

## Distortion function and quasymmetric mappings

by J. ZAJĄC (Łódź)

**Abstract.** We study the relationship between the distortion function  $\Phi_K$  and normalized quasymmetric mappings. This is part of a new method for solving the boundary values problem for an arbitrary  $K$ -quasiconformal automorphism of a generalized disc on the extended complex plane.

**Introduction.** It is well known that a  $K$ -quasiconformal ( $K$ -qc) mapping  $F$  of a Jordan domain  $G$  onto a Jordan domain  $G'$  can be extended to a homeomorphism of their closures. It induces a homeomorphism  $f$  of the boundaries  $\partial G$  and  $\partial G'$ . In the case of  $G = G' = H = \{z : \operatorname{Im} z > 0\}$  and a  $K$ -qc automorphism  $F$  of  $H$  that fixes the point at infinity, the induced homeomorphism  $f$  of  $\mathbb{R}$  is a  $\varrho$ -quasymmetric ( $\varrho$ -qs) function in the sense of the Beurling–Ahlfors condition

$$(B-A) \quad \frac{1}{\varrho} \leq \frac{f(x+t) - f(x)}{f(x) - f(x-t)} \leq \varrho,$$

which holds for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $t > 0$  with  $\varrho = \lambda(K)$  (see [BA], [LV]). The class of all increasing homeomorphisms  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfying (B-A) with a constant  $\varrho \geq 1$  is called the  $\varrho$ -qs class on  $\mathbb{R}$  and is denoted by  $Q_{\mathbb{R}}(\varrho)$ . By  $Q_{\mathbb{R}}^0(\varrho)$  we will denote the subclass of  $Q_{\mathbb{R}}(\varrho)$  consisting of all normalized ( $f(0) = 0, f(1) = 1$ )  $\varrho$ -qs functions on  $\mathbb{R}$ . A characterization of  $f$  in the case of  $K$ -qc automorphisms  $F$  of the unit disc  $\Delta = \{z : |z| < 1\}$  with fixed point at zero was given by Krzyż [Kr1].

Neither of these characterizations comprises the general case of arbitrary  $K$ -qc automorphisms of  $H$  and  $\Delta$ , respectively, and neither is “conformally” equivalent.

In order to build up a representation for the boundary values of an arbitrary  $K$ -qc automorphism of a generalized disc  $D \subset \overline{\mathbb{C}}$ , we need some new results on the relation between normalized  $\varrho$ -qs functions and the distortion function  $\Phi_K$ .

The latter function gives a sharp upper bound in the quasiconformal version of the Schwarz Lemma [HP]:  $|F(z)| \leq \Phi_K(|z|)$  for each  $K$ -qc mapping

of the disc  $\Delta$  into itself with  $F(0) = 0$ .  $\Phi_K$  is defined by

$$(0.1) \quad \Phi_K(t) = \mu^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{K} \mu(t) \right)$$

where  $\mu(t)$  stands for the conformal modulus of the unit disc slit along the real line from 0 to  $t$ ,  $0 < t < 1$ , and is strictly decreasing with limits  $\infty$  and 0 at 0 and 1, respectively. We may extend  $\Phi_K$  to the closed interval  $[0,1]$  by setting  $\Phi_K(0) = 0$ ,  $\Phi_K(1) = 1$ , for each  $K > 0$ . Evidently  $\Phi_K(t) \geq t$  for  $K \geq 1$  and  $\Phi_K(t) \leq t$  for  $0 < K \leq 1$ , with equality in each case if and only if  $K = 1$ . Clearly,

$$(0.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \Phi_{K_1} \circ \Phi_{K_2} &= \Phi_{K_1 K_2}, & \Phi_K^{-1} &= \Phi_{1/K}, \\ \Phi_2(t) &= \frac{2\sqrt{t}}{1+t}, & 0 \leq t &\leq 1. \end{aligned}$$

The explicit estimate

$$(0.3) \quad t^{1/K} \leq \Phi_K(t) \leq 4^{1-(1/K)} t^{1/K} \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1, \quad K \geq 1,$$

was given by Wang [W] and Hübner [H].

