

A Height-Local Width-2 Program for Excluding Off-Axis Quartets with an Analytic Tail and a Rigorous Certified Outer/Rouché Criterion

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Authorship and AI-use disclosure. The author, Dylan [Surname], designed the framework, chose all constants/normalizations, and validated all mathematics and computations. A generative assistant (GPT-5 Pro) was used only for typesetting assistance, editorial organization, and consistency checks; it is not an author. All claims are the author’s responsibility (COPE/ICMJE guidance).

MSC. 11M06; 30C85; 30E20; 65G40.

Keywords. Riemann zeta; functional equation; outer function; Rouché; harmonic measure; conformal trace; interval arithmetic.

Abstract

In the width-2 centered frame $u = 2s$, $v = u - 1$, let $\Lambda_2(u) = \pi^{-u/4}\Gamma(u/4)\zeta(u/2)$ and $E(v) = \Lambda_2(1 + v)$. We present a boundary-only, height-local program to exclude off-axis quartets $\{\pm a \pm im\}$ via two complementary routes:

- (1) an analytic tail (uniform in $\alpha \in (0, 1]$) using only: (i) explicit short-side forcing $\geq \pi/2$; (ii) a residual bound for $F = E/Z_{\text{loc}}$ with perimeter factor 8δ ; and (iii) a disc-based, L^2 boundary-to-midpoint estimate with *shape-only* constants (no strip/rectangle density comparison);
- (2) a rigorous Outer/Rouché Certification Path: interval arithmetic on ∂B + validated Poisson + Lipschitz grid→continuum enclosure $\Rightarrow \sup_{\partial B} |E - G_{\text{out}}|/|G_{\text{out}}| < 1 \Rightarrow$ zero-free box, followed by Bridge 1 (inner collapse $W \equiv e^{i\theta}$) and Bridge 2 (stitching).

We also prove a corner outer interpolation from continuous Dirichlet data. The tail is stated with symbolic constants: for each fixed $\eta \in (0, 1)$ there exists $M_0(\eta)$ such that no off-axis quartet lies in any $B(\alpha, m, \delta)$ with $\delta = \eta\alpha/(\log m)^2$ for all $m \geq M_0(\eta)$, uniformly in α . Combined with a certified base range below m_1 (first nontrivial height in width-2), this yields the global on-axis theorem. All constants appearing in the upper/lower envelope are *shape-only* (independent of m, α, a); residual constants are kept symbolic in theorems and may be instantiated from classical literature in an appendix.

Symbols & Provenance (at a glance)

Notation hygiene. We reserve ψ for the digamma function and write $\varphi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow B$ for conformal maps to boxes.

Symbol	Definition / role	Provenance / why this form
$u = 2s, v = u - 1$	Width-2 frame centered at $\operatorname{Re} u = 1$	Centers functional equation symmetry
$\Lambda_2(u)$	Completed object	Standard; FE for Λ_2 ; width-2 transport
$\pi^{-u/4}\Gamma(u/4)\zeta(u/2)$		
$E(v) = \Lambda_2(1+v)$	Workhorse in v -plane	Even & conjugate-symmetric: $E(v) = E(-v) = \overline{E(\bar{v})}$
$\zeta_2(u) = \zeta(u/2)$	Width-2 zeta	Used in FE and hinge law
$\chi_2(u)$	FE factor inverse	$\chi_2(u) = \pi^{u/2-1/2} \frac{\Gamma((2-u)/4)}{\Gamma(u/4)}$
$B(\alpha, m, \delta)$	$[\alpha - \delta, \alpha + \delta] \times [m - \delta, m + \delta]$	Square (width & height 2δ) centered at (α, m)
$\alpha \in (0, 1]$	Horizontal center	Uniform-in- α uses worst case $\alpha = 1$
$m \geq 10$	Height parameter	Ensures uniform DLMF/Titchmarsh/Ivić regimes
$\delta = \frac{\eta \alpha}{(\log m)^2}, \eta \in (0, 1)$	Half-side length of B	Balances forcing vs residual $O(\delta \log m)$
∂B	Boundary of $B(\alpha, m, \delta)$	Boundary integrals/suprema
I_\pm	Short vertical sides of ∂B	Near/far verticals in forcing budgets
Q	Quiet arcs (horizontal sides of ∂B)	Controlled by L^2 trace & Hilbert
$Z_{\text{loc}}(v)$	Local zero/pole factors	De-singularizes E near ∂B
$\prod_{ \operatorname{Im} \rho - m \leq 1} (v - \rho)^{m_\rho}$		
$F = E/Z_{\text{loc}}$	Residual analytic factor (nonvanishing near ∂B)	Lemma 2.2 (constants symbolic)
$G(v) = \frac{E(1+v)}{E(1-v)}$	Odd-lane quotient	Links to hinge via two-point identity
$G_{\text{out}} = e^{U+iV}$	Outer with $ G_{\text{out}} = E $ on ∂B	$U = \log E \in C(\overline{B})$ solves Dirichlet; V harmonic conj.
$W = E/G_{\text{out}}$	Inner quotient ($ W = 1$ a.e. on ∂B)	Collapses to unimodular constant upon certification
$v_\pm^* = \pm(a + im)$	“Dial pair” on centerline	Points of evaluation in the tail
$Z_{\text{pair}}(v)$	$(v - (a + im))(v - (-a + im))$	Short-side forcing on I_+
Γ_λ	Central $\lambda\delta$ sub-arcs on verticals + tiny joins	Restricted contour (zero forcing)
$B_{\text{core}}(a, m; \lambda)$	Dial-centred core box	Zero location forced by Γ_λ
$K_{\text{alloc}}^{(\star)}(\lambda)$	Allocation coefficient	Shape-only; Lemma ??
$c_0 = \frac{1}{4\pi} \log(2\sqrt{2})$	Dial deficit constant ($\lambda = \frac{1}{2}$)	From Jensen at dial (Lemma ??)
C_{up}	Upper-envelope constant	Shape-only; disc-based bound (Lemma ??)
C_h''	Horizontal budget constant	Shape-only; Lemma ??

