

# Nikishin systems on star-like sets: limiting functions in ratio asymptotics

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Joint work with G. López Lagomasino

OPSFA, Hagenberg, Austria, July 25, 2019

## Multiorthogonal polynomials

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$P_{\mathbf{n}}(z)$  is multiorthogonal with respect to  $\mathbf{s}$  and  $\mathbf{n}$  if it is a non-zero polynomial of degree at most  $|\mathbf{n}| = n_0 + \dots + n_{p-1}$ , satisfying

$$\int P_{\mathbf{n}}(z) z^j ds_0(z) = 0, \quad 0 \leq j \leq n_0 - 1,$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \int P_{\mathbf{n}}(z) z^j ds_0(z) &= 0, & 0 \leq j \leq n_0 - 1, \\ & \vdots \\ \int P_{\mathbf{n}}(z) z^j ds_{p-1}(z) &= 0, & 0 \leq j \leq n_{p-1} - 1. \end{aligned}$$

Finding  $P_{\mathbf{n}}$  amounts to solve a homogeneous linear system of  $|\mathbf{n}|$  equations with  $|\mathbf{n}| + 1$  unknowns (the coefficients of  $P_{\mathbf{n}}$ ), so a solution always exists.

If  $\deg(P_{\mathbf{n}}) = |\mathbf{n}|$  for any solution, then  $\mathbf{n}$  is called normal. In this case, the subspace of solutions has dimension 1.

## Nikishin systems on star-like sets

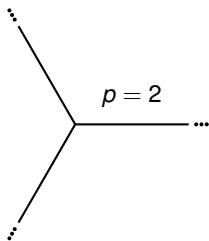
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Let  $p \geq 1$ , and let

$$S_+ = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : z^{p+1} \in [0, +\infty)\}.$$



A Nikishin system  $\mathbf{s} = (s_0, \dots, s_{p-1})$  on  $S_+$  is a system of complex measures with common support on  $S_+$ , constructed as follows.



## Nikishin systems on star-like sets (cont.)

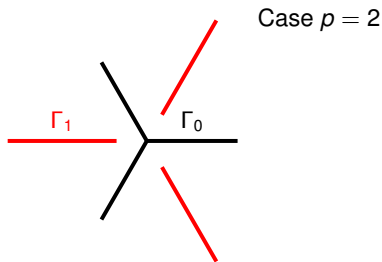
Let  $(\Gamma_0, \Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_{p-1})$  be a system of sets given by

$$\Gamma_j := T^{-1}(\Delta_j), \quad j = 0, \dots, p-1,$$

where  $T(z) = z^{p+1}$  and  $(\Delta_0, \Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_{p-1})$  are compact intervals such that

$$\Delta_j \subset \begin{cases} [0, +\infty) & \text{if } j \text{ is even,} \\ (-\infty, 0] & \text{if } j \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

We also assume that  $\Delta_j \cap \Delta_{j+1} = \emptyset$  for all  $j = 0, \dots, p-2$ .



## Nikishin systems on star-like sets (cont.)

Let  $(\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_{p-1})$  be a system of measures supported on  $(\Gamma_0, \dots, \Gamma_{p-1})$ , respectively, such that each  $\sigma_j$  is positive, rotationally invariant, with infinitely many points in its support.

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Let

$$\hat{\tau}(z) = \int \frac{d\tau(t)}{z - t}$$

denote the Stieltjes transform of a measure  $\tau$ .

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Suppose that  $\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_k$  are arbitrary complex measures with compact support, such that  $\text{supp}(\tau_j) \cap \text{supp}(\tau_{j+1}) = \emptyset$  for all  $j = 1, \dots, k - 1$ .

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Inductively, one defines:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \tau_1 \rangle &:= \tau_1 \\ \langle \tau_1, \tau_2 \rangle &:= \widehat{\tau}_2 \tau_1 \\ \langle \tau_1, \tau_2, \tau_3 \rangle &:= \langle \tau_1, \langle \tau_2, \tau_3 \rangle \rangle \\ &\vdots \\ \langle \tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_k \rangle &:= \langle \tau_1, \langle \tau_2, \dots, \tau_k \rangle \rangle\end{aligned}$$

## Nikishin systems on star-like sets (cont.)

$(\mathbf{s}_0, \dots, \mathbf{s}_{p-1}) = \mathcal{N}(\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_{p-1})$  is the **Nikishin system** generated by  $(\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_{p-1})$ , if

