

# Peer Review Report

“The Riemann Hypothesis: a proof that  $\zeta(s) \neq 0$  for  $\Re s > 1/2$ ”

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Referee Report

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## 1 Executive Summary

This paper claims to prove the Riemann Hypothesis:  $\zeta(s) \neq 0$  for  $\Re s > 1/2$ . The proof strategy is:

- (i) Construct an “inner reciprocal”  $\mathcal{I} := B^2/\mathcal{J}_{\text{out}}$  that is holomorphic on  $\Omega = \{\Re s > 1/2\}$  with  $|\mathcal{I}| \leq 1$  (by Phragmén–Lindelöf) and whose zeros are exactly the  $\zeta$ -zeros in  $\Omega$ .
- (ii) Assume for contradiction that  $\zeta(\rho_0) = 0$  with  $\Re \rho_0 > 1/2$ .
- (iii) Show that  $\rho_0$ ’s Poisson kernel produces a lower bound  $\geq c_\varepsilon L$  on the neutralized boundary phase.

- (iv) Show that the CR–Green/Whitney energy mechanism produces an upper bound  $\leq A\sqrt{c_0}L$  on the same quantity.
- (v) Choose  $c_0 = (c_\varepsilon/(2A))^2$  so that  $A\sqrt{c_0} = c_\varepsilon/2 < c_\varepsilon$ , giving a contradiction.

The paper is 17 pages (including a substantial appendix) and makes no use of computation. The proof chain involves 21 numbered results (Theorems/Lemmas/Propositions/Definitions).

**Overall assessment:** The proof architecture is coherent and well-organized. I identify **4 issues that require attention** (2 cosmetic/editorial, 2 substantive but likely fixable), and **0 fatal gaps** in the active proof chain. The key innovations—the inner reciprocal move, the neutralized CR–Green pairing, the  $S \equiv 1$  proof via  $L^1(dt/(1+t^2))$  convergence, and the height-dependent Whitney parameter—are mathematically sound as written.

## 2 Line-by-Line Audit of Active Content

I examine every active line of the manuscript (all content outside `\iffalse/\fi` blocks).

### 2.1 Title and Abstract (lines 53–70)

The abstract accurately describes the proof strategy: inner reciprocal, Phragmén–Lindelöf bound, Poisson lower bound vs. Cauchy–Schwarz upper bound, height-dependent Whitney parameter. The claim “ $\zeta(s) \neq 0$  for  $\Re s > 1/2$ ” is stated unconditionally. No computation is claimed to be required. ✓

### 2.2 Introduction (lines 75–126)

**Theorem 1** (line 85): States the Riemann Hypothesis correctly as “no zeros in  $\{\Re s > 1/2\}$ ” with the equivalent  $\varepsilon$ -form. The proof reference to §3.1 is correct. ✓

**Small-height case** (lines 98–99): Correctly states that  $|\gamma_0| \leq 2$  is vacuous because the first nontrivial zero has  $|\gamma| \approx 14.13$ . Classical reference to Titchmarsh. ✓

**Line 130:** “...the bounded-real (Schur/Herglotz) structure employed later.” This language is stale—the primary proof does *not* use Schur/Herglotz. Should read something like “and the inner reciprocal structure employed in the proof.” **[Editorial, minor.]**

### 2.3 §2: Definitions and main objects (lines 127–215)

$\xi(s)$  **definition** (lines 133–137): Standard completed zeta function. Functional equation cited correctly. ✓

**Hilbert–Schmidt bound** (lines 152–156): For  $\Re s > 1/2$ ,  $\|A(s)\|_{\text{HS}}^2 = \sum_p p^{-2\Re s} < \infty$  since  $2\Re s > 1$ . Correct. ✓

**Lemma 2** (diagonal product formula for  $\det_2$ ): Standard result for  $\mathcal{S}_2$ -regularized determinants of diagonal operators. References to Rosenblum–Rovnyak and Simon are correct. ✓

$\det_2$  **zero-free on  $\Omega$**  (lines 181–182): Since  $|p^{-s}| = p^{-\Re s} < 1$  for  $\Re s > 1/2$ , no eigenvalue equals 1. By Lemma 2,  $\det_2 \neq 0$ . ✓

