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# The Growth of Polynomials Outside of a Compact Set - the Bernstein-Walsh Inequality Revisited 

Klaus Schiefermayr*


#### Abstract

In this paper, we present a new and simple proof of the classical Bernstein-Walsh inequality. Based on this proof, we give some improvements for this inequality in the case that the corresponding compact set is real.


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Keywords: Bernstein-Walsh inequality, Green function, Logarithmic capacity, Inverse polynomial image

## 1 The Bernstein-Walsh Inequality

Let $K$ be a compact set in the complex plane $\mathbb{C}$ with logarithmic capacity cap $K>0$. Without loss of generality, we assume that $K$ is such that $\overline{\mathbb{C}} \backslash K$ is connected, where $\overline{\mathbb{C}}:=\mathbb{C} \cup\{\infty\}$ denotes the extended complex plane. Let $g_{K}(z)$ denote the Green function (with pole at $\infty$ ) for $\overline{\mathbb{C}} \backslash K$ and define $g_{K}(z):=0$ for $z \in K$. Furthermore, let $\mathbb{P}_{n}$ denote the set of all polynomials of degree $n$ with complex coefficients and let $\|\cdot\|_{K}$ denote the supremum norm on $K$. Then the Bernstein-Walsh inequality (sometimes called Bernstein-Walsh lemma or Bernstein lemma), see [8, Theorem 5.5.7] or [11, Lemma 3.7] or [7, Section 12.1], reads as follows.

Theorem 1 (Bernstein-Walsh inequality). For any polynomial $Q_{n} \in \mathbb{P}_{n}$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\left|Q_{n}(z)\right|}{\left\|Q_{n}\right\|_{K}} \leq \mathrm{e}^{n \cdot g_{K}(z)} \quad(z \in \mathbb{C} \backslash K) \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

Note that inequality (1) is obviously also true for $z \in K$. Inequality (1) gives a very general upper bound for the modulus of a polynomial outside a compact set $K$ with respect to its maximum value on $K$ in terms of the corresponding Green function (which only depends on $K$ ). It is also common to consider inequality (1) with the notion of the level sets of the Green function $g_{K}(z)$. For each $R \geq 1$, let

$$
\begin{equation*}
\Gamma_{R}(K):=\left\{z \in \mathbb{C}: g_{K}(z)=\log R\right\} \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

define the level set with index $R$ for the Green function $g_{K}(z)$ (note that $\Gamma_{R}(K)=K$ for $R=1$ ). Then inequality (1) reads as

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\left|Q_{n}(z)\right|}{\left\|Q_{n}\right\|_{K}} \leq R^{n} \quad\left(z \in \Gamma_{R}(K)\right) \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

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