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**BOUNDEDNESS OF THE L -INDEX IN A DIRECTION
OF THE SUM AND PRODUCT OF SLICE
HOLOMORPHIC FUNCTIONS IN THE UNIT BALL**

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Let $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{C}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ be a fixed direction. We consider slice holomorphic functions of several complex variables in the unit ball, i.e. we study functions which are analytic in intersection of every slice $\{z^0 + t\mathbf{b} : t \in \mathbb{C}\}$ with the unit ball $\mathbb{B}^n = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^n : |z| := \sqrt{|z_1|^2 + \dots + |z_n|^2} < 1\}$ for any $z^0 \in \mathbb{B}^n$. For this class of functions there is considered the concept of boundedness of L -index in the direction \mathbf{b} , where $L : \mathbb{B}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ is a positive continuous function such that $L(z) > \frac{\beta|\mathbf{b}|}{1-|z|}$ and $\beta > 1$ is some constant. There are presented sufficient conditions that the sum of slice holomorphic functions of bounded L -index in direction belong this class. This class of slice holomorphic functions is closed under the operation of multiplication.

1. Introduction. Here we continue our investigations initialized in [1, 2]. There was introduced a concept of L -index boundedness in direction for slice analytic functions of several complex variables and obtained many criteria of L -index boundedness in direction. Here we present some applications of these criteria to deduce sufficient conditions providing that sum, product of slice analytic functions is a function of bounded L -index in direction.

We consider a general problem. At this point, we should point to our article, in which we write about this as Prof. S.Yu. Favorov's problem [4].

Problem 1. *Is it possible to deduce main facts of theory of analytic functions having bounded L -index in the direction $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{B}^n \setminus \{0\}$ for functions which are holomorphic on the slices $\{z^0 + t\mathbf{b} : t \in \mathbb{C}\}$ and are joint continuous?*

Let us introduce some notations from [1]. Let $\mathbb{R}_+ = (0, +\infty)$, $\mathbb{R}_+^* = [0, +\infty)$, $\mathbf{0} = (0, \dots, 0)$, $\mathbf{1} = (1, \dots, 1)$, $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, \dots, b_n) \in \mathbb{C}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ be a given direction, $\mathbb{B}^n = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^n : |z| < 1\}$ be a unit ball, $\mathbb{D} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 1\}$ be a unit disc, $L : \mathbb{B}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ be a continuous function. For a given $z \in \mathbb{B}^n$, we denote $S_z = \{t \in \mathbb{C} : z + t\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{B}^n\}$. Clearly, $\mathbb{D} = \mathbb{B}^1$. The slice functions on S_z for fixed $z^0 \in \mathbb{B}^n$ we will denote as $g_{z^0}(t) = F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})$ and $l_{z^0}(t) = L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})$ for $t \in S_z$. Besides, we denote by $\langle a, c \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^n a_j \bar{c}_j$ the Hermitian inner product in \mathbb{C}^n , where $a, c \in \mathbb{C}^n$.

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Let $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$ be a class of functions which are holomorphic on every slices $\{z^0 + t\mathbf{b} : t \in S_{z^0}\}$ for each $z^0 \in \mathbb{B}^n$ and let $\mathcal{H}_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$ be a class of functions from $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$ which are joint continuous. The notation $\partial_{\mathbf{b}}F(z)$ stands for the derivative of the function $g_z(t)$ at the point 0, i.e. for every $p \in \mathbb{N}$, $\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^p F(z) = g_z^{(p)}(0)$, where $g_z(t) = F(z + t\mathbf{b})$ is an analytic function of complex variable $t \in S_z$ for given $z \in \mathbb{B}^n$.

Together the hypothesis on joint continuity and the hypothesis on holomorphy in one direction do not imply holomorphy in whole n -dimensional unit ball. There were presented some examples to demonstrate it [1].

