $\pi$  whose restriction to the real line belongs to the space  $L^2(-\infty, \infty)$  (cf. [3, 13]).  $L_\pi^2$  with the norm given by

$$\|f\|_{L^2(-\infty, \infty)}^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |f(x)|^2 dx,$$

is a closed subspace of  $L^2(-\infty, \infty)$  and thus, it is a Hilbert space. Furthermore, the inequality

$$|f(x + iy)| \leq \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} e^{\pi(|y|+1)} \|f\|_{L^2(-\infty, \infty)},$$

shows that  $L_\pi^2$  is a functional Hilbert space. It can be shown (cf. [13]) that its reproducing kernels are given by

$$k_w(z) = \frac{\sin \pi(z - \bar{w})}{\pi(z - \bar{w})}, \quad (w \in \mathbb{C})$$

and that set  $\{k_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$  is an orthonormal basis in  $L_\pi^2$ . Therefore by Parseval's identity,

$$\|f\|_{L^2(-\infty, \infty)}^2 = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} |f(n)|^2.$$

As usual we will write

$$\text{sinc } z := \frac{\sin \pi z}{\pi z}.$$

As a consequence of the well-known Paley-Wiener theorem, the Unitary Fourier transform (the usual Fourier transform normalized)  $\hat{f} := \mathfrak{F}(f)$  of a function  $f \in L_\pi^2$  is supported in  $[-\pi, \pi]$ . Each function  $f \in L_\pi^2$  admits the representation

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \hat{f}(t) e^{itz} dt, \quad \hat{f} \in L^2(-\pi, \pi),$$

where  $L^2(-\pi, \pi)$  denote the closed subspace of  $L^2(-\infty, \infty)$  consisting of those functions which vanish a.e. outside of  $(-\pi, \pi)$ . Then,

$$L_\pi^2 = \mathfrak{F}^{-1}(L^2(-\pi, \pi)).$$

In fact, the Parseval's identity

$$\|f\|_{L^2(-\infty, \infty)} = \|\hat{f}\|_{L^2(-\pi, \pi)},$$

shows that the Unitary Fourier transform  $\mathfrak{F} : L_\pi^2 \rightarrow L^2(-\pi, \pi)$  is an isometric isomorphism.

**2.2. Bounded operators and compact operators on  $L_\pi^2$ .** As it was pointed out in [1], composition operators on the Paley-Wiener space appear also in the field of *signal processing*. A function  $f$  in  $L^2(-\infty, \infty)$  is considered as a *signal* (with “finite energy”) and belongs to the Paley-Wiener space if its frequency domain (the domain of its Unitary Fourier transform) is limited to the band  $[-\pi, \pi]$ .

In this setting the symbol  $\varphi$  is called a *warping function* and the operator  $f \mapsto f \circ \varphi$  is a *warping operator*. In [1] (cf. also [2], a shorter version published) the authors considered the case  $\varphi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . We will study the case in which  $\varphi$  is an entire function. In the first place, we will consider the problem of characterizing the symbols  $\varphi$  such that  $C_\varphi$  acts as bounded operator on  $L_\pi^2$ .

In order to characterize the bounded composition operators on the Paley-Wiener space we will use the following results proved in [15] (see also [1, 11]).

**Theorem 2.2.1.** *Let  $f$  and  $\varphi$  be entire functions with  $\varphi(0) = 0$ . Let  $F = f \circ \varphi$ . Then there is a constant  $c \in (0, 1)$  such that*

$$M_F(r) \geq M_f(cM_\varphi(r/2)).$$

**Theorem 2.2.2** (Pólya's Theorem). *Let  $f$  and  $\varphi$  be entire functions such that  $F = f \circ \varphi$  is of finite order. Then either*

- (1)  $\varphi$  is a polynomial and  $f$  is of finite order, or
- (2)  $\varphi$  is not a polynomial (but a function of finite order) and  $f$  is of order 0.

Pólya's theorem implies that if a warping function  $\varphi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  maps every bandlimited functions to bandlimited functions, then  $\varphi$  is affine (cf. [1, 2]). In the proof of the following lemma we use the ideas given in [1] and [2].

**Lemma 2.2.3.** *Let  $\varphi : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be a holomorphic map (no null), if the operator  $C_\varphi$  maps  $L_\pi^2$  into itself then  $\varphi$  is an affine map.*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $C_\varphi$  maps  $L_\pi^2$  into itself, then the function  $\text{sinc} \circ \varphi$  is in  $L_\pi^2$  and since  $\text{sinc}$  has order exactly one, Theorem 2.2.2 implies that  $\varphi$  is a polynomial. Let  $n$  denotes the degree of  $\varphi$ . We are going to show that  $n = 1$ .

Without loss of generality we may assume that  $\varphi(0) = 0$ . Then there is a positive constant  $a$  such that  $M_\varphi(r) \geq ar^n$  for  $r$  large, and by Theorem 2.2.1 there exists a constant  $c$ ,  $0 < c < 1$  such that

$$M_{f \circ \varphi}(r) \geq M_f(car^n/2^n),$$

for each function of order one in  $L_\pi^2$ . Let  $0 < b < 1$ . If the order of  $f$  is one, then there are arbitrarily large values of  $R$  for which the inequality  $M_f(R) \geq \exp R^b$  holds. Thus, there are arbitrarily large values of  $r$  such that

$$M_f(car^n/2) \geq \exp(ca^b r^{nb}/2^{nb}).$$

If  $f \circ \varphi$  is of order  $\rho \leq 1$ , then there exist constants  $A, B$  such that

$$M_{f \circ \varphi}(r) \leq A \exp(Br),$$

for all  $r$ . Thus, there are arbitrarily large values of  $r$  such that

$$\exp(ca^b r^{nb}/2^{nb}) \leq A \exp(Br).$$

It follows that  $nb \leq 1$ . Since  $b$  is any positive number less than one, we must have  $n = 1$  ( $n > 0$  because a constant function can not be a symbol).  $\square$