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Let  $\sigma_j^*$  be the push-forward of the measure  $\sigma_j$  on  $\Gamma_j$  under the transformation  $T(z) = z^{p+1}$ , that is,  $\sigma_j^*$  is the measure on  $\Delta_j$  such that

$$\sigma_j^*(E) = \sigma_j(\{z \in \mathbb{C} : T(z) \in E\}), \quad E \subset \Delta_j.$$

## Multiorthogonal polynomials and functions of the second kind

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### Definition of multiple orthogonal polynomials

Let  $(Q_n)_{n=0}^{\infty}$  be the sequence of **monic** polynomials of lowest degree that satisfy the multiple orthogonality conditions

$$\int_{\Gamma_0} Q_n(z) z^l ds_j(z) = 0, \quad l = 0, \dots, \left\lfloor \frac{n-j-1}{p} \right\rfloor,$$

for each  $j = 0, \dots, p-1$ .

In terms of the notation used before, we are considering here multi-indices  $\mathbf{n} = (n_0, \dots, n_{p-1})$  such that

$$n_0 \geq n_1 \geq n_2 \geq \dots \geq n_{p-1} \geq n_0 - 1,$$

so we identify  $\mathbf{n}$  with  $|\mathbf{n}|$  and write  $Q_{|\mathbf{n}|}$  instead of  $Q_{\mathbf{n}}$ .

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### Definition of functions of the second kind

Set  $\Psi_{n,0} := Q_n$ , and let

$$\Psi_{n,k}(z) := \int_{\Gamma_{k-1}} \frac{\Psi_{n,k-1}(t)}{z-t} d\sigma_{k-1}(t), \quad k = 1, \dots, p.$$

## Theorem (López-García, Miña-Díaz)

We have

- 1)  $Q_n$  has maximal degree  $n$ .
- 2) If  $n \equiv \ell \pmod{p+1}$ ,  $0 \leq \ell \leq p$ , then  $Q_n(z) = z^\ell q_n(z^{p+1})$ , and  $q_n$  has exactly  $\frac{n-\ell}{p+1}$  simple zeros in the interior of  $\Delta_0$ .
- 3) The zeros of  $q_n$  and  $q_{n+1}$  interlace on  $\Delta_0$ .
- 4) The sequences  $(Q_n(z))_{n=0}^\infty$ ,  $(\Psi_{n,k}(z))_{n=0}^\infty$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq p$ , satisfy a linear difference equation of the form

$$y_{n+1} = zy_n - a_n y_{n-p}, \quad n \geq p, \quad (1)$$

where  $a_n > 0$  for all  $n \geq p$ . These  $p+1$  sequences form a basis for the space of solutions of (1).

## Ratio asymptotics

From now on, we assume that the Nikishin system satisfies the following property **(P)**:

**For each  $0 \leq j \leq p - 1$ , the measure  $\sigma_j^*$  has positive Radon-Nikodym derivative a.e. on  $\Delta_j$ .**

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Assuming **(P)**, in a joint work with G. López Lagomasino, the following was proved:

- 1) For each fixed  $0 \leq \rho \leq p(p+1) - 1$ , the following limits hold, uniformly on compact subsets of the indicated regions:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{Q_{np(p+1)+\rho+1}(z)}{Q_{np(p+1)+\rho}(z)} \quad z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus (\Gamma_0 \cup \{0\}),$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\Psi_{np(p+1)+\rho+1,k}(z)}{\Psi_{np(p+1)+\rho,k}(z)} \quad z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus (\Gamma_{k-1} \cup \Gamma_k \cup \{0\}), \quad 1 \leq k \leq p,$$

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We describe these limits in terms of certain algebraic functions defined on a Riemann surface.

## Riemann surface of genus zero and conformal mappings

Let  $\mathcal{R}$  denote the compact Riemann surface

$$\mathcal{R} = \overline{\bigcup_{k=0}^p \mathcal{R}_k}$$

formed by the  $p + 1$  consecutively "glued" sheets

$$\mathcal{R}_0 := \overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \Delta_0, \quad \mathcal{R}_k := \overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus (\Delta_{k-1} \cup \Delta_k), \quad k = 1, \dots, p-1, \quad \mathcal{R}_p := \overline{\mathbb{C}} \setminus \Delta_{p-1},$$

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Given  $l \in \{1, \dots, p\}$ , let  $\varphi^{(l)} : \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{C}}$  denote a conformal mapping whose divisor consists of a simple zero at the point  $\infty^{(0)} \in \mathcal{R}_0$  and a simple pole at the point  $\infty^{(l)} \in \mathcal{R}_l$ . For each  $k = 0, \dots, p$ , let

$$\varphi_k^{(l)} := \varphi^{(l)}|_{\mathcal{R}_k}.$$

We normalize  $\varphi^{(l)}$  so that

$$\prod_{k=0}^p \varphi_k^{(l)} \equiv \pm 1, \quad \omega_l := \lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} z \varphi_0^{(l)}(z) > 0.$$

