

## LANDAU'S THEOREM AND MARDEN CONSTANT FOR HARMONIC $\nu$ -BLOCH MAPPINGS

SH. CHEN, S. PONNUSAMY and X. WANG 

(Received 10 July 2010)

### Abstract

Our main aim is to investigate the properties of harmonic  $\nu$ -Bloch mappings. Firstly, we establish coefficient estimates and a Landau theorem for harmonic  $\nu$ -Bloch mappings, which are generalizations of the corresponding results in Bonk *et al.* ['Distortion theorems for Bloch functions', *Pacific. J. Math.* **179** (1997), 241–262] and Chen *et al.* ['Bloch constants for planar harmonic mappings', *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* **128** (2000), 3231–3240]. Secondly, we obtain an improved Landau theorem for bounded harmonic mappings. Finally, we obtain a Marden constant for harmonic mappings.

2010 *Mathematics subject classification*: primary 30C65; secondary 30C45, 30C20.

*Keywords and phrases*: harmonic mapping, harmonic  $\nu$ -Bloch mapping, subordination, coefficient estimate, Landau's theorem.

### 1. Introduction

We consider complex-valued harmonic mappings  $f$  defined in a simply connected domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$ . The mapping  $f$  has a canonical decomposition  $f = h + \bar{g}$ , where  $h$  and  $g$  are analytic in  $\Omega$  (see [5] or [7]). It is well known that  $f$  is locally univalent and sense-preserving in  $\Omega$  if and only if  $|g'(z)| < |h'(z)|$  in  $\Omega$ . For  $a \in \mathbb{C}$ , let  $\mathbb{D}(a, r) = \{z : |z - a| < r\}$  and  $\mathbb{D} = \mathbb{D}(0, 1)$ . Throughout this paper we consider harmonic mappings in the open unit disk  $\mathbb{D}$ . For harmonic mappings  $f$  in  $\mathbb{D}$ , we use the standard notation

$$\Lambda_f(z) = \max_{0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi} |f_z(z) + e^{-2i\theta} f_{\bar{z}}(z)| = |f_z(z)| + |f_{\bar{z}}(z)|$$

and

$$\lambda_f(z) = \min_{0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi} |f_z(z) + e^{-2i\theta} f_{\bar{z}}(z)| = ||f_z(z)| - |f_{\bar{z}}(z)||,$$

---

The research was partly supported by NSF of China (No. 11071063), Hunan Provincial Innovation Foundation for Postgraduate (No. 125000-4113) and the Program for Science and Technology Innovative Research Team in Higher Educational Institutions of Hunan Province.

© 2011 Australian Mathematical Publishing Association Inc. 0004-9727/2011 \$16.00

so that if  $f$  is sense-preserving, then the Jacobian  $J_f$  is given by

$$J_f = \lambda_f \Lambda_f = |f_z|^2 - |f_{\bar{z}}|^2 := |h'|^2 - |g'|^2 > 0.$$

A harmonic mapping  $f$  is called a *harmonic Bloch mapping* if and only if

$$\sup_{z, w \in \mathbb{D}, z \neq w} \frac{|f(z) - f(w)|}{\rho(z, w)} < +\infty,$$

where

$$\rho(z, w) = \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{1 + \left| \frac{z-w}{1-\bar{z}w} \right|}{1 - \left| \frac{z-w}{1-\bar{z}w} \right|} \right) = \operatorname{arctanh} \left| \frac{z-w}{1-\bar{z}w} \right|$$

denotes the hyperbolic distance between  $z$  and  $w$  in  $\mathbb{D}$ . In the following, we denote the hyperbolic disk with center  $a$  and radius  $r > 0$  by  $\mathbb{D}_h(a, r) = \{z : \rho(a, z) < r\}$  and the hyperbolic circle by  $\mathbb{S}_h(a, r) = \{z : \rho(a, z) = r\}$ .

Obviously, for any  $a \in \mathbb{D}$ , the following are equivalent:

- (1)  $\rho(a, z) = r;$
- (2)  $\left| \frac{z-a}{1-\bar{a}z} \right| = \tanh(r);$
- (3)  $\frac{|1-\bar{a}z|^2}{1-|z|^2} = \frac{1-|a|^2}{1-\tanh^2(r)}.$

In [6] Colonna proved that

$$\sup_{z, w \in \mathbb{D}, z \neq w} \frac{|f(z) - f(w)|}{\rho(z, w)} = \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2) \Lambda_f(z). \tag{1.1}$$

Moreover, the set of all harmonic Bloch mappings, denoted by the symbol  $\mathcal{HB}_1$ , forms a complex Banach space with the norm  $\| \cdot \|$  given by

$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{HB}_1} = |f(0)| + \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2) \Lambda_f(z).$$

For  $\nu \in (0, \infty)$ , a harmonic mapping  $f$  is called a *harmonic  $\nu$ -Bloch mapping* if and only if  $\|f\|_{\mathcal{HB}_\nu} < +\infty$ , where

$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{HB}_\nu} = |f(0)| + \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} (1 - |z|^2)^\nu \Lambda_f(z). \tag{1.2}$$

Then the set of harmonic  $\nu$ -Bloch mappings forms a  $\nu$ -Banach space, denoted by  $\mathcal{HB}_\nu$ , with the norm given by (1.2).