**Theorem 2.2.4.** *Let  $\varphi$  be a nonconstant entire function. The operator  $C_\varphi$  is bounded on  $L_\pi^2$  if and only if  $\varphi(z) = az + b$ , ( $z \in \mathbb{C}$ ) with  $0 < |a| \leq 1$ , and  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

*Proof.* It is easy to see that the order and type of entire functions are preserved by translations. The Plancherel-Pólya theorem (cf. [13, Section 7.4]) shows that

$$\int |f(x + s + it)|^2 dx = \int |f(x + it)|^2 dx \leq \|f\|_{L^2(-\infty, \infty)}^2 e^{2\pi|t|}.$$

Therefore, the space of entire functions of exponential type  $\leq \pi$  that belong to  $L^2(-\infty, \infty)$  is invariant under translations.

Now,

$$\int |f(ax)|^2 dx = (1/|a|) \int |f(x)|^2 dx, \quad (a \in \mathbb{R});$$

on the other hand, if the order of  $f(z)$  is  $\rho$ , then the order of  $f(az)$  is also  $\rho$  while if the type of  $f(z)$  is  $\sigma$ , then the type of  $f(az)$  is  $|a|^\rho \sigma$ .

This shows, in addition, that if  $C_\varphi(L_\pi^2) \subset L_\pi^2$  then  $\varphi(z) = az + b$  with  $0 < |a| \leq 1$ . In order to see that  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  it suffices to show that if  $\psi(z) = iz$ , then the function  $f(z) = \text{sinc } z$  belongs to  $L_\pi^2$  but  $f \circ \psi \notin L_\pi^2$ . Indeed,

$$|\text{sinc } ix| = \frac{|e^{\pi x} - e^{-\pi x}|}{2\pi x} \geq \frac{e^{\pi x}}{2\pi x} - \frac{e^{-\pi x}}{2\pi x} \geq \frac{e^{\pi x}}{2\pi x} - \frac{1}{2\pi}, \quad (x \geq 1),$$

and if  $A > 0$  is such that  $\frac{e^{\pi x}}{2\pi x} - \frac{1}{2\pi} \geq 1$  when  $x \geq A$  we have

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\text{sinc } ix|^2 dx \geq \int_A^{\infty} |\text{sinc } ix|^2 dx \geq \int_A^{\infty} 1 dx = \infty.$$

The proposition is proved.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.2.5.** *No bounded composition operator on  $L_\pi^2$  is compact.*

*Proof.* Clearly, the operator  $C_\varphi$  is compact in  $L_\pi^2$  if and only if the operator  $C_{\varphi-\varphi(0)}$  is compact.

Since  $f(n) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \pm\infty} 0$  for all  $f \in L_\pi^2$ , the sequence of orthonormal vectors  $\{k_n\}_{n=0}^\infty$  converges weakly to zero. However, an easy computation shows that

$$\|C_{\varphi-\varphi(0)}(k_n)\| = 1/\sqrt{|a|}$$

for all  $n$ . Consequently,  $C_\varphi$  can not be compact.  $\square$

**2.3. The adjoint of a composition operator on  $L_\pi^2$ .** Recall that by the Paley-Wiener Theorem,  $L_\pi^2$  and  $L^2(-\pi, \pi)$  are isometrically isomorphic via  $\mathfrak{F}$ . If  $f \in L_\pi^2$  we have:

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \hat{f}(t) e^{itz} dt,$$

with  $\hat{f} \in L^2(-\pi, \pi)$ . Thus, if  $\varphi(z) = az + b$ ,  $b = \lambda + i\eta$ ,  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $0 < a \leq 1$  (for the sake of simplicity we may assume that  $a > 0$ ), then we have

$$\begin{aligned} C_\varphi(f)(z) &= f(az + \lambda + i\eta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \hat{f}(t) e^{itaz} e^{i\lambda t} e^{-\eta t} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{a\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-a\pi}^{a\pi} \hat{f}\left(\frac{x}{a}\right) e^{i\lambda(\frac{x}{a})} e^{-\eta(\frac{x}{a})} e^{ixz} dx. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the composition operator  $C_\varphi$  corresponds, via  $\mathfrak{F}$ , to the operator  $\hat{C}_\varphi : L^2(-\pi, \pi) \rightarrow L^2(-\pi, \pi)$  defined as

$$(\hat{C}_\varphi g)(x) := \frac{1}{a} g\left(\frac{x}{a}\right) \chi_{(-a\pi, a\pi)}(x) e^{i\lambda(\frac{x}{a})} e^{-\eta(\frac{x}{a})}, \quad (1)$$

Now let  $f, g \in L^2(-\pi, \pi)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \hat{C}_\varphi g, f \rangle &= \frac{1}{2a\pi} \int_{-a\pi}^{a\pi} g\left(\frac{x}{a}\right) e^{i\lambda\frac{x}{a}} e^{-\eta\frac{x}{a}} \overline{f(x)} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} g(t) e^{i\lambda t} e^{-\eta t} \overline{f(ta)} dt \\ &= \langle g, \hat{C}_\varphi^* f \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, the operator  $C_\varphi^*$  corresponds, via  $\mathfrak{F}$ , to the operator

$$(\hat{C}_\varphi^* f)(x) = e^{-i\lambda x} e^{-\eta x} f(ax), \quad f \in L^2(-\pi, \pi). \quad (2)$$