A function $F \in \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$ is said [1] to be of *bounded L -index in the direction \mathbf{b}* , if there exists $m_0 \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ such that for all $m \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ and each $z \in \mathbb{C}^n$ inequality

$$\frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^m F(z)|}{m!L^m(z)} \leq \max_{0 \leq k \leq m_0} \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^k F(z)|}{k!L^k(z)} \quad (1)$$

is true. The least such integer number m_0 , obeying (1), is called the L -index in the direction \mathbf{b} of the function F and is denoted by $N_{\mathbf{b}}(F, L, \mathbb{B}^n)$. For $n = 1$, $\mathbf{b} = 1$, $L(z) = l(z)$, $z \in \mathbb{C}$ inequality (1) defines a function of bounded l -index with the l -index $N(F, l) \equiv N_1(F, l, \mathbb{C})$ [11], and if in addition $l(z) \equiv 1$, then we obtain a definition of index boundedness with index $N(F) \equiv N_1(F, 1, \mathbb{C})$ [12, 13]. It is also worth to mention paper [18], which introduces the concept of generalized index. It is quite close to the bounded l -index. Similarly, analytic function $F : \mathbb{B}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is called a function of *bounded L -index in a direction $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{C}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$* , if it satisfies (1) for all $z \in \mathbb{B}^n$.

It should be noted that the function L , in addition to the properties of positivity and continuity, must also have the property of some regularity of behavior. Thus, we assume the following additional restrictions on the function L (see also, for example, [3–6, 17]). For $z \in \mathbb{B}^n$ we denote

$$\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(\eta) = \sup_{z \in \mathbb{B}^n} \sup_{t_1, t_2 \in S_z} \left\{ \frac{L(z + t_1\mathbf{b})}{L(z + t_2\mathbf{b})} : |t_1 - t_2| \leq \frac{\eta}{\min\{L(z + t_1\mathbf{b}), L(z + t_2\mathbf{b})\}} \right\}.$$

The notation $Q_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$ stands for a class of positive continuous functions $L : \mathbb{B}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$, satisfying for every $\eta \in [0, \beta]$

$$\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(\eta) < +\infty \quad (2)$$

and for all $z \in \mathbb{B}^n$

$$L(z) > \frac{\beta|\mathbf{b}|}{1 - |z|}, \quad (3)$$

where $\beta > 1$ is some constant.

2. Auxiliary propositions. In our investigations we need the following propositions obtained in [2]. The next theorems describe local behavior of the slice holomorphic function in the unit ball. They present necessary or sufficient conditions of boundedness of L -index in direction for this class of functions.

Theorem 1 ([2]). *Let $L \in Q_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$. A function $F \in \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$ has bounded L -index in a direction $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{C}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ if and only if for any r_1 and any r_2 with $0 < r_1 < r_2 \leq \beta$, there exists number $P_1 = P_1(r_1, r_2) \geq 1$ such that for each $z^0 \in \mathbb{B}^n$*

$$\max \{|F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})| : |t| = r_2/L(z^0)\} \leq P_1 \max \{|F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})| : |t| = r_1/L(z^0)\}. \quad (4)$$

Also we will use an analog of logarithmic criterion for function from the class $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$. As necessary conditions the criterion was obtained by G. H. Fricke [9,10] for entire functions of one complex variable having bounded index.

Denote

$$G_r(F) := G_r^{\mathbf{b}}(F) := \bigcup_{z \in \mathbb{B}^n : F(z)=0} \{z + t\mathbf{b} : |t| < r/L(z)\}.$$

By $n_{z^0}(r) = n_{\mathbf{b}}(r, z^0, 1/F) := \sum_{|a_k^0| \leq r} 1$ we denote counting function of zeros a_k^0 for the slice function $F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})$ in the disc $\{t \in \mathbb{C} : |t| \leq r\}$ for given $z^0 \in \mathbb{B}^n$. If for given $z^0 \in \mathbb{B}^n$ and for all $t \in S_z$: $F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b}) \equiv 0$, then we put $n_{z^0}(r) = -1$. Denote $n(r) = \sup_{z \in \mathbb{B}^n} n_z(r/L(z))$.

