

REPRESENTATIONS OF SUBHARMONIC HARDY FUNCTIONS IN THE COMPLEX BALL

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ABSTRACT. For the purpose of characterizing subharmonic or \mathcal{M} -subharmonic Hardy classes in the unit ball of \mathbb{C}^n , we establish fundamental identities between integral means in terms of volume integrals and Green's functions.

1. Introduction

Let $B = B_n$ denote the open unit ball of \mathbb{C}^n and S denote the boundary of B : $S = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^n : |z| = 1\}$. Let ν and σ denote respectively the Lebesgue volume measure on B and the surface measure on S normalized to be $\nu(B) = \sigma(S) = 1$. Denote $d\tau(z) = (1 - |z|^2)^{-(n+1)}d\nu(z)$.

Let \mathcal{M} denote the group of all automorphism, that is, one to one biholomorphic onto map, of B . \mathcal{M} consists of all maps of the form $U\varphi_a$, where U is a unitary operator of \mathbb{C}^n and φ_a is defined by

$$\varphi_a(z) = \begin{cases} \frac{a - P_a z - \sqrt{1 - |a|^2} Q_a z}{1 - \langle z, a \rangle}, & \text{if } a \neq 0 \\ 0, & \text{if } a = 0. \end{cases}$$

Here $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the Hermitian inner product of \mathbb{C}^n : $\langle z, w \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^n z_j \bar{w}_j$, $z, w \in \mathbb{C}^n$, $P_a z$ is the projection of \mathbb{C}^n onto the subspace generated by B :

$$P_a z = \frac{\langle z, a \rangle}{\langle a, a \rangle} a, \quad \text{if } a \neq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad P_0 z = 0,$$

and $Q_a(z) = z - P_a z$.

Let Δ be the complex Laplacian: $\Delta = 4 \sum_{j=1}^n D_j \bar{D}_j$, where $D_j = \frac{\partial}{\partial z_j}$ and $\bar{D}_j = \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}_j}$, $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$. In B , Δ may be decomposed into the complex tangential Laplacian and the complex radial Laplacian: $\Delta = \Delta_{tan} + \Delta_{rad}$, where Δ_{rad} is defined for $f \in C^2(B)$ and $z = r\zeta, 0 < r < 1, \zeta \in S$, to be the Laplacian of the function $\lambda \rightarrow f(z + \lambda\zeta)$ at the origin of \mathbb{C} (see [3], 17.3.2).

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Let $\tilde{\Delta}$ denote the (\mathcal{M} -) invariant Laplacian of B defined for $f \in C^2(B)$ by

$$\tilde{\Delta}f(a) = \Delta(f \circ \varphi_a)(0), \quad a \in B.$$

$\tilde{\Delta}$ is \mathcal{M} -invariant in the sense that

$$(\tilde{\Delta}f) \circ \psi = \tilde{\Delta}(f \circ \psi)$$

for all $\psi \in \mathcal{M}$, and it is known that

$$\tilde{\Delta}f(a) = 4(1 - |a|^2) \sum_{i,j=1}^n (\delta_{i,j} - \bar{a}_i a_j) (\bar{D}_i D_j f)(a), \quad a \in B,$$

for $f \in C^2(B)$ (see [3], 4.1.3).

A $C^2(B)$ function f is said to be harmonic (in B) if $\Delta f = 0$ in B , \mathcal{M} -harmonic if $\tilde{\Delta}f = 0$ in B , pluriharmonic if $\Delta f = 0 = \tilde{\Delta}f$ in B (see [3], 4.4.9).

An upper semicontinuous function $f : B \rightarrow [-\infty, \infty)$, $f \not\equiv -\infty$, satisfying the inequality

$$f(a) \leq \int_S f(a + r\zeta) \, d\sigma(\zeta)$$

for all $a \in B$ and for all r such that $a + r\bar{B} \subset B$ is called subharmonic (in B). An upper semicontinuous function $f : B \rightarrow [-\infty, \infty)$, $f \not\equiv -\infty$, satisfying

$$f(a) \leq \int_S f \circ \varphi_a(r\zeta) \, d\sigma(\zeta)$$

for all $a \in B$ and for all r sufficiently small is called \mathcal{M} -subharmonic. Also, an upper semicontinuous function $f : B \rightarrow [-\infty, \infty)$, is called plurisubharmonic if the functions

$$\lambda \rightarrow f(a + \lambda b)$$

are subharmonic in neighborhoods of the origin in \mathbb{C} , for all $a \in B$, $b \in \mathbb{C}^n$.