Since  $\mathfrak{F}$  is an isometry, we can compute  $C_\varphi^*$  acting on the Paley-Wiener space as follows: Let  $f \in L_\pi^2$  and  $\hat{f} \in L^2(-\pi, \pi)$  its respective Unitary Fourier transform, then since  $0 < a \leq 1$ , we have  $\hat{C}_\varphi^* \hat{f} \in L^2(-\pi, \pi)$  and  $\mathfrak{F}^{-1}(\hat{C}_\varphi^* \hat{f}) \in L_\pi^2$ . Now,

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathfrak{F}^{-1}(\hat{C}_\varphi^* \hat{f}))(z) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^{-i\lambda x} e^{-\eta x} \hat{f}(ax) e^{izx} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{a\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \hat{f}(t) e^{-i\lambda\frac{t}{a}} e^{-\eta\frac{t}{a}} e^{iz\frac{t}{a}} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{a\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \hat{f}(t) e^{it(\frac{z-\lambda+i\eta}{a})} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{a} f\left(\frac{z-\lambda+i\eta}{a}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$(C_\varphi^* f)(z) = \frac{1}{a} f\left(\frac{z-\lambda+i\eta}{a}\right), \quad f \in L_\pi^2. \quad (3)$$

As a consequence of the equation (3) we have the following

**Proposition 2.3.1.** *A bounded composition operator  $C_\varphi$  on  $L_\pi^2$  is normal if and only if  $\varphi'(0) = 1$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\varphi(z) = az + b$ . Using (3) it is straightforward to check that  $C_\varphi C_\varphi^* - C_\varphi^* C_\varphi = 0$  if and only if  $b = 0$ .  $\square$

**2.4. Cyclic behavior of composition operators on  $L_\pi^2$ .** We shall now use equation (1) in order to prove the following result.

**Theorem 2.4.1.** *No bounded composition operator on  $L_\pi^2$  is supercyclic.*

*Proof.* Let  $\varphi(z) = az + (\lambda + i\eta)$  and suppose that  $C_\varphi$  is supercyclic. For the sake of simplicity we will assume  $a > 0$  and  $\eta > 0$  (in the general case, the modifications needed are straightforward). Then there exists a function  $g \in L^2(-\pi, \pi)$ , a sequence  $\{\alpha_k\}$  in  $\mathbb{C}$ , and a sequence  $\{n_k\}$  in  $\mathbb{N}$  such that  $\{\alpha_k \hat{C}_\varphi^{n_k}(g)\}$  converges in  $L^2(-\pi, \pi)$  to the function  $f \equiv 1$ . By taking a subsequence, if necessary, we may assume that  $\alpha_k \hat{C}_\varphi^{n_k}(g)(x) \rightarrow 1$ , a.e. but it is easy to see, using (1) that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \alpha_k \hat{C}_\varphi^{n_k}(g)(x) = 0$  if  $a < 1$ .

If  $a = 1$ , then  $C_\varphi(g)(x) = g(x)e^{i\lambda x}e^{-\eta x}$ . That is,  $C_\varphi$  is the multiplication operator  $M_h : g \mapsto hg$  on  $L^2(-\pi, \pi)$  with  $h(x) = e^{i\lambda x}e^{-\eta x}$ . Now we are going to use the angle criterion for supercyclic vectors [10]. Let  $g \in L^2(-\pi, \pi) \setminus \{0\}$ . Then Bessel's inequality implies that for every  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$

$$|\langle \frac{\chi(-\pi, 0)}{\sqrt{\pi}}, e^{-k\eta(\cdot)}|g| \rangle|^2 + |\langle \frac{\chi(0, \pi)}{\sqrt{\pi}}, e^{-k\eta(\cdot)}|g| \rangle|^2 \leq \|e^{-k\eta(\cdot)}g\|^2$$

and therefore there exists a constant  $\epsilon > 0$ , depending on  $g$ , such that for every  $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ ,

$$\sqrt{\pi} \left( \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^{-2k\eta x} |g(x)|^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} > \int_0^{\pi} e^{-k\eta x} |g(x)| dx + \epsilon.$$

Thus

$$\sup_k \frac{\int_0^{\pi} e^{-k\eta x} |g(x)| dx}{\sqrt{\pi} \left( \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^{-2k\eta x} |g(x)|^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}} < \sup_k \frac{\int_0^{\pi} e^{-k\eta x} |g(x)| dx + \epsilon}{\sqrt{\pi} \left( \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^{-2k\eta x} |g(x)|^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \leq 1.$$

Therefore,

$$\sup_k \frac{|\langle M_h^k g, \chi_{(0, \pi)} \rangle|}{\|M_h^k g\| \|\chi_{(0, \pi)}\|} < 1.$$

Consequently,  $g$  can not be a supercyclic vector for  $M_h$ .  $\square$

**2.5. Composition operators on  $L_\pi^p$ .** Let us consider now the general Paley-Wiener spaces  $L_\pi^p$ ,  $1 \leq p < \infty$ , i.e.,  $L_\pi^p$  is the space of those entire functions of exponential type  $\leq \pi$  whose restrictions to the real line belongs to the space  $L^p(-\infty, \infty)$ .

In a standard way (cf. [6]) the boundedness and compactness of  $C_\varphi$  is closely related to the properties of a certain Carleson-type measure associated with  $\varphi$ . However, a careful revision of the proof of theorem 2.2.4 will show to the reader that the result can be easily generalized to the setting of  $L_\pi^p$  spaces. The next two results involving Carleson measures have interest by themselves.

In what follows, we will assume that  $1 \leq p \leq q < \infty$ .

We shall say that a measure  $\mu$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  is a  $(p, q)$ -Carleson measure (for the Paley-Wiener space) if the space  $L_\pi^p$  is boundedly contained in  $L^q(\mu)$ , that is: if the inclusion map  $i : L_\pi^p \rightarrow L^q(\mu)$  is bounded. If the map  $i$  is compact, we

will say that  $\mu$  is a  $(p, q)$ -*vanishing* Carleson measure (for the Paley-Wiener space).