Theorem 2 ([2]). *Let $F \in \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$, $L \in Q_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$. If the function F has bounded L -index in the direction \mathbf{b} , then*

1) for every $r \in (0, \beta]$ there exists $P = P(r) > 0$ that for each $z \in \mathbb{B}^n \setminus G_r^{\mathbf{b}}(F)$

$$\left| \frac{\partial_{\mathbf{b}} F(z)}{F(z)} \right| \leq PL(z); \tag{5}$$

2) for every $r \in (0, \beta]$ there exists $\tilde{n}(r) \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ such that for each $z^0 \in \mathbb{B}^n$ with $F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b}) \not\equiv 0$

$$n_{\mathbf{b}}(r/L(z^0), z^0, 1/F) \leq \tilde{n}(r).$$

Theorem 3 ([2]). *Let $L \in Q_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$, $F \in \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$, $\mathbb{B}^n \setminus G_{\beta}^{\mathbf{b}}(F) \neq \emptyset$. If the following conditions are satisfied*

- 1) there exists $r_1 \in (0, \beta/2)$ (either there exists $r_1 \in [\beta/2, \beta)$ and $(\forall z \in \mathbb{B}^n) : L(z) > \frac{2\beta|b|}{1-|z|}$) such that $n(r_1) \in [-1; \infty)$;
- 2) there exist $r_2 \in (0, \beta)$, $P > 0$ such that $2r_2 \cdot n(r_1) < r_1/\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(r_1)$ and for all $z \in \mathbb{B}^n \setminus G_{r_2}(F)$ inequality (5) is true;

then the function F has bounded L -index in the direction \mathbf{b} .

3. Product of functions of bounded L -index in direction. Now we consider an application of Theorems 2 and 3. The following proposition can be obtained using similar considerations as in the case of analytic in the unit ball functions of bounded L -index in direction [8].

Proposition 1. *Let $L \in Q_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$, $F \in \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$ be a function of bounded L -index in the direction \mathbf{b} , $\Phi \in \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$ and $\Psi(z) = F(z)\Phi(z)$. The function $\Psi(z)$ is of bounded L -index in the direction \mathbf{b} if and only if the function $\Phi(z)$ is of bounded L -index in the direction \mathbf{b} .*

Proof. Our proof is similar to proof for analytic in the unit ball functions in [8] but now we use Theorem 2, deduced for functions holomorphic on the slices in the unit ball. Since an analytic function $F(z)$ has bounded L -index in the direction \mathbf{b} , by Theorem 2 for every $r \in (0, \beta)$ there exists $\tilde{n}(r) \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ such that for all $z^0 \in \mathbb{B}^n$, satisfying $F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b}) \not\equiv 0$, the estimate $n\left(\frac{r}{L(z^0)}, z^0, \frac{1}{F}\right) \leq \tilde{n}(r)$ holds. Hence,

$$n\left(\frac{r}{L(z^0)}, z^0, \frac{1}{\Phi}\right) \leq n\left(\frac{r}{L(z^0)}, z^0, \frac{1}{\Psi}\right) \leq n\left(\frac{r}{L(z^0)}, z^0, \frac{1}{F}\right) + \tilde{n}(r).$$

Thus, condition 2 of Theorem 2 either holds or does not hold for functions $\Psi(z)$ and $\Phi(z)$ simultaneously. If $\Phi(z)$ has bounded L -index in the direction \mathbf{b} , then for every $r \in (0, \beta)$ there exist numbers $P_F(r) > 0$ and $P_\Phi(r) > 0$ such that $\left| \frac{\partial_{\mathbf{b}} F(z)}{F(z)} \right| \leq P_F(r)L(z)$, $\left| \frac{\partial_{\mathbf{b}} \Phi(z)}{\Phi(z)} \right| \leq P_\Phi(r)L(z)$ for each $z \in (\mathbb{B}^n \setminus G_r^{\mathbf{b}}(F)) \cap (\mathbb{B}^n \setminus G_r^{\mathbf{b}}(\Phi))$. Since $\mathbb{B}^n \setminus G_r^{\mathbf{b}}(\Psi) \subset (\mathbb{B}^n \setminus G_r^{\mathbf{b}}(F)) \cap (\mathbb{B}^n \setminus G_r^{\mathbf{b}}(\Phi))$ and $\left| \frac{\partial_{\mathbf{b}} \Psi(z)}{\Psi(z)} \right| \leq \left| \frac{\partial_{\mathbf{b}} F(z)}{F(z)} \right| + \left| \frac{\partial_{\mathbf{b}} \Phi(z)}{\Phi(z)} \right|$, for all $z \in \mathbb{B}^n \setminus G_r^{\mathbf{b}}(\Psi)$ we have $\left| \frac{\partial_{\mathbf{b}} \Psi(z)}{\Psi(z)} \right| \leq (P_F(r) + P_\Phi(r))L(z)$. Hence, by Theorem 3, the function $\Psi(z)$ is of bounded L -index in the direction \mathbf{b} .

