

Explicit Asymptotics for the Ruin Probability with Risky Investment Included*

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Abstract

In this paper, we investigate the ruin probability of a discrete-time risk model, in which the surplus of an insurance business is currently invested into a risky asset. Using a purely probabilistic treatment, we establish explicit asymptotic relations for the infinite-time ruin probabilities, hence we extend a recent result of Tang and Tsitsiashvili (2003) to the infinite-time case.

Keywords: Asymptotics; Regular variation; Ruin probability; Stochastic equation.

1 Introduction

Following Nyrhinen (1999), Tang and Tsitsiashvili (2003), and Chen and Xie (2005), we consider a discrete-time risk model, in which the surplus of the insurance company is currently invested into a risky asset which may lead to a negative return in each year. Denote by $A_n \in (-\infty, \infty)$ the net income (the total incoming premium minus the total claim amount) within year n and by $r_n \in (-1, \infty)$ the return rate at year n , $n = 1, 2, \dots$. Let the initial surplus be $x \geq 0$. Hence, if we assume that the net income A_n is calculated at the beginning of year n , then the surplus accumulated till the end of year n , characterized by S_n , satisfies the recurrence equation

$$S_0 = x \geq 0, \quad S_n = (1 + r_n)(S_{n-1} + A_n), \quad n = 1, 2, \dots; \quad (1.1)$$

alternatively, if we assume that the net income A_n is calculated at the end of year n , then the surplus accumulated till the end of year n , characterized by T_n , satisfies the recurrence equation

$$T_0 = x \geq 0, \quad T_n = (1 + r_n)T_{n-1} + A_n, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (1.2)$$

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Throughout the paper, we assume that the net incomes A_n , $n = 1, 2, \dots$, constitute a sequence of independent, identically distributed (i.i.d.) random variables (r.v.'s), that the return rates r_n , $n = 1, 2, \dots$, also constitute a sequence of i.i.d. r.v.'s, and that the two sequences $\{A_n, n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ and $\{r_n, n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ are independent.

Write

$$X_n = -A_n, \quad Y_n = \frac{1}{1 + r_n}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (1.3)$$

The r.v. X_n is the net payout during year n and the r.v. Y_n is the discount factor from year n to year $n - 1$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$. In what follows, we write by X and Y the generic r.v.'s of the sequences $\{X_n, n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ and $\{Y_n, n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ and write by F and G the distribution functions (d.f.'s) of the r.v.'s X and Y , respectively. Clearly, the r.v. Y is strictly positive. We assume that the tail probability $\bar{F}(x) = 1 - F(x) = \Pr(X > x)$ satisfies $\bar{F}(x) > 0$ for any real number x . In the terminology of Norberg (1999) and Tang and Tsitsiashvili (2003), we call X the insurance risk and Y the financial risk.

Corresponding to the surplus processes (1.1) and (1.2), we define the ruin probabilities within finite time $n = 1, 2, \dots$ and infinite time as

$$\psi_S(x, n) = \Pr\left(\min_{0 \leq k \leq n} S_k < 0 \mid S_0 = x\right), \quad \psi_T(x, n) = \Pr\left(\min_{0 \leq k \leq n} T_k < 0 \mid T_0 = x\right), \quad (1.4)$$

respectively,

$$\psi_S(x) = \Pr\left(\min_{0 \leq k < \infty} S_k < 0 \mid S_0 = x\right), \quad \psi_T(x) = \Pr\left(\min_{0 \leq k < \infty} T_k < 0 \mid T_0 = x\right). \quad (1.5)$$

In this paper we are interested in the asymptotic behavior of these probabilities.

Hereafter, all limit relationships are for $x \rightarrow \infty$ unless stated otherwise; for two positive functions $a(x)$ and $b(x)$, we write $a(x) \lesssim b(x)$ if $\limsup a(x)/b(x) \leq 1$, write $a(x) \gtrsim b(x)$ if $\liminf a(x)/b(x) \geq 1$, and write $a(x) \sim b(x)$ if both.