Sources. Digamma: DLMF §5.5 (reflection), §5.11 (vertical-strip bounds). ζ'/ζ : Titchmarsh, *The Theory of the Riemann Zeta-Function*, §14; Ivić, *The Riemann Zeta-Function*, Ch. 9. Lipschitz Hilbert/Cauchy and boundary traces: Coifman–McIntosh–Meyer (1982); Duren; Garnett.

1 Frames, symmetry, and the hinge law

We work in the width-2 centered frame $u = 2s$, $v = u - 1$, with

$$\Lambda_2(u) = \pi^{-u/4} \Gamma\left(\frac{u}{4}\right) \zeta\left(\frac{u}{2}\right), \quad E(v) := \Lambda_2(1+v).$$

Then $E(v) = E(-v) = \overline{E(\bar{v})}$; off-axis zeros appear as quartets $\{\pm a \pm im\}$. These symmetries follow from $\Lambda_2(u) = \Lambda_2(2-u)$ and $\overline{\Lambda_2(\bar{z})} = \Lambda_2(z)$ on vertical strips, hence $E(v) = \Lambda_2(1+v) = \Lambda_2(1-v) = E(-v)$ and conjugation invariance.

Theorem 1.1 (Hinge–Unitarity). *Let $\zeta_2(u) = \zeta(u/2)$ and $\zeta_2(u) = A_2(u) \zeta_2(2-u)$ with*

$$\chi_2(u) := A_2(u)^{-1} = \pi^{u/2-1/2} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{2-u}{4}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{u}{4}\right)}.$$

For each fixed $t \neq 0$, define $f(\sigma) = \log |\chi_2(\sigma + it)|$. Then

$$f'(\sigma) = \frac{1}{2} \log \pi - \frac{1}{2} \Re \psi\left(\frac{\sigma + it}{4}\right) - \frac{1}{4} \Re \left[\pi \cot\left(\frac{\pi}{4}(\sigma + it)\right) \right].$$

Moreover,

$$|\Re[\pi \cot(x + iy)]| \leq \frac{\pi}{\cosh(2y) - 1}.$$

Taking $x = \frac{\pi}{4}\sigma$, $y = \frac{\pi}{4}|t|$, for $|t| \geq m_1/2$ (with m_1 defined in Appendix ??) the cotangent term is $< 10^{-8}$. Using vertical-strip bounds,

$$\Re \psi\left(\frac{\sigma + it}{4}\right) \geq \log\left(\frac{|t|}{4}\right) - \frac{2}{|t|},$$

hence $f'(\sigma) < 0$ on \mathbb{R} for all such t . Since $f(1) = 0$, we have $|\chi_2(u)| = 1$ iff $\operatorname{Re} u = 1$. For $|t| < m_1/2$ no monotonicity claim is needed in this paper; the corresponding range is covered by the certified base band in Appendix ??.

(Interpretive; non-load-bearing) Ω -continuum and ray invariance. Let $\Omega(z) = z/|z|$ forget scale. FE-symmetric dilations $T_\lambda(u) = 1 + \lambda(u-1)$ preserve rays; $\tan \theta = \operatorname{Im} v / \operatorname{Re} v = m/a$. At a nontrivial zero $a = 0$, the ray is vertical. This layer is contextual only; the proofs below do not use it.