If f is subharmonic on B , then $\int_S f(r\zeta) \, d\sigma(\zeta)$ is an increasing function of r . If f is \mathcal{M} -subharmonic on B , then $\int_S f \circ \varphi_a(r\zeta) \, d\sigma(\zeta)$ is an increasing function of r for every $a \in B$ (see [4], 5.11).

It is known for $f \in C^2(B)$ that $\Delta f \geq 0$ if and only if f is subharmonic, and that $\tilde{\Delta}f \geq 0$ if and only if f is \mathcal{M} -subharmonic. But $\Delta f \geq 0$ and $\tilde{\Delta}f \geq 0$ does not imply that f is plurisubharmonic (see [3], 7.2.1).

For $0 < r \leq 1$, let

$$g(r, z) = \int_{|z|}^r \frac{1}{\rho^{2n-1}} d\rho, \quad z \in rB,$$

and

$$\tilde{g}(r, z) = \frac{1}{2n} \int_{|z|}^r \frac{(1 - \rho^2)^{n-1}}{\rho^{2n-1}} d\rho, \quad z \in rB.$$

Let $g(z) = g(1, z)$ and $\tilde{g}(z) = \tilde{g}(1, z)$. Then $g(z) = \log \frac{1}{|z|}$ if $n = 1$, and

$$g(z) = \frac{1}{2(n-1)} \left(\frac{1}{|z|^{2n-2}} - 1 \right)$$

if $n > 1$. Elementary calculation shows that $\Delta g(z) = 0$ for all $z \in B, z \neq 0$. So g is superharmonic (i.e - g is subharmonic) on $B \setminus \{0\}$, $g(0) = \infty$ and $\lim_{|z| \rightarrow 1} g(z) = 0$. The function

$$G(z, w) = g(\varphi_w(z)), \quad z, w \in B,$$

is called the Green's function for Δ . It satisfies $G(z, w) = G(w, z)$ and $\Delta_z G(z, w) = 0$ on $B \setminus \{0\}$.

Also, $\tilde{\Delta} \tilde{g}(z) = 0$ for all $z \in B, z \neq 0$; \tilde{g} is \mathcal{M} -superharmonic (i.e - \tilde{g} is \mathcal{M} -subharmonic) on $B \setminus \{0\}$, $\tilde{g}(0) = \infty$ and $\lim_{|z| \rightarrow 1} \tilde{g}(z) = 0$. The function

$$\tilde{G}(z, w) = \tilde{g}(\varphi_w(z)), \quad z, w \in B,$$

is called the (invariant) Green's function for $\tilde{\Delta}$. It satisfies $\tilde{G}(z, w) = \tilde{G}(w, z)$ and $\tilde{\Delta}_z \tilde{G}(z, w) = 0$ on $B \setminus \{0\}$.

Let Rf denote the radial derivative of f : $Rf(z) = \sum_{j=1}^n z_j D_j f(z), z \in B$. Note that $Rf = \frac{r}{2} \phi'$ when f is radial with $f(z) = \phi(r), |z| = r$. Rf is invariant under the action of the unitary group \mathcal{U} .

We in this note establish fundamental identities between integral means as follows.