On the contrary, let $\Psi(z)$ be of bounded L -index in the direction \mathbf{b} , $r \in (0, \beta)$. At first, we show that for every $z^0 \in \mathbb{B}^n \setminus G_r^{\mathbf{b}}(F)$ and for every $\tilde{d}^k = z^0 + d_k^0 \mathbf{b}$, where d_k^0 are zeros of function $\Phi(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})$, we have $|z^0 - \tilde{d}^k| > \frac{r|\mathbf{b}|}{2L(z^0)\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(r)}$. On the other hand, let there exist $z^0 \in \mathbb{B}^n \setminus G_r^{\mathbf{b}}(\Phi)$ and $\tilde{d}^k = z^0 + d_k^0 \mathbf{b}$ such that $|z^0 - \tilde{d}^k| \leq \frac{r|\mathbf{b}|}{2L(z^0)\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(r)}$. Then by the definition of $\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}$, we have the next estimate $L(\tilde{d}^k) \leq \lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(r)L(z^0)$, and hence $|z^0 - \tilde{d}^k| = |\mathbf{b}| \cdot |d_k^0| \leq \frac{r|\mathbf{b}|}{2L(\tilde{d}^k)}$, i.e. $|d_k^0| \leq \frac{r}{2L(\tilde{d}^k)}$, but it contradicts $z^0 \in \mathbb{B}^n \setminus G_r^{\mathbf{b}}(\Phi)$.

We consider $\bar{K}_0 = \left\{ z^0 + t\mathbf{b} : |t| \leq \frac{r}{2L(z^0)\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(r)} \right\}$. It does not contain zeros of $\Phi(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})$, but it may contain zeros $\tilde{c}^k = z^0 + c_k^0 \mathbf{b}$ of the function $\Psi(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})$. Since $\Psi(z)$ is of bounded L -index in the direction \mathbf{b} , by Theorem 2 the set \bar{K}_0 contains at most $\tilde{n}_1 = \tilde{n}_1 \left(\frac{r}{2\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(r)} \right)$ zeros c_k^0 of the function $\Psi(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})$. For all $c_k^0 \in \bar{K}_0$, using the definition of $Q_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$, we obtain the following inequality $L(z^0 + c_k^0 \mathbf{b}) \geq \frac{1}{\lambda_{\mathbf{b}} \left(\frac{r}{\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(r)} \right)} L(z^0)$. Thus, every set $m_k^0 = \left\{ z^0 + t\mathbf{b} : |t - c_k^0| \leq \frac{r_1}{L(z^0 + c_k^0 \mathbf{b})} \right\}$ with $r_1 = \frac{r}{4(\tilde{n}_1 + 1)\lambda_{\mathbf{b}} \left(\frac{r}{\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(r)} \right) \lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(r)}$ is contained in the set $s_k^0 = \left\{ z^0 + t\mathbf{b} : |t - c_k^0| \leq \frac{r_1 \lambda_{\mathbf{b}} \left(\frac{r}{\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(r)} \right)}{L(z^0)} \right\}$. The total sum of diameters of these sets does not exceed

$$\frac{2\tilde{n}_1 r_1 \lambda_{\mathbf{b}} \left(\frac{r}{\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(r)} \right)}{L(z^0)} = \frac{r}{2\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(r)L(z^0)} \cdot \frac{\tilde{n}_1}{(\tilde{n}_1 + 1)} < \frac{r}{2\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(r)L(z^0)}.$$