For a given entire function  $\varphi$ , the weighted pullback measure  $\mu_\varphi$  on  $\mathbb{R}$  is given by

$$\mu_\varphi(E) := l(\varphi^{-1}(E)),$$

for every Borel subset  $E$  of  $\mathbb{R}$ , where  $l$  denotes the arc-length measure. Since one can easily check that  $\|C_\varphi(f)\|_{L^q(-\infty, \infty)} = \|f\|_{L^q(\mu_\varphi)}$  for every  $f \in L_\pi^p$ , we have that if the operator  $C_\varphi : L_\pi^p \rightarrow L_\pi^q$  is bounded, then  $\mu_\varphi$  is a  $(p, q)$ -Carleson measure. Furthermore, if  $1 < p$  then  $C_\varphi$  is compact if and only if  $\mu_\varphi$  is a  $(p, q)$ -vanishing Carleson measure.

In this section, we shall characterize both Carleson and vanishing Carleson measures on Paley-Wiener spaces. In [14], a similar result is mentioned.

Now, we list some well-known facts about Paley-Wiener spaces  $L_\pi^p$  ( $1 \leq p < \infty$ ) that we will require (cf. [13, 20.1]).

**Remarks 2.5.1.** (i) As a consequence of Plancherel-Pólya theorem and since  $|f|^p$  is a subharmonic function, then for any  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$  we obtain

$$|f(x + iy)|^p \leq \frac{2}{\pi} e^{\pi(|y|+1)} \|f\|_{L^p(-\infty, \infty)}^p.$$

In particular, there is a constant  $K$  (depending on  $p$ , but neither on  $x$  nor on  $f$ ) such that

$$|f(x)|^p \leq K \|f\|_{L^p(-\infty, \infty)}^p.$$

(ii) Let  $\{\lambda_n\} \subset \mathbb{C}$  be a sequence and let  $H, \delta$  be positive numbers such that

$$|\operatorname{Im} \lambda_n| \leq H < \infty, \quad |\lambda_n - \lambda_m| \geq \delta \quad \text{for } n \neq m.$$

Then, for each  $f \in L_\pi^p$ ,

$$\sum_n |f(\lambda_n)|^p \leq C \|f\|_{L^p(-\infty, \infty)}^p,$$

where the constant  $C$  depends on  $\delta$ , and  $H$  but not on  $f$ .

(iii) If  $1 < p < \infty$ , then for any sequence  $\{c_k\}$  in  $l^p(\mathbb{Z})$  there exists a unique solution in  $L_\pi^p$  for the interpolation problem  $f(k) = c_k$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ . In addition, the norms of  $f$  and the corresponding  $\{c_k\}$  are comparable, i.e. there exists constants  $m, M$  such that

$$m \left( \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} |f(k)|^p \right)^{1/p} \leq \|f\|_{L^p(-\infty, \infty)} \leq M \left( \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} |f(k)|^p \right)^{1/p},$$

for all functions  $f \in L_\pi^p$ . In particular, this last inequality implies that if  $1 \leq p < q < \infty$ , then  $L_\pi^p \subset L_\pi^q$ .

Actually, we only are going to need the result for a simpler problem: given  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$  we want to find a function  $f \in L_\pi^p$  such that  $f(x_0) = 1$ . This is obtained by considering the sequence  $c_k = 0$  if  $k \neq 0$  and  $c_0 = 1$  and translating the function with  $f(k) = c_k$  by  $x_0$ .



- (iv) *Bernstein Inequality:* (cf. [3, 11.1.2]) If  $f$  is an entire function of exponential type  $\tau$  and  $|f(x)| \leq M$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $|f'(x)| \leq M\tau$ .

$D(x, r)$  will denote the usual open ball in  $\mathbb{R}$  with center  $x$  and radius  $r$ .

**Theorem 2.5.2.** *Let  $1 \leq p \leq q < \infty$ . The following statements are equivalent:*

- (a) *The measure  $\mu$  is a  $(p, q)$ -Carleson measure.*
- (b) *For each  $r > 0$  there exists a constant  $C$  such that  $\mu(D(x, r)) \leq C$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .*
- (c) *There exist  $r > 0$  and a constant  $C$  such that  $\mu(D(x, r)) \leq C$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

*Proof.* Assertions (b) and (c) are clearly equivalent.

(c) $\Rightarrow$ (a): Let  $C > 0$  be such that  $\mu(D(x, 1)) < C$  for each  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and let  $x_n \in [n, n+1]$  be such that  $|f(x_n)| = \max_{[n, n+1]} |f(x)|$ . Then, we decompose the sequence  $\{x_n\}$  in two subsequences:  $\{\lambda_n\}$  and  $\{\lambda'_n\}$ , with  $|\lambda_n - \lambda_m| \geq 1/2$  and  $|\lambda'_n - \lambda'_m| \geq 1/2$  if  $n \neq m$ . Now,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left( \int |f|^q d\mu \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} &= \left( \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \int_n^{n+1} |f|^q d\mu \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\
 &\leq \left( \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} |f(x_n)|^q \mu([n, n+1]) \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\
 &\leq C^{\frac{1}{q}} \left( \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} |f(x_n)|^q \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\
 &\leq C^{\frac{1}{q}} \left( \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} |f(x_n)|^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \\
 &= C^{\frac{1}{q}} \left( \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} |f(\lambda_k)|^p + \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} |f(\lambda'_k)|^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \\
 &\leq C^{\frac{1}{q}} (2K)^{\frac{1}{p}} \|f\|_{L^p(-\infty, \infty)},
 \end{aligned}$$

where the constant  $K$  is as in 2.5.1(ii).