Let  $\mathcal{H}_0$  denote the class of all harmonic mappings  $f$  in  $\mathbb{D}$  with  $f(0) = 0$  and introduce the subclass

$$\mathcal{HB}_\nu^1(\alpha) = \{f \in \mathcal{H}_0 : f_z(0) = \alpha, f_{\bar{z}}(0) = 0 \text{ and } \|f\|_{\mathcal{HB}_\nu} \leq 1\},$$

where  $\alpha \in (0, 1]$ .

Let  $\chi$  denote the chordal metric on the extended complex plane  $\mathbb{C}_\infty$ . For geometric purposes we view  $\mathbb{C}_\infty$  as the sphere in the three-dimensional space  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with center at  $(0, 0, 1/2)$  and radius  $1/2$ , and have

$$\chi(z, w) = \begin{cases} \frac{|z - w|}{(1 + |z|^2)^{1/2}(1 + |w|^2)^{1/2}} & \text{if } z, w \in \mathbb{C} \text{ with } z \neq w, \\ \frac{1}{(1 + |z|^2)^{1/2}} & \text{if } w = \infty. \end{cases}$$

A meromorphically harmonic mapping  $f$  in  $\mathbb{D}$  is called a *normal harmonic mapping* if  $M(f) < \infty$ , where

$$M(f) = \sup_{z, w \in \mathbb{D}, z \neq w} \frac{\chi(f(z), f(w))}{\rho(z, w)}.$$

By (1.1), we have

$$M(f) = \sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} \left\{ \frac{(1 - |z|^2)\Delta_f(z)}{1 + |f(z)|^2} \right\}.$$

Many authors have discussed the coefficient estimate, distortion theorem, and the existence of Landau–Bloch and Marden constants for analytic Bloch functions (see [1–3, 8–11]). But in the literature there are no analogous results for harmonic  $\nu$ -Bloch mappings. In Section 2, we fill this gap by proving Theorems 2.1, 2.3, and 2.4, where Theorem 2.1 is an improvement of [2, Lemma 1] and Theorem 2.4 is a generalization of [3, Theorem 2 and Corollary 3]. In [4], the authors obtained Landau’s theorem for bounded harmonic mappings by using an integral estimate. In Section 3, we use the variational method and subordination to get an improved version of Landau’s theorem for harmonic mappings (see Theorem 3.1). Finally, we obtain a Marden constant for harmonic functions (see Theorem 4.1) which generalizes [8, Theorem 5].

### 2. Landau’s theorem for harmonic Bloch mappings

Let  $\eta$  be an analytic function in  $\mathbb{D}$  with  $\eta(z) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty c_n z^n$ . If  $|\eta(z)| \leq 1$ , then for each  $n \geq 1$ ,

$$|c_0|^2 + |c_n| \leq 1. \tag{2.1}$$

We shall make use of this well-known estimate (see [12]).

**THEOREM 2.1.** *Let  $f = h + \bar{g}$  be a harmonic mapping, where  $g$  and  $h$  are analytic in  $\mathbb{D}$  with the expansions*

$$h(z) = \sum_{n=1}^\infty a_n z^n \quad \text{and} \quad g(z) = \sum_{n=1}^\infty b_n z^n. \tag{2.2}$$

*If  $\lambda_f(0) = \alpha$  for some  $\alpha \in (0, 1]$  and  $\|f\|_{\mathcal{H}\mathcal{B}_\nu} \leq M$  for  $M > 0$ , then*

$$|a_n| + |b_n| \leq A_n(\alpha, \nu, M) = \inf_{0 < r < 1} \mu(r) \quad \text{for } n \geq 2, \tag{2.3}$$

where

$$\mu(r) = \frac{M^2 - \alpha^2(1 - r^2)^{2\nu}}{nr^{n-1}(1 - r^2)^\nu M}.$$

In particular, if  $\nu = M = \alpha = 1$ , then

$$\mu(r) = \frac{2 - r^2}{nr^{n-3}(1 - r^2)}$$

and

$$|a_n| + |b_n| \leq A_n, \tag{2.4}$$

where

$$A_n = A_n(1, 1, 1) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } n = 2, \\ \frac{1}{3} & \text{for } n = 3, \\ \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \left( \frac{3 + \sqrt{17}}{(1 + \sqrt{17})(\sqrt{5} - \sqrt{17})} \right) \approx 1.049\,889 & \text{for } n = 4, \\ \mu \left( \sqrt{\frac{3n - 7 - \sqrt{n^2 + 6n - 23}}{2(n - 3)}} \right) & \text{for } n \geq 5. \end{cases}$$

The estimate of (2.4) is sharp when  $n \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ . The extreme function is

$$f(z) = \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{4} \left[ \left( \frac{z + (\sqrt{3}/3)}{1 + (\sqrt{3}/3)z} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{3} \right] \tag{2.5}$$

or  $\overline{f(z)}$ .