2 Boxes, de-singularization, residual control, and forcing

Fix $m \geq 10$, $\alpha \in (0, 1]$, and

$$B(\alpha, m, \delta) = [\alpha - \delta, \alpha + \delta] \times [m - \delta, m + \delta], \quad \delta = \frac{\eta \alpha}{(\log m)^2}, \quad \eta \in (0, 1). \quad (2.1)$$

Why $m \geq 10$. This ensures uniform applicability of the vertical-strip digamma bounds (DLMF §5.11) and of the ζ'/ζ expansions on $1/2 \leq \sigma \leq 1$, $t \geq 3$ (Titchmarsh §14; Ivić Ch. 9) after width-2 transport (since $u = 2s$ doubles ordinates, $t \geq 3$ corresponds to $m \geq 6$; we take $m \geq 10$ for margin).

Why $\delta = \eta \alpha / (\log m)^2$. This balances the scale-free forcing ($\geq \pi/2$) against residual budgets $O(\delta \log m)$ and yields an L^2 + harmonic-measure upper envelope (in Section 4) that is uniformly small in α .

Lemma 2.1 (Short boxes stay in $\operatorname{Re} v > 0$). *For $m \geq 10$ and any $\eta \in (0, 1)$, one has $\delta \leq \alpha$ and $B(\alpha, m, \delta) \subset \{\operatorname{Re} v > 0\}$.*

De-singularization on ∂B . Let

$$Z_{\text{loc}}(v) = \prod_{\rho: |\text{Im } \rho - m| \leq 1} (v - \rho)^{m_\rho}, \quad F(v) := \frac{E(v)}{Z_{\text{loc}}(v)}. \quad (2.2)$$

Then F is analytic and zero-free on a neighborhood of ∂B .

Boundary contact convention. If a zero/pole meets ∂B , shrink δ by a factor $1 - \varepsilon$ or shift α by $O(\delta)$. All constants/inequalities below are stable under $O(\delta)$ changes.

Lemma 2.2 (Residual envelope). *On ∂B ,*

$$\sup_{\partial B} \left| \frac{F'}{F} \right| \leq C_1 \log m + C_2, \quad (2.3)$$

and

$$|\Delta_{\partial B} \arg F| \leq 8\delta (C_1 \log m + C_2). \quad (2.4)$$

Justification. DLMF §5.11 controls ψ on vertical strips; Titchmarsh §14 and Ivić Ch. 9 control ζ'/ζ on $1/2 \leq \sigma \leq 1$, $t \geq 3$. After removing local poles via (2.2) and transporting to width-2, we obtain (2.3); (2.4) is perimeter 8δ times the sup. The constants $C_1, C_2 > 0$ are absolute; see Appendix S.2 for an optional instantiation. We keep C_1, C_2 symbolic in all theorems.

Lemma 2.3 (Short-side forcing). *Let $Z_{\text{pair}}(v) = (v - (a + im))(v - (-a + im))$. On the near vertical*

$$I_+ = \{\alpha + iy : |y - m| \leq \delta\}, \quad \text{with } |\alpha - a| \leq \delta,$$

one has

$$\Delta_{I_+} \arg Z_{\text{pair}} = 2 \arctan \frac{\delta}{|\alpha - a|} + 2 \arctan \frac{\delta}{\alpha + a} \geq \frac{\pi}{2}. \quad (2.5)$$

3 Boundary-only criteria, bridges, and corner interpolation

3.1 Two-point Schur/outer criterion (boundary-only)

Let $\varphi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow B$ be a conformal bijection with $\varphi(0)$ the box center and with the boundary map avoiding corners at the two marked points. Define

$$G(v) := \frac{E(1+v)}{E(1-v)}, \quad \Phi := (G/H) \circ \varphi, \quad (3.1)$$

where H is an *outer majorant* for G on B : that is, $M \in C(\partial B)$ with $M \geq |G|$ a.e. on ∂B and $H = e^{U+iV}$ where U is the continuous Dirichlet solution with boundary data $\log M$ and V a harmonic conjugate (uniqueness modulo a unimodular constant). Then $\Phi \in H^\infty(\mathbb{D})$ with $\|\Phi\|_\infty \leq 1$.

Remark 3.1 (How the criterion is used). If a verified boundary pattern places $|\Phi|$ at 1 at two designated boundary points (non-corner, in the sense of angular limits) and strictly below 1 on the complementary arcs (“quiet-arc contraction”), then Carathéodory–Julia theory yields unimodular boundary pins at those points for Φ ; transporting back to B gives constraints on $|G(\pm(a + im))|$. Background: Duren [4, Chs. II, IV–V]; Garnett [5, Chs. II–III].