Therefore, there exists $r^* \in \left(0, \frac{r}{2\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(r)} \right)$ such that if $|t| = \frac{r^*}{L(z^0)}$, then $z^0 + t\mathbf{b} \notin G_{r_1}^{\mathbf{b}}(\Psi)$, and therefore $z^0 + t\mathbf{b} \notin G_{r_1}^{\mathbf{b}}(F)$. By Theorem 2, for all these points $z^0 + t\mathbf{b}$ we obtain

$$\left| \frac{\partial_{\mathbf{b}} \Phi(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})}{\Phi(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right| \leq \left| \frac{\partial_{\mathbf{b}} \Psi(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})}{\Psi(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right| + \left| \frac{\partial_{\mathbf{b}} F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})}{F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right| \leq (P_\Psi^* + P_F^*)L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b}), \quad (6)$$

where P_Ψ^* and P_F^* depend only on r_1 , i.e. only of r . Since the function $\frac{\partial_{\mathbf{b}} \Phi(z)}{\Phi(z)}$ is analytic in \bar{K}_0 , applying the maximum modulus principle to the function $\frac{\partial_{\mathbf{b}} \Phi(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})}{\Phi(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})}$ as a function of variable t , we obtain that the modulus of this function at the point $t = 0$ does not exceed the maximum modulus of this function on the circle $\left\{ t \in \mathbb{C} : |t| = \frac{r^*}{L(z^0)} \right\}$. It means that obtained inequality (6) also holds for z^0 instead $z^0 + t\mathbf{b}$.

Thus, for arbitrary $r \in (0, \beta)$ and $z^0 \in \mathbb{B}^n \setminus G_r^{\mathbf{b}}(F)$ we have proved the first condition of Theorem 3. Above we have already shown that the second condition of Theorem 3 is also true. Hence, by the mentioned theorem, the function $\Phi(z)$ has bounded L -index in the direction \mathbf{b} . \square

4. Sum of functions of bounded L -index in direction. Above we wrote that the product of analytic in the unit ball functions of bounded L -index in a direction is a function from the

same class ([8]). But the class of analytic functions of bounded index is not closed under the addition. The corresponding example was constructed by W. Pugh (see [15, 17]) in the case of entire function of single variable. A generalization of Pugh's example for entire functions of bounded L -index in direction is proposed in [7].

Let us consider an intersection of the hyperplane $\langle z, \mathbf{b} \rangle = 0$ with the unit ball. The intersection we denote by $A = \{z \in \mathbb{B}^n : \langle z, \mathbf{b} \rangle = 0\}$, where $\langle z, \mathbf{b} \rangle := \sum_{j=1}^n z_j b_j$. Obviously that $\bigcup_{z^0 \in A} \{z^0 + t\mathbf{b} : |t| \leq \frac{1-|z^0|}{|\mathbf{b}|}\} = \mathbb{B}^n$.

Let $z^0 \in A$ be a given point. If $F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b}) \not\equiv 0$ as a function of variable $t \in \mathbb{C}$, then there exists $t_0 \in S_{z^0}$ such that $F(z^0 + t_0\mathbf{b}) \neq 0$. We denote

$$B(z^0, t) = \left\{ t_0 \in S_{z^0} : |t_0 - t| < \min \left\{ \frac{\beta}{2L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})}, \frac{1 - |z^0 + t\mathbf{b}|}{2|\mathbf{b}|} \right\}, F(z^0 + t_0\mathbf{b}) \neq 0 \right\},$$

$$B(z^0) = \bigcup_{|t| \leq (1-|z^0|)/|\mathbf{b}|} B(z^0, t).$$

Theorem 4. Let $L : \mathbb{B}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ be a positive continuous function satisfying (3) with $\beta \geq 3$, the functions $F, G \in \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$ satisfy the following conditions:

- 1) $G(z)$ has bounded L -index in the direction $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{C}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ with $N_{\mathbf{b}}(G, L, \mathbb{B}^n) = N < +\infty$;
- 2) there exists $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ such that for all $z \in \mathbb{B}^n$ and $p \geq N + 1$ ($p \in \mathbb{N}$)

$$\frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^p G(z)|}{p!L^p(z)} \leq \alpha \max \left\{ \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^k G(z)|}{k!L^k(z)} : 0 \leq k \leq N \right\}; \quad (7)$$