**PROOF.** For a fixed  $r \in (0, 1)$ , let  $F(\zeta) = r^{-1}f(r\zeta)$ . Then  $F$  has the form

$$F(\zeta) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} r^{n-1}a_n\zeta^n + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} r^{n-1}\bar{b}_n\bar{\zeta}^n, \quad \zeta \in \mathbb{D}, \tag{2.6}$$

and therefore

$$\Lambda_F(\zeta) = \Lambda_f(r\zeta) \leq m(r) := \frac{M}{(1 - r^2)^\nu}. \tag{2.7}$$

For  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$  and  $\zeta \in \mathbb{D}$ , we set

$$T(\zeta) = \frac{F_\zeta(\zeta) + e^{i\theta}\overline{F_{\bar{\zeta}}(\zeta)}}{m(r)}.$$

Then, by (2.6), we see that

$$T(\zeta) = \frac{1}{m(r)} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n(a_n + e^{i\theta}b_n)r^{n-1}\zeta^{n-1}$$

which is analytic in  $\mathbb{D}$  and, by (2.7),  $|T(\zeta)| \leq 1$  in  $\mathbb{D}$ . Now, applying (2.1) to  $T$  gives

$$\frac{nr^{n-1}|a_n + e^{i\theta}b_n|}{m(r)} \leq 1 - \frac{\lambda_f^2(0)}{m^2(r)} = 1 - \frac{\alpha^2}{m^2(r)} \quad \text{for } n \geq 2$$

and the arbitrariness of  $\theta$  in  $[0, 2\pi)$  implies that

$$|a_n| + |b_n| \leq \frac{m^2(r) - \alpha^2}{nr^{n-1}m(r)} = \mu(r) \quad \text{for } n \geq 2, \tag{2.8}$$

where

$$\mu(r) = \frac{M^2 - \alpha^2(1 - r^2)^{2\nu}}{nr^{n-1}(1 - r^2)^\nu M}.$$

Thus, inequality (2.3) follows from (2.8).

In particular, for  $\nu = M = \alpha = 1$ , one has

$$\mu(r) = \frac{2 - r^2}{nr^{n-3}(1 - r^2)}$$

which for  $n = 2$  gives that  $\inf_{0 < r < 1} \mu(r) = 0$ .

Without loss of generality, for  $n = 3$  and  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ , let

$$f_\theta(z) = h(z) + e^{i\theta}g(z) = z + \sum_{n=2}^\infty (a_n + e^{i\theta}b_n)z^n.$$

Then we obtain that  $|f'_\theta(z)|(1 - |z|^2) \leq 1$  and therefore

$$|f'_\theta(z)| = |1 + 3(a_3 + e^{i\theta}b_3)z^2 + \dots| \leq \frac{1}{1 - |z|^2} = 1 + |z|^2 + \dots.$$

In particular, this inequality gives that  $|a_3 + e^{i\theta}b_3| \leq 1/3$ . Again, the arbitrariness of  $\theta$  in  $[0, 2\pi)$  implies the estimate

$$|a_3| + |b_3| \leq 1/3.$$

For  $1 \leq n \leq 3$ , the extreme function is given by (2.5).

On the other hand, for  $n \geq 4$ , one sees that

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \mu(r) = \lim_{r \rightarrow 1^-} \mu(r) = +\infty.$$

This observation implies that the infimum of  $\mu(r)$  must exist on  $(0, 1)$ . Next, we compute that

$$\mu'(r) = -\frac{[(n - 3)r^4 - (3n - 7)r^2 + 2(n - 3)]}{r^{n-2}(1 - r^2)^2} = -\frac{(n - 3)(r^2 - r_0^2)(r^2 - s_0^2)}{r^{n-2}(1 - r^2)^2},$$

where

$$r_0 = \sqrt{\frac{3n - 7 - \sqrt{n^2 + 6n - 23}}{2(n - 3)}} < 1 \quad \text{and} \quad s_0 = \sqrt{\frac{3n - 7 + \sqrt{n^2 + 6n - 23}}{2(n - 3)}} > 1,$$

and therefore we obtain that

$$\inf_{0 < r < 1} \mu(r) = \mu(r_0).$$

For  $n \geq 4$ , if we choose  $r = \sqrt{(n - 3)/(n - 1)}$ , then we deduce that

$$\mu\left(\sqrt{\frac{n - 3}{n - 1}}\right) = \frac{n + 1}{2n} \left(1 + \frac{2}{n - 3}\right)^{(n-3)/2} < \frac{(n + 1)e}{2n}$$

as  $(1 + 1/x)^x$  in  $(0, \infty)$  is monotonically increasing and tends to  $e$  as  $x \rightarrow +\infty$ . This observation gives that, for  $n \geq 5$ ,

$$\mu(r_0) = \mu\left(\sqrt{\frac{3n - 7 - \sqrt{n^2 + 6n - 23}}{2(n - 3)}}\right) < \frac{(n + 1)e}{2n}.$$

In particular, if  $n = 4$ , then we can easily compute that

$$\mu(r_0) = \frac{2 - r_0^2}{4r_0(1 - r_0^2)} \Big|_{n=4} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \left(\frac{3 + \sqrt{17}}{(1 + \sqrt{17})(\sqrt{5 - \sqrt{17}})}\right) \approx 1.049\ 889.$$

We observe that  $(5/8)e$ , the upper bound for  $\mu(r_0)$ , is approximately 1.698 926. The proof of this theorem is complete. □