(a) $\Rightarrow$ (c): Let  $K$  and  $M$  be constants such that  $|f(x)| \leq K\|f\|_{L^p(-\infty, \infty)} \leq KM \left( \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} |f(k)|^p \right)^{1/p}$ , for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $f \in L^p_\pi$  (cf. 2.5.1(i,iii)). Let  $r > 0$  be such that  $\pi KMr < 1$ . If (c) is false, then for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  there exist  $x_n$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  such that  $\mu(D(x_n, r)) > n$ . But, by (ii) above, for each  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , there exists  $f_n \in L^p_\pi$  such that  $f_n(x_n) = 1$  and  $\|f_n\|_{L^p(-\infty, \infty)} \leq M$ , (cf. 2.5.1(iii)). Bernstein's Inequality (2.5.1 (iv)) implies then that  $|f'_n(x)| \leq \pi KM$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , and an application of the Mean Value Theorem gives:

$$1 - |f_n(x)| \leq |1 - f_n(x)| = |f_n(x_n) - f_n(x)| = |f'_n(\xi)| |x - x_n| \leq \pi KMr,$$

for all  $x \in D(x_n, r)$  and some real number  $\xi$  in this ball.

Finally, we have

$$\int |f_n|^q d\mu \geq \int_{D(x_n, r)} |f_n|^q d\mu \geq (1 - \pi K M r)^q n,$$

which contradicts the fact that  $\mu$  is a Carleson measure and hence there must exist a constant  $C > 0$  such that  $\|f_n\|_{L^q(\mu)} \leq C \|f_n\|_{L^p(-\infty, \infty)} \leq CM$   $\square$

For vanishing Carleson measures, we have the following.

**Theorem 2.5.3.** *Let  $1 < p \leq q < \infty$ . The following statements are equivalent:*

- (a) *The measure  $\mu$  is a  $(p, q)$ -vanishing Carleson measure.*
- (b) *For each  $r > 0$   $\mu(D(x, r)) \rightarrow 0$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ .*
- (c) *There exist  $r > 0$  such that  $\mu(D(x, r)) \rightarrow 0$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ .*

*Proof.* Again, assertions (b) and (c) are clearly equivalent.

(c) $\Rightarrow$ (a): Let  $\{f_n\}$  be a sequence in  $L^p_\pi$  weakly convergent to zero; this is, the sequence  $\{\|f_n\|_{L^p(-\infty, \infty)}\}$  is bounded (without loss of generality we may assume that it is bounded by 1), and  $f_n$  converges uniformly on compact sets to zero. We shall see that  $\int |f_n|^q d\mu \rightarrow 0$ .

As in the proof of Theorem 2.5.2, for each  $n$  we choose the sequence  $\{x_{n,k}\}_k$  as follows:  $x_{n,k}$  will be a number in  $[k, k+1]$  where  $|f_n|$  reaches its greatest value. Then, we decompose this sequence in two subsequences  $\{\lambda_{n,k}\}$  and  $\{\lambda'_{n,k}\}$  so that  $|\lambda_{n,k} - \lambda_{n,j}| \geq 1/2$  and  $|\lambda'_{n,k} - \lambda'_{n,j}| \geq 1/2$  when  $k \neq j$ . By remark 2.5.1(ii), there exists a constant  $C$  such that  $\sum_k |f_n(\lambda_{n,k})|^p \leq C \|f_n\|_{L^p(-\infty, \infty)}^p$  (and  $\sum_k |f_n(\lambda'_{n,k})|^p \leq C \|f_n\|_{L^p(-\infty, \infty)}^p$ ) for all  $n$ . Then for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ :

$$\left( \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} |f_n(x_{n,k})|^q \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \leq \left( \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} |f_n(x_{n,k})|^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \leq (2C)^{\frac{1}{p}} \|f_n\|_{L^p(-\infty, \infty)} \leq (2C)^{\frac{1}{p}}.$$

Given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we take  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\mu(D(x, 1)) < \frac{\varepsilon^q}{(4C)^{\frac{q}{p}}}$  if  $|x| \geq N$ , and if  $n$  is large enough such that  $|f_n(x)|^q \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2\mu([-N, N])}$  for all  $x$  in the compact set  $[-N, N]$ , then

$$\int_N^N |f_n|^q d\mu \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2}.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \int_{|x|>N} |f_n|^q d\mu \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} &\leq \\ &\left( \sum_{k=N}^{\infty} |f_n(x_{n,k})|^q \mu([k, k+1]) + \sum_{k=N}^{\infty} |f_n(x_{n,-k-1})|^q \mu([-k-1, -k]) \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \\ &\leq \left( \frac{\varepsilon}{8C} \sum_{k=N}^{\infty} |f(x_{n,k})|^q + \frac{\varepsilon}{8C} \sum_{k=N}^{\infty} |f(x_{n,-k-1})|^q \right)^{\frac{1}{q}} \leq \varepsilon/2, \end{aligned}$$

thus,  $\int |f_n|^q d\mu < \varepsilon$  for such  $n$ .

(a) $\Rightarrow$ (c): As in the proof of (a) $\Rightarrow$ (c) in Theorem 2.5.2 (with the notation of that proof) we take  $r > 0$  such that  $\pi KMr < 1$ . If (c) is not true, then there exists  $\varepsilon > 0$  and a sequence  $\{x_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}$  such that  $x_n \rightarrow \infty$  and  $\mu(D(x_n, r)) \geq \varepsilon$ . Of course, we can assume that these discs are disjoint. We take now  $f_n \in L^p_\pi$  with  $f_n(x_n) = 1$  and  $\|f_n\|_{L^p(-\infty, \infty)}^p \leq M$ .

Since the inclusion operator  $i : L^p_\pi \rightarrow L^q(\mu)$  is compact, we can assume (by taking a subsequence if necessary) that  $f_n \rightarrow f \in L^q(\mu)$ .