Theorem 1.1. *If $f \in C^2(B)$ and $0 < r < 1$, then the following (a)~(f) are all equal.*

- (a) $\int_S f(r\zeta) d\sigma(\zeta)$
- (b) $f(0) + \frac{1}{2n} \int_{rB} g(r, z) \Delta f(z) \, d\nu(z)$
- (c) $f(0) + \int_{rB} \tilde{g}(r, z) \tilde{\Delta} f(z) \, d\tau(z)$
- (d) $\frac{1}{r^{2n}} \int_{rB} f(z) \, d\nu(z) + \frac{1}{4nr^{2n}} \int_{rB} (r^2 - |z|^2) \Delta f(z) \, d\nu(z)$
- (e) $\frac{1}{r^{2n}(1-r^2)} \int_{rB} \left(1 - \frac{n+1}{n} |z|^2\right) f(z) \, d\nu(z)$
 $+ \frac{1}{4n(n+1)r^{2n}(1-r^2)} \int_{rB} \left\{1 - \left(\frac{1-r^2}{1-|z|^2}\right)^{n+1}\right\} \tilde{\Delta} f(z) \, d\nu(z)$
- (f) $\frac{1}{r^{2n}} \int_{rB} f(z) \, d\nu(z) + \frac{1}{nr^{2n}} \int_{rB} Rf(z) \, d\nu(z)$

If $n \geq 2$, then each one of (a) ~ (f) equals

$$(g) \frac{1}{r^{2n}} \int_{rB} f(z) \, d\nu(z) + \frac{1}{4n(n-1)r^{2n}} \int_{rB} |z|^2 \Delta_{tan} f(z) \, d\nu(z).$$

Theorem 1.1 can be used in characterizing various function classes, for example pluri-harmonic Hardy classes and BMO classes, in terms of volume integrals. This will be done in a forthcoming paper. Instead, we refer to [1, 2] for previous

results of the same vein and present a simple illustration, which immediately follows from Theorem 1.1.

Corollary 1.2. *Let $n \geq 2$. Let $f : B \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ with $|f|^2 \in C^2(B)$. If $\Delta_{rad}|f|^2 \geq 0$ and $\Delta_{tan}|f|^2 \geq 0$, then the following (a) \sim (e) are equivalent.*

- (a) $\sup_{0 \leq r < 1} \int_S |f(r\zeta)|^2 d\sigma(\zeta) < \infty$
- (b) $\int_B (1 - |z|)\Delta|f(z)|^2 d\nu(z) < \infty$
- (c) $\int_B (1 - |z|)^n \tilde{\Delta}|f(z)|^2 d\tau(z) < \infty$
- (d) $\int_B R|f(z)|^2 d\nu(z) < \infty$
- (e) $\int_B \Delta_{tan}|f(z)|^2 d\nu(z) < \infty$

2. Lemmas

Lemma 2.1. *Let $0 < r \leq 1$ be fixed.*

- (a) *If $n = 1$, then $g(r, z) = \log \frac{r}{|z|} = 2\tilde{g}(r, z)$.*
- (b) *If $n \geq 2$, then*

$$\frac{\tilde{g}(r, z)}{(1 - |z|^2)^n} \approx \frac{g(r, z)}{1 - \frac{|z|}{r}} \approx |z|^{2-2n}, \quad z \in rB.$$

Proof. (a) follows immediately. (b) follows from the following limits which can be derived by using L'Hospital's rule.

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow r} \frac{g(r, t)}{t^{2-2n}(1 - \frac{t}{r})} = \frac{1}{2n}, \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(r, t)}{t^{2-2n}(1 - \frac{t}{r})} = \frac{1}{2(n-1)} \cdot \frac{1}{4n(n-1)};$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow r} \frac{\tilde{g}(r, t)}{t^{2-2n}(1 - t^2)^n} = \frac{1}{n(n-1+r^2)}, \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\tilde{g}(r, t)}{t^{2-2n}(1 - t^2)^n} = \frac{1}{4n(n-1)}.$$

□

Lemma 2.2 (See [1]). *Let $f \in C^2(B)$ and $a = r\zeta, 0 \leq r < 1, \zeta \in S$. Then we have the following.*

- (a) $\Delta = \Delta_{tan} + \Delta_{rad}; \quad \tilde{\Delta} = (1 - r^2)\Delta_{tan} + (1 - r^2)^2\Delta_{rad}$
- (b) *If f is radial, then $\Delta_{rad}f = \frac{\partial f^2}{\partial^2 r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial r}$ and $\Delta_{tan}f = \frac{2(n-1)}{r} \frac{\partial f}{\partial r}$.*
- (c) $\Delta, \Delta_{rad}, \Delta_{tan}, \tilde{\Delta}$ *all commutes with the action of the unitary group.*