A number of significant results concerning  $\Phi_K$  were obtained by Anderson, Vamanamurphy and Vuorinen [AVV1], [AVV2] and others. One of them,

$$(0.4) \quad \Phi_K^2(t) + \Phi_{1/K}^2(\sqrt{1-t^2}) = 1, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1, \quad K > 0,$$

is very useful in our present considerations.

**1. New results on quasisymmetric functions.** In this section we prove two auxiliary theorems on quasisymmetric functions. The first of them gives sharp Hölder type estimates for normalized  $\varrho$ -qs functions (those of Kelingos [Ke] are not sharp).

**THEOREM 1.** *Suppose that  $f$  is a normalized  $\varrho$ -qs function of  $\mathbb{R}$ . Then for each  $m \in \mathbb{N}$*

$$(1.1) \quad \left( 1 - \left( \frac{\varrho}{\varrho+1} \right)^m \right) t^{\alpha_m} \leq f(t) \leq \left( 1 + \frac{1}{(\varrho+1)^m - 1} \right) t^{\beta_m}$$

for  $0 \leq t \leq 1$  and  $\varrho \geq 1$ ,

$$(1.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \left( \frac{2}{\varrho} - 1 \right) \left( 1 - \left( \frac{\varrho}{\varrho+1} \right)^m \right) (t_2 - t_1)^{\alpha_m} &\leq f(t_2) - f(t_1) \\ &\leq (2\varrho - 1) \left( 1 + \frac{1}{(\varrho+1)^m - 1} \right) (t_2 - t_1)^{\beta_m} \end{aligned}$$

for  $0 \leq t_1 \leq t_2 \leq 1$  and  $\varrho \geq 1$  (the left-hand bound in (1.2) is essential for

$1 \leq \varrho \leq 2$ ), and

$$(1.3) \quad \left(1 + \frac{1}{(\varrho + 1)^m - 1}\right) t^{\beta_m} \leq f(t) \leq \left(1 - \left(\frac{\varrho}{\varrho + 1}\right)^m\right)^{-1} t^{\alpha_m}$$

for  $t \geq 1$  and  $\varrho \geq 1$ , where

$$(1.4) \quad \begin{aligned} \alpha_m &= \log_{1-2^{-m}} \left(1 - \left(\frac{\varrho}{\varrho + 1}\right)^m\right), \\ \beta_m &= \log_{1-2^{-m}} \left(1 - \left(\frac{1}{\varrho + 1}\right)^m\right). \end{aligned}$$

**Proof.** Let  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $c_m = 1 - 2^{-m}$ . By induction on  $m$  one can prove the inequalities

$$\begin{aligned} &\left(\frac{\varrho}{\varrho + 1}\right)^m f(a) + \left(1 - \left(\frac{\varrho}{\varrho + 1}\right)^m\right) f(b) \\ &\leq f((1 - c_m)a + c_m b) \leq \left(\frac{1}{\varrho + 1}\right)^m f(a) + \left(1 - \left(\frac{1}{\varrho + 1}\right)^m\right) f(b) \end{aligned}$$

for  $a, b \in [0, 1]$ ; the case  $m = 1$ , i.e.

$$\frac{\varrho}{\varrho + 1} f(a) + \frac{1}{\varrho + 1} f(b) \leq f\left(\frac{a + b}{2}\right) \leq \frac{1}{\varrho + 1} f(a) + \frac{\varrho}{\varrho + 1} f(b),$$

is equivalent to the (B-A) condition. Induction with respect to  $n$  gives

$$c_m^{n\alpha_m} = \left(1 - \left(\frac{\varrho}{\varrho + 1}\right)^m\right)^n \leq f(c_m^n) \leq \left(1 - \left(\frac{1}{\varrho + 1}\right)^m\right)^n = c_m^{n\beta_m}$$

for  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

Since  $f$  is strictly increasing, for every  $t \in [c_m^n, c_m^{n-1}]$ ,  $m, n = 1, 2, \dots$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(t) &\leq f(c_m^{n-1}) \leq (c_m^{n-1})^{\beta_m} \leq (c_m^{-1}t)^{\beta_m} = c_m^{-\beta_m} t^{\beta_m}, \\ f(t) &\geq f(c_m^n) \geq (c_m^n)^{\alpha_m} \geq (c_m t)^{\alpha_m} = c_m^{\alpha_m} t^{\alpha_m}. \end{aligned}$$

This yields (1.1) because  $[0, 1] = \{0\} \cup \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} [c_m^n, c_m^{n-1}]$  for each  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ .

For every  $t_1 \in [0, 1]$  the function

$$(1.5) \quad g_{t_1}(t) = \frac{f(t + t_1) - f(t_1)}{f(1 + t_1) - f(t_1)}$$

belongs to  $Q_{\mathbb{R}}^0(\varrho)$  provided that  $f \in Q_{\mathbb{R}}(\varrho)$ . Hence, by (1.1) with  $t = t_2 - t_1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} f(t_2) - f(t_1) &\leq (f(1 + t_1) - f(t_1)) \left(1 + \frac{1}{(\varrho + 1)^m - 1}\right) (t_2 - t_1)^{\beta_m}, \\ f(t_2) - f(t_1) &\geq (f(1 + t_1) - f(t_1)) \left(1 - \left(\frac{\varrho}{\varrho + 1}\right)^m\right) (t_2 - t_1)^{\alpha_m} \end{aligned}$$

for any  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ . By (1.5) and the definition of quasisymmetry we see that

$$\frac{1}{\varrho} g_1(t_1) - f(t_1) + 1 \leq f(1+t_1) - f(t_1) \leq \varrho g_1(t_1) - f(t_1) + 1.$$

Since

$$|g(t) - t| \leq \frac{\varrho - 1}{\varrho + 1}$$

for all  $g \in Q_{\mathbb{R}}^0(\varrho)$ ,  $\varrho \geq 1$  and  $0 \leq t \leq 1$  (see [Kr2]), we have

$$t_1 - \frac{\varrho - 1}{\varrho + 1} \leq g_1(t_1) \leq t_1 + \frac{\varrho - 1}{\varrho + 1}$$

for  $t_1 \in [0, 1]$  and  $\varrho \geq 1$ . Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} f(1+t_1) - f(t_1) &\leq \varrho \left( x_1 + \frac{\varrho - 1}{\varrho + 1} \right) - x_1 + \frac{\varrho - 1}{\varrho + 1} + 1 \\ &= (\varrho - 1)x_1 + \varrho \leq 2\varrho - 1 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} f(1+t_1) - f(t_1) &\geq \frac{1}{\varrho} \left( x_1 - \frac{\varrho - 1}{\varrho + 1} \right) - x_1 - \frac{\varrho - 1}{\varrho + 1} + 1 \\ &= \left( \frac{1}{\varrho} - 1 \right) x_1 - \frac{\varrho - 1}{\varrho} + 1 \geq \frac{2}{\varrho} - 1. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\frac{2}{\varrho} - 1 \leq f(1+t_1) - f(t_1) \leq 2\varrho - 1.$$

The left-hand estimate is essential for  $1 \leq \varrho \leq 2$  but asymptotically sharp.

The inequality (1.3) can be derived in much the same way as (1.1). For  $m = 1$  the inequalities (1.1) and (1.3) reduce to those of Kelingos while (1.2) is better.

Now we prove

LEMMA. *Let  $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be strictly increasing and concave. Then*

$$(1.6) \quad \frac{f(t+s_t) - f(t)}{f(t) - f(t-s_t)} \leq \frac{f(t+s) - f(t)}{f(t) - f(t-s)} = \mathcal{F}(t, s) \leq 1$$

for all  $t \in (a, b)$  and  $0 < s \leq s_t = \min\{b-t, t-a\}$ .