## Asymptotic formulae

### Theorem (López-García, López Lagomasino)

Assume that **(P)** holds. The following formulas hold, uniformly on compact subsets of the indicated regions:

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where  $l = l(\rho)$  is the integer satisfying the conditions  $1 \leq l \leq p$  and  $l - 1 \equiv \rho \pmod{p}$ . Convergence takes place in  $\mathbb{C} \setminus \Gamma_0$  if  $\rho \not\equiv p \pmod{p+1}$ .

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with  $l = l(\rho)$  as in 1), and  $\Gamma_p = \emptyset$ .

We extend the sequence  $(a^{(\rho)})_{\rho=0}^{p(p+1)-1}$ , periodically in  $\mathbb{Z}$  with period  $p(p+1)$ , so that

$$a^{(\rho)} = a^{(\rho+p(p+1))}, \quad \text{for all } \rho \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

## The asymptotic values $a^{(\rho)}$

### Theorem (López-García, López Lagomasino)

The following properties stated in 1)–4) below hold for each  $0 \leq \rho \leq p(p+1) - 1$ :

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- 4) We have

$$a^{(\rho)} = -\frac{\omega_l}{\varphi_k^{(l)}(0)} \quad (2)$$

where  $(k, l) = (k(\rho), l(\rho))$  is the unique pair of integers satisfying the conditions  $0 \leq k \leq p$ ,  $\rho \equiv k - 1 \pmod{p+1}$ , and  $1 \leq l \leq p$ ,  $\rho \equiv l - 1 \pmod{p}$ .



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- 5) Assume that  $0 \in \Delta_k$  for some  $0 \leq k \leq p - 1$ . Then, for any  $0 \leq \rho \leq p(p+1) - 1$  such that  $\rho \equiv k - 1 \pmod{p+1}$ , we have  $a^{(\rho-p)} = a^{(\rho)}$ . If  $0 \notin \Delta_k$  for all  $0 \leq k \leq p - 1$ , then for any  $0 \leq \rho \leq p(p+1) - 1$ , the set of  $p+1$  values  $\{a^{(\rho+mp)}\}_{m=0}^p$  is formed by distinct quantities.

## A conformal mapping

The function  $\eta^{(\rho)} : \mathcal{R} \longrightarrow \overline{\mathbb{C}}$  defined by

$$\eta^{(\rho)}(z) = \frac{1}{1 + \mathbf{a}^{(\rho)} \omega_{I(\rho)}^{-1} \varphi^{(I(\rho))}(z)}$$

is conformal since it is the composition of  $\varphi^{(I(\rho))}$  with the Möbius transformation  $w \mapsto (1 + \mathbf{a}^{(\rho)} \omega_{I(\rho)}^{-1} w)^{-1}$ .

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As a consequence of (2) and the definition of  $\varphi^{(l(\rho))}$ , the function  $\eta^{(\rho)} : \mathcal{R} \longrightarrow \overline{\mathbb{C}}$  is characterized as the unique conformal mapping with a simple zero at  $\infty^{(l(\rho))}$ , a simple pole at  $0 \in \mathcal{R}_{k(\rho)}$ , and satisfying  $\eta^{(\rho)}(\infty^{(0)}) = 1$ .

## A conformal mapping

The function  $\eta^{(\rho)} : \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{C}}$  defined by

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Then, the asymptotic formulas take the simpler form

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{Q_{np(\rho+1)+\rho+1}(z)}{Q_{np(\rho+1)+\rho}(z)} &= z \eta_0^{(\rho)}(z^{\rho+1}), \\ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\Psi_{np(\rho+1)+\rho+1,k}(z)}{\Psi_{np(\rho+1)+\rho,k}(z)} &= z \eta_k^{(\rho)}(z^{\rho+1}), \quad 1 \leq k \leq \rho, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\eta_k^{(\rho)} = \eta^{(\rho)}|_{\mathcal{R}_k}$ .