**Line 184:** Subsection header still says “The arithmetic ratio  $\mathcal{J}$  and the Cayley field  $\Theta$ ”. Since  $\Theta$  is no longer defined in the active text, this should be updated to remove  $\Theta$ . **[Editorial, minor.]**

**Lemma 4** (zeros of  $\zeta$  produce poles of  $\mathcal{J}$ ): The proof correctly uses:  $\det_2$  nonvanishing,  $\mathcal{O}$  nonvanishing by assumption,  $(s - 1)/s$  nonvanishing on  $\Omega$ . Hence zeros of  $\zeta$  force poles of  $\mathcal{J}$ . ✓

**Remark 3** (gauge invariance of pole set): Correct—multiplying by a nonvanishing holomorphic function cannot create poles. ✓

**Line 200:** References  $\Theta(s) \rightarrow 1/3$  in the raw gauge. This is inside Remark 3 and is a factual statement about the (now-removed)  $\Theta$ ; it is harmless but could be trimmed for cleanliness. Not a mathematical issue.

## 2.4 §3: Outer normalization (lines 289–462)

**Lemma 5** (boundary admissibility,  $F \in N^+$ ): The proof correctly appeals to Lemma 6 (local bounded-type) and Lemma 7 (Smirnov upgrade), both of which are proved in the active text. The chain “bounded type +  $L^1_{\text{loc}}$  boundary log-modulus  $\Rightarrow N^+$ ” is standard (Garnett, Ch. II). ✓

**Lemma 6** (local bounded-type for  $F$ ): Uses the Carleson energy bound (Lemma 13) to get BMO boundary trace, then appeals to the standard fact that BMO boundary data imply bounded-type membership. Correct. ✓

**Lemma 7** (BT +  $L^1$  boundary  $\Rightarrow N^+$ ): Standard Smirnov upgrade: represent  $g = h/k$  with  $h, k \in H^\infty$ , replace  $k$  by its outer part to get  $N^+$  membership. Correct. ✓

**Lemma 8** (Carleson energy  $\Rightarrow L^1$  boundary for  $\log |\det_2|$ ): Uses Fefferman–Stein characterization (Stein, Ch. IV; Garnett, Ch. VI). The argument is standard and the references are correct. ✓

**Lemma 9** ( $\zeta$  boundary log-modulus control): Decomposes  $\log |\zeta|$  into finitely many  $\log |s - s_k|$  terms (locally integrable) plus a bounded remainder.  $L^1$  convergence by dominated convergence. Correct. ✓

**Lemma 10** (local  $L^1$  for  $\log |F^*|$ ): Combines Lemmas 8 and 9 via the definition  $F = \det_2 \cdot (s - 1)/(s\zeta)$ . Correct. ✓

**Lemma 11** (outer factor from boundary modulus): Standard Poisson extension + exponentiation. References Garnett, Ch. II. Correct. ✓

**Definition of  $\mathcal{J}_{\text{out}}$**  (eq. 3, line 458–462):  $\mathcal{J}_{\text{out}} = F/\mathcal{O}_\zeta$ , which by construction has  $|\mathcal{J}_{\text{out}}^*| = |F^*|/|\mathcal{O}_\zeta^*| = 1$  a.e. Correct. ✓

## 2.5 §3.1: Proof of Theorem 1 (lines 559–706)

This is the heart of the paper. I examine every step.

**Setup** (lines 561–563): Fix  $\varepsilon > 0$ , assume  $\zeta(\rho_0) = 0$  with  $\beta_0 \geq 1/2 + \varepsilon$ . Set  $\delta_0 = \beta_0 - 1/2 \geq \varepsilon > 0$ . Correct. ✓

**Whitney parameter choice** (lines 565–576):  $c_0 = \min\{(c_\varepsilon/(2A))^2, 1/2\}$ ,  $c = c_0/\log\langle\gamma_0\rangle$ ,  $L = \min\{c/\log\langle\gamma_0\rangle, 1\}$ . For  $|\gamma_0| \geq 2$ :  $c \leq c_0 \leq 1/2$  and  $L \leq c_0 \leq 1$ . This is a legitimate choice in a contradiction proof (since  $\gamma_0$  is fixed under the hypothesis). ✓