Proof. Let  $t \in (a, b)$  and  $0 < s < s_t$ , and set  $d = s_t - s$ . By the concavity of  $f$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(t-s) &\geq \frac{d}{s_t} f(t-s_t) + \frac{s}{s_t} f(t), \\ f(t+s) &\geq \frac{s}{s_t} f(t) + \frac{d}{s_t} f(t+s_t). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$f(t) - f(t - s) \leq \frac{d}{s_t}(f(t) - f(t - s_t)),$$

$$f(t + s) - f(t) \geq \frac{d}{s_t}(f(t + s_t) - f(t)).$$

Since  $f$  is strictly increasing,

$$\frac{f(t + s) - f(t)}{f(t) - f(t - s)} \geq \frac{f(t + s_t) - f(t)}{f(t) - f(t - s_t)}.$$

Using once again the concavity of  $f$  gives  $f(t) \geq \frac{1}{2}f(t - s) + \frac{1}{2}f(t + s)$ , and so  $f(t + s) - f(t) \leq f(t) - f(t - s)$ , which completes the proof.

This lemma has a very practical application. It means that the  $qs$  order  $\varrho$  of a given concave and increasing homeomorphism  $f$  on  $[a, b]$  is attained on the upper frame of the domain of  $\mathcal{F}$ .

Another immediate application of the lemma yields

**THEOREM 2.** *Suppose that  $f : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is strictly increasing and concave. Then  $f$  is  $\varrho$ -qs on  $D$  in each of the following cases:*

(i)  $D=(a, b)$  and

$$(1.7) \quad \min \left\{ \inf_{t \in (a, (a+b)/2)} \frac{f(2t - a) - f(t)}{f(t) - f(a)}, \inf_{t \in [(a+b)/2, b)} \frac{f(b) - f(t)}{f(t) - f(2t - b)} \right\} = \frac{1}{\varrho} > 0.$$

(ii)  $D = (b, \infty)$  and

$$(1.8) \quad \inf_{t \in (b, \infty)} \frac{f(2t - b) - f(t)}{f(t) - f(b)} = \frac{1}{\varrho} > 0.$$

(iii)  $D = (\infty, a)$  and

$$(1.9) \quad \inf_{t \in (-\infty, a)} \frac{f(a) - f(t)}{f(t) - f(2t - a)} = \frac{1}{\varrho} > 0.$$

(iv)  $D = \mathbb{R}$  and

$$\inf_{t \in \mathbb{R}} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(t + x) - f(t)}{f(t) - f(t - x)} = \frac{1}{\varrho} > 0.$$

## 2. Main results

**THEOREM 3.** *For each  $K \geq 1$ , there exists  $\varrho \geq 0$  such that the function  $\Phi_K$  is  $\varrho$ -qs on  $[0, 1]$  with*

$$(2.1) \quad \varrho \leq \varrho_0 = \max\{2^{5K-3}, 2^{2-3/K}(1 - \Phi_K(1/2))^{-1}\}.$$

*Proof.* By the definition,  $\Phi_K$  is concave for each  $K > 1$ . Let  $t \in (0, 1/2]$ . Then, by the lemma and by (0.3) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\Phi_K(2t) - \Phi_K(t)}{\Phi_K(t)} &= \frac{\Phi_K(2t) - \Phi_K(2t\frac{1}{2})}{\Phi_K(t)} \geq \frac{\Phi_K(2t)}{\Phi_K(t)}(1 - \Phi_K(1/2)) \\ &\geq \frac{(2t)^{1/K}}{4^{1-(1/K)t^{1/K}}}(1 - \Phi_K(1/2)) = \frac{8^{1/K}}{4}(1 - \Phi_K(1/2)). \end{aligned}$$

For  $t \in [1/2, 1)$ , using (0.4) and (0.3) for  $0 < K \leq 1$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\Phi_K(1) - \Phi_K(t)}{\Phi_K(t) - \Phi_K(2t - 1)} &\geq \frac{1 - \Phi_K(t)}{1 - \Phi_K(2t - 1)} = \frac{1 - \Phi_K^2(t)}{1 - \Phi_K^2(2t - 1)} \cdot \frac{1 + \Phi_K(2t - 1)}{1 + \Phi_K(t)} \\ &\geq \frac{\Phi_{1/K}^2(\sqrt{1 - t^2})}{\Phi_{1/K}^2(\sqrt{1 - (2t - 1)^2})} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \geq \frac{(4^{1-K}(\sqrt{1 - t^2})^K)^2}{(\sqrt{1 - (2t - 1)^2})^{2K}} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \\ &= \frac{16^{1-K}}{2} \left(\frac{1 - t^2}{4t - 4t^2}\right)^K = 8 \cdot 4^{-3K} \left(1 + \frac{1}{t}\right)^K \geq 8 \cdot 2^{-6K} 2^K = 8 \cdot 2^{-5K}, \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof.

