

1. (15pts) State and prove the maximum principle for harmonic functions.

*Solution:* Let  $U$  be a region and let  $u: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a harmonic function. If  $u$  achieves its maximum on  $U$  then  $u$  is constant.

Let  $z_0 \in U$  be a point where  $u$  achieves its maximum. Since  $u$  is harmonic we have

$$u(z_0) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} u(z_0 + re^{i\theta}) d\theta,$$

for any  $r \geq 0$  such that the closed ball  $|z - z_0| \leq r$  is contained in  $U$ . As  $u$  is continuous and the average value of  $u(z)$  on the circle  $|z - z_0| = r$  is  $u(z_0)$  we must have  $u(z) = u(z_0)$  on the circle  $|z - z_0| = r$ .

Varying the radius  $r$  of the circle we must have that  $u(z)$  is constant on the whole closed ball  $|z - z_0| \leq r$ . Varying  $z_0$  we must have that  $u(z)$  is constant.

2. (15pts) Show that

$$\frac{1}{\zeta(s)} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - p_n^{-s}).$$

where  $\sigma = \operatorname{Re} s > 1$  and  $p_1, p_2, \dots$  are the primes in increasing order.

*Solution:* We first check absolute convergence of the product. This is equivalent to absolute convergence of the sum

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |p_n^{-s}| = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} p_n^{-\sigma}.$$

If we compare this with

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^{-\sigma}$$

we see that have absolute convergence for any  $\sigma > \sigma_0 > 1$ .

By definition of the Riemann zeta function we have

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^{-s}$$

for  $\sigma = \operatorname{Re} s > 1$ . It follows that

$$\zeta(s)(1 - 2^{-s}) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^{-s} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (2n)^{-s} = \sum_m m^{-s},$$

where  $m$  runs over the odd integers.

Similarly, by inclusion-exclusion,

$$\zeta(s)(1 - 2^{-s})(1 - 3^{-s}) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^{-s} - (2n)^{-s} - (3n)^{-s} + (6n)^{-s} = \sum_m m^{-s},$$

where  $m$  runs over the integers coprime to 2 and 3. More generally

$$\zeta(s)(1 - 2^{-s})(1 - 3^{-s}) \dots (1 - p_N^{-s}) = \sum_m m^{-s} = 1 - p_{N+1}^{-s}(1 + \dots),$$

where  $m$  runs over the integers coprime to the first  $N$  primes. Since the dots are the tails of a convergent sequence, letting  $N$  go infinity, we get

$$\zeta(s) \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - p_n^{-s}) = 1.$$

3. (10pts) Let  $U$  be a region. Exhibit a family of compact subsets which exhausts  $U$ .

*Solution:* Let

$$E_n = \{ z \in U \mid |z| \leq n \text{ and } |z - z_0| \geq 1/n \text{ for every } z_0 \notin U \}.$$

Then  $E_n \subset E_{n+1}$  and  $E_n$  is bounded. Fix  $z_0 \notin U$ . Then

$$F = \{ z \in U \mid |z - z_0| \geq 1/n \},$$

is a closed subset. As the intersection of closed sets is closed, it follows that  $E_n$  is closed. But then  $E_n$  is compact as it is closed and bounded. Suppose that  $z \in U$ . Pick  $m$  such that  $|z| < m$ . Let  $Z = \mathbb{C} - U$ . Then  $Z$  is a closed subset and

$$Z' = \{ z \in Z \mid |z| < m + 1 \}$$

is closed and bounded, so that  $Z'$  is compact. Suppose that  $Z'$  is non-empty. Then the infimum of the distance from  $Z'$  to  $z$  is achieved by  $\delta > 0$ . Any other point of  $Z$  has distance at least one from  $z_0$ . Pick  $n > m$  and  $1/n < \delta$ . Then  $z \in E_n$  so that

$$\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} E_n = U.$$

Thus  $E_1, E_2, \dots$  exhaust  $U$ .