**REMARK 2.2.** Theorem 2.1 is an improvement of [2, Lemma 1].

**THEOREM 2.3.** *Let  $f$  be a harmonic mapping with  $f(0) = \lambda_f(0) - \alpha = 0$  and  $\|f\|_{\mathcal{H}B_\nu} \leq M$ , where  $M$  and  $\alpha \in (0, 1]$  are constants. Then  $f$  is univalent in  $\mathbb{D}_{\rho_0}$ , where*

$$\rho_0 = \varphi(r_0) = \max_{0 < r < 1} \varphi(r), \quad \varphi(r) = \frac{\alpha r(1 - r^2)^\nu M}{\alpha M(1 - r^2)^\nu - \alpha^2(1 - r^2)^{2\nu} + M^2}.$$

Moreover,  $f(\mathbb{D}_{\rho_0})$  contains a univalent disk  $\mathbb{D}_{R_0}$  with

$$R_0 = r_0 \left[ \alpha + \frac{M^2 - \alpha^2(1 - r_0^2)^{2\nu}}{M(1 - r_0^2)^\nu} \log \frac{M^2 - \alpha^2(1 - r_0^2)^{2\nu}}{\alpha M(1 - r_0^2)^\nu - \alpha^2(1 - r_0^2)^{2\nu} + M^2} \right].$$

**PROOF.** As in Theorem 2.1, let  $f = h + \bar{g}$ , where  $g$  and  $h$  are analytic in  $\mathbb{D}$  and have the form (2.2). Next, we fix  $r \in (0, 1)$  and consider  $F(\zeta) = r^{-1}f(r\zeta)$  for  $\zeta \in \mathbb{D}$  so that

$$F(\zeta) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \zeta^n + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \bar{B}_n \bar{\zeta}^n,$$

where  $A_n = a_n r^{n-1}$  and  $B_n = b_n r^{n-1}$ . From the proof of Theorem 2.1, we obtain that

$$|A_n| + |B_n| \leq r^{n-1} \mu(r) = \frac{m^2(r) - \alpha^2}{nm(r)}, \tag{2.9}$$

where  $m(r)$  is given by (2.7).

To prove the univalence of  $F$ , we choose two distinct points  $\zeta_1, \zeta_2 \in \mathbb{D}_{\rho_1(r)}$  and let  $\zeta_1 - \zeta_2 = |\zeta_1 - \zeta_2|e^{i\theta}$ , where

$$\rho_1(r) = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + m(r) - \frac{\alpha^2}{m(r)}}.$$

Then (2.9) yields that

$$\begin{aligned} |F(\zeta_2) - F(\zeta_1)| &= \left| \int_{[\zeta_1, \zeta_2]} F_\zeta(\zeta) d\zeta + F_{\bar{\zeta}}(\zeta) d\bar{\zeta} \right| \\ &\geq \left| \int_{[\zeta_1, \zeta_2]} F_\zeta(0) d\zeta + F_{\bar{\zeta}}(0) d\bar{\zeta} \right| \\ &\quad - \left| \int_{[\zeta_1, \zeta_2]} (F_\zeta(\zeta) - F_\zeta(0)) d\zeta + (F_{\bar{\zeta}}(\zeta) - F_{\bar{\zeta}}(0)) d\bar{\zeta} \right| \\ &> |\zeta_1 - \zeta_2| \left[ \lambda_F(0) - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (|A_n| + |B_n|) n \rho_1^{n-1}(r) \right] \\ &\geq |\zeta_1 - \zeta_2| \left[ \alpha - \frac{m^2(r) - \alpha^2}{m(r)} \cdot \frac{\rho_1(r)}{1 - \rho_1(r)} \right] \\ &\geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Here in the last step we use the fact that

$$\alpha - \frac{m^2(r) - \alpha^2}{m(r)} \cdot \frac{\rho_1(r)}{1 - \rho_1(r)} = 0,$$

that is,

$$\rho_1(r) = \frac{\varphi(r)}{r}.$$

Thus,  $F(\zeta_2) \neq F(\zeta_1)$ . The univalence of  $F$  follows from the arbitrariness of  $\zeta_1$  and  $\zeta_2$ .

This implies that  $f$  is univalent in  $\mathbb{D}_{r\rho_1(r)}$ .

Now, for any  $\zeta' = \rho_1(r)e^{i\theta} \in \partial\mathbb{D}_{\rho_1(r)}$ , we easily obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} |F(\zeta')| &\geq \alpha \rho_1(r) - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (|A_n| + |B_n|) \rho_1^n(r) \\ &\geq \alpha \rho_1(r) - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{m^2(r) - \alpha^2}{nm(r)} \rho_1^n(r) \\ &= \alpha + \left( m(r) - \frac{\alpha^2}{m(r)} \right) \log \frac{m(r) - \frac{\alpha^2}{m(r)}}{\alpha + m(r) - \frac{\alpha^2}{m(r)}} = \frac{R_0}{r}, \end{aligned}$$

where the last step is a consequence of the expression for  $\rho_1$  given by  $\rho_1(r) = r^{-1}\varphi(r)$  and the power series expansion of  $-\log(1 - x)$ . Therefore,  $f(\mathbb{D}_{r\rho_1(r)})$  contains a univalent disk of radius  $R_0$ . The proof of the theorem is complete.  $\square$

Next we consider a special case of Theorem 2.3 and obtain the following sharp estimate which is indeed a harmonic analog of [3, Theorem 2 and Corollary 3].