Lemma 2.3. *If $f \in C^2(B)$ and $0 < r < 1$, then the following (a)~(f) are equal.*

- (a) $2nr^{2n-1} \frac{d}{dr} \int_S f(r\zeta) d\sigma(\zeta)$
- (b) $\int_{rB} \Delta f(z) d\nu(z)$
- (c) $(1 - r^2)^{n-1} \int_{rB} \tilde{\Delta} f(z) d\tau(z)$
- (d) $\frac{1}{2r} \frac{d}{dr} \int_{rB} (r^2 - |z|^2) \Delta f(z) d\nu(z)$
- (e) $\frac{1}{2(n+1)r(1-r^2)} \frac{d}{dr} \int_{rB} \{(1 - |z|^2)^{n+1} - (1 - r^2)^{n+1}\} \tilde{\Delta} f(z) d\tau(z)$
- (f) $\frac{2}{r} \frac{d}{dr} \int_{rB} Rf(z) d\nu(z).$

If $n \geq 2$, then each one of (a) ~ (f) equals

$$(g) \frac{1}{2(n-1)r} \frac{d}{dr} \int_{rB} |z|^2 \Delta_{tan} f(z) d\nu(z).$$

Proof. If we denote $f^\#$ the radialization of f :

$$f^\#(z) = \int_{\mathcal{U}} f(Uz) dU,$$

where \mathcal{U} denote the group of unitary operators of \mathbb{C}^n , then by Lemma 2.2 (c)

$$\Delta_{tan}(f^\#) = (\Delta_{tan} f)^\#, \Delta(f^\#) = (\Delta f)^\# \text{ and } \tilde{\Delta}(f^\#) = (\tilde{\Delta} f)^\#.$$

So it is sufficient to verify required equalities with $f^\#$ instead of f . Denote $f^\# = u$ and $u(z) = \phi(\rho)$, $\rho = |z|$ for simplicity.

Consider two representations of $r^{2n-1}\phi'(r)$:

$$r^{2n-1}\phi'(r) = \int_0^r \frac{d}{d\rho} \{\rho^{2n-1}\phi'(\rho)\} d\rho \tag{2.1}$$

and

$$r^{2n-1}\phi'(r) = (1 - r^2)^{n-1} \int_0^r \frac{d}{d\rho} \left\{ \frac{1}{(1 - \rho^2)^{n-1}} \rho^{2n-1}\phi'(\rho) \right\} d\rho. \tag{2.2}$$

Simply from $Ru = \frac{\rho}{2}\phi'$, we have

$$2n\rho^{2n-1}\phi' = 4n\rho^{2n-2}Ru = \frac{2}{\rho} \frac{d}{d\rho} \int_0^\rho 2nr^{2n-1}Ru dr,$$

so that (a) = (f) follows.

By Lemma 2.2

$$\Delta u(z) = \phi''(\rho) + \frac{2n-1}{\rho} \phi'(\rho),$$

$$\Delta_{rad}u(z) = \phi''(\rho) + \frac{1}{\rho}\phi'(\rho),$$

and

$$\tilde{\Delta}u(z) = (1 - \rho^2)^2\Delta u(z) + 2(n - 1)\rho(1 - \rho^2)\phi'(\rho).$$

Thus, from (2.1) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} r^{2n-1}\phi'(r) &= \int_0^r \rho^{2n-1} \left\{ \phi''(\rho) + \frac{2n-1}{\rho}\phi'(\rho) \right\} d\rho \\ &= \int_0^r \rho^{2n-1}\Delta u(z) d\rho, \end{aligned}$$

which implies that (a) = (b).

Also, from (2.2) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &r^{2n-1}\phi'(r) \\ &= (1 - r^2)^{n-1} \int_0^r \frac{1}{(1 - \rho^2)^n} \left\{ (1 - \rho^2)\frac{d}{d\rho} (\rho^{2n-1}\phi'(\rho)) + 2(n - 1)\rho^{2n}\phi'(\rho) \right\} d\rho \\ &= (1 - r^2)^{n-1} \int_0^r \frac{\rho^{2n-1}}{(1 - \rho^2)^{n+1}} \tilde{\Delta}\phi(\rho) d\rho, \end{aligned}$$

which implies that (a) = (c).