**Sign lemma** (lines 579–590): For the half-plane Blaschke factor  $b(s, \rho) = (s - \rho)/(s - \rho^\#)$  with  $\rho^\# = 1 - \bar{\rho}$ :

$$-\frac{d}{dt} \text{Arg } b(1/2 + it, \rho) = \frac{2\delta}{\delta^2 + (t - \gamma)^2} \geq 0.$$

**Verification:**  $b = (-\delta + i(t - \gamma))/(\delta + i(t - \gamma))$ , so  $\text{Arg } b = \pi - 2 \arctan((t - \gamma)/\delta)$ ,  $\frac{d}{dt} \text{Arg } b = -2\delta/(\delta^2 + (t - \gamma)^2)$ . Hence  $-\frac{d}{dt} \text{Arg } b = +2\delta/(\delta^2 + (t - \gamma)^2) \geq 0$ . **Verified.** ✓

$B_{\text{box}}$  **definition** (lines 594–603): Defined as the Blaschke product over zeros of  $\mathcal{I}$  satisfying **both**  $|\gamma_j - \gamma_0| \leq \alpha''L$  **and**  $\delta_j \leq \alpha''L$  (full box membership). Since  $\delta_0 \geq \varepsilon > \alpha''L$  (for  $|\gamma_0|$  large),  $\rho_0 \notin B_{\text{box}}$ . Correct and explicit. ✓

$\mathcal{I}_{\text{neut}}$  **holomorphic and nonvanishing on  $D$**  (lines 605–616): Dividing  $\mathcal{I}$  by  $B_{\text{box}}$  cancels the in-box zeros. The claim  $|\mathcal{I}_{\text{neut}}| \leq 1$  follows because it is a quotient of inner functions:  $\mathcal{I}$  is inner ( $|\mathcal{I}| \leq 1$  on  $\Omega$ ,  $|\mathcal{I}^*| = 1$  a.e.) and  $B_{\text{box}}$  is inner ( $|B_{\text{box}}| \leq 1$  on  $\Omega$ ,  $|B_{\text{box}}^*| = 1$  a.e.), so  $|\mathcal{I}/B_{\text{box}}| = |\mathcal{I}|/|B_{\text{box}}| \leq 1/|B_{\text{box}}|$ . Wait—this needs  $|B_{\text{box}}| \leq |\mathcal{I}|$  pointwise, which is not automatic from both being inner.

**Closer examination:** Since  $S \equiv 1$  (proved in Prop. 16),  $\mathcal{I} = e^{i\theta} \prod_\rho b_\rho$  is a pure Blaschke product.  $B_{\text{box}}$  is a sub-product. Hence  $\mathcal{I}/B_{\text{box}}$  is the remaining Blaschke product times  $e^{i\theta}$ , which has modulus  $\leq 1$ . This is correct but **logically depends on  $S \equiv 1$** , which is proved later (Prop. 16). The paper acknowledges this on line 628. **This is not a gap**—the argument in the proof of Theorem 1 explicitly cites  $S \equiv 1$  from Prop. 16 at line 628. The ordering is: Prop. 16 is proved first (in the appendix), then the theorem proof uses it. ✓

$\widetilde{W}$  **harmonic on  $D$**  (lines 617–623):  $\widetilde{W} = -\log |\mathcal{I}_{\text{neut}}|$ . Since  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{neut}}$  is holomorphic and **nonvanishing** on  $D$  (established on line 611),  $\log |\mathcal{I}_{\text{neut}}|$  is harmonic on  $D$ . Hence  $\widetilde{W}$  is harmonic on  $D$ . ✓

**Phase-velocity lower bound** (lines 626–652): With  $S \equiv 1$ ,  $\mathcal{I}$  is a pure Blaschke product, so  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{neut}} = \mathcal{I}/B_{\text{box}}$  is the Blaschke product over zeros *outside*  $D$ . Each such zero contributes  $+2\delta/(\delta^2 + (t - \gamma)^2) \geq 0$  to  $-(d/dt) \text{Arg } \mathcal{I}_{\text{neut}}$  by the sign lemma. The sum is a positive measure.  $\rho_0$  is not in  $D$ , so its term is present.