**THEOREM 2.4.** *Let  $f \in \mathcal{HB}_\nu(\alpha)$ . Then for  $z$  with  $|z| < (a_0 + m_0(\alpha))/(1 + a_0m_0(\alpha))$  and  $a_0 = 1/\sqrt{1 + 2\nu}$ , we have*

$$\Lambda_f(z) \geq \operatorname{Re}(f_z(z) + \overline{f_{\bar{z}}(z)}) \geq \frac{\alpha(m_0(\alpha) - |z|)}{m_0(\alpha)(1 - m_0(\alpha)|z|)^{2\nu+1}}. \tag{2.10}$$

The equalities occur if and only if  $f(z) = e^{i\vartheta} F_\alpha(e^{-i\vartheta}z)$  for some  $\vartheta \in [0, 2\pi)$ , where

$$F_\alpha(z) = \frac{\alpha}{m_0(\alpha)} \int_0^z \frac{m_0(\alpha) - \zeta}{(1 - m_0(\alpha)\zeta)^{2\nu+1}} d\zeta$$

and  $m_0(\alpha)$  satisfies

$$\sqrt{1 + 2\nu} \left( \frac{2\nu + 1}{2\nu} \right)^\nu m_0(\alpha)(1 - m_0^2(\alpha))^\nu = \alpha.$$

Moreover,  $f(\mathbb{D}_{m_0(\alpha)})$  contains a univalent disk of radius  $R_0$ , where

$$R_0 \geq \frac{\alpha}{m_0(\alpha)} \int_0^{m_0(\alpha)} \frac{(m_0(\alpha) - t)}{(1 - m_0(\alpha)t)^{2\nu+1}} dt. \tag{2.11}$$

The equality occurs if and only if  $f(z) = e^{i\vartheta} F_\alpha(e^{-i\vartheta}z)$  for some  $\vartheta \in [0, 2\pi)$ .

**PROOF.** For  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ , let

$$f_\theta(z) = \int_0^z f_\zeta(\zeta) d\zeta + e^{i\theta} \int_0^z \overline{f_{\bar{\zeta}}(\zeta)} d\zeta \quad \text{and} \quad \psi_\theta(z) = (1 - m_0(\alpha)z)^2 f'_\theta(z).$$

Define

$$G_\alpha(z) = \frac{\alpha}{m_0(\alpha)} \cdot \frac{m_0(\alpha) - z}{1 - m_0(\alpha)z},$$

where  $m_0(\alpha)$  satisfies

$$\sqrt{1 + 2\nu} \left( \frac{2\nu + 1}{2\nu} \right)^\nu m_0(\alpha)(1 - m_0^2(\alpha))^\nu = \alpha.$$

Fix  $x \in (0, (a_0 + m_0(\alpha))/(1 + a_0m_0(\alpha))]$ , and let

$$\delta_x = \{z : \rho(0, z) = \rho(0, x)\} \subset \mathbb{D}_h(m_0(\alpha), \operatorname{arctanh} a_0)$$

be the hyperbolic circle. Since  $\psi_\theta(z) \prec G_\alpha$  on  $\mathbb{D}_h(m_0(\alpha), \operatorname{arctanh} a_0)$ ,  $\psi_\theta$  maps the circle into the closed disk bounded by the circle  $G_\alpha(\delta_x)$ . We see that  $G_\alpha(\delta_x)$  is a

hyperbolic circle on  $\mathbb{D}_t$  with center  $G_\alpha(0) = \alpha$ , where  $t = \alpha a_0/m_0(\alpha)$ . Also it is symmetric about the real axis  $\mathbb{R}$ . It is easy to see that  $G_\alpha$  is decreasing on the interval

$$\mathbb{D}_h(m_0(\alpha), \operatorname{arctanh} a_0) \cap \mathbb{R}.$$

Hence  $G_\alpha(x)$  has the property

$$G_\alpha(x) = \operatorname{Re} G_\alpha(x) = \min\{\operatorname{Re}[G_\alpha(z)] : z \in \delta(x)\}$$

which yields that

$$\Lambda_f(z) \geq \operatorname{Re}[f'_\theta(z)] = \operatorname{Re}(f_z(z) + e^{i\theta} \overline{f_{\bar{z}}(z)}) \geq \frac{\alpha}{m_0(\alpha)} \cdot \frac{(m_0(\alpha) - |z|)}{(1 - m_0(\alpha)|z|)^{2\nu+1}}$$

for  $z$  with  $|z| \leq (1 + m_0(\alpha)\sqrt{1 + 2\nu})/(\sqrt{1 + 2\nu} + m_0(\alpha))$ . Finally, (2.10) is an immediate consequence of the arbitrariness of  $\theta$ .