Nyrhinen (1999) investigated the asymptotic behavior of the ruin probability $\psi_S(x)$. In terms of the model described above, we can obtain a combination of Theorems 3.3 and 3.4 of Nyrhinen (1999) as follows: if (1) $w = \sup\{t \mid \mathbb{E}Y^t \leq 1\} \in (0, \infty)$, (2) $\mathbb{E}Y^t$ and $\mathbb{E}|X|^t$ are finite for some $t > w$, (3) $\bar{F}(0) > 0$, and (4) some of the convolution powers of the distribution of $\log Y$ has a non-trivial absolutely continuous component, then the relation

$$\psi_S(x) \sim Cx^{-w} \quad (1.6)$$

holds for some positive, but implicit, constant C .

The objective of the present paper is to establish explicit asymptotic relations for the ruin probabilities $\psi_S(x)$ and $\psi_T(x)$ under some other assumptions on the tails of the r.v.'s X and Y . In the proof, we will use a recent result of Tang and Tsitsiashvili (2003), who investigated the finite-time ruin probabilities $\psi_S(x, n)$ and $\psi_T(x, n)$ under the assumptions

that F is heavy tailed and that the tail \overline{G} is dominated by the tail \overline{F} . We will also apply some results obtained by Vervaat (1979) in the literature of stochastic difference equations.

The rest of this paper consists of three sections: Section 2 presents the main results after recalling an important class of heavy-tailed distributions, Section 3 collects some lemmas, and Section 4 proves the theorems.

2 Main results

We will assume that the d.f. F of the insurance risk X has a regularly varying tail, denoted by $F \in \mathcal{R}$. By definition, a d.f. F concentrated on $(-\infty, \infty)$ belongs to the class \mathcal{R} if there is some $\alpha \geq 0$ such that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\overline{F}(xy)}{\overline{F}(x)} = y^{-\alpha} \quad (2.1)$$

for any $y > 0$. For simplicity, we denote by $F \in \mathcal{R}_{-\alpha}$ the regularity property in (2.1). In this case we have

$$\overline{F}(x) = x^{-\alpha} c(x) \exp \left\{ \int_a^x \frac{\varepsilon(y)}{y} dy \right\}, \quad x > a, \quad (2.2)$$

for some $a > 0$, where $c(x) \rightarrow c \in (0, \infty)$ and $\varepsilon(x) \rightarrow 0$; see Bingham *et al.* (1987, page 21). The corresponding r.v. X satisfies

$$\mathbb{E}(X^+)^p < \infty \text{ for } 0 \leq p < \alpha, \quad \mathbb{E}(X^+)^p = \infty \text{ for } p > \alpha, \quad (2.3)$$

where $x^+ = \max\{x, 0\}$.

Under the assumptions that F belongs to a heavy-tailed distribution class, which is slightly larger than the class \mathcal{R} , and that the tail \overline{G} is dominated by the tail \overline{F} (to be precise, $\mathbb{E}Y^p < \infty$ for some p larger than the upper Matuszewska index of the d.f. F), Tang and Tsitsiashvili (2003, Theorem 5.1 and Remark 5.1) obtained precise asymptotic estimates for the finite-time ruin probabilities $\psi_S(x, n)$ and $\psi_T(x, n)$ for each fixed $n = 1, 2, \dots$. The really applicable results of their paper were obtained in the case that

$$F \in \mathcal{R}_{-\alpha} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{E}Y^p < \infty \quad \text{for some } p > \alpha > 0. \quad (2.4)$$

In this case, it holds for each fixed $n = 1, 2, \dots$ that

$$\psi_S(x, n) \sim \frac{1 - (\mathbb{E}Y^\alpha)^n}{1 - \mathbb{E}Y^\alpha} \overline{F}(x); \quad (2.5)$$

see Tang and Tsitsiashvili (2003, Theorem 5.2(3) and Remark 5.1).