Integration by parts gives that

$$\begin{aligned} &2r \int_0^r \rho^{2n-1}\Delta\phi(\rho) d\rho \\ &= \frac{d}{dr} \left(r^2 \int_0^r \rho^{2n-1}\Delta\phi(\rho) d\rho \right) - r^{2n+1}\Delta\phi(r) \\ &= \frac{d}{dr} \left(\int_0^r \rho^{2n-1}r^2\Delta\phi(\rho) d\rho \right) - \frac{d}{dr} \int_0^r \rho^{2n+1}\Delta\phi(\rho) d\rho \\ &= \frac{d}{dr} \left(\int_0^r \rho^{2n-1}(r^2 - \rho^2)\Delta\phi(\rho) d\rho \right), \end{aligned}$$

which implies that (b) = (d).

By a similar way,

$$\begin{aligned} &2(n + 1)r(1 - r^2)^n \int_0^r \frac{\rho^{2n-1}}{(1 - \rho^2)^{n+1}} \tilde{\Delta}\phi(\rho) d\rho \\ &= -\frac{d}{dr} \left\{ (1 - r^2)^{n+1} \int_0^r \frac{\rho^{2n-1}}{(1 - \rho^2)^{n+1}} \tilde{\Delta}\phi(\rho) d\rho \right\} + r^{2n-1}\tilde{\Delta}\phi(r) \\ &= -\frac{d}{dr} \left\{ (1 - r^2)^{n+1} \int_0^r \frac{\rho^{2n-1}}{(1 - \rho^2)^{n+1}} \tilde{\Delta}\phi(\rho) d\rho \right\} + \frac{d}{dr} \left\{ \int_0^r \rho^{2n-1}\tilde{\Delta}\phi(\rho) d\rho \right\} \\ &= \frac{d}{dr} \int_0^r \left\{ 1 - \left(\frac{1 - r^2}{1 - \rho^2} \right)^{n+1} \right\} \rho^{2n-1}\tilde{\Delta}\phi(\rho) d\rho, \end{aligned}$$

which implies that (c) = (e).

Suppose $n \geq 2$. From $\Delta_{tan}u(z) = \frac{2(n-1)}{\rho}\phi'(\rho)$ and $(a) = (d)$,

$$\frac{2n}{n-1}\rho^{2n+1}\Delta_{tan}u(z) = 4n\rho^{2n}\phi'(\rho) = \frac{d}{d\rho} \int_{\rho B} (\rho^2 - |z|^2)\Delta f(z) d\nu(z).$$

Taking $\int_0^r d\rho$ gives $(d) = (g)$. □

3. Proof of Main Results

Proof of Theorem 1.1. That $(a) = (b)$ follows from integrating the identity

$$\frac{d}{dr} \int_S f(r\zeta)d\sigma(\zeta) = \frac{1}{2nr^{2n-1}} \int_{rB} \Delta f(z)d\nu(z)$$

(which is $(a) = (b)$ of Lemma 2.3) with respect to dr and using

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2n} \int_0^r \frac{1}{\rho^{2n-1}} d\rho \int_{\rho B} \Delta f(z)d\nu(z) \\ &= \frac{1}{2n} \int_{rB} \Delta f(z) \left(\int_0^r \frac{1}{\rho^{2n-1}} \chi_{|z|<\rho} d\rho \right) d\nu(z) \\ &= \frac{1}{2n} \int_{rB} g(r, z)\Delta f(z) d\nu(z). \end{aligned}$$

$(a) = (c)$ follows from integrating the identity

$$\frac{d}{dr} \int_S f(r\zeta)d\sigma(\zeta) = \frac{(1-r^2)^{n-1}}{2nr^{2n-1}} \int_{rB} \tilde{\Delta} f(z)d\tau(z)$$