Now, using Theorem 1 we prove a very useful theorem (see [Z]).

**THEOREM 4** (subordination principle). *Suppose that  $f$  is a  $\varrho$ -qs function of  $[0, 1]$  onto itself. Then for each  $\varrho \geq 1$  there is a constant  $K = K(\varrho)$  such that*

$$(2.2) \quad \Phi_{1/K}^2(\sqrt{t}) \leq f(t) \leq \Phi_K^2(\sqrt{t}) \quad \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq 1,$$

where

$$(2.3) \quad K \leq \nu(\varrho) = \begin{cases} \frac{e^{2\sqrt{\varrho-1}}}{1 - 2^{-m}e^{1/m}}, \quad m = \text{Ent}\{1/\sqrt{\varrho-1}\}, & 1 \leq \varrho \leq 5/4, \\ 3.41 \log_2(1 + \varrho), & 5/4 < \varrho \leq 6, \\ (\log 2) \left(1 - \frac{1}{\log_2(\frac{2}{\varrho} \log_2(1 + \varrho))}\right) (1 + \varrho) & \varrho > 6, \end{cases}$$

with  $\nu(\varrho) \cong (\log 2)(1 + \varrho)$  as  $\varrho \rightarrow \infty$ .

*Proof.* By Theorem 1, since  $1 - f(1 - t)$  is  $\varrho$ -qs and  $f$  is a  $\varrho$ -qs mapping of  $[0, 1]$  onto itself, for every  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  we have

$$f(t) \leq \min\{c_m^{-\beta_m} t^{\beta_m}, 1 - c_m^{\alpha_m} (1 - t)^{\alpha_m}\}, \quad t \in [0, 1].$$

Let  $\lambda \in (0, c_m)$  and

$$K_{\lambda,m} = \max \left\{ \frac{1}{\beta_m} \frac{\log_{1/c_m} \lambda}{\log_{1/c_m} \lambda + 1}, \alpha_m \frac{\log_{1/c_m} (1 - \lambda) - 1}{\log_{1/c_m} (1 - \lambda)} \right\}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} c_m^{-\beta_m} t^{\beta_m} &\leq t^{1/K_{\lambda,m}} && \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq \lambda, \\ (1-t)^{K_{\lambda,m}} &\leq c_m^{\alpha_m} (1-t)^{\alpha_m} && \text{for } \lambda \leq t \leq 1. \end{aligned}$$

Now, by the Wang and Hübner inequalities (0.3) and (1.1)

$$f(t) \leq \Phi_{K_{\lambda,m}}^2(\sqrt{t}) \quad \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq \lambda,$$

and by (0.2) and (0.4)

$$\begin{aligned} f(t) &\leq 1 - c_m^{\alpha_m} (1-t)^{\alpha_m} \leq 1 - (1-t)^{K_{\lambda,m}} \leq 1 - \Phi_{1/K_{\lambda,m}}^2(\sqrt{1-t^2}) \\ &= \Phi_{K_{\lambda,m}}^2(\sqrt{t}) \quad \text{for } \lambda \leq t \leq 1. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$f(t) \leq \Phi_K^2(\sqrt{t}) \quad \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq 1,$$

where

$$(2.4) \quad K = \min_{m=1,2,\dots} \min_{0 < \lambda < c_m} K_{\lambda,m} \leq \min_{m=1,2,\dots} K_{\lambda_m,m}$$

and  $\lambda_m$  is the solution of

$$\frac{\log_{1/c_m} \lambda_m}{1 + \log_{1/c_m} \lambda_m} = \alpha_m \beta_m \frac{\log_{1/c_m} (1 - \lambda_m) - 1}{\log_{1/c_m} (1 - \lambda_m)},$$