If further we assume that

$$\mathbb{E}Y^\alpha < 1, \quad (2.6)$$

then the term $(EY^\alpha)^n$ in relation (2.5) vanishes as n increases. Though relation (2.5) was only proved by Tang and Tsitsiashvili (2003) to hold for fixed n , we intuitively believe that the infinite-time ruin probability $\psi_S(x)$ should satisfy

$$\psi_S(x) \sim \frac{1}{1 - EY^\alpha} \bar{F}(x). \quad (2.7)$$

The following result proves that this is true.

Theorem 2.1. *Under assumptions (2.4) and (2.6), the asymptotic relation (2.7) holds.*

Theorem 2.1 successfully establishes an asymptotic relation for the ruin probability $\psi_S(x)$ in a fully explicit form.

As for the ruin probability $\psi_T(x)$, we have a similar explicit asymptotic relation below.

Theorem 2.2. *Under assumptions (2.4) and (2.6), it holds that*

$$\psi_T(x) \sim \frac{EY^\alpha}{1 - EY^\alpha} \bar{F}(x). \quad (2.8)$$

3 Some lemmas

We first point out a simple relationship between the ruin probabilities indexed by S and those indexed by T .

Lemma 3.1. *For the risk model introduced in Section 1, the ruin probabilities defined by (1.4) and (1.5) satisfy the relations*

$$\psi_T(x, n) = \int_0^\infty \psi_S(x/y, n) G(dy), \quad n = 1, 2, \dots, \quad (3.1)$$

and

$$\psi_T(x) = \int_0^\infty \psi_S(x/y) G(dy). \quad (3.2)$$

Proof. Iterating the recurrence equation (1.1) yields that

$$S_0 = x, \quad S_n = x \prod_{j=1}^n (1 + r_j) + \sum_{i=1}^n A_i \prod_{j=i}^n (1 + r_j), \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (3.3)$$

We write the discounted value of the surplus S_n in (3.3) as

$$\tilde{S}_0 = x, \quad \tilde{S}_n = S_n \prod_{j=1}^n Y_j = x + \sum_{i=1}^n A_i \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} Y_j = x - \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} Y_j,$$

where $\prod_{j=1}^0 = 1$ by convention. It is clear that for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$,

$$\psi_S(x, n) = \Pr \left(\max_{1 \leq k \leq n} \sum_{i=1}^k X_i \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} Y_j > x \right), \quad \psi_S(x) = \Pr \left(\max_{1 \leq k < \infty} \sum_{i=1}^k X_i \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} Y_j > x \right). \quad (3.4)$$

Similarly, it holds that

$$\psi_T(x, n) = \Pr \left(\max_{1 \leq k \leq n} \sum_{i=1}^k X_i \prod_{j=1}^i Y_j > x \right), \quad \psi_T(x) = \Pr \left(\max_{1 \leq k < \infty} \sum_{i=1}^k X_i \prod_{j=1}^i Y_j > x \right). \quad (3.5)$$

Hence by the i.i.d. assumptions made in Section 1, relations (3.1) and (3.2) holds. \square

The lemma below is a combination of several results of Vervaat (1979).

Lemma 3.2. *Let $\{(\tilde{X}_n, \tilde{Y}_n), n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ be a sequence of i.i.d. random pairs with generic random pair (\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}) . Consider the stochastic difference equation*

$$\tilde{V}_n = \tilde{Y}_n \tilde{V}_{n-1} + \tilde{X}_n, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (3.6)$$

If $-\infty \leq E \log \tilde{Y} < 0$ and $E \left(\log \left| \tilde{X} \right| \right)^+ < \infty$, then the r.v.'s \tilde{V}_n converges in distribution to some real-valued r.v. V_∞ , which is invariant in distribution for all initial r.v.'s \tilde{V}_0 .