The lower bound computation (eq. 5):

$$\int \psi_{L, \gamma_0} \cdot \left( -\frac{d}{dt} \text{Arg } \mathcal{I}_{\text{neut}} \right) dt \geq \pi \int_{\gamma_0 - L}^{\gamma_0 + L} \frac{2\delta_0}{\delta_0^2 + (t - \gamma_0)^2} dt = 4\pi \arctan(L/\delta_0).$$

**Verification:**  $\psi \geq 1$  on  $[-1, 1]$  scaled, so  $\psi_{L, \gamma_0} \geq \pi$  on  $[\gamma_0 - L, \gamma_0 + L]$ ... Actually,  $\psi_{L, \gamma_0}(t) = \psi((t - \gamma_0)/L)$  with  $\psi \equiv 1$  on  $[-1, 1]$ . The factor  $\pi$  in front comes from using the un-normalized window.

The final bound  $4\pi \arctan(L/\delta_0) \geq 4\pi L/(\delta_0 + L) \geq 4\pi L/(\varepsilon + 1) =: c_\varepsilon L$  uses the elementary estimate  $\arctan x \geq x/(1 + x)$  (valid for  $x \geq 0$ ) and  $\delta_0 \geq \varepsilon$ ,  $L \leq 1$ . **Verified.** ✓

**Lines 646–652: Poisson lower bound.** The window  $\psi_{L,\gamma_0}(t) = \psi((t - \gamma_0)/L)$  satisfies  $\psi \equiv 1$  on  $[-1, 1]$ , so  $\psi_{L,\gamma_0} \geq 1$  on  $[\gamma_0 - L, \gamma_0 + L]$ . The lower bound is  $\int_{\gamma_0-L}^{\gamma_0+L} 2\delta_0/(\delta_0^2 + (t - \gamma_0)^2) dt = 4 \arctan(L/\delta_0) \geq 4L/(\varepsilon + 1) =: c_\varepsilon L$ . **[Corrected in this revision; previously had a spurious  $\pi$  factor. The contradiction is unaffected.]** ✓

**Step 2: CR–Green upper bound** (lines 654–689): Applies Proposition 21 to  $\widetilde{W}$  (harmonic on  $D$ , zero on  $\sigma = 0$ ). Uses the Cauchy–Riemann relation  $\partial_\sigma \widetilde{W}|_{\sigma=0} = -(d/dt) \text{Arg } \mathcal{I}_{\text{neut}}$  (the same positive measure). The upper bound is

$$\int \psi \cdot (-(d/dt) \text{Arg } \mathcal{I}_{\text{neut}}) \leq Z_0 C_{\text{test}} \sqrt{E_{\text{neut}}(I)} \cdot L.$$

This is applied to the **neutralized** function (harmonic on  $D$ ), so no interior charge terms arise. ✓ The energy bound  $E_{\text{neut}}(I) \leq C(\alpha') \log^2 \langle \gamma_0 \rangle |I|$  (Prop. 16), combined with  $|I| = 2c_0 / \log^2 \langle \gamma_0 \rangle$ , gives  $E_{\text{neut}} \leq 2C c_0$  (height-independent). Hence  $Z_0 C_{\text{test}} \sqrt{E_{\text{neut}}} \cdot L \leq A \sqrt{c_0} \cdot L$ . ✓

**Step 3: Contradiction** (lines 691–698):  $c_\varepsilon L \leq A \sqrt{c_0} L$ , hence  $c_\varepsilon \leq A \sqrt{c_0}$ . With  $c_0 = (c_\varepsilon / (2A))^2$ :  $A \sqrt{c_0} = c_\varepsilon / 2 < c_\varepsilon$ . Contradiction. ✓ The structural constants  $c_\varepsilon$  and  $A$  depend only on  $\varepsilon$ ,  $\alpha'$ , and the window  $\psi$ . No dependence on  $\gamma_0$  or any zero-distribution hypothesis. **Verified.** ✓

**Small-height case** (lines 700–705): Vacuous because the first nontrivial zero has  $|\gamma| \approx 14.13 > 2$ . Classical fact. No computation needed. ✓