(which is $(a) = (c)$ of Lemma 2.3) with respect to dr and using

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2n} \int_0^r \frac{(1-\rho^2)^{n-1}}{\rho^{2n-1}} d\rho \int_{\rho B} \tilde{\Delta} f(z) d\tau(z) \\ &= \frac{1}{2n} \int_{rB} \tilde{\Delta} f(z) \left(\int_0^r \frac{(1-\rho^2)^{n-1}}{\rho^{2n-1}} \chi_{|z|<\rho} d\rho \right) d\tau(z) \\ &= \int_{rB} \tilde{g}(r, z)\tilde{\Delta} f(z) d\tau(z). \end{aligned}$$

$(a) = (d)$ follows from integrating the identity

$$r^{2n} \frac{d}{dr} \int_S f(r\zeta)d\sigma(\zeta) = \frac{1}{4n} \frac{d}{dr} \int_{rB} (r^2 - |z|^2)\Delta f(z) d\nu(z)$$

(which is $(a) = (d)$ of Lemma 2.3) with respect to dr and using

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^r \rho^{2n} \left(\frac{d}{d\rho} \int_S f(\rho\zeta)d\sigma(\zeta) \right) d\rho \\ &= r^{2n} \int_S f(r\zeta)d\sigma(\zeta) - 2n \int_0^r \rho^{2n-1} d\rho \int_S f(\rho\zeta) d\sigma(\zeta) \\ &= r^{2n} \int_S f(r\zeta)d\sigma(\zeta) - \int_{rB} f(z) d\nu(z). \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

Also, (a) = (e) follows from integrating the identity

$$\begin{aligned} r^{2n}(1-r^2) \frac{d}{dr} \int_S f(r\zeta) d\sigma(\zeta) \\ = \frac{1}{4n(n+1)} \frac{d}{dr} \int_{rB} \{(1-|z|^2)^{n+1} - (1-r^2)^{n+1}\} \tilde{\Delta} f(z) d\tau(z) \end{aligned}$$

(which is (a) = (e) of Lemma 2.3) with respect to dr and using

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^r \rho^{2n}(1-\rho^2) \left(\frac{d}{d\rho} \int_S f(\rho\zeta) d\sigma(\zeta) \right) d\rho \\ = r^{2n}(1-r^2) \int_S f(r\zeta) d\sigma(\zeta) - 2n \int_0^r \rho^{2n-1} \left(1 - \frac{n+1}{n} \rho^2 \right) d\rho \int_S f(\rho\zeta) d\sigma(\zeta) \\ = r^{2n}(1-r^2) \int_S f(r\zeta) d\sigma(\zeta) - \int_{rB} \left(1 - \frac{n+1}{n} |z|^2 \right) f(z) d\nu(z). \end{aligned}$$

(a) = (f) follows from integrating the identity

$$r^{2n} \frac{d}{dr} \int_S f(r\zeta) d\sigma(\zeta) = \frac{1}{n} \frac{d}{dr} \int_{rB} Rf(z) d\nu(z)$$

(which is (a) = (f) of Lemma 2.3) with respect to dr and using (3.1).

If $n \geq 2$, then (a) = (g) follows from integrating the identity

$$r^{2n} \frac{d}{dr} \int_S f(r\zeta) d\sigma(\zeta) = \frac{1}{4n(n-1)} \frac{d}{dr} \int_{rB} |z|^2 \Delta_{tan} f(z) d\nu(z)$$

(which is (a) = (g) of Lemma 2.3) with respect to dr and using

$$\int_0^r \rho^{2n} \left(\frac{d}{d\rho} \int_S f(\rho\zeta) d\sigma(\zeta) \right) d\rho = r^{2n} \int_S f(r\zeta) d\sigma(\zeta) - \int_{rB} f(z) d\nu(z).$$

□

Proof of Corollary 1.2. That $\Delta_{rad}|f|^2 \geq 0$ and $\Delta_{tan}|f|^2 \geq 0$ imply $\Delta|f|^2 \geq 0$ and $\tilde{\Delta}|f|^2 \geq 0$. These subharmonicity imply

$$\sup_{0 \leq r < 1} \int_S |f(r\zeta)|^2 d\sigma(\zeta) = \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \int_S |f(r\zeta)|^2 d\sigma(\zeta).$$

Whence by Lemma 2.1 and Theorem 1.1 the result follows. □

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