Proof. By Theorem 1.6(b,c) of Vervaat (1979), the stochastic equation

$$\tilde{V} = {}^d \tilde{Y} \tilde{V} + \tilde{X}, \quad \tilde{V} \text{ is independent of } (\tilde{X}, \tilde{Y}), \quad (3.7)$$

has a solution, where $=^d$ denotes equality in distribution. Then, by Theorem 1.5(i) of Vervaat (1979), this solution is unique in distribution and \tilde{V}_n defined by (3.6) converges in distribution to some $V_\infty(\tilde{V}_0)$, say, for any initial r.v. \tilde{V}_0 . Since, by Lemma 1.1 of Vervaat (1979), any limit r.v. $V_\infty(\tilde{V}_0)$ should be a solution of equation (3.7), we prove that for all \tilde{V}_0 the r.v.'s $V_\infty(\tilde{V}_0)$ are identical in distribution. \square

The following lemma is well known and is from Proposition of Feller (1971, p. 278) or Lemma 1.3.1 of Embrechts *et al.* (1997).

Lemma 3.3. *Let F_1 and F_2 be two d.f.'s concentrated on $[0, \infty)$. If $F_1 \in \mathcal{R}_{-\alpha}$ and $F_2 \in \mathcal{R}_{-\alpha}$ for some $\alpha \geq 0$, then their convolution $F_1 * F_2 \in \mathcal{R}_{-\alpha}$ and*

$$\overline{F_1 * F_2}(x) \sim \overline{F_1}(x) + \overline{F_2}(x).$$

The following lemma is from Breiman (1965).

Lemma 3.4. *Let X and Y be two independent r.v.'s distributed by F and G , respectively, where Y is nonnegative. If d.f. $F \in \mathcal{R}_{-\alpha}$ for some $0 < \alpha < \infty$ and $EY^p < \infty$ for some $p > \alpha$, then*

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\Pr(XY > x)}{\Pr(X > x)} = EY^\alpha.$$

4 Proofs of the main results

4.1 Proof of Theorem 2.1

From (3.4) and (2.5), it is clear that for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$,

$$\psi_S(x) \geq \psi_S(x, n) \sim \frac{1 - (\mathbf{E}Y^\alpha)^n}{1 - \mathbf{E}Y^\alpha} \bar{F}(x).$$

It follows that for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$,

$$\liminf_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\psi_S(x)}{\bar{F}(x)} \geq \frac{1 - (\mathbf{E}Y^\alpha)^n}{1 - \mathbf{E}Y^\alpha}.$$

Letting $n \rightarrow \infty$ on the right-hand side,

$$\psi_S(x) \gtrsim \frac{1}{1 - \mathbf{E}Y^\alpha} \bar{F}(x). \quad (4.1)$$

It remains to derive a corresponding asymptotic upper bound for the ruin probability $\psi_S(x)$. To this end, from (3.4) we derive that

$$\psi_S(x) \leq \Pr \left(\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} X_i^+ \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} Y_j > x \right). \quad (4.2)$$

For each $n = 1, 2, \dots, \infty$, set

$$U_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^+ \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} Y_j.$$

By the i.i.d. assumptions, it is easy to see that for each $n = 1, 2, \dots$,

$$U_n = {}^d \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^+ \prod_{j=i+1}^n Y_j = V_n, \quad (4.3)$$

where $\prod_{j=n+1}^n Y_j$ is equal to 1 by convention. Clearly, with $V_0 = 0$, the sequence $\{V_n, n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ satisfies the recurrence equation

$$V_n = Y_n V_{n-1} + X_n^+ \quad \text{for } n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (4.4)$$

Now we check the convergence in distribution of the sequence $\{V_n, n = 1, 2, \dots\}$. By assumption (2.6) we easily understand that $-\infty \leq \mathbf{E} \log Y < 0$ should hold since the function $f(t) = \mathbf{E}Y^t$ is convex in $t \in [0, \alpha]$ and $f'_+(0) = \mathbf{E} \log Y$. Hence by Lemma 3.2, V_n converges in distribution to a r.v. V_∞ , say, which is invariant for all V_0 . In view of (4.3), this actually proves that U_∞ is finite almost surely and is equal to V_∞ in distribution. Specifically, we choose V_∞ to be independent of the sequences $\{X_n, n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ and $\{Y_n, n = 1, 2, \dots\}$.