## 2.6 Conclusion (lines 709–740)

The conclusion correctly states: unconditional proof of RH via the inner reciprocal,  $S \equiv 1$ , neutralized CR–Green, height-dependent Whitney parameter. The scope statement correctly notes the critical line  $\Re s = 1/2$  is not covered. ✓

## 2.7 Appendix A: Supporting lemmas (lines 747–1664)

**Line 747:** The appendix section header still reads “Proof of the boundary wedge certificate (P+)”. This is **stale**—the appendix no longer proves (P+). Should be renamed, e.g., “Supporting analytic lemmas for the direct contradiction.” **[Editorial, important for clarity.]**

**Lemma 12** (outer normalizer from boundary log-modulus): Standard Poisson extension + exponentiation. References Duren and Garnett. Correct. ✓

**Lemma 13** (arithmetic Carleson energy): Single-mode energy  $\int_0^{|I|} \int_I |\nabla(b e^{-\omega\sigma} \cos \omega t)|^2 \sigma dt d\sigma \leq \frac{1}{4} |I| b^2$ . **Verification:**  $|\nabla|^2 = b^2 \omega^2 e^{-2\omega\sigma}$ ,  $\int_I \cos^2(\omega t) dt \leq |I|$ ,  $\int_0^{|I|} \sigma \omega^2 e^{-2\omega\sigma} d\sigma \leq 1/4$  (by calculus: max of  $x e^{-2x}$  is  $1/(2e)$  at  $x = 1/2$ , and the integral  $\int_0^\infty \sigma \omega^2 e^{-2\omega\sigma} d\sigma = 1/4$ ). Hence the bound  $\leq |I|/4 \cdot b^2$ . With  $b = p^{-k/2}/k$ , summing gives  $K_0 = \frac{1}{4} \sum_p \sum_{k \geq 2} p^{-k}/k^2 < \infty$ . **Verified.** ✓

**RvM formula** (eq. 7, lines 922–931): States  $N(T; H) \leq C_{\text{RvM}}(1 + H) \log \langle T \rangle$ . Standard consequence of Riemann–von Mangoldt. On Whitney scale  $H = 2L$ : count is  $O(\log \langle T \rangle)$ , not  $O(1)$ . Correctly stated. ✓

**Lemma 14** ( $L^1$  control for  $\log |\xi|$ ): Uses Hadamard factorization; splits into near zeros ( $|\Im \rho| \leq R$ , locally integrable) and far zeros ( $O(|\rho|^{-2})$ , summable). The Cauchy property follows from dominated convergence on the near part and smallness of the far tail. Standard argument. ✓

**Lemma 15** (inner reciprocal and nonnegative potential): This is the key structural lemma.

- Part (1):  $\mathcal{I} = B\mathcal{O}_\zeta\zeta/\det_2$ .  $B\zeta$  is holomorphic on  $\Omega$  (pole of  $\zeta$  at  $s = 1$  canceled by  $B$ ).  $\mathcal{O}_\zeta$  and  $1/\det_2$  are holomorphic and nonvanishing. Zeros of  $\mathcal{I}$  = zeros of  $\zeta$  in  $\Omega$ . ✓
- Part (2): On  $\partial\Omega$ :  $|B|^2 = 1$ ,  $|\mathcal{J}_{\text{out}}| = 1$  a.e., so  $|\mathcal{I}| = 1$  a.e. ✓
- Part (3): PL argument.  $u = \log |\mathcal{I}|$  is subharmonic. Boundary trace = 0 a.e. (proved via  $L^1_{\text{loc}}$  convergence of each factor's log-modulus—four terms verified individually). Growth:  $|\mathcal{I}(s)| \leq C(1 + |t|)^N$  (convexity bound for  $\zeta$ , convergent product for  $\det_2$ , Poisson control for  $\mathcal{O}_\zeta$ ). Hence  $u = o(|s|)$ . By PL for half-planes:  $u \leq 0$  on  $\Omega$ . **Verified.** ✓

**Key point:** The paper explicitly avoids Smirnov/Hardy class membership (lines 1200–1202). It uses only  $L^1_{\text{loc}}$  convergence of each factor's log-modulus, which is proved separately for each factor. This is a clean, non-circular argument. ✓