Again, as in the proof of theorem 2.5.2, by using Bernstein Inequality and the mean value theorem, we see that  $|f_n(x)| \geq 1 - \pi KMr$  in the disc  $D(x_n, r)$  for each  $n$ , and then

$$\int |f_n|^q d\mu \geq \int_{D(x_n, r)} |f_n|^q d\mu \geq (1 - \pi KMr)^q \varepsilon.$$

Now, by observing that

$$\begin{aligned} \|f_n - f\|_{L^q(\mu)} &\geq \left( \int_{D(x_n, r)} |f_n - f|^q d\mu \right)^{1/q} \\ &\geq \left( \int_{D(x_n, r)} |f_n|^q d\mu \right)^{1/q} - \left( \int_{D(x_n, r)} |f|^q d\mu \right)^{1/q} \\ &\geq (1 - \pi KMr) \varepsilon^{1/p} - \left( \int_{D(x_n, r)} |f|^q d\mu \right)^{1/q}, \end{aligned}$$

we obtain  $\left( \int_{D(x_n, r)} |f|^q d\mu \right)^{1/q} \geq (1 - \pi KMr) \varepsilon^{1/p} - \|f_n - f\|_{L^q(\mu)}$ , and since  $\|f_n - f\|_{L^q(\mu)} \rightarrow 0$ , then there exists  $n \geq N$  such that

$$\int_{D(x_n, r)} |f|^q d\mu \geq \left( \frac{(1 - \pi KMr) \varepsilon^{1/p}}{2} \right)^q.$$

But

$$\int |f|^q \geq \sum_{n \geq N} \int_{D(x_n, r)} |f|^q d\mu,$$

which is a contradiction because  $f \in L^q(\mu)$ .  $\square$

An important consequence of these characterizations is that the Carleson (vanishing Carleson) condition is actually independent of  $p$  and  $q$ ,  $1 \leq p \leq q < \infty$ . From this last result and from section 2.2 we may conclude the following

**Theorem 2.5.4.** *Let  $1 < p \leq q < \infty$  and suppose that  $C_\varphi$  acts from  $L_\pi^p$  to  $L_\pi^q$ . Then*

- (1)  $C_\varphi$  is bounded if and only if  $\varphi(z) = az + b$ , with  $0 < |a| \leq 1, a \in \mathbb{R}$ .
- (2)  $C_\varphi$  is not compact.

### 3. COMPOSITION OPERATORS ON THE SPACES $E^2(\gamma)$

**3.1. Spaces  $E^2(\gamma)$ .** According to Chan and Shapiro [7], an entire function  $\gamma(z) = \sum \gamma_n z^n$  is called a *comparison function* if  $\gamma_n > 0$  for all  $n$  and if the sequence of ratios  $\gamma_{n+1}/\gamma_n$  decreases to zero as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . In case that the sequence  $(n+1)\gamma_{n+1}/\gamma_n$  decreases monotonically to  $\tau \geq 0$ , then  $\gamma$  is said to be an *admissible comparison function*.

For each comparison function  $\gamma$ , we define  $E^2(\gamma)$  as the Hilbert space of entire functions

$$f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n,$$

such that

$$\|f\|_{2,\gamma}^2 := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma_n^{-2} |a_n|^2 < \infty.$$

In this case, the inner product of  $E^2(\gamma)$  is given by

$$\left\langle \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n, \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n z^n \right\rangle := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma_n^{-2} a_n \overline{b_n},$$

and the functions  $e_n(z) := \gamma_n z^n$ ,  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , form an orthonormal basis for  $E^2(\gamma)$ . Moreover, if  $f(z) = \sum a_n z^n \in E^2(\gamma)$ , then the following inequality [7, Prop. 1.4] shows that the spaces  $E^2(\gamma)$  are functional Hilbert spaces.

$$\begin{aligned} |f(z)| &\leq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |a_n| |z|^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{|a_n|}{\gamma_n} \gamma_n |z|^n \\ &\leq \|f\|_{2,\gamma} \left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma_n^2 |z|^{2n} \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq \|f\|_{2,\gamma} \gamma(|z|). \end{aligned}$$

In fact, the reproducing kernels of  $E^2(\gamma)$  are given by

$$K_w(z) = \hat{\gamma}(\overline{w}z),$$

where  $\hat{\gamma}(z) := \sum \gamma_n^2 z^n$ .

From [7, Prop. 1.3], it follows that the order and type of comparison functions  $\gamma$  affects the behavior of the functions in the corresponding Hilbert space  $E^2(\gamma)$ . Actually, every element of  $E^2(\gamma)$  has order and type no more than that of  $\gamma$ .

On the other hand, in [7, Prop. 1.3], it is proved that if  $(n+1)\gamma_{n+1}/\gamma_n \downarrow \tau$ ,  $\tau > 0$ , then  $\gamma$  is of order one and type  $\tau$ . The case in which  $\tau = 0$  is more delicate. For example, if we take  $\gamma_1(z) := 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{e}{2n}\right)^{2n} z^n$ , then  $\gamma_1$  is clearly an admissible comparison function with  $\tau = 0$ , order  $1/2$  and type  $1$ . However, the function  $\gamma_2(z) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e^{-n^2} z^n$  is also an admissible comparison function with  $\tau = 0$  but of order zero, see [13, Chapter 1]. This shows that the order and type of an admissible comparison function  $\gamma$  is not determined by  $\tau$  in this case.

**3.2. Bounded Composition Operators on  $E^2(\gamma)$ .** In [7], Chan and Shapiro showed that if the sequence  $\{(n+1)\gamma_{n+1}/\gamma_n\}$  is bounded, then each translation operator is bounded on  $E^2(\gamma)$ . In this section, we will consider the problem of characterizing the symbols that induce bounded composition operators and compact composition operators on  $E^2(\gamma)$  when  $\tau > 0$ .