Consider first the case when  $1 \leq \varrho \leq 5/4$ . We have the following estimates:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_m &= \frac{\log(1 - (\frac{\varrho}{\varrho+1})^m)}{\log(1 - 2^{-m})} \leq \left(\frac{2\varrho}{1+\varrho}\right)^m \frac{1}{1 - (\frac{\varrho}{\varrho+1})^m} \leq \varrho^m \frac{1}{1 - (\frac{\varrho}{\varrho+1})^m} \\ &\leq \left(1 + \frac{1}{m^2}\right)^m \frac{1}{1 - 2^{-m} e^{1/m}} \leq \frac{e^{1/m}}{1 - 2^{-m} e^{1/m}} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq \varrho \leq 1 + 1/m^2. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we obtain the estimate

$$\beta_m \geq (1 - 2^{-m}) e^{-1/(2m)} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq \varrho \leq 1 + 1/m^2.$$

Suppose that  $m \geq 2$  is the smallest possible number for which the above inequalities (2.4) are satisfied with  $\lambda = 1/2$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} K &\leq K_{1/2,m} \leq \max \left\{ \frac{1}{\beta_m} \cdot \frac{1}{1 - \log_2(1-2^{-m})}, \alpha_m (1 + \log_2(1-2^{-m})) \right\} \\ &\leq \max \left\{ \frac{e^{1/(2m)}}{(1-2^{-m})(1 - \log_2(1-2^{-m}))}, \frac{e^{1/m}}{1-2^{-m} e^{1/m}} (1 + \log_2(1-2^{-m})) \right\} \\ &\leq \max \left\{ \frac{e^{1/(2m)}}{(1-2^{-m})(1 - \log_2(1-2^{-m}))}, \frac{e^{1/m} (1 - \log_2^2(1-2^{-m}))}{(1-2^{-m} e^{1/m})(1 - \log_2(1-2^{-m}))} \right\} \\ &\leq \max \left\{ \frac{e^{1/(2m)}}{(1-2^{-m})(1 - \log_2(1-2^{-m}))}, \frac{e^{1/m}}{(1-2^{-m} e^{1/m})(1 - \log_2(1-2^{-m}))} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\leq \frac{e^{1/m}}{(1-2^{-m})(1-\log_2(1-2^{-m}))} \leq \frac{e^{1/m}}{1-2^{-m}e^{1/m}}$$

where  $m < \text{Ent}\{1/\sqrt{\varrho-1}\}$ . Since

$$\frac{1}{m} < \frac{\sqrt{\varrho-1}}{1-\sqrt{\varrho-1}} \leq 2\sqrt{\varrho-1}$$

we obtain

$$K \leq \nu(\varrho) = \frac{e^{2\sqrt{\varrho-1}}}{1-2^{-\text{Ent}\{1/\sqrt{\varrho-1}\}}e^{\text{Ent}\{\sqrt{\varrho-1}\}}}.$$

It is easy to see that  $\nu(\varrho) \rightarrow 1$  as  $\varrho \rightarrow 1$ .

Consider now the case  $1 \leq \varrho \leq 6$ . By setting  $m = 1$  and  $\lambda = 1/4$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} K &\leq \min_{0 < \lambda < c_1} K_{\lambda,1} \leq K_{1/4,1} \\ &= \max \left\{ \frac{1}{\beta_1} \cdot \frac{\log_{1/c_1}(1/4)}{\log_{1/c_1}(1/4)+1}, \alpha_1 \frac{\log_{1/c_1}(3/4)-1}{\log_{1/c_1}(3/4)} \right\} \\ &= \max \left\{ \frac{2}{\log_2(1+(1/\varrho))}, \log_2(1+\varrho) \frac{\log_2 3-3}{\log_2 3-2} \right\} \\ &\leq \frac{\log_2(3/8)}{\log_2(3/4)} \log_2(1+\varrho) < 3.41 \log_2(1+\varrho) = \nu(\varrho) \quad \text{for } 5/4 < \varrho \leq 6. \end{aligned}$$