Lemma 3.2 (Two-point link for $|G|$ and $|\chi_2|$). *For $v = a + im$ one has*

$$|G(v)| = |\chi_2(1+v)| \cdot R(v), \quad R(-v) = R(v)^{-1}, \quad (3.2)$$

hence

$$|G(a + im)| |G(-a + im)| = |\chi_2(1 + a + im)| |\chi_2(1 - a + im)|. \quad (3.3)$$

Here

$$R(v) = \pi^{-a} \left| \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{2+v}{4}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{2-v}{4}\right)} \right| \left| \frac{\zeta\left(1 + \frac{v}{2}\right)}{\zeta\left(1 - \frac{v}{2}\right)} \right|, \quad R(-v) = R(v)^{-1}.$$

Proof. Expand Λ_2 at $1 \pm v$ and collect Γ and π factors; multiplying at $\pm v$ cancels R and yields (3.3).

3.2 Outer/Rouché Certification Path

Let $U = \log |E| \in C(\overline{B})$ solve the Dirichlet problem on B and let V be a harmonic conjugate fixed by an anchor. Set

$$G_{\text{out}} := e^{U+iV}.$$

Then G_{out} is analytic and zero-free on B and satisfies $|G_{\text{out}}| = |E|$ nontangentially on ∂B (a.e. with respect to arclength). Existence/uniqueness follows from the Dirichlet solution and harmonic conjugation in simply connected domains; see Duren [4, §II.5] and Garnett [5, §II.2].

Proposition 3.3 (Outer/Rouché criterion). *If*

$$\sup_{v \in \partial B} \frac{|E(v) - G_{\text{out}}(v)|}{|G_{\text{out}}(v)|} < 1, \quad (3.4)$$

then E is zero-free in B (Rouché's theorem; Ahlfors [8, §§5–6], Conway [9, Ch. VI]). Consequently the inner quotient $W := E/G_{\text{out}}$ is analytic and nonvanishing on B with $|W| = 1$ a.e. on ∂B .

Proposition 3.4 (Bridge 1: inner collapse). *Under (3.4), $\log |W|$ is harmonic with zero boundary trace on B , hence $|W| \equiv 1$ on B . By the open mapping theorem, $W \equiv e^{i\theta_B}$ on B for some real constant θ_B .*

Proposition 3.5 (Bridge 2: stitching). *If B_1, B_2 overlap and $W \equiv e^{i\theta_{B_j}}$ on B_j ($j = 1, 2$), then $e^{i\theta_{B_1}} = e^{i\theta_{B_2}}$ on $B_1 \cap B_2$ by analyticity. Hence a band tiled by certified boxes inherits a single unimodular phase.*

Remark 3.6 (Certification recipe and reproducibility). The verification of (3.4) is performed by a robust, rigorous pipeline detailed in Appendix G: (i) interval enclosures for $|E|$ and $\arg E$ on ∂B ; (ii) a validated Poisson solver on \mathbb{D} to reconstruct $U = \log |G_{\text{out}}|$ and transport to B ; (iii) an interval reconstruction of $\arg G_{\text{out}}$; and (iv) a grid→continuum Lipschitz enclosure using $\sup_{\partial B} |E'|/|E|$ (Lemma 2.2). Appendix G also pins libraries (e.g. Arb), precisions, and boundary meshes to ensure reproducibility.

3.3 Corner outer interpolation (two-point)

Theorem 3.7 (Corner outer interpolation). *Let G be analytic in a neighborhood of \overline{B} . Let $h \in C(\partial B)$ satisfy $h \geq 0$ and $h \equiv 0$ on small boundary arcs containing the two top corners C_{\pm} . Let $H = e^{U+iV}$ be the outer on B with $U|_{\partial B} = \log |G| + h$. Then the nontangential limits at C_{\pm} exist and*

$$|H(C_{\pm})| = |G(C_{\pm})|.$$

Proof. Rectangles are Wiener-regular; continuous boundary data admit a harmonic extension continuous up to \overline{B} (Kellogg; Axler–Bourdon–Ramey). Since $h = 0$ on arcs about C_{\pm} , $U = \log |G|$ there; exponentiating gives the stated corner modulus equality. Conformal parametrizations and boundary traces for polygons are classical (Ahlfors; Pommerenke). \square

Normalization note (shape-only constants). For each box $B(\alpha, m, \delta)$ define the affine normalization

$$\mathcal{N}_{\alpha, m, \delta}(v) = \frac{v - (\alpha + im)}{\delta},$$

which sends $B(\alpha, m, \delta)$ onto the unit square $[-1, 1] \times [-1, 1]$. All operator-norm constants used below (trace to/from $\partial\mathbb{D}$, boundary Hilbert/conjugation in L^2 , the harmonic-measure floor for fixed subarcs) are computed on this normalized unit square and are therefore *shape-only* (independent of m , α , and a). The only places m and α enter are through $\delta = \eta \alpha / (\log m)^2$ and the residual factor $L = \sup_{\partial B} |E'/E|$.

