

35. On an Extension of Bloch's Theorem.

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Though the following extension of Bloch's theorem is an immediate consequence of a general theorem due to L. Ahlfors¹⁾, it will not be of no interest to prove it directly, by modifying Landau's proof²⁾ of Bloch's theorem.

Theorem. Let $w=f(z)=z+\dots$ be meromorphic in $|z|\leq 1$ and K be the Riemann sphere of diameter 1, which touches the w -plane at $w=0$ and F be the Riemann surface of the inverse function $\varphi(w)$ of $w=f(z)$, spread upon K . Then F contains a schlicht circle of radius $\geq d > 0$, where d is a numerical constant.

Proof. We put

$$\text{Max.}_{|z|\leq 1} \frac{|f'(z)|}{1+|f(z)|^2} (1-|z|^2) = M, \quad (1)$$

then, since $f(z)=z+\dots$ is meromorphic in $|z|\leq 1$, $1\leq M<\infty$.

Let $\frac{|f'(z_0)|}{1+|f(z_0)|^2} (1-|z_0|^2) = M$, then $|z_0| < 1$.

By $Z = \frac{z-z_0}{1-\bar{z}_0z}$, $f(z)$ becomes $F(Z)$, so that

$$\frac{|F'(Z)|}{1+|F(Z)|^2} (1-|Z|^2) = \frac{|f'(z)|}{1+|f(z)|^2} (1-|z|^2) \leq M, \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{F'(0)}{1+|F(0)|^2} = Me^{i\theta}. \quad (3)$$

We rotate K so that $F(0)=f(z_0)$ becomes $w=0$, then

$$G(Z) = e^{-i\theta} \frac{F(Z)-F(0)}{1+\bar{F}(0)F(Z)} = MZ + \dots$$

is meromorphic in $|Z|\leq 1$. Since

$$\frac{|G'(Z)|}{1+|G(Z)|^2} = \frac{|F'(Z)|}{1+|F(Z)|^2} \leq \frac{M}{1-|Z|^2},$$

we have by integrating along a radius of $|Z|\leq 1$,

$$\int_0^Z \frac{|G'(Z)|}{1+|G(Z)|^2} |dZ| \leq \frac{M}{2} \log \frac{1+|Z|}{1-|Z|}. \quad (4)$$

1) L. Ahlfors: Sur les domaines dans lesquels une fonction méromorphe prend des valeurs appartenant à une région donnée. Théorème VI. Acta Societatis Scientiarum Fennicae. Nova Series A. Tom II. (1933).

2) E. Landau: Über die Blochschen Konstante und zwei verwandte Weltkonstanten. Math. Z. 30 (1929).

Since the left hand side of (4) is the length of the curve on K , which corresponds to a radius of $|Z| \leq 1$, if $\frac{M}{2} \log \frac{1+|Z|}{1-|Z|} \leq \frac{\pi}{4}$ or $|Z| \leq \frac{e^{\frac{\pi}{2M}} - 1}{e^{\frac{\pi}{2M}} + 1}$, then $G(Z)$ lies on the lower semi-sphere of K , so that

$G(Z)$ is regular and $|G(Z)| \leq 1$ for $|Z| \leq \frac{e^{\frac{\pi}{2M}} - 1}{e^{\frac{\pi}{2M}} + 1}$.

Since for $M \geq 1$,

$$\frac{e^{\frac{\pi}{2M}} - 1}{e^{\frac{\pi}{2M}} + 1} \geq \frac{k}{M} \quad (k = \text{const.}),$$

$G(Z) = MZ + \dots$ is regular for $|Z| \leq \frac{k}{M}$ and $|G(Z)| \leq 1$.

Hence if we put

$$x = \frac{MZ}{k}, \quad v = H(x) = \frac{G(Z)}{k},$$

then

$$v = H(x) = x + \dots$$

is regular for $|x| \leq 1$ and $|H(x)| \leq \frac{1}{k}$, so that $x = v + \dots$ is regular for $|v| \leq d_1$ ($d_1 = \text{const.}$). Returning to $w = f(z)$, we see that the Riemann surface F of the inverse function $\varphi(w)$ of $f(z)$ contains a schlicht circle of radius $\geq d > 0$ ($d = \text{const.}$), q. e. d.