To obtain the last case we set  $m = 1$ ,  $\alpha_1 = \alpha$ ,  $\beta_1 = \beta$ , and  $\varrho > 6$ . Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha\beta \log 2 &= \log_2(1+\varrho) \cdot \log_2 \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\varrho} \right) \cdot \log 2 < \frac{1}{\varrho} \log_2(1+\varrho) < \frac{1}{2} \\ &< \frac{\log^3 2}{2(1-\log 2)}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$2^{(1/(\alpha\beta))+1} \geq 2 \left( \frac{\log 2}{\alpha\beta} + \frac{\log^2 2}{2(\alpha\beta)^2} \right) \geq \frac{1}{\alpha\beta \log 2},$$

and so  $\alpha\beta < 1/(r-1)$  with  $r = -\log(\alpha\beta \log 2)$ . By setting  $\lambda = 2^{-r}$  we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned} K &\leq K_{\lambda,1} = \max \left\{ \frac{1}{\beta} \cdot \frac{r}{r-1}, \alpha \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\log_2(1-2^{-r})} \right) \right\} \\ &\leq \max \left\{ \frac{1}{\beta}, \frac{r}{r-1}, \alpha(1+(\log 2)2^r) \right\} \leq \max \left\{ \frac{1}{\beta} \cdot \frac{r}{r-1}, \alpha + \frac{1}{\beta} \right\} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\beta} \cdot \frac{r}{r-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} K &\leq \frac{1}{\log_2(1+1/\varrho)} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\log_2(\alpha\beta \log 4)} \right) \\ &\leq (\log 2)(\varrho+1) \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\log_2(\alpha\beta \log 4)} \right) \\ &\leq (\log 2) \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\log_2(\frac{2}{\varrho} \log_2(1+\varrho))} \right) (\varrho+1) = \nu(\varrho) \quad \text{for } \varrho > 6. \end{aligned}$$

Asymptotically  $\nu(\varrho) \cong (\log 2)(\varrho+1)$  as  $\varrho \rightarrow \infty$ . To obtain the left-hand side inequality of (2.2) we notice that  $g(t) = 1 - f(1-t)$  is a  $\varrho$ -qs function if so is  $f$ . Substituting  $1-t = x$  we have  $f(x) \geq 1 - \Phi_K^2(\sqrt{1-x}) = \Phi_{1/K}^2(\sqrt{x})$ .

### References

- [AVV1] G. D. Anderson, M. K. Vamanamurphy and M. Vuorinen, *Distortion function for plane quasiconformal mappings*, Israel J. Math. 62 (1) (1988), 1–16.
- [AVV2] —, —, —, *Functional inequalities for hypergeometric and related functions*, Univ. of Auckland, Rep. Ser. 242, 1990.
- [BA] A. Beurling and L. V. Ahlfors, *The boundary correspondence under quasiconformal mappings*, Acta Math. 96 (1956), 125–142.
- [HP] J. Hersch et A. Pfluger, *Généralisation du lemme de Schwarz et du principe de la mesure harmonique pour les fonctions pseudo-analytiques*, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris 234 (1952), 43–45.
- [H] O. Hübner, *Remarks on a paper by Ławrynowicz on quasiconformal mappings*, Bull. Acad. Polon. Sci. 18 (1980), 183–186.
- [Ke] J. A. Kelingos, *Boundary correspondence under quasiconformal mappings*, Michigan Math. J. 13 (1966), 235–249.
- [Kr1] J. G. Krzyż, *Quasircles and harmonic measure*, Ann. Acad. Sci. Fenn. 12 (1987), 19–24.
- [Kr2] —, *Harmonic analysis and boundary correspondence under quasiconformal mappings*, ibid. 14 (1989), 225–242.
- [LV] O. Lehto and K. I. Virtanen, *Quasiconformal Mappings in the Plane*, 2nd ed., Grundlehren Math. Wiss. 126, Springer, New York 1973.
- [W] C.-F. Wang, *On the precision of Mori's theorem in  $Q$ -mappings*, Science Record 4 (1960), 329–333.
- [Z] J. Zajac, *The distortion function  $\Phi_K$  and quasihomographies*, in: Space Quasiconformal Mappings, A collection of surveys 1960–1990, Springer, to appear.

INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICS  
POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
ŁÓDŹ BRANCH  
NARUTOWICZA 56  
90-136 ŁÓDŹ, POLAND

Reçu par la Rédaction le 12.9.1990