

Alfors' Schwarz Lemma

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 - (i) $|f(z)| \leq |z|, z \in B(0,1)$
 - (ii) $|f'(0)| \leq 1$
 - (iii) If there exists $z_0 \in B(0,1), z_0 \neq 0$ such that $|f(z_0)| = |z_0|$ or $|f'(0)| = 1$, then f must be of the form $f(z) = cz, z \in B(0,1)$, for some c with $|c| = 1$.

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- The Proof of the Schwarz lemma is an immediate consequence of the Maximum modulus principle.

maximum modulus principle

- The maximum modulus principle: Suppose that Ω is a bounded domain (open and connected) in \mathbb{C} , f is a holomorphic function on Ω , and $B[a, R] \subseteq \Omega$. Then

$$|f(a)| \leq \sup\{|f(a + re^{i\theta})| : \theta \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

Equality occurs if and only if f is constant.

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Equality occurs if and only if f is constant.

- Proof: Assume that $|f(a + re^{i\theta})| \leq |f(a)|$, $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$. Then the holomorphic function f has a power series expansion

$$f(z) = \sum c_n (z - a)^n, \quad z \in B(a, R),$$

and if $0 < r < R$, we have (Parseval's formula)

$$\sum |c_n|^2 r^{2n} = 1/2\pi \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |f(a + re^{i\theta})|^2 d\theta.$$

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- It follows that

$$\sum |c_n|^2 r^{2n} \leq |f(a)|^2 = |c_0|^2.$$

Hence $0 = c_1 = c_2 = \dots$, implying $f(z) = f(a)$, $z \in B(a, r)$.

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- Proof of the Schwarz Lemma: Since $f(0) = 0$, we have $a_0 = 0$, $f(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n z^n$, $z \in B(0, 1)$. Let $h(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n z^{n-1}$, $z \in B(0, 1)$. Then h is holomorphic on $B(0, 1)$ and $f(z) = zh(z)$, $z \in B(0, 1)$. By the maximum modulus theorem

$$\sup\{|h(z)| : |z| \leq r\} = \sup\{|h(z)| : |z| = r\} = \frac{1}{r} \sup\{|f(z)| : |z| \leq r\}$$

for all r , $0 < r < 1$. Since $|f(z)| \leq 1$ for all $z \in B(0, 1)$ we get, on letting $r \rightarrow 1$, that $\sup\{|h(z)|; z \in B(0, 1)\} \leq 1$.

Hence $|f(z)| \leq |z|$ for all $z \in B(0, 1)$. This completes the proof of (i).

proof of the Schwarz lemma

- Moreover, if $|f(z_0)| = |z_0|$ for some $z_0 \neq 0$, then $|h(z_0)| = 1$ and, by the maximum modulus theorem, h is a constant function of modulus 1, that is, there exists $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $f(z) = zh(z) = e^{i\theta}z$, $z \in B(0,1)$.

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- Since $\frac{f(z)}{z} = h(z)$ for $z \in B(0,1) \setminus \{0\}$ and $f(0) = 0$ it follows that

$$|f'(0)| = \lim_{\substack{z \rightarrow 0 \\ z \neq 0}} \frac{|f(z)|}{|z|} = \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} |h(z)| = |h(0)| \leq 1.$$

If $|f'(0)| = |h(0)| = 1$, then by the maximum modulus theorem, h is a constant function of modulus 1 and as before $f(z) = e^{i\theta}z$, $z \in B(0,1)$.

automorphisms of the disc

- Theorem: For a fixed $\alpha \in B(0,1)$, $\varphi_\alpha(z) := \frac{z-\alpha}{1-\bar{\alpha}z}$ is a rational function mapping $B(0,1)$ onto $B(0,1)$ and also $\partial B(0,1)$ onto $\partial B(0,1)$. It is one to one on $B[0,1]$. The inverse of φ_α is $\varphi_{-\alpha}$.

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- Proof: The function φ_α is holomorphic in the whole plane except for $z=1/\bar{\alpha}$ which is outside $B[0,1]$. We see that $\varphi_{-\alpha}(\varphi_\alpha(z)) = z$. Thus φ_α is one-one and $\varphi_{-\alpha}$ is its inverse. If $t \in \mathbb{R}$, then

$$\left| \frac{e^{it} - \alpha}{1 - \bar{\alpha}e^{it}} \right| = \left| \frac{e^{it} - \alpha}{e^{-it} - \bar{\alpha}} \right| = 1,$$

and we see that φ_α maps $\partial B(0,1)$ into itself. The same is true of $\varphi_{-\alpha}$ hence $\varphi_\alpha(\partial B[0,1]) = \partial B[0,1]$. Applying the maximum modulus principle, we conclude that $\varphi_\alpha(B(0,1)) \subseteq B(0,1)$. This is equally true of $\varphi_{-\alpha}$.