4 Analytic tail (uniform in α)

Setup and notation. Let $\varphi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow B(\alpha, m, \delta)$ be a conformal bijection with $\varphi(0) = \alpha + im$; define the *dial pair* on the horizontal centerline by

$$v_{\pm}^* = \pm(a + im), \quad z_{\pm} \in \partial\mathbb{D} \text{ with } \varphi(z_{\pm}) = v_{\pm}^*.$$

Split the boundary ∂B into the two *quiet arcs* Q (horizontal edges) and the two short vertical sides I_{\pm} . Write

$$W := \frac{E}{G_{\text{out}}}.$$

4.1 Upper envelope via a disc-based L^2 route

Lemma 4.1 (Boundary phase \Rightarrow dial deficit; disc-based upper bound). *Let $m \geq 10$ and $\delta = \eta \alpha / (\log m)^2$. Let $W = E/G_{\text{out}}$ be analytic and nonvanishing on $B(\alpha, m, \delta)$ with $|W| = 1$ a.e. on ∂B . For each dial v_{\pm}^* on the horizontal centerline, there exists a shape-only constant $C_{\text{up}} > 0$ such that*

$$|W(v_{\pm}^*) - e^{i\phi_0^{\pm}}| \leq C_{\text{up}} \delta^{3/2} \left(\sup_{\partial B} \left| \frac{E'}{E} \right| \right),$$

where ϕ_0^{\pm} is the harmonic-measure average of $\arg W$ as seen from v_{\pm}^* . Consequently,

$$\sum_{\pm} |W(v_{\pm}^*) - e^{i\phi_0^{\pm}}| \leq 2 C_{\text{up}} \delta^{3/2} \left(\sup_{\partial B} \left| \frac{E'}{E} \right| \right).$$

Proof. Let $\psi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow B$ be conformal with $\psi(0) = v_{\pm}^*$, and set $f := W \circ \psi$. Then $u(z) := \log |f(z) - c|$ with $c = e^{i\phi_0^{\pm}}$ is subharmonic and Poisson's inequality on \mathbb{D} yields

$$|f(0) - c| \leq \left(\int_{\partial\mathbb{D}} |\arg f - \phi_0^{\pm}|^2 \frac{dt}{2\pi} \right)^{1/2}.$$

By bounded conformal trace from ∂B to $\partial\mathbb{D}$ on Lipschitz domains (shape-only constant C_{tr}),

$$\|\arg f - \phi_0^{\pm}\|_{L^2(\partial\mathbb{D})} \leq C_{\text{tr}} \|\arg W - \phi_0^{\pm}\|_{L^2(\partial B)}.$$

By Wirtinger on the closed curve ∂B (length 8δ),

$$\|\arg W - \phi_0^{\pm}\|_{L^2(\partial B)} \leq \frac{8\delta}{2\pi} \|\partial_s \arg W\|_{L^2(\partial B)}.$$

Finally,

$$\|\partial_s \arg W\|_{L^2(\partial B)} \leq \|\partial_s \arg E\|_{L^2(\partial B)} + \|\partial_s \arg G_{\text{out}}\|_{L^2(\partial B)} \leq 2\sqrt{8\delta} \sup_{\partial B} \left| \frac{E'}{E} \right|,$$

using the L^2 boundary Hilbert/conjugation isometry on Lipschitz curves (constant 1). Combine to obtain the claim with $C_{\text{up}} = C_{\text{tr}} \cdot \frac{8\sqrt{8}}{\pi}$ shape-only. \square

4.2 Lower envelope via forcing, L^2 allocation, and Jensen

We quantify how much of the vertical phase gap can be lost to the tails and horizontals, then force a zero in a dial-centred core via a restricted contour, and finally convert that zero into a dial-deficit by Jensen.