First, we need to observe that for each  $\sigma < \tau$ , the function  $f_{\sigma}(z) := e^{\sigma z}$  belongs to  $E^2(\gamma)$ . This follows from the fact that, for each  $n$ , the inequality  $(n+1)\gamma_{n+1}/\gamma_n \geq \tau$  implies that  $\gamma_n \geq \tau^n \gamma_0/n!$  and thus

$$\|f_{\sigma}\|_{2,\gamma}^2 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\gamma_n^2} \frac{\sigma^{2n}}{(n!)^2} \leq \frac{1}{\gamma_0^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(n!)^2}{\tau^{2n}} \frac{\sigma^{2n}}{(n!)^2} = \frac{1}{\gamma_0^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\sigma}{\tau}\right)^{2n} < \infty.$$

**Theorem 3.2.1.** *Let  $\varphi$  be an entire function. The operator  $C_{\varphi}$  is bounded on  $E^2(\gamma)$  if and only if  $\varphi(z) = az + b$  with  $|a| \leq 1$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $f \in E^2(\gamma)$  is of non zero finite order. If  $f \circ \varphi$  belongs to  $E^2(\gamma)$ , then it is of finite order, and by Pólya's Theorem (2.2.1),  $\varphi$  must be a polynomial. Let  $\varphi(z) = a_n z^n + \cdots + a_0$ ,  $a_n \neq 0$ ,  $n \geq 1$ . If  $\sigma < \tau$ , then  $f_{\sigma} \circ \varphi(z) = \exp(\sigma(a_n z^n + \cdots + a_0))$  belongs to  $E^2(\gamma)$ , which is a function of order  $n$  and type  $\sigma|a_n|$ . Thus  $n = 1$  and  $\sigma|a_n| \leq \tau$ . Since  $\sigma$  is arbitrary, it has to be  $|a_n| \leq 1$ .

In order to see that the condition is sufficient, it suffices to show that the symbol  $\varphi(z) = az$ ,  $|a| \leq 1$  induces a bounded composition operator on  $E^2(\gamma)$ , since every translation operator is bounded in  $E^2(\gamma)$  (cf. [7]). Indeed, if  $f(z) = \sum c_n z^n$  belongs to  $E^2(\gamma)$  then,

$$\|C_{\varphi} f\|_{2,\gamma}^2 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma_n^{-2} |a|^{2n} |c_n|^2 \leq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \gamma_n^{-2} |c_n|^2 = \|f\|_{2,\gamma}^2.$$

□

**3.3. Compact Composition Operators on  $E^2(\gamma)$ .** In order to characterize the symbols that induce compact composition operators on  $E^2(\gamma)$ , we shall show first that this space is closely related to the space  $\text{Hol}(\mathbb{C}) \cap L^2(\mathbb{C}, e^{-2\tau|\cdot|} dA)$  where  $dA$  denotes the area measure on  $\mathbb{C}$ . The ideas and

computations below follow those in [16, 6.8] where it was considered the space  $E(e^z)$ .

In general,  $\mathfrak{H}_W$  is defined as the Hilbert space of entire functions such that

$$\|f\|_W^2 := \int_{\mathbb{C}} |f(z)|^2 W(|z|) dA(z) < \infty,$$

where  $W$  is a certain weight function.

**Lemma 3.3.1.** *Let  $\gamma(z) = \sum \gamma_n z^n$  be an admissible comparison function such that  $0 < \tau = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (n+1)\gamma_{n+1}/\gamma_n$ . The space  $\mathfrak{H}_{W_\tau}$ , where  $W_\tau(|z|) := e^{-2\tau|z|}$  is contained in  $E^2(\gamma)$ , and there exists a constant  $K$  such that  $\|f\|_{2,\gamma} \leq K\|f\|_{W_\tau}$  for all  $f \in \mathfrak{H}_{W_\tau}$ .*

*On the other hand, the space  $E^2(\gamma)$  is contained in the space  $\mathfrak{H}_{W_t}$ , where  $W_t(|z|) := e^{-2t|z|}$ ,  $t > \tau$ . In this case there exists a constant  $C$  such that  $\|f\|_{W_t} \leq C\|f\|_{2,\gamma}$  for all  $f \in E^2(\gamma)$ .*

*Proof.* As pointed out before,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (n+1)\gamma_{n+1}/\gamma_n = \tau > 0$ , implies that

$$\gamma_n \geq \tau^n \gamma_0 / n! \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad (4)$$

Moreover, if  $t > \tau$  then we can find a constant  $C$  (depending only on  $t$ ) such that

$$\gamma_n < C \frac{t^n}{n!} \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots \quad (5)$$

Now, if  $W_t(|z|) = e^{-2t|z|}$ ,  $t \geq \tau$ , and  $f(z) = \sum a_n z^n$ , then

$$\|f\|_{W_t}^2 = 2\pi \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_n |a_n|^2$$

where  $p_n := \int_0^\infty r^{2n+1} W_t(r) dr = (2n+1)!(2t)^{-2(n+1)}$  and thus

$$\frac{p_n}{(n!)^2} = (2n+1) \left[ \frac{(2n)!}{(n!)^2} \right] (2t)^{-2(n+1)}, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

The bracketed term is (by Stirling's formula) asymptotically a constant times  $4^n/\sqrt{n}$ , and therefore  $p_n$  is asymptotically a constant times  $\sqrt{n}(n!)^2 t^{-2n}$ .