Schwarz lemma, in general

- Suppose that α, β are complex numbers; $|\alpha|, |\beta| < 1$
Question: How large can $|f'(\alpha)|$ be if
 $f : B(0,1) \rightarrow B(0,1)$ and $f(\alpha) = \beta$?

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- Answer: $|f'(\alpha)| \leq \frac{1-|\beta|^2}{1-|\alpha|^2}$. To verify this, put
 $g = \varphi_\beta \circ f \circ \varphi_{-\alpha}$. Since $\varphi_\beta, \varphi_\alpha: B(0,1) \rightarrow B(0,1)$, it
follows that $g: B(0,1) \rightarrow B(0,1)$. Also, $g(0) = 0$. Thus
 $|g'(0)| \leq 1$ by the Schwarz lemma. Differentiating
 g using the chain rule, we have

$$g'(0) = \varphi'_\beta(\beta) f'(\alpha) \varphi'_{-\alpha}(0).$$

This verifies the correctness of our answer
since

$$\varphi'_\alpha(0) = 1 - |\alpha|^2, \quad \varphi'_\alpha(\alpha) = (1 - |\alpha|^2)^{-1}.$$

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 $c: |c| = 1$. Thus $f(z) = \varphi_{-\beta}(c\varphi_\alpha(z))$, $z \in B(0,1)$.

the automorphism group

- A remarkable feature: f is a rational function, although no continuity assumption was made on f near the boundary.

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- A remarkable feature: f is a rational function, although no continuity assumption was made on f near the boundary.
- Theorem: Suppose that f is a bijective holomorphic function on $B(0,1)$ and that $f(\alpha) = 0$. Then there exists a constant $c: |c| = 1$ such that

$$f(z) = c \varphi_{\alpha}(z), \quad z \in B(0,1).$$

Proof: Let g be the inverse of f , defined by $g(f(z)) = z, z \in B(0,1)$. Since f is one to one, f' has no zero in $B(0,1)$, so g defines a holomorphic function on $B(0,1)$. We have $|f'(\alpha)| \leq \frac{1}{1-|\alpha|^2}$, $|g'(0)| \leq 1 - |\alpha|^2$. By the chain rule, $g'(0) f'(\alpha) = 1$.

Since $g'(0) f'(\alpha) = 1$, therefore we must have $|f'(\alpha)| = \frac{1}{1-|\alpha|^2}$, $|g'(0)| = 1 - |\alpha|^2$. Hence with $\beta = 0$, f must be of the form $c \varphi_{\alpha}$.

distance decreasing

- Let $f : B(0,1) \rightarrow B(0,1)$ be holomorphic. Then for any $a, b \in B(0,1)$, $\left| \frac{f(a)-f(b)}{1-\overline{f(a)}f(b)} \right| \leq \left| \frac{a-b}{1-\overline{a}b} \right|$.

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- In particular, $\frac{|f'(z)|}{1-|f(z)|^2} \leq \frac{1}{1-|z|^2}$ for all $z \in B(0,1)$.
- Riemannian Metric: A C^2 function $\varrho: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ defined on an open connected subset Ω of \mathbb{C} , is said to be a Riemannian metric. If $f: B(0,1) \rightarrow B(0,1)$ is holomorphic, then it is distance decreasing with respect to the Poincare metric: $\varrho(z) := \frac{1}{1-|z|^2}$ defined on $B(0,1)$, that is, $f^*(\varrho) \leq \varrho$.

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- Here for any metric $\varphi: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ on Ω , and any C^2 -function $f: \tilde{\Omega} \rightarrow \Omega$, the pull-back $f^*\varphi$ is

$$(f^*\varphi)(z) := |f'(z)|\varphi(f(z))$$

and it defines a metric on $\tilde{\Omega}$.

Ahlfors' Schwarz lemma

- The Gaussian curvature of a Riemannian metric φ^2 is defined to be

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- Claim: We will verify that any holomorphic function $f: \Omega \rightarrow B(0, r)$ defines a metric f^*p_r of constant negative curvature on $\Omega \setminus \{f' = 0\}$, where $p_r(z) := \frac{r}{r^2 - |z|^2}$ is the Poincaré metric of $B(0, r)$ and

$$(f^*p_r)(z) := \frac{r|f'(z)|}{r^2 - |f(z)|^2}, \quad z \in \Omega \setminus \{f' = 0\}.$$

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- Ahlfors' Lemma: Let $\varphi \geq 0$ be a continuous function on $B(0, 1)$. Assume that φ is C^2 on the open set $D_\varphi := \{\varphi > 0\}$. Suppose $K_\varphi \leq -\eta$, on D_φ for some $\eta > 0$. Then

$$f^*(\varphi)(z) \leq \frac{4}{\eta} \frac{1}{1 - |z|^2}, \quad z \in B(0, 1).$$