On the other hand, for any  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |f_\theta(m_0(\alpha)e^{i\theta})| &= \left| \int_0^{m_0(\alpha)e^{i\theta}} f'_\theta(z) dz \right| \\ &\geq \frac{\alpha}{m_0(\alpha)} \int_0^{m_0(\alpha)} \frac{(m_0(\alpha) - t)}{(1 - m_0(\alpha)t)^{2\nu+1}} dt. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\min\{|f_\theta(z)| : |z| = m_0(\alpha)\} \geq \frac{\alpha}{m_0(\alpha)} \int_0^{m_0(\alpha)} \frac{(m_0(\alpha) - t)}{(1 - m_0(\alpha)t)^{2\nu+1}} dt.$$

Again, the arbitrariness of  $\theta$  implies that  $f$  is univalent on the disk  $\mathbb{D}_{r_0}$  with  $r_0 = m_0(\alpha)$  and  $f(\mathbb{D}_{r_0})$  contains a univalent disk of radius at least  $R_0$ , where  $R_0$  is given by (2.11). The proof of the theorem is complete.  $\square$

**REMARK 2.5.** If  $\nu = 1$  and  $f_{\bar{z}} \equiv 0$ , then Theorem 2.4 coincides with [3, Theorem 2 and Corollary 3].

### 3. Landau’s theorem for harmonic mappings

For the proof of Theorem 3.1, we need the following result due to Colonna [6]. However, we present here a simple proof as it uses only the subordination.

**THEOREM A [6, Theorem 3].** Assume that  $f = h + \bar{g}$  is a harmonic mapping in  $\mathbb{D}$  satisfying  $f(\mathbb{D}) \subset \mathbb{D}$ , where  $g$  and  $h$  are analytic in  $\mathbb{D}$ . Then for any  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ ,

$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{HB}_1} \leq \frac{4}{\pi} + |f(0)|.$$

**PROOF.** For  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ , let  $v_\theta(z) = \operatorname{Im}(e^{i\theta} f(z))$ . Then

$$v_\theta(z) = \operatorname{Im}(e^{i\theta} h(z) + \overline{e^{-i\theta} g(z)}) = \operatorname{Im}(e^{i\theta} h(z) - e^{-i\theta} g(z)).$$

Because  $|v_\theta(z)| < 1$ , it follows that

$$e^{i\theta}h(z) - e^{-i\theta}g(z) \prec K(z) = \lambda + \frac{2}{\pi} \log\left(\frac{1+z\xi}{1-z}\right), \tag{3.1}$$

where  $\xi = e^{-i\pi\text{Im}(\lambda)}$ ,  $\lambda = e^{i\theta}h(0) - e^{-i\theta}g(0)$  and  $\prec$  denotes the subordination [7, p. 27].

By the definition of the subordination, (3.1) implies that

$$e^{i\theta}h(z) - e^{-i\theta}g(z) = K(\omega_\theta(z)),$$

where  $\omega_\theta(z)$  is an analytic function in  $\mathbb{D}$  with  $|\omega_\theta(z)| < 1$  for  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ . Thus, by the Schwarz–Pick lemma, we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} (1 - |z|^2)|e^{i\theta}h'(z) - e^{-i\theta}g'(z)| &= (1 - |z|^2)|\omega'_\theta(z)||K'(\omega_\theta(z))| \\ &\leq (1 - |\omega_\theta(z)|^2)|K'(\omega_\theta(z))| \\ &\leq \sup_{\omega \in \mathbb{D}} (1 - |\omega|^2)|K'(\omega)| = \frac{4}{\pi} \end{aligned}$$

and therefore

$$\|f\|_{\mathcal{HB}_1} - |f(0)| = \max_{0 \leq \theta < 2\pi} (1 - |z|^2)|h'(z) - e^{-2i\theta}g'(z)| \leq \frac{4}{\pi},$$

where the last inequality is a consequence of the arbitrariness of  $\theta$  in  $[0, 2\pi)$ . □

We now recall a result due to Hengartner and Gauthier [4].

**THEOREM B** [4, Theorem 3]. *Let  $f$  be a harmonic mapping of  $\mathbb{D}$  such that  $f(0) = f_{\bar{z}}(0) = f_z(0) - 1 = 0$  and  $|f(z)| < M$  for  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ . Then  $f$  is univalent on a disk  $\mathbb{D}_{\rho_0}$  with*

$$\rho_0 = \frac{\pi^2}{16mM},$$

and  $f(\mathbb{D}_{\rho_0})$  contains a univalent disk  $\mathbb{D}_{R_0}$  with

$$R_0 = \frac{\pi^2}{32mM},$$

where  $m = \inf_{r \in (0,1)} ((3 - r^2)/r(1 - r^2)) \approx 6.85099$ .

Our next result improves Theorem A in the following form.

**THEOREM 3.1.** *Let  $f$  be a harmonic mapping of  $\mathbb{D}$  such that  $f(0) = f_{\bar{z}}(0) = f_z(0) - 1 = 0$  and  $|f(z)| < M$  in  $\mathbb{D}$  for some  $M > 1$ . Then  $f$  is univalent on a disk  $\mathbb{D}_\rho$  and  $f(\mathbb{D}_\rho)$  contains a univalent disk of radius at least  $R = (3\sqrt{3}M/\pi)\rho^2$ , where  $\rho$  satisfies*

$$\frac{6\sqrt{3}M}{\pi} \rho(1 - \rho^2) = 1.$$

**PROOF.** For  $z \in \mathbb{D}$ , let  $F(z) = -(3\sqrt{3}M/\pi)z^2$ . Then  $(1 - |z|^2)|F'(z)| \leq 4M/\pi$ . Consider

$$G(z) = F \circ \phi_\rho(z) - F \circ \phi_\rho(0),$$

where  $\phi_\rho(z) = (z - \rho)/(1 - \rho z)$  and the constant  $\rho \in (0, \sqrt{3}/3)$  satisfies the equation

$$\frac{6\sqrt{3}M}{\pi} \rho(1 - \rho^2) = 1.$$

Further, we let

$$P(z) = (1 - \rho z)^2 G'(z) = -\frac{6\sqrt{3}M(1 - \rho^2)}{\pi} \phi_\rho(z).$$