4. (15pts) Prove that a family  $\mathcal{F}$  of locally bounded holomorphic functions on a region  $U$  is equicontinuous on any compact subset  $E$ .

*Solution:*

Let  $z_0 \in E$ . By assumption we may find  $r > 0$  and  $M > 0$  such that if  $|z - z_0| < r$  then  $z \in U$  and  $|f(z)| \leq M$ . Pick two points  $z$  and  $z'$  such that  $|z - z_0| < r$  and  $|z' - z_0| < r$ . By Cauchy's integral formula

$$\begin{aligned} f(z) - f(z') &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{|w-z_0|=r} \frac{f(w)}{w-z} dw - \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{|w-z_0|=r} \frac{f(w)}{w-z'} dw \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{|w-z_0|=r} \frac{f(w)(z-z')}{(w-z)(w-z')} dw \\ &= \frac{z-z'}{2\pi i} \int_{|w-z_0|=r} \frac{f(w)}{(w-z)(w-z')} dw. \end{aligned}$$

If we suppose that  $|z - z_0| < r/2$  and  $|z' - z_0| < r/2$  then we get

$$|f(z) - f(z')| \leq \frac{r}{2\pi} \left| \int_{|w-z_0|=r} \frac{f(w)}{(w-z)(w-z')} dw \right| \leq 4M,$$

as  $|w - z| > r/2$  and  $|w - z'| > r/2$ .

5. (20pts) (i) Let  $U \neq \mathbb{C}$  be a simply connected region and let  $z_0 \in U$ . Construct an injective holomorphic function  $f: U \rightarrow \Delta$  such that  $f(z_0) = 0$  and  $f'(z_0) > 0$ , where  $\Delta$  is the unit disc.

*Solution:*

Pick  $a \notin U$ . As  $U$  is simply connected we can construct a holomorphic branch of the square root  $\alpha(z) = \sqrt{z - a}$ . Let  $w \in \mathbb{C}$ . If  $w$  belongs to the image of  $h$  then  $-w$  does not. It follows that the image of  $\alpha$  is contained in a half plane,  $\text{Im } e^{i\phi}w \geq 0$ . Let  $\beta(w) = e^{-i\phi}w$ . Then the image of the composition  $\beta \circ \alpha$  is contained in the upper half plane. Let  $w_0 = \beta \circ \alpha(z_0)$ . Let

$$\gamma(z) = \frac{z - w_0}{z - \bar{w}_0}.$$

Then  $\gamma$  is a Möbius transformation which sends the real axis to the unit circle and  $w_0$  to 0. It follows that  $\gamma \circ \beta \circ \alpha$  sends the upper half plane to the unit circle and sends  $z_0$  to 0.  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  are all injective so that the composition is injective and the derivative is nowhere zero. Suppose that the derivative of the composition at the origin is  $re^{i\theta}$ . Let

$$\delta(z) = e^{-i\theta}z.$$

Then  $\delta$  maps the unit disc to the unit disc, fixes the origin so that the composition  $f = \delta \circ \gamma \circ \beta \circ \alpha$  is injective, sends  $U$  to the unit disc,  $f(z_0) = 0$  and  $f'(z_0) > 0$ .

(ii) If the function  $f$  is not surjective then exhibit an injective holomorphic function  $g: U \rightarrow \Delta$  such that  $g(z_0) = 0$  and  $g'(z_0) > f'(z_0)$ .

*Solution:*

Pick  $a \in \Delta$  not belonging to the image of  $f(z)$ . As  $U$  is simply connected, we may find a holomorphic branch for

$$F(z) = \sqrt{\frac{f(z) - a}{1 - \bar{a}f(z)}}.$$

Note that  $F$  is the composition of  $f$ , the automorphism of the unit disc

$$z \rightarrow \frac{z - a}{1 - \bar{a}z},$$

and the square root. Thus  $F$  is injective and  $|F(z)| < 1$ .