## Main ideas in the proof

The proof is based on the simultaneous analysis of  $p$  sequences of ratios

$$\left\{ \frac{P_{n+1,k}(z)}{P_{n,k}(z)} \right\}_{n=0}^{\infty} \quad k = 0, \dots, p-1,$$

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By definition,  $P_{n,0} = q_n$  is the monic polynomial in the relation

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For each  $1 \leq k \leq p-1$ , by definition  $P_{n,k}$  is the monic polynomial whose zeros are the zeros in  $\text{int}(\Delta_k)$  of the function  $\psi_{n,k} \in \mathcal{H}(\mathbb{C} \setminus \Delta_{k-1})$  given by the relation

$$\Psi_{n,k}(z) = z^{\ell-k} \psi_{n,k}(z^{p+1}).$$

In a previous work, we proved under the hypothesis **(P)** the existence of the following limits, for each fixed  $0 \leq \rho \leq p(p+1) - 1$  and  $0 \leq k \leq p - 1$ ,

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \frac{P_{\lambda p(\rho+1)+\rho+1,k}(z)}{P_{\lambda p(\rho+1)+\rho,k}(z)} = \tilde{F}_k^{(\rho)}(z), \quad z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \Delta_k,$$

where  $\tilde{F}_k^{(\rho)}$  and  $1/\tilde{F}_k^{(\rho)}$  are analytic in  $\mathbb{C} \setminus \Delta_k$ .



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**Key fact:**  $\psi_{n,k}$  satisfies the following orthogonality conditions with respect to **varying measures**:

If  $k \geq \ell$ , then

$$\int_{\Delta_k} \psi_{n,k}(t) t^l \frac{d\sigma_k^*(t)}{P_{n,k+1}(t)} = 0, \quad l = 0, \dots, \deg(P_{n,k}) - 1,$$

and if  $k < \ell$ , then

$$\int_{\Delta_k} \psi_{n,k}(t) t^l \frac{t d\sigma_k^*(t)}{P_{n,k+1}(t)} = 0, \quad l = 0, \dots, \deg(P_{n,k}) - 1,$$

where  $n \equiv \ell \pmod{p+1}$ ,  $0 \leq \ell \leq p$ .

**Key fact:** Let  $0 \leq \rho \leq p(p+1) - 1$  be fixed, and let  $0 \leq \ell \leq p$  be the remainder in the division of  $\rho$  by  $p+1$ . There exist positive constants  $c_k^{(\rho)}$  so that the collection of functions  $F_k^{(\rho)}(z) = c_k^{(\rho)} \tilde{F}_k^{(\rho)}(z)$ ,  $0 \leq k \leq p-1$  satisfies a system of boundary value equations:

1) If  $0 \leq \ell \leq p-1$ , the system is

$$\frac{|F_k^{(\rho)}(x)|^2}{|F_{k-1}^{(\rho)}(x)||F_{k+1}^{(\rho)}(x)|} = 1, \quad x \in \Delta_k, \quad 0 \leq k \leq p-1, \quad k \neq \ell, \ell+1,$$

$$\frac{|F_k^{(\rho)}(x)|^2 |x|}{|F_{k-1}^{(\rho)}(x)||F_{k+1}^{(\rho)}(x)|} = 1, \quad x \in \Delta_k \setminus \{0\}, \quad k = \ell,$$

$$\frac{|F_k^{(\rho)}(x)|^2}{|x||F_{k-1}^{(\rho)}(x)||F_{k+1}^{(\rho)}(x)|} = 1, \quad x \in \Delta_k \setminus \{0\}, \quad k = \ell+1.$$

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2) For  $\ell = p$ , the system is

$$\frac{|F_0^{(\rho)}(x)|^2}{|x||F_1^{(\rho)}(x)|} = 1, \quad x \in \Delta_0 \setminus \{0\},$$

$$\frac{|F_k^{(\rho)}(x)|^2}{|F_{k-1}^{(\rho)}(x)||F_{k+1}^{(\rho)}(x)|} = 1, \quad x \in \Delta_k, \quad 1 \leq k \leq p-1.$$

In the above equations we use the convention  $F_{-1}^{(\rho)} \equiv F_p^{(\rho)} \equiv 1$ .

We consider the products

$$f_k^{(\rho)} := \prod_{j=0}^{\rho} F_k^{(\rho+j)}.$$

Then

- 1)  $|f_k^{(\rho)}|$  has continuous and non-vanishing boundary values on  $\Delta_k$  and

$$\frac{|f_k^{(\rho)}(x)|^2}{|f_{k-1}^{(\rho)}(x)||f_{k+1}^{(\rho)}(x)|} = 1, \quad \text{for all } x \in \Delta_k, \quad 0 \leq k \leq \rho - 1,$$

so the possible singularities at 0 present in the system of boundary value equations are now eliminated.