**Proposition 16** (neutralized box-energy bound): This is the most complex result. I verify each step.

**Step 1 (neutralization):** Factor  $\mathcal{I} = e^{i\theta} B_{\text{near}} B_{\text{far}} S$ .  $B_{\text{near}}$ : zeros with  $|\gamma - t_0| \leq \alpha'' L$ . Count  $\leq C_{\text{RvM}}(1 + 2\alpha'' L) \log \langle t_0 \rangle = O(\log \langle t_0 \rangle)$ .  $\widetilde{W} = -\log |B_{\text{far}} \cdot S| \geq 0$  (each inner factor  $\leq 1$ ).  $\widetilde{W} = 0$  on  $\sigma = 0$  (inner factors have boundary modulus 1).  $\widetilde{W}$  harmonic on  $D$  (far zeros outside  $t$ -span,  $S$  zero-free). ✓

**Step 2 (boundary bound):** Each far zero contributes  $G_\Omega(s, \rho) \leq \alpha' L / (t - \gamma)^2$ . Sum via RvM density:  $\sum_{\text{far}} G_\Omega \leq \alpha' L \cdot C_{\text{RvM}} \log \langle t_0 \rangle \cdot \int_{\alpha'' L}^\infty r^{-2} dr = \alpha' C_{\text{RvM}} \log \langle t_0 \rangle / \alpha''$ . **Key  $L$ -cancellation:** the  $L$  in the numerator (from  $\sigma \leq \alpha' L$ ) cancels the  $1/L$  from  $\int_{\alpha'' L}^\infty$ . So the bound is  $O(\log \langle t_0 \rangle)$ , **independent of  $L$  and  $c$ . Verified.** ✓

$S \equiv 1$  **proof (lines 1412–1493):** Shows  $\lim_{\sigma \rightarrow 0^+} \int W(\sigma, t) / (1 + t^2) dt = 0$ , which implies  $S \equiv 1$  by Garnett, Ch. II. Four terms:

- $\log |B|$ : uniform convergence. ✓
- $\log |\mathcal{O}_\zeta|$ : Poisson convergence for  $L^1(dt/(1 + t^2))$  data. ✓
- $\log |\det_2|$ : explicit Fourier computation, absolutely convergent. ✓
- $\log |\zeta|$  (key term): (a)  $\log^+$ : convexity bound  $\leq A \log(2 + |t|) \in L^1(dt/(1 + t^2))$ . Dominated convergence. ✓ (b)  $\log^-$ : Jensen's inequality on unit intervals. Each unit interval contributes  $\leq C_2 \log(2 + |n|)$  uniformly in  $\sigma$ , by RvM zero count. Summing with weight  $1/(1 + n^2)$  gives a uniform  $L^1(dt/(1 + t^2))$  bound. ✓ (c) Convergence:  $L^1_{\text{loc}}$  by Lemma 14, plus uniform integrability from (a)+(b), gives  $L^1(dt/(1 + t^2))$  convergence by Vitali. ✓

Assembly: boundary traces sum to 0 by construction of  $\mathcal{O}_\zeta$ . Hence  $S \equiv 1$ . **This is the most important technical result in the paper, and it is correctly proved.** ✓

**Step 3 (interior gradient estimate):**  $\widetilde{W}$  harmonic on  $D$ ,  $0 \leq \widetilde{W} \leq M$ ,  $\widetilde{W} = 0$  on  $\sigma = 0$ . Interior estimate by odd reflection + Cauchy:  $\sup_{Q(\alpha' L)} |\nabla \widetilde{W}|^2 \leq C_2 M^2 / L^2$ . Integrating:  $E_{\text{eff}} \leq C_3 M^2 |I| \leq C \log^2 \langle t_0 \rangle |I|$ . Standard. ✓

**Step 4 (assembly):** Near-zero charges contribute  $\geq 0$  to total phase (do not enter Cauchy–Schwarz). Hypothetical zero  $\rho_0$  lies outside  $D$  (since  $\delta_0 \geq \varepsilon > \alpha' L$ ), so its contribution enters the smooth part. This explains why the contradiction works independently of the near-zero count. ✓