Knowing $F \in \mathcal{R}_{-\alpha}$, we announce that

$$\Pr(U_\infty > x) = \Pr(V_\infty > x) \leq \Pr(V_0 > x), \quad x \geq 0, \quad (4.5)$$

for some nonnegative initial r.v. V_0 with a d.f. from the class $\mathcal{R}_{-\alpha}$. For this purpose, we choose a nonnegative r.v. Z independent of the sequences $\{X_n, n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ and $\{Y_n, n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ such that

$$\Pr(Z > x) \sim c\bar{F}(x)$$

for some positive constant c , which will be specified later. By Lemma 3.4 we know that the d.f. of the r.v. Y_1Z belongs to the class $\mathcal{R}_{-\alpha}$ and

$$\Pr(Y_1Z > x) \sim cEY^\alpha\bar{F}(x);$$

by this and Lemma 3.3 we further know that

$$\Pr(Y_1Z + X_1^+ > x) \sim (cEY^\alpha + 1)\bar{F}(x).$$

Hence, if we choose $c > 0$ sufficiently large such that $cEY^\alpha + 1 < c$, then there is some constant $x_0 > 0$ such that for all $x > x_0$,

$$\Pr(Y_1Z + X_1^+ > x) \leq \Pr(Z > x).$$

By this inequality we can prove that for all $x \geq 0$

$$\Pr(Y_1Z + X_1^+ > x \mid Z > x_0) \leq \Pr(Z > x \mid Z > x_0). \quad (4.6)$$

In fact, for $0 \leq x \leq x_0$, inequality (4.6) trivially holds since $\Pr(Z > x \mid Z > x_0) = 1$; for $x > x_0$, inequality (4.6) can be verified in the following way:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(Y_1Z + X_1^+ > x \mid Z > x_0) &= \frac{\Pr(Y_1Z + X_1^+ > x, Z > x_0)}{\Pr(Z > x_0)} \\ &\leq \frac{\Pr(Y_1Z + X_1^+ > x)}{\Pr(Z > x_0)} \\ &\leq \frac{\Pr(Z > x)}{\Pr(Z > x_0)} \\ &= \Pr(Z > x \mid Z > x_0). \end{aligned}$$

We identify the initial r.v. V_0 such that it is independent of the sequences $\{X_n, n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ and $\{Y_n, n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ and is equal in distribution to the r.v. Z conditional on $(Z > x_0)$. Hence,

$$\Pr(V_0 > x) = \Pr(Z > x \mid Z > x_0) \sim \frac{c}{\Pr(Z > x_0)}\bar{F}(x). \quad (4.7)$$

It follows from (4.6) that for all $x \geq 0$,

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(V_1 > x) &= \Pr(Y_1 V_0 + X_1^+ > x) \\ &= \Pr(Y_1 Z + X_1^+ > x \mid Z > x_0) \\ &\leq \Pr(V_0 > x).\end{aligned}$$

Successively,

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(V_2 > x) &= \Pr(Y_2 V_1 + X_2^+ > x) \\ &\leq \Pr(Y_2 V_0 + X_2^+ > x) \\ &= \Pr(Y_1 V_0 + X_1^+ > x) \\ &= \Pr(V_1 > x) \\ &\leq \Pr(V_0 > x).\end{aligned}$$

Applying the mathematical induction method we know that for all $n = 1, 2, \dots$ and all $x \geq 0$,

$$\Pr(V_n > x) \leq \dots \leq \Pr(V_2 > x) \leq \Pr(V_1 > x) \leq \Pr(V_0 > x).$$

Since V_n converges in distribution to V_∞ , taking $n \rightarrow \infty$ yields that for all $x \geq 0$,

$$\Pr(U_\infty > x) = \Pr(V_\infty > x) \leq \Pr(V_0 > x),$$

as announced in (4.5).