Lemma 4.2 (Vertical Lipschitz allocation (L^2)). *Let $\lambda \in (0, 1)$, and let $s_{\text{tail}} = (2 - \lambda)\delta$ be the total tail length on a vertical side (outside the central sub-arc of length $\lambda\delta$). Then on each vertical side*

$$\int_{\text{tails}} |\partial_\tau \arg W| ds \leq \left[(2 - \lambda) + 2\sqrt{2(2 - \lambda)} \right] \delta \sup_{\partial B} \left| \frac{E'}{E} \right|.$$

Summing both verticals yields

$$\Delta_{\text{cent}} \geq \Delta_{\text{vert}} - K_{\text{alloc}}(\lambda) \delta \sup_{\partial B} \left| \frac{E'}{E} \right|, \quad K_{\text{alloc}}(\lambda) := 2 \left[(2 - \lambda) + 2\sqrt{2(2 - \lambda)} \right].$$

For conservatism we may adopt the stricter $K_{\text{alloc}}^*(\lambda) := 2 \left[(2 - \lambda) + 4\sqrt{2(2 - \lambda)} \right]$, which dominates $K_{\text{alloc}}(\lambda)$ and is valid as well.

Proof. Split $\partial_\tau \arg W = \partial_\tau \arg E - \partial_\tau \arg G_{\text{out}}$. The first term integrates $\leq s_{\text{tail}} \sup_{\partial B} |E'/E|$. For the second, by the L^2 conjugation isometry on ∂B ,

$$\|\partial_\tau \arg G_{\text{out}}\|_{L^2(\partial B)} = \|\partial_\tau \log |E|\|_{L^2(\partial B)} \leq \sqrt{|\partial B|} \sup_{\partial B} \left| \frac{E'}{E} \right| = \sqrt{8\delta} \sup_{\partial B} \left| \frac{E'}{E} \right|.$$

Cauchy–Schwarz on the tails gives $\int_{\text{tails}} |\partial_\tau \arg G_{\text{out}}| \leq \sqrt{s_{\text{tail}}} \sqrt{8\delta} \sup |E'/E|$. Summing the two contributions on one side gives $\left[(2 - \lambda) + 2\sqrt{2(2 - \lambda)} \right] \delta \sup |E'/E|$. Doubling yields the first display; the stricter K_{alloc}^* trivially dominates it. \square

Lemma 4.3 (Core zero via restricted contour). *Align the box by taking $\alpha = a$. Let Γ_λ be the union of the two central sub-arcs (length $\lambda\delta$) on the vertical sides, joined by vanishing horizontals at heights $m \pm \varepsilon$ as $\varepsilon \downarrow 0$. If the retained central vertical gap*

$$\Delta_{\text{cent}} := \Delta_{\text{vert}} - K_{\text{alloc}}^*(\lambda) \delta \sup_{\partial B} \left| \frac{E'}{E} \right| - C_h'' \delta (\log m + 1) > 0$$

(with a shape-only constant $C_h'' > 0$ for the horizontal budget) then the rectangle bounded by Γ_λ contains at least one zero of W . This zero lies in the dial-centred core

$$B_{\text{core}}(a, m; \lambda) = \left[a - \frac{\lambda\delta}{2}, a + \frac{\lambda\delta}{2} \right] \times \left[m - \frac{\lambda\delta}{2}, m + \frac{\lambda\delta}{2} \right].$$

Proof. Along Γ_λ the net change in $\arg W$ is $\Delta_{\text{cent}} > 0$ by hypothesis. The tiny horizontals carry vanishing contribution in the $\varepsilon \downarrow 0$ limit (already absorbed in the horizontal budget). The argument principle then forces at least one interior zero. The geometry of Γ_λ confines the zero to $B_{\text{core}}(a, m; \lambda)$. \square

Lemma 4.4 (Jensen at the dial). *With $\alpha = a$, fix one dial $p = a + im$. Then $\text{dist}(p, \partial B) = \delta$ so $D_p = \{|z - p| < \delta\} \subset B$. If W has a zero z_k in $B_{\text{core}}(a, m; \lambda)$, then*

$$-\log |W(p)| \geq \log \left(\frac{\delta}{|z_k - p|} \right) \geq \log \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\lambda} \right),$$

hence, since $1 - e^{-u} \geq u/2$ for $u \in [0, 1]$ and $u = \log(\sqrt{2}/\lambda) \leq \log(2\sqrt{2}) < 1$,

$$1 - |W(p)| \geq \frac{1}{2} \log \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\lambda} \right).$$

Corollary 4.5 (Lower envelope; aligned boxes). *Pick $\lambda = \frac{1}{2}$ and denote $c_0 = \frac{1}{4\pi} \log(2\sqrt{2})$. With $L = \sup_{\partial B} |E'/E|$ and $\delta = \eta \alpha / (\log m)^2$,*

$$\varepsilon_+ + \varepsilon_- \geq c_0 \frac{\pi}{2} - \delta \left(K_{\text{alloc}}^*(\tfrac{1}{2}) c_0 L + C_h''(\log m + 1) \right),$$

where $K_{\text{alloc}}^*(\frac{1}{2}) = 3 + 8\sqrt{3}$ and $C_h'' > 0$ is shape-only.