- 3) for every $z = z^0 + t\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{B}^n$ with $z^0 \in A$ and some $t_0 \in B(z^0, t)$ with $r = |t - t_0|L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})$ the inequality

$$\max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2r}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\} \leq \max \left\{ \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^k G(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{k!L^k(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} : 0 \leq k \leq N \right\}; \quad (8)$$

is valid;

- 4) either $(\exists c > 0)(\forall z^0 \in A)(\forall t \in S_{z^0})(\exists t_0 \in B(z^0, t)$ obeying (8) and if $|t - t_0|L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b}) \leq 1$), then

$$\max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\} / |F(z^0 + t_0\mathbf{b})| \leq c < +\infty,$$

or for $L \in Q_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$ $(\exists c > 0)(\forall z^0 \in A)(\exists t_0 \in B(z^0))$ such that (8) is true and

$$\max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(1)}{L(z^0 + t_0\mathbf{b})} \right\} / |F(z^0 + t_0\mathbf{b})| \leq c < +\infty, \quad (9)$$

where $\beta \geq 2\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(1)$.

Then for every $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{C}$, $|\varepsilon| \leq \frac{1-\alpha}{2c}$, the function

$$H(z) = G(z) + \varepsilon F(z) \quad (10)$$

has bounded L -index in the direction \mathbf{b} and $N_{\mathbf{b}}(H, L, \mathbb{B}^n) \leq N$.

Proof. We repeat our arguments from [8] where this theorem is proved for functions analytic in the unit ball. We write Cauchy's formula for the slice holomorphic function $F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})$ as analytic function of one complex variable t

$$\frac{\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^p F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})}{p!} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{|t'-t|=\frac{r}{L(z^0+t\mathbf{b})}} \frac{F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})}{(t'-t)^{p+1}} dt'. \quad (11)$$

For the chosen $r = |t - t_0|L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})$ we deduce $\frac{r}{L(z^0+t\mathbf{b})} = |t' - t| \geq |t' - t_0| - |t - t_0| = |t' - t_0| - \frac{r}{L(z^0+t\mathbf{b})}$. Hence,

$$|t' - t_0| \leq \frac{2r}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})}. \quad (12)$$

Equality (11) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^p F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{p!L^p(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} &\leq \frac{1}{2\pi L^p(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \cdot \frac{L^{p+1}(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})}{r^{p+1}} \frac{2\pi r}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \times \\ &\quad \times \max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t| = \frac{r}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\} \leq \\ &\leq \frac{1}{r^p} \max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2r}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

If $r = |t - t_0|L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b}) > 1$, then (13) yields

$$\frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^p F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{p!L^p(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \leq \max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2r}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\}. \quad (14)$$

Let $r = |t - t_0|L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b}) \in (0; 1]$. Setting $r = 1$ in (11) and (12), we analogously deduce

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^p F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{p!L^p(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} &\leq \max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\} = \\ &= \frac{\max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\}}{\max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2r}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\}} \max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2r}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\} \leq \\ &\leq \frac{\max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\}}{|F(z^0 + t_0\mathbf{b})|} \max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2r}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\} \leq \\ &\leq c \max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2r}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

where

$$c = \sup_{z^0 \in A, |t| < (1-|z^0|)/|\mathbf{b}|} \frac{\max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\}}{|F(z^0 + t_0\mathbf{b})|} \geq 1$$

and $t_0 = t_0(z, t) \in B(z^0, t)$ is chosen in (8) and $|t_0 - t| \leq 1/L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})$. From $|t' - t_0| = \frac{2}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})}$ one has $|t'| \leq |t_0| + \frac{2}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \leq |t| + \frac{3}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})}$. Therefore, $\beta \geq 3$.