Then the function  $P$  is a Möbius transformation and, for any  $z \in \mathbb{S}_h(\rho, r)$ ,

$$|P(z)| = \frac{6\sqrt{3}M}{\pi} (1 - \rho^2) \tanh(r).$$

Set  $T(z) = (1 - \rho z)^2 f'_\theta(z)$ , where

$$f_\theta(z) = \int_0^z f_\zeta(\zeta) d\zeta + e^{i\theta} \int_0^z \overline{f_{\bar{\zeta}}(\zeta)} d\zeta$$

for  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ . Then, for any  $z \in \mathbb{S}_h(\rho, r)$ , by Theorem A we have

$$|T(z)| \leq \frac{4M}{\pi} \frac{|1 - \rho z|^2}{1 - |z|^2} = \frac{4M}{\pi} \left( \frac{1 - \rho^2}{1 - \tanh^2(r)} \right).$$

Fix  $x \in (0, (1 + \sqrt{3}\rho)/(\sqrt{3} + \rho))$  and let

$$\delta_x = \{z : \rho(0, z) = \rho(0, x)\} \subset \mathbb{D}_h \left( \rho, \operatorname{arctanh} \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} \right).$$

Since  $T \prec P$  on  $\mathbb{D}_h(\rho, \operatorname{arctanh} \sqrt{3}/3)$ ,  $T$  maps the circle into the closed disk bounded by the circle  $P(\delta_x)$ . We see that  $P(\delta_x)$  is a hyperbolic circle on  $\mathbb{D}_t$  with center  $P(0) = 1$ , where  $t = (6M/\pi)(1 - \rho^2)$ . Also it is symmetric about the real axis  $\mathbb{R}$ . It is easy to see that  $P$  is decreasing on the interval  $\mathbb{D}_h(\rho, \operatorname{arctanh} \sqrt{3}/3) \cap \mathbb{R}$ . Hence  $P(x)$  satisfies the property that

$$\operatorname{Re}[P(x)] = \min\{\operatorname{Re}[P(z)] : z \in \delta_x\},$$

which yields  $\operatorname{Re}[T(x)] \geq \min\{|P(z)| : z \in \delta_x\} = P(x)$ , whence

$$\operatorname{Re}[f'_\theta(z)] \geq \frac{6\sqrt{3}M}{\pi} \cdot \frac{(1 - \rho^2)(\rho - |z|)}{(1 - \rho|z|)^3}$$

for  $z$  with  $|z| \leq (1 + \sqrt{3}\rho)/(\sqrt{3} + \rho)$ . Hence

$$\min\{|f_\theta(z)| : |z| = \rho\} > \frac{3\sqrt{3}M}{\pi} \rho^2.$$

It follows that  $f$  is univalent on the disk  $\mathbb{D}_\rho$  and  $f(\mathbb{D}_\rho)$  contains a univalent disk of radius at least  $R = (3\sqrt{3}M/\pi)\rho^2$ . The proof of the theorem is complete.  $\square$

TABLE 1. Bloch-Landau constants for various  $M$ . The left-hand columns refer to Theorem B and the right-hand columns refer to Theorem 3.1.

$M$	$\rho_0$	$R_0$	$M$	$\rho$	$R$
1.1	0.0818528	0.0409264	1.1	0.302498	0.166483
1.3	0.0692601	0.03463	1.3	0.247744	0.131972
1.5	0.0600254	0.0300127	1.5	0.210916	0.110368
1.7	0.0529636	0.0264818	1.7	0.184059	0.0952566
1.9	0.0473885	0.0236942	1.9	0.163474	0.0839814
2	0.0450191	0.0225095	2	0.154864	0.0793347
2.5	0.0360152	0.0180076	2.5	0.12277	0.0623242
3	0.0300127	0.0150064	3	0.101822	0.0514442
3.5	0.0257252	0.0128626	3.5	0.0870306	0.0438474
4	0.0225095	0.0112548	4	0.0760142	0.038228
4.5	0.0200085	0.0100042	4.5	0.0674851	0.0338969
5	0.0180076	0.00900381	5	0.0606834	0.0304538

REMARK 3.2. We note that in the case of  $M = 1$  in Theorem 3.1, we actually have  $f(z) = z$  and  $\rho = R = 1$ . Now, if we set

$$H(x) = \frac{6\sqrt{3}M}{\pi}x(1 - x^2)$$

then, by a simple calculation, we deduce that  $H(\pi^2/16mM) < 1$ , where  $m$  is defined as in Theorem B. This implies that  $\rho_0 = \pi^2/16mM < \rho$ . Thus, Theorem 3.1 improves Theorem B. In Table 1, we have listed the improved values of the Bloch-Landau constants for various choices of  $M$ .