Let

$$G(z) = \frac{|F'(z_0)|}{F'(z_0)} \frac{F(z) - F(z_0)}{1 - \overline{F(z_0)}F(z)}.$$

Note that  $G$  is the composition of  $F$  and the automorphism of the unit disc

$$z \rightarrow \frac{z - F(z_0)}{1 - \overline{F(z_0)}z}.$$

Thus  $G$  is injective and  $|G(z)| < 1$ . Clearly  $G(z_0) = 0$ . Moreover  $G'(z_0) > 0$ . In fact

$$G'(z_0) = \frac{|F'(z_0)|}{1 - |F(z_0)|^2} = \frac{1 + |a|}{2\sqrt{|a|}} f'(z_0) > f'(z_0).$$

6. (20pts) (i) Let  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  be two subharmonic functions on a region  $U$ . Show that  $\max(v_1, v_2)$  is subharmonic.

*Solution:* The maximum  $v$  of two continuous functions is continuous. Let  $u$  be a harmonic function. Suppose that  $v - u$  has a maximum at  $z_0$ . We want to show that  $v - u$  is constant.  $v_i - u$  is subharmonic and so we may assume that  $u = 0$ . Suppose that  $v(z_0) = v_1(z_0)$ . If  $z \in U$  then

$$v_1(z) \leq v(z) \leq v(z_0) = v_1(z_0).$$

Thus  $z_0$  is a maximum of  $v_1(z)$  and so  $v_1(z)$  is constant. If  $v(z) \neq v_1(z)$  in a neighbourhood of  $z_0$  then we must have  $v(z) = v(z_0)$  by continuity. But then  $v_2(z)$  is constant and so  $v$  is constant.

(ii) Show that Dirichlet's problem does not always have a solution.

*Solution:* Let  $U = \Delta^*$  be the punctured unit disc and let  $f(\zeta)$  be equal to zero on the unit circle and 1 at the origin. Then  $U$  is a bounded region and  $f$  is a continuous function on the boundary. Let  $u$  be a harmonic function such that  $\limsup_{z \rightarrow \zeta} u(z) = f(\zeta)$ . Then  $u$  is bounded in a neighbourhood of the origin so that  $u$  extends to a harmonic function on the whole unit disc.

Since the values of the extended harmonic function are zero on the boundary of the disc it follows that  $u \leq 0$  by the maximum principle. But then  $\limsup_{z \rightarrow 0} u(z) \leq 0 < 1 = f(0)$ . Then  $u$  is bounded in a neighbourhood of the

7. (10pts) Let  $f_1, f_2, \dots$  be the iterates of the function  $\sin z$ , so that  $f_1(z) = \sin z$  and  $f_{n+1}(z) = f_n(\sin z)$ . Show that  $f_1, f_2, \dots$  is not locally bounded at the origin.

*Solution:* Let

$$g(z) = \sin(iz) = f_1(iz).$$

Then  $g(z) = i \sinh(z)$ . Thus

$$g_2(z) = f_2(iz) = \sin((i \sinh(z))) = \sinh(\sinh(z)).$$

Continuing in this way we see that if

$$g_n(z) = f_n(iz) \quad \text{then} \quad g_{n+1}(z) = g_n(\sinh(z)).$$

Let  $h(x) = \sinh(x) - x$ . Then

$$h'(x) = \cosh(x) - 1 \geq 0,$$

with equality if and only if  $x = 0$ . It follows that

$$\sinh(x) \geq x,$$

with equality if and only if  $x = 0$ . Pick any  $x_0 > 0$ . It follows that the sequence of numbers

$$x_n = g_n(x_0) \geq (1 + \delta)^n x_0,$$

for some fixed  $\delta$ , depending on  $x_0$ . Thus  $f_n(z)$  is not locally bounded.



**Bonus Challenge Problems**

8. (10pts) State and prove Ascoli-Arzola.

9. (10pts) Let  $U$  be a bounded region and let  $f: \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function on the boundary which is bounded,  $|f(\zeta)| \leq M$ . Show that the Perron function  $u$  associated to the Perron family  $\mathcal{P}(f)$  is harmonic.