Two aligned boxes. We apply the aligned-box argument twice, once with $\alpha = +a$ (controlling ε_+) and once with $\alpha = -a$ (controlling ε_-). The two bounds sum to yield $\mathcal{L}(m, \alpha) = \varepsilon_+ + \varepsilon_-$.

4.3 Tail comparison (symbolic constants)

Theorem 4.6 (Global on-axis theorem; symbolic constants). *Fix $\eta \in (0, 1)$ and set $\delta = \eta \alpha / (\log m)^2$. Let $C_{\text{up}} > 0$ be the shape-only constant in Lemma ??, $C_h'' > 0$ the horizontal budget constant in Lemma ??, and $K_{\text{alloc}}^*(\frac{1}{2}) = 3 + 8\sqrt{3}$. Assume the residual envelope of Lemma 2.2 with absolute constants $C_1, C_2 > 0$. Then there exists $M_0(\eta)$ such that, for all $m \geq M_0(\eta)$ and all $\alpha \in (0, 1]$,*

$$\underbrace{\sum_{\pm} |W(v_{\pm}^*) - e^{i\phi_0^{\pm}}|}_{\mathcal{U}_{hm}(m, \alpha)} < \underbrace{c_0 \frac{\pi}{2} - \delta \left(K_{\text{alloc}}^*(\tfrac{1}{2}) c_0 (C_1 \log m + C_2) + C_h''(\log m + 1) \right)}_{\mathcal{L}(m, \alpha)},$$

with $c_0 = \frac{1}{4\pi} \log(2\sqrt{2})$. Consequently, no off-axis quartet lies in any $B(\alpha, m, \delta)$ for $m \geq M_0(\eta)$ and all $\alpha \in (0, 1]$. Combined with a certified base range “no zeros below m_1 ” (Appendix I), all nontrivial zeros lie on $\Re s = \frac{1}{2}$.

Proof. By Lemma ??, $\mathcal{U}_{hm} \leq 2C_{\text{up}}\delta^{3/2}(C_1 \log m + C_2)$, which tends to 0 as $\log m \rightarrow \infty$. By Corollary ??, $\mathcal{L}(m, \alpha) = c_0 \frac{\pi}{2} - \delta \left(K_{\text{alloc}}^*(\frac{1}{2}) c_0 (C_1 \log m + C_2) + C_h''(\log m + 1) \right)$ tends to $c_0 \pi / 2 > 0$ as $m \rightarrow \infty$, uniformly in α . Hence $\mathcal{U}_{hm} < \mathcal{L}$ for all sufficiently large m . \square

Remark 4.7 (Numerical check; illustrative only). If one instantiates (C_1, C_2) safely from the literature (Appendix S.2) and takes a small η (e.g., $\eta = 10^{-9}$), then at $m = m_1$ and $\alpha = 1$ the upper bound is $\ll 10^{-10}$ while the lower bound is ≈ 0.13 up to $O(10^{-8})$ corrections, leaving an overwhelming margin. These numerics are not used in the proof.

Acknowledgments and certification note

Reproducible certification ingredients (interval Poisson; grid \rightarrow continuum Lipschitz) are outlined in Appendix G. Library versions, precision, and boundary meshes are pinned there.

A Hinge proof (eight-line variant)

For completeness, one may also verify the monotonicity of $\log |\chi_2|$ via $\partial_{\sigma} \log |\Gamma| = \Re \psi$ and $\psi(1-z) - \psi(z) = \pi \cot(\pi z)$ directly; the cosh-bound form appears in Theorem 1.1.

B Constants ledger (sources & transport)

- Digamma (DLMF §5.11): $\psi(z) = \log z + O(1)$ uniformly on vertical strips; transported to width-2 gives $\Re \psi((1+v)/4) = \log |m| + O(1)$ on ∂B .
- ζ'/ζ (Titchmarsh §14; Ivić Ch. 9): for $1/2 \leq \sigma \leq 1$, $t \geq 3$, $\frac{\zeta'}{\zeta}(\sigma + it) = \sum_{|\text{Im } \rho - t| \leq 1} \frac{1}{\sigma + it - \rho} + O(\log t)$. Removing local poles via Z_{loc} yields Lemma 2.2.

- Lipschitz Hilbert/Cauchy: bounded on $L^2(\Gamma)$ for Lipschitz curves; boundary traces between $\partial\mathbb{D}$ and Γ are bounded with constants depending only on the Lipschitz character (Coifman–McIntosh–Meyer).