#### 4. Marden constant

If  $f$  is a normal harmonic mapping and  $a \in \mathbb{D}$ , then set

$$s(a, f) = \sup\{r : f \text{ is univalent in the hyperbolic disk } \mathbb{D}_h(a, r)\}$$

and  $s(f) = \sup\{s(a, f) : a \in \mathbb{D}\}$ . The Marden constant for normal harmonic mappings  $f$  with  $M(f) = m > 0$  is given by

$$M(m) = \inf\{s(f) : f \text{ is a normal harmonic function with } M(f) = m\},$$

where  $M(f)$  is defined in the Introduction.

THEOREM 4.1. Suppose that  $f$  is a normal harmonic mapping such that  $f(0) = f_{\bar{z}}(0) = f_z(0) - m = 0$ . Then

$$M(m) \geq 2 \operatorname{arctanh}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3(1 + m^2)}}\right).$$

**PROOF.** By simple calculations,

$$[\arctan(|f(z)|)]_z = \frac{\overline{f(z)}f'_z(z) + \overline{f'_z(z)}f(z)}{2(1 + |f^2(z)|)|f(z)|}$$

and

$$[\arctan(|f(z)|)]_{\bar{z}} = \frac{\overline{f(z)}f_{\bar{z}}(z) + \overline{f_{\bar{z}}(z)}f(z)}{2(1 + |f^2(z)|)|f(z)|}.$$

These equalities give

$$\begin{aligned} \arctan(|f(z)|) &\leq \int_{[0,z]} \frac{\Lambda_f(\zeta)}{1 + |f(\zeta)|^2} |d\zeta| \\ &\leq m \int_{[0,z]} \frac{|d\zeta|}{1 - |\zeta|^2} \\ &= m \operatorname{arctanh}(|z|). \end{aligned}$$

This implies that  $f$  is harmonic in  $\mathbb{D}_R$  with  $R = \tanh(\pi/2m)$ . Set  $r = 1/\sqrt{1 + m^2}$ . Then  $r < R$  and  $F(z) = f(rz)/rm$  is harmonic in  $\mathbb{D}$ . Clearly,  $F(0) = F_{\bar{z}}(0) = F_z(0) - 1 = 0$ . Also, we find that

$$\begin{aligned} (1 - |z|^2)\Lambda_F(z) &= \frac{(1 - |z|^2)\Lambda_f(rz)}{m} \\ &\leq \frac{1 - |z|^2}{1 - |rz|^2} [1 + \tan^2(m \operatorname{arctanh}(|rz|))] \\ &\leq 1. \end{aligned}$$

By Theorem 2.4, we obtain that  $F$  is schlicht in  $\mathbb{D}_{r_0}$  with  $r_0 = 1/\sqrt{3}$ . Therefore,

$$M(m) \geq 2 \operatorname{arctanh}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3(1 + m^2)}}\right).$$

This concludes the proof. □

**REMARK 4.2.** If  $f_{\bar{z}} \equiv 0$ , then Theorem 4.1 coincides with [8, Theorem 5].

### References

- [1] J. M. Anderson, J. G. Clunie and Ch. Pommerenke, ‘On Bloch functions and normal functions’, *J. reine angew. Math.* **270** (1974), 12–37.
- [2] M. Bonk, ‘On Bloch’s constant’, *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* **378** (1990), 889–894.
- [3] M. Bonk, D. Minda and H. Yanagihara, ‘Distortion theorems for Bloch functions’, *Pacific. J. Math.* **179** (1997), 241–262.
- [4] H. Chen, P. M. Gauthier and W. Hengartner, ‘Bloch constants for planar harmonic mappings’, *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* **128** (2000), 3231–3240.
- [5] J. G. Clunie and T. Sheil-Small, ‘Harmonic univalent functions’, *Ann. Acad. Sci. Fenn. Ser. A. I.* **9** (1984), 3–25.

- [6] F. Colonna, 'The Bloch constant of bounded harmonic mappings', *Indiana Univ. Math. J.* **38** (1989), 829–840.
- [7] P. Duren, *Harmonic Mappings in the Plane* (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2004).
- [8] X. Y. Liu and C. D. Minda, 'Distortion theorems for Bloch functions', *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc.* **333** (1992), 325–338.
- [9] D. Minda, 'Bloch constants', *J. Anal. Math.* **41** (1982), 54–84.
- [10] D. Minda, 'Marden constants for Bloch and normal functions', *J. Anal. Math.* **42** (1982/83), 117–127.
- [11] D. Minda, 'The Bloch and Marden constants', in: *Computational Methods and Function Theory*, Lecture Notes in Mathematics, 1435 (Springer, Berlin, 1990), pp. 131–142.
- [12] Z. Nehari, *Conformal Mapping* (Dover Publications, New York, 1975), vii + 396 pp., reprint of the 1952 edition.

SH. CHEN, Department of Mathematics, Hunan Normal University, Changsha,  
Hunan 410081, PR China  
e-mail: [shlchen1982@yahoo.com.cn](mailto:shlchen1982@yahoo.com.cn)

S. PONNUSAMY, Department of Mathematics,  
Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai-600 036, India  
e-mail: [samy@iitm.ac.in](mailto:samy@iitm.ac.in)

X. WANG, Department of Mathematics, Hunan Normal University, Changsha,  
Hunan 410081, PR China  
e-mail: [xtwang@hunnu.edu.cn](mailto:xtwang@hunnu.edu.cn)