

Midterm Solution

1. Let $f \in \text{Hol}(\mathcal{D})$, and let L be a line in \mathbb{C} . If $f(z) \in L$ for all $z \in \mathcal{D}$, then prove that f is constant on \mathcal{D} .

Answer: If f is non constant holomorphic then $f(\mathcal{D}) = L$ should be open as a non constant holomorphic function is an open map. But line L is not open in \mathbb{C} . Hence f must be constant.

2. Evaluate $\int_{C_1(0)} \frac{\cos z}{z} dz$ and $\int_{C_1(0)} \frac{\sin z}{z^2-5} dz$.

Answer: Let $f(z) = \cos z$. Clearly, f is holomorphic on \mathbb{C} . Let U be an open region containing $C_1(0)$ and its interior and $U \subset B_{\sqrt{5}}(0)$.

(i) By Cauchy's integral formula, we have $\int_{C_1(0)} \frac{f(z)}{z} dz = f(0) = 1$.

(ii) Since $\frac{\sin z}{z^2-5}$ is holomorphic on U , therefore $\int_{C_1(0)} \frac{\sin z}{z^2-5} dz = 0$.

4. Let $f \in \text{Hol}(\mathbb{C})$, and let $f(z_1 + z_2) = f(z_1) + f(z_2)$ for all z_1, z_2 . Prove that there exists a scalar α such that $f(z) = \alpha z$ for all z .

Ans: By the given hypothesis we have for $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$f(n) = nf(1)$$

and

$$f(-n) = -nf(1).$$

Now clearly

$$f\left(\frac{m}{n}\right) = \frac{m}{n}f(1) \quad \text{for all } \frac{m}{n} \in \mathbb{Q}.$$

Since \mathbb{Q} is dense in \mathbb{R} , and f is continuous

$$f(x) = xf(1) \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Take $g(z) = f(1)z$. Now consider

$$Z = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : f(z) = g(z)\}.$$

Then clearly, Z contains \mathbb{R} as well as limit point. Hence by identity theorem $f(z) = g(z)$. This finishes the proof.

5. Let $f \in \text{Hol}(\mathcal{D})$, and let f has distinct zeros z_1, \dots, z_n with multiplicities m_1, \dots, m_n , respectively. Prove that there exists $g \in \text{Hol}(\mathcal{D})$ such that

$$f(z) = (z - z_1)^{m_1} \dots (z - z_n)^{m_n} g$$

Ans: We can take power series expansion f in $B_{r_1}(z_1) \subset \mathcal{D}$, for some $r_1 > 0$. Since f has zero at z_1 , we have

$$f(z) = (z - z_1)^{m_1} g_1(z)$$

Now g_1 is also a power series and $f(z_2) = 0$ but $(z_2 - z_1) \neq 0$. So $g_1(z_2) = 0$ and $g_1(z_1) \neq 0$. Therefore

$$g_1(z) = (z - z_1)^{m_2} g_2(z).$$

Continuing in this way we have

$$f(z) = (z - z_1)^{m_1} \cdots (z - z_n)^{m_n} g(z)$$

for some holomorphic function g .

6. Let \mathcal{D} be a domain in \mathbb{R}^2 and let u and v be harmonic functions on \mathcal{D} . True or false (with justification): (i) $u + v$ is harmonic. (ii) uv is harmonic.

Ans: Let u and v be harmonic functions on \mathcal{D} . Then

$$u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 0$$

and

$$v_{xx} + v_{yy} = 0,$$

where $u_{xx} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$ and $u_{yy} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2}$. Clearly from the above equation we have

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} \right) (u + v) = 0.$$

This proves that $u + v$ is harmonic.

(ii) Consider $u(x, y) = v(x, y) = xy$. Then

$$u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 0.$$

Therefore u is harmonic. Similarly v is also harmonic. But

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} \right) (uv) = 2(y^2 + x^2) \neq 0.$$

Hence product of two harmonic functions need not be harmonic.

7. Prove that for all polynomial $p \in \mathbb{C}[z]$,

$$\sup_{z \in C_1(0)} |z^{-1} - p(z)| \geq 1.$$

Ans: Note that

$$\sup_{z \in C_1(0)} |z^{-1} - p(z)| = \sup_{z \in C_1(0)} |1 - zp(z)|.$$

Let $f(z) = 1 - zp(z)$ for $z \in B_1(0) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 1\}$. Then f is holomorphic on $B_1(0)$. Also $f(0) = 1$. So by maximum modulus principle $\sup_{z \in C_1(0)} |f(z)| \geq 1$. This completes the proof.

8. Let f be a non-constant entire function. (i) Prove that the range of f is dense. (ii) If $|f| = 1$ on $C_1(0)$, then describe f .

Ans: (i) Suppose range of f is not dense. Then there exists $w \in \mathbb{C}$ and $r > 0$ such that $|f(z) - w| > r$ for every $z \in \mathbb{C}$. Consider

$$h(z) = \frac{1}{f(z) - w} \quad z \in \mathbb{C}.$$

Clearly, h is entire and

$$|h(z)| = \frac{1}{|f(z) - w|} < \frac{1}{r}.$$

Hence by Liouville's theorem $h(z)$ is constant. Therefore $f(z)$ is constant on \mathbb{C}

9. Let $a_n \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ and let

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |a_n| < \infty$$

and let

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{a_n}{k^n} = 0$$

for all integer $k \leq 2$. Prove that $a_n = 0$ for all n .

Answer: Suppose there exists a smallest integer k such that $a_k \neq 0$. Consider

$$\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} a_n z^n = f(z).$$

Since $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |a_n| < \infty$ so $a_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Therefore $\limsup |a_n|^{\frac{1}{n}} \leq 1$. Hence the radius of convergence of f is bigger than equal to 1. Now $B_{\frac{1}{2}}(0)$ is inside the area of convergence for f . Hence f is holomorphic on $B_{\frac{1}{2}}(0)$. Now consider

$$Z(f) = \{z \in B_{\frac{1}{2}}(0) : f(z) = 0\}$$

Clearly $Z(f)$ contains the set $\{\frac{1}{n} : n \geq 3\}$. Therefore $Z(f)$ has limit point, namely 0 in $B_{\frac{1}{2}}(0)$. Hence by Identity theorem $f = 0$. This completes the proof.