We continue the proof of Theorem 2.1. For any $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$ and any $n = 1, 2, \dots$, we split the probability on the right-hand side of inequality (4.2) into two parts as

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_S(x) &\leq \Pr\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i^+ \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} Y_j > (1 - \varepsilon)x\right) + \Pr\left(\sum_{i=n+1}^{\infty} X_i^+ \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} Y_j > \varepsilon x\right) \\ &= I_1(x, \varepsilon, n) + I_2(x, \varepsilon, n).\end{aligned}$$

Clearly, from (2.5) and (3.4) with X_i being replaced by X_i^+ , we obtain that

$$I_1(x, \varepsilon, n) \sim \frac{1 - (\mathbf{E}Y^\alpha)^n}{1 - \mathbf{E}Y^\alpha} \bar{F}((1 - \varepsilon)x).$$

Since V_∞ is independent of the sequences $\{X_n, n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ and $\{Y_n, n = 1, 2, \dots\}$,

$$\begin{aligned}I_2(x, \varepsilon, n) &= \Pr\left(\left(\sum_{i=n+1}^{\infty} X_i^+ \prod_{j=n+1}^{i-1} Y_j\right) \prod_{j=1}^n Y_j > \varepsilon x\right) \\ &= \Pr\left(V_\infty \prod_{j=1}^n Y_j > \varepsilon x\right) \\ &\leq \Pr\left(V_0 \prod_{j=1}^n Y_j > \varepsilon x\right) \\ &\sim \frac{c(\mathbf{E}Y^\alpha)^n}{\Pr(Z > x_0)} \bar{F}(\varepsilon x),\end{aligned}$$

where in the last step we applied relation (4.7) and Lemma 3.4 Thus, for any $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$ and any $n = 1, 2, \dots$,

$$\psi_S(x) \lesssim \frac{1 - (\mathbf{E}Y^\alpha)^n}{1 - \mathbf{E}Y^\alpha} \bar{F}((1 - \varepsilon)x) + \frac{c(\mathbf{E}Y^\alpha)^n}{\Pr(Z > x_0)} \bar{F}(\varepsilon x).$$

It follows from $F \in \mathcal{R}_{-\alpha}$ that

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\psi_S(x)}{\bar{F}(x)} &\leq \frac{1 - (\mathbf{E}Y^\alpha)^n}{1 - \mathbf{E}Y^\alpha} \limsup_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\bar{F}((1 - \varepsilon)x)}{\bar{F}(x)} + \frac{c(\mathbf{E}Y^\alpha)^n}{\Pr(Z > x_0)} \limsup_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\bar{F}(\varepsilon x)}{\bar{F}(x)} \\ &= \frac{1 - (\mathbf{E}Y^\alpha)^n}{1 - \mathbf{E}Y^\alpha} (1 - \varepsilon)^{-\alpha} + \frac{c(\mathbf{E}Y^\alpha)^n}{\Pr(Z > x_0)} \varepsilon^{-\alpha}. \end{aligned}$$

Since n and ε are arbitrary and $\mathbf{E}Y^\alpha < 1$, first letting $n \rightarrow \infty$ and then letting $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ lead to the desired result that

$$\psi_S(x) \lesssim \frac{1}{1 - \mathbf{E}Y^\alpha} \bar{F}(x). \quad (4.8)$$

Combining (4.1) and (4.8) we obtain (2.7). This ends the proof. \square

4.2 Proof of Theorem 2.2

Introduce a survival d.f. R_S by $R_S(x) = (1 - \psi_S(x)) 1_{(x \geq 0)}$, which is a standard d.f. concentrated on $[0, \infty)$ with a mass $R_S(\{0\}) = 1 - \psi_S(0)$ at 0. Theorem 2.1 has proved that $R_S \in \mathcal{R}_{-\alpha}$. Hence, applying Lemma 3.4 to relation (3.2) yields that

$$\psi_T(x) \sim \mathbf{E}Y^\alpha \psi_S(x) \sim \frac{\mathbf{E}Y^\alpha}{1 - \mathbf{E}Y^\alpha} \bar{F}(x).$$

This ends the proof. \square

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