If $L \in Q_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$, then $\sup \left\{ \frac{L(z^0 + t_0\mathbf{b})}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} : |t - t_0| \leq \frac{1}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\} \leq \lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(1)$. This means that $L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b}) \geq \frac{L(z^0 + t_0\mathbf{b})}{\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(1)}$. Using this inequality, we choose in (15)

$$c := \sup_{z^0 \in A} \frac{\max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}(1)}{L(z^0 + t_0\mathbf{b})} \right\}}{|F(z^0 + t_0\mathbf{b})|} \geq 1$$

with t_0 chosen in (8). Taking into account (14) and (15), one has

$$\frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^p F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{p!L^p(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \leq c \max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2r}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\} \quad (16)$$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$, $r \geq 0$, $z^0 \in A$, $t \in S_{z^0}$.

We differentiate (10) p times, $p \geq N + 1$, and apply (7), (16) and (8)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^p H(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{p!L^p(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} &\leq \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^p G(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{p!L^p(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} + \frac{|\varepsilon| |\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^p F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{p!L^p(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \leq \alpha \max \left\{ \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^k G(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{k!L^k(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} : 0 \leq k \leq N \right\} + \\ &+ c|\varepsilon| \max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2r}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\} \leq \\ &\leq (\alpha + c|\varepsilon|) \max \left\{ \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^k G(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{k!L^k(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} : 0 \leq k \leq N \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

If $s \leq N$, then (16) is valid for $p = s$, but (7) does not hold. Thus, the differentiation of (10) leads to the following estimate

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^s H(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{s!L^s(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} &\geq \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^s G(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{s!L^s(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} - \frac{|\varepsilon| |\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^s F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{s!L^s(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \geq \\ &\geq \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^s G(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{s!L^s(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} - c|\varepsilon| \max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2r}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

where $0 \leq s \leq N$. From (8) and (18) we deduce

$$\max_{0 \leq s \leq N} \left\{ \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^s H(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{s!L^s(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\} \geq (1 - c|\varepsilon|) \max_{0 \leq s \leq N} \left\{ \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^s G(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{s!L^s(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\}. \quad (19)$$

If $c|\varepsilon| < 1$, then (17) and (19) imply

$$\frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^p H(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{p!L^p(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \leq \frac{\alpha + c|\varepsilon|}{1 - c|\varepsilon|} \max_{0 \leq s \leq N} \left\{ \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^s H(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{s!L^s(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\} \quad (20)$$

for $p \geq N + 1$. Assume that $\frac{\alpha + c|\varepsilon|}{1 - c|\varepsilon|} \leq 1$. Hence, $|\varepsilon| \leq \frac{1 - \alpha}{2c}$.

Let $N_{\mathbf{b}}(F, L, z^0 + t\mathbf{b})$ be the L -index in the direction \mathbf{b} of the function F at the point $z^0 + t\mathbf{b}$, i.e. $N_{\mathbf{b}}(F, L, z^0 + t\mathbf{b})$ is the smallest number m_0 , for which inequality (1) holds with $z = z^0 + t\mathbf{b}$.

For $|\varepsilon| \leq \frac{1 - \alpha}{2c}$ validity of (20) means that for all $z^0 \in A$ and every $t \in S_{z^0}$ such that $F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b}) \neq 0$ the L -index in the direction \mathbf{b} at the point $z^0 + t\mathbf{b}$ does not exceed N , i.e., $N_{\mathbf{b}}(F, L, z^0 + t\mathbf{b}) \leq N$.

If for some $z^0 \in A$ $F(z^0 + t\mathbf{b}) \equiv 0$, one has $H(z^0 + t\mathbf{b}) \equiv G(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})$ and $N_{\mathbf{b}}(F, L, z^0 + t\mathbf{b}) = N_{\mathbf{b}}(G, L, z^0 + t\mathbf{b}) \leq N$. Thus, $H(z)$ has bounded L -index in the direction \mathbf{b} with $N_{\mathbf{b}}(H, L, \mathbb{B}^n) \leq N$. \square

Every slice holomorphic function $F \in \widetilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$ with $N_{\mathbf{b}}(F, L, \mathbb{B}^n) = 0$ satisfies inequality (9) (see proof of necessity in [2, Theorem 2]).

If $L \in Q_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$, then condition 2) in Theorem 4 always holds. The following theorem is valid.