- 2) If  $l - 1 \equiv \rho \pmod{\rho}$ ,  $1 \leq l \leq \rho$ , then

$$f_k^{(\rho)}(z) = \begin{cases} c_{k,\rho} z + O(1), & 0 \leq k \leq l - 1, \\ c_{k,\rho} + O(z^{-1}), & l \leq k \leq \rho - 1, \end{cases}$$

where  $c_{k,\rho} > 0$  for all  $0 \leq k \leq \rho - 1$ .

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This implies by a result of Aptekarev-López-Rocha the **fundamental relation**

$$f_k^{(\rho)} = \prod_{j=0}^{\rho} F_k^{(\rho+j)} = \operatorname{sg} \left( \prod_{\nu=k+1}^{\rho} \varphi_{\nu}^{(l)}(\infty) \right) \prod_{\nu=k+1}^{\rho} \varphi_{\nu}^{(l)}.$$

In particular,

$$f_k^{(\rho)} = f_k^{(\rho+\rho)} \quad \text{for any } \rho. \quad (3)$$

In particular,

$$f_k^{(\rho)} = f_k^{(\rho+p)} \quad \text{for any } \rho. \quad (3)$$

Since

$$\tilde{F}_0^{(\rho)}(z) = \begin{cases} 1 - a^{(\rho)}z^{-1} + O(z^{-2}), & \text{if } \rho \not\equiv p \pmod{p+1}, \\ z - a^{(\rho)} + O(z^{-1}), & \text{if } \rho \equiv p \pmod{p+1}, \end{cases}$$

equation (3) for  $k = 0$  immediately gives

$$\sum_{i=\rho}^{\rho+p-1} a^{(i)} = \sum_{i=\rho+p+1}^{\rho+2p} a^{(i)}.$$

We have

$$\tilde{F}_k^{(\rho)}(z) = \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \frac{P_{\lambda\rho(\rho+1)+\rho+1,k}(z)}{P_{\lambda\rho(\rho+1)+\rho,k}(z)} = \begin{cases} \prod_{j=0}^k \tilde{\eta}_j^{(\rho)}(z), & \text{if } 0 \leq k < k(\rho), \\ z \prod_{j=0}^k \tilde{\eta}_j^{(\rho)}(z), & \text{if } k(\rho) \leq k \leq \rho - 1, \end{cases}$$

where

$$\eta_j^{(\rho)}(z) = \frac{1}{1 + a^{(\rho)} \omega_{l(\rho)}^{-1} \varphi_j^{(l(\rho))}(z)},$$

$\tilde{\eta}_j^{(\rho)}$  is the normalization at  $\infty$  of  $\eta_j^{(\rho)}$ , and  $(k(\rho), l(\rho))$  is the pair of integers satisfying

$$k(\rho) - 1 \equiv \rho \pmod{\rho}, \quad 0 \leq k(\rho) \leq \rho, \quad l(\rho) - 1 \equiv \rho \pmod{\rho + 1}, \quad 1 \leq l(\rho) \leq \rho.$$



Proof of

$$\tilde{F}_0^{(\rho)}(z) = \frac{z}{1 + a^{(\rho)} \omega_l^{-1} \varphi_0^{(l(\rho))}(z)}$$

for  $\rho \equiv p \pmod{p+1}$ .

Proof of

$$\tilde{F}_0^{(\rho)}(z) = \frac{z}{1 + a^{(\rho)} \omega_l^{-1} \varphi_0^{(l(\rho))}(z)}$$

for  $\rho \equiv p \pmod{p+1}$ .

The recurrence relation gives

$$a^{(\rho)} = (z - \tilde{F}_0^{(\rho)}(z)) \prod_{i=\rho-p}^{\rho-1} \tilde{F}_0^{(i)}(z)$$

so

$$\tilde{F}_0^{(\rho)}(z) = z - \frac{a^{(\rho)}}{\prod_{i=\rho-p}^{\rho-1} \tilde{F}_0^{(i)}(z)} = z - \frac{a^{(\rho)} \tilde{F}_0^{(\rho)}(z)}{\prod_{i=\rho-p}^{\rho} \tilde{F}_0^{(i)}(z)} = z - \frac{a^{(\rho)} \tilde{F}_0^{(\rho)}(z)}{\tilde{f}_0^{(\rho)}(z)}$$

therefore

$$\tilde{F}_0^{(\rho)}(z) = \frac{z}{1 + \frac{a^{(\rho)}}{\tilde{f}_0^{(\rho)}(z)}} = \frac{z}{1 + a^{(\rho)} \tilde{\varphi}_0^{(l(\rho))}(z)}.$$