- Proof of the claim: For a holomorphic function f defined on an open connected set $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ with $|f(z)| \leq r$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Delta \log(r^2 - |f|^2)^{-1} &= -4 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \bar{z} \partial z} \log(r^2 - |f|^2) \\
 &= 4 \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} \left(\frac{\bar{f} f'}{r^2 - |f|^2} \right) \\
 &= 4 f' \left(\frac{\bar{f}'}{r^2 - |f|^2} + \frac{\bar{f} f \bar{f}'}{(r^2 - |f|^2)^2} \right) \\
 &= 4 |f'|^2 \left(\frac{r^2 - |f|^2 + |f|^2}{(r^2 - |f|^2)^2} \right) \\
 &= 4 \left(\frac{r |f'|}{r^2 - |f|^2} \right)^2
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 \end{aligned}$$

- In particular,

$$\Delta \log \frac{r}{r^2 - |z|^2} = 4 \left(\frac{r}{r^2 - |z|^2} \right)^2, \quad |z| < r.$$

proof of Ahlfors' lemma

- Fix $\zeta \in \mathbb{D}$, and let $r \in (|\zeta|, 1)$. Put $p_r(z) = \frac{r}{r^2 - |z|^2}$ on $B(0, r)$. Since $p_r(z) \rightarrow \infty$ as $|z| \rightarrow r$ and $f^*\varphi$ is continuous on $B[0, r]$, it is clear that the function $\psi := \frac{f^*\varphi}{p_r}$ attains its maximum on $B(0, r)$ at some $\xi \in B(0, r)$. If $(f^*\varphi)(\xi) = 0$, then $\varphi \equiv 0$.

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- Hence we may assume that $\xi \in D_\varphi$. Then ξ is also a local maximum of $\log \psi$, and it follows that $\Delta \log \psi \leq 0$ at ξ . Now, at ξ :

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\geq \Delta \log \psi = \Delta \log f^*\varphi - \Delta \log p_r \\ &\geq 4(f^*\varphi^2 - p_r^2), \end{aligned}$$

that is, $\psi(\xi) \leq 1$. Thus $f^*\varphi \leq p_r$ on $B(0, r)$. Letting $r \uparrow 1$, we conclude that $(f^*\varphi)(z) \leq \frac{1}{1-|z|^2}$, $z \in B(0, 1)$, as required.

applications

- Definition: For any open connected set $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{C}$, let $\mathcal{N}(\Omega)$ denote the set of continuous functions $\varphi \geq 0$ on Ω such that φ is C^2 on $\{\varphi > 0\}$ and $\Delta \log \varphi \geq 4\varphi^2$ there.

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- Definition: For any open connected set $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{C}$, let $N\mathcal{E}(\Omega)$ denote the set of continuous functions $\varphi \geq 0$ on Ω such that φ is C^2 on $\{\varphi > 0\}$ and $\Delta \log \varphi \geq 4\varphi^2$ there.
- It is easy, using the chain rule, to verify:
Proposition: Suppose that $f: \Omega \rightarrow \tilde{\Omega}$ is a holomorphic maps of open connected sets in \mathbb{C} . Then $\varphi \in N\mathcal{E}(\tilde{\Omega})$ implies $f^*\varphi = |f'|(\varphi \circ f)$ is in $N\mathcal{E}(\Omega)$.

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- It follows from the Ahlfors lemma that $N\mathcal{E}(\mathbb{C}) = \{0\}$.
- Verification: Pick φ in $N\mathcal{E}(\mathbb{C})$. Fix $a \in \mathbb{C}$. For any $r > |a|$, taking $f: B(0,r) \rightarrow B(0,r)$, $f(z) = z$, Ahlfors Lemma yields $(f^*\varphi)(a) = \varphi(a) \leq \frac{r}{r^2 - |a|^2}$. As $r \rightarrow \infty$, we see that $\varphi(a) = 0$.

applications

- Corollary: Let $f: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \Omega$, $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{C}$, be a holomorphic function. If $N_{\mathcal{C}}(\Omega) \neq \{0\}$, then f must be constant.

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- Picard's little theorem Similarly, if $f: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_{\{0,1\}}$, where $\mathbb{C}_{\{0,1\}} := \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0,1\}$ is holomorphic, then f is constant.

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- proof: To verify this, all we need to do is show that $N\mathcal{E}(\mathbb{C}_{\{0,1\}}) \neq \{0\}$. The non-zero function

$$\varphi(z) = |z|^{\beta/2-1} |1-z|^{\beta/2-1} (1+|z|^\beta)(1+|z-1|)^\beta, \beta > 0,$$

is in $N\mathcal{E}(\mathbb{C}_{\{0,1\}})$ for $0 < \beta < 2/7$.

Thank You!