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The Sonin–Pólya theorem provides a simple proof that  $J_\nu(x) = O(1/\sqrt{x})$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ , whenever  $|\nu| \geq \frac{1}{2}$ , but it fails to capture this well known result when  $|\nu| < \frac{1}{2}$ . However, a simple proof for  $|\nu| < \frac{1}{2}$  can be obtained by combining the Sonin–Pólya theorem with an elementary theorem of similar nature. Further applications of this method will also be discussed. (Received February 07, 2014)