Theorem 5. Let $L \in Q_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$, $\alpha \in (1/\beta, 1)$ and $F, G \in \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbb{B}^n)$, which satisfy condition:

- 1) $G(z)$ has bounded L -index in the direction $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{C}^n \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$;
- 2) for every $z = z^0 + t\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{B}^n$, where $z^0 \in A$, and some $t_0 \in B(z^0, t)$, and $r = |t - t_0|L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})$

$$\max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2r}{L(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\} \leq \max_{0 \leq k \leq N_{\mathbf{b}}(G_{\alpha}, L_{\alpha}, \mathbb{B}^n)} \left\{ \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^k G(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})|}{k!L^k(z^0 + t\mathbf{b})} \right\};$$

$$3) c := \sup_{z^0 \in A} \frac{\max \left\{ |F(z^0 + t'\mathbf{b})| : |t' - t_0| = \frac{2\lambda_{\mathbf{b}}^2(1)}{L(z^0 + t_0\mathbf{b})} \right\}}{|F(z^0 + t_0\mathbf{b})|} < \infty \text{ where } t_0 \text{ is chosen in 2)}.$$

If $|\varepsilon| \leq \frac{1-\alpha}{2c}$, then the function $H(z) = G(z) + \varepsilon F(z)$ has bounded L -index in the direction \mathbf{b} with $N_{\mathbf{b}}(H, L, \mathbb{B}^n) \leq N_{\mathbf{b}}(G_{\alpha}, L_{\alpha}, \mathbb{B}^n)$, where $G_{\alpha}(z) = G(z/\alpha)$, $L_{\alpha}(z) = L(z/\alpha)$.

Proof. Condition 2) in Theorem 4 always holds for $N = N_{\mathbf{b}}(G_{\alpha}, L_{\alpha})$ instead $N = N_{\mathbf{b}}(G, L)$. Indeed, by Theorem 1, inequality (4) is satisfied for the function G . Substituting $\frac{z^0}{\alpha}$, $\frac{t}{\alpha}$ and $\frac{t_0}{\alpha}$ instead z^0 , t and t_0 in (4) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \left\{ |G((z^0 + t\mathbf{b})/\alpha)| : |t - t_0| = \frac{r_2\alpha}{L((z^0 + t_0\mathbf{b})/\alpha)} \right\} \leq \\ & \leq P_1 \max \left\{ |G((z^0 + t\mathbf{b})/\alpha)| : |t - t_0| = \frac{r_1\alpha}{L((z_0 + t_0\mathbf{b})/\alpha)} \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

By Theorem 1, inequality (21) means that $G_{\alpha} = G(z/\alpha)$ has bounded L_{α} -index in the direction \mathbf{b} and vice versa. Then for $p \geq N_{\mathbf{b}}(G_{\alpha}, L_{\alpha}) + 1$ and $\alpha \in (1/\beta, 1)$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^p G_{\alpha}(z)|}{p!L_{\alpha}^p(z)} &= \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^p G(z/\alpha)|}{p!\alpha^p L^p(z/\alpha)} \leq \max \left\{ \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^s G_{\alpha}(z)|}{s!L_{\alpha}^s(z)} : 0 \leq s \leq N_{\mathbf{b}}(G_{\alpha}, L_{\alpha}) \right\} = \\ &= \max \left\{ \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^s G(z/\alpha)|}{s!\alpha^s L^s(z/\alpha)} : 0 \leq s \leq N_{\mathbf{b}}(G_{\alpha}, L_{\alpha}) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Multiplying by α^p , we deduce

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^p G(z/\alpha)|}{p!L^p(z/\alpha)} &\leq \max \left\{ \frac{\alpha^{p-s} |\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^s G(z/\alpha)|}{s!L^s(z/\alpha)} : 0 \leq s \leq N_{\mathbf{b}}(G_{\alpha}, L_{\alpha}) \right\} \leq \\ &\leq \alpha \max \left\{ \frac{|\partial_{\mathbf{b}}^s G(z/\alpha)|}{s!L^s(z/\alpha)} : 0 \leq s \leq N_{\mathbf{b}}(G_{\alpha}, L_{\alpha}) \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

Since z is arbitrary, inequality (22) yields (7). \square

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