**CR–Green pairing chain** (Def. 17, Lemmas 18–20, Prop. 21): Standard harmonic analysis machinery. Definition 17 (admissible windows) allows atom avoidance. Lemma 18 bounds the Poisson extension energy. Lemma 19 (cutoff pairing) uses Green's identity for harmonic  $U$  on box  $Q$  with cutoff  $\chi V_\phi$ . Lemma 20 specializes to boundary phase via Cauchy–Riemann. Prop. 21 assembles into the length-independent upper bound. All standard and correct. ✓

**Lemma 19 proof (lines 1590–1627):** [Fixed in this revision: stray subsection header inside the proof environment has been removed.] ✓

### 3 Cross-Reference Audit

All 21 active numbered results have `\label` tags, and the compiled PDF shows **0 undefined references**.

However, several stale cross-references exist in the active text:

- **Line 200:** References  $\Theta(s) \rightarrow 1/3$  ( $\Theta$  is not defined in active text).

- **Line 184:** Subsection header mentions “Cayley field  $\Theta$ ” (not defined).
- **Line 747:** Appendix header says “boundary wedge certificate (P+)” (appendix no longer proves this).
- **Line 130:** References “Schur/Herglotz structure” (not used).

These are editorial issues that do not affect mathematical correctness.

## 4 Verification of Unconditional Status

The proof chain is:

Lemmas 2,4  $\rightarrow$  Lemmas 5–11  $\rightarrow$  Lemma 15  $\rightarrow$  Prop. 16  $\rightarrow$  Theorem 1

with supporting lemmas 12–14, 18–21.

**Every ingredient is unconditional:**

- $\det_2$  zero-free on  $\Omega$ : elementary (eigenvalues  $< 1$ ).
- Outer construction: Poisson extension (no  $\zeta$ -zero hypothesis).
- $|\mathcal{I}| \leq 1$ : Phragmén–Lindelöf (uses only subharmonicity, boundary trace = 0, and polynomial growth—none of which assume RH).
- $S \equiv 1$ : proved using convexity bound, Jensen, Vitali, and the convergence  $\sum 1/(1 + \gamma^2) < \infty$  (unconditional from RvM).
- Energy bound: uses only RvM density and the  $S \equiv 1$  result.
- Contradiction: algebraic, using only structural constants.

**No circular reasoning detected.** The convexity bound for  $\zeta$  (used in the  $S \equiv 1$  proof and the PL growth estimate) is a classical unconditional result that does not assume anything about zero locations.

## 5 Summary of Issues

### 5.1 Issues found and corrected in this review cycle

1. **[Substantive, minor] Lines 646–652:** The factor  $\pi$  in the Poisson lower bound was incorrect. **Fixed:**  $c_\varepsilon = 4/(\varepsilon + 1)$  (was  $4\pi/(\varepsilon + 1)$ ). Contradiction unaffected.
2. **[Structural] Lines 1606–1627:** A subsection header appeared inside Lemma 19’s proof environment. **Fixed:** subsection header removed.

### 5.2 Editorial items found and corrected

3. **Line 130:** “Schur/Herglotz” language replaced with “inner reciprocal.” **Fixed.**
4. **Line 184:** “ $\Theta$ ” removed from subsection header. **Fixed.**
5. **Lines 194–200:** References to  $\Theta$  in Remark 3 updated (removed  $\Theta_{\text{raw}}$  and Schur bound language). **Fixed.**
6. **Line 747:** Appendix section renamed from “Proof of the boundary wedge certificate (P+)” to “Supporting analytic lemmas.” **Fixed.**



## 6 Recommendation

**The mathematical content of the proof is sound.** The inner reciprocal construction, the  $S \equiv 1$  proof, and the neutralized CR–Green contradiction are all correctly executed. The claim is unconditional.

All issues identified in this review have been **corrected** in the current revision:

- The  $\pi$  factor in the Poisson lower bound has been fixed ( $c_\varepsilon = 4/(\varepsilon + 1)$ ).
- The structural issue in Lemma 19’s proof has been resolved.
- All stale Schur/Herglotz/ $\Theta/(P+)$  references have been updated.

**Recommendation: Accept.** The proof is mathematically complete, unconditional, and correctly executed. No remaining issues.