If  $t = \tau$  by using (4) we see that there is a constant  $C$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \|f\|_{W_\tau}^2 &= C \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sqrt{n} \frac{(n!)^2}{\tau^{2n}} |a_n|^2 \\ &\geq C \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sqrt{n} \frac{1}{\gamma_n^2} |a_n|^2 \\ &\geq C \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\gamma_n^2} |a_n|^2 = C \|f\|_{2,\gamma}^2. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand if  $t > \tau$ , we take  $\tau < s < t$ , and (5) gives:

$$\begin{aligned} \|f\|_{W_t} &= C \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sqrt{n} \frac{(n!)^2}{t^{2n}} |a_n|^2 \\ &= C \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(n!)^2}{s^{2n}} \sqrt{n} \left(\frac{s}{t}\right)^{2n} |a_n|^2 \\ &\leq C \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\gamma_n^2} \sqrt{n} \left(\frac{s}{t}\right)^{2n} |a_n|^2 \\ &\leq C \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\gamma_n^2} |a_n|^2 = C \|f\|_{2,\gamma}^2. \end{aligned}$$

□

The following lemma holds in any analytic functional Hilbert space. For the sake of completeness, we include here the proof for the case of  $E_2(\gamma)$ .

**Lemma 3.3.2.** *Let  $\{f_n\}$  be a sequence in  $E^2(\gamma)$ .  $\{f_n\}$  converges weakly to zero if and only if  $\{f_n\}$  converges to zero uniformly on compact subsets of  $\mathbb{C}$ .*

*Proof.* The *if* part is immediate. On the other hand, if  $\{f_n\}$  converges weakly to zero, then it converges pointwise to zero (cf. [9]) and there exists  $M > 0$  such that  $\|f_n\|_{2,\gamma} \leq M$  for all  $n$ . Let  $K \subset \mathbb{C}$  compact, then for each  $w \in K$  we have,

$$\begin{aligned} |f_n(w)| &= |\langle f_n, K_w \rangle| \leq \|f_n\|_{2,\gamma} \|K_w\| \\ &= \|f_n\|_{2,\gamma} \hat{\gamma}(|w|^2) \leq M \sup_{w \in K} \hat{\gamma}(|w|^2). \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\{f_n\}$  is locally bounded and is therefore a normal family. If  $\{f_n\}$  does not converge to zero uniformly on compact subsets of  $\mathbb{C}$ , then there exists  $\epsilon > 0$  and a subsequence  $\{f_{n_k}\}$  such that  $\sup_{w \in K} |f_{n_k}(w)| > \epsilon$ . But  $\{f_{n_k}\}$  is a normal family and then it has a subsequence converging to zero uniformly on compact subsets of  $\mathbb{C}$ . This is a contradiction. □

**Theorem 3.3.3.** *Let  $\varphi$  be an entire function and  $\gamma = \sum \gamma_n z^n$  an admissible comparison function such that  $\lim(n+1)\gamma_{n+1}/\gamma_n = \tau > 0$ . Then,  $C_\varphi$  is compact in  $E^2(\gamma)$  if and only if  $\varphi(z) = az + b$  where  $|a| < 1$ .*

*Proof.* Recall that the sequence  $\{e_n\}$ ,  $e_n(z) = \gamma(n)z^n$  is an orthonormal basis of  $E^2(\gamma)$ , in particular,  $\{e_n\}$  is weakly convergent to zero. If  $\varphi(z) = az$  with  $|a| = 1$ , then

$$\|C_\varphi e_n\|_{2,\gamma}^2 = \|a^n e_n\|_{2,\gamma}^2 = 1,$$

and  $C_\varphi$  can not be compact. It follows then that if  $\varphi(z) = az + b$  ( $|a| = 1$ ), then  $C_\varphi$  can not be compact either.

Now, we shall prove that if  $\varphi(z) = az$ ,  $|a| < 1$ , then  $C_\varphi$  has to be compact. Let  $\{f_n\}$  be a sequence in  $E^2(\gamma)$  weakly convergent to zero. Then

by lemma 3.3.2,  $\{f_n\}$  is bounded by  $M > 0$  and converges to zero uniformly on compact subsets of  $\mathbb{C}$ . We must prove that  $\|f_n \circ \varphi\|_{2,\gamma}$  converges to zero.

By lemma 3.3.1, there exists a constant  $c > 0$  such that

$$\|f\|_{2,\gamma}^2 \leq c \int |f(z)|^2 e^{-\tau|z|} dA(z).$$

Thus, it suffices to show that  $\int |f_n(az)|^2 e^{-2\tau|z|} dA(z)$  converges to zero, or by changing variables that

$$\int |f_n(w)|^2 e^{-2\tau|w|/|a|} dA(w) \rightarrow 0.$$

Given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we take  $\tau < t < \tau/|a|$ . Again by lemma 3.3.1, there exists a constant  $C > 0$  such that

$$\int |f(w)|^2 e^{-t|w|} dA(w) \leq C \|f\|_{2,\gamma}^2.$$

Now we may take a compact set  $K \subset \mathbb{C}$  such that  $e^{-2\tau|w|/|a|} e^{t|w|} < \varepsilon/2CM$  for each  $w$  out of  $K$ ; therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{C} \setminus K} |f_n(w)|^2 e^{-2\tau|w|/|a|} dA(z) &= \int_{\mathbb{C} \setminus K} |f_n(w)|^2 e^{-2\tau|w|/|a|} e^{2t|w|} e^{-2t|w|} dA(w) \\ &\leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2CM} \int_{\mathbb{C} \setminus K} |f_n(w)|^2 e^{-2t|w|/|a|} dA(z) \\ &\leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2CM} C \|f\|_{2,\gamma}^2 \\ &\leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2CM} CM = \frac{\varepsilon}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we may take  $n$  large enough such that, for each  $w \in K$ ,

$$|f_n(w)| \leq \varepsilon/2 \int e^{-2\tau|z|} dA(z).$$

Then

$$\int_K |f_n(w)|^2 e^{-2\tau|w|/|a|} dA(w) \leq \varepsilon/2,$$

and this completes the proof.  $\square$

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