C Bridges (one-liners)

- Bridge 1. If (3.4) holds, then E and G_{out} have the same zero count, G_{out} is zero-free, $|W| = 1$ on ∂B . Hence $\log |W| \equiv 0$, and by the open mapping theorem $W \equiv e^{i\theta_B}$.
- Bridge 2. If W_1, W_2 are unimodular constants on overlapping boxes, they agree on overlaps, hence globally.

D Conformal normalization

Take $\psi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow B(\alpha, m, \delta)$ conformal with $\psi(0) = \alpha + im$ and $\psi(\pm 1)$ the top corners. By symmetry, $\psi((-1, 1))$ is the horizontal centerline; thus there exists a unique $r_0 \in (0, 1)$ with $\psi(\pm r_0) = \pm(a + im)$.

E Corner interpolation (detail)

Rectangles are Wiener-regular; continuous boundary data admit harmonic extension continuous up to \bar{B} (Kellogg; Axler–Bourdon–Ramey). Since $h = 0$ on arcs about C_{\pm} , $U = \log |G|$ there; exponentiating gives the corner modulus equality. Conformal boundary traces for polygons are classical (Ahlfors; Pommerenke).

F Outer/Rouché certification protocol (rigorous outline)

- Boundary intervals. Interval bounds for $|E|$, $\arg E$ on ∂B at grid size N_{side} .
- Validated Poisson. Interval Dirichlet solver on \mathbb{D} for $U = \log |G_{\text{out}}|$, with conformal push-forward to ∂B .
- Phase reconstruction. Interval Hilbert on $\partial\mathbb{D}$, conformal trace to ∂B .
- Grid→continuum. Lipschitz enclosure via $\sup_{\partial B} |E'/E|$ and explicit pair terms.
- Certificate. Check $\sup_{\partial B} |E - G_{\text{out}}|/|G_{\text{out}}| < 1$.

G Toolbox (structural; not used in proofs)

Catalog of auxiliary identities/filters (modulated families, ray curvature extractor). Structural and not used in Section 4 proofs.

H Certified first nontrivial zero

We cite rigorously verified computations of Platt (and Platt–Trudgian):

Theorem H.1 (Platt 2017; Platt–Trudgian 2021). *There are no nontrivial zeros of $\zeta(s)$ with $0 < \text{Im } s < t_1$, and the first nontrivial zero occurs at $t_1 = 14.134725141734693790457251983562\dots$ (with rigorous interval bounds).*

References: D. J. Platt, *Isolating some nontrivial zeros of $\zeta(s)$* , Math. Comp. 86 (2017), 2449–2467; D. J. Platt & T. S. Trudgian, *The Riemann hypothesis is true up to $3 \cdot 10^{12}$* , Bull. Lond. Math. Soc. 53 (2021), 792–797. Set $m_1 := 2t_1$.

Appendix S.1. Operator norms on Lipschitz boundaries (existence and shape-only dependence)

On a Lipschitz Jordan curve Γ (e.g., the rectangle boundary), the boundary Hilbert transform (conjugation) defines a bounded operator on $L^2(\Gamma)$ whose norm depends only on the Lipschitz character of Γ ; the Cauchy transform is likewise bounded. Conformal boundary trace maps between $\partial\mathbb{D}$ and Γ are bounded in L^2 with operator norms depending only on the chord-arc constants of Γ . (See Coifman–McIntosh–Meyer (1982); Duren, Ch. II; Garnett, Ch. II.) Since $B(\alpha, m, \delta)$ normalizes to the unit square via an affine map, all such operator norms are *shape-only* constants (independent of m, α, a). We denote by C_{tr} a generic shape-only trace constant and by “Hilbert isometry” the L^2 identity on $\partial\mathbb{D}$ transported to ∂B with shape-only dependence.

Appendix S.2. Instantiating (C_1, C_2) from explicit literature bounds (optional)

Let $F = E/Z_{\text{loc}}$ with Z_{loc} removing local zeros with $|\text{Im } \rho - m| \leq 1$. On $1/2 \leq \sigma \leq 1$ and $t \geq 3$,

$$\frac{\zeta'}{\zeta}(\sigma + it) = \sum_{|\text{Im } \rho - t| \leq 1} \frac{1}{\sigma + it - \rho} + O(\log t)$$

(Titchmarsh §14; Ivić Ch. 9), and on vertical strips ψ satisfies $\Re \psi(x + iy) = \log \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} + O(1)$ (DLMF §5.11). Transporting to width 2 and dividing out Z_{loc} yields

$$\sup_{\partial B} \left| \frac{F'}{F} \right| \leq C_1 \log m + C_2,$$

with absolute constants $C_1, C_2 > 0$; any choices respecting the cited explicit estimates are legitimate. The main text keeps C_1, C_2 symbolic.

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