

Qualifying Examination Analysis

Solutions

May 9, 2016

Problem 1 Let $w_0 \in \mathbb{C}$. Prove there exists a holomorphic function, $f(\cdot)$, on the disc

$$\Delta = \{z \mid |z| < e^{-\operatorname{Re} w_0}\}$$

such that

$$f(0) = w_0 \tag{1.1}$$

$$f'(z) = e^{f(z)}, z \in \Delta.$$

Express the solution f in closed form.

Solution #1

One sees that $f''(z) = f'(z)e^{f(z)} = e^{2f'(z)}$, and then, by induction on n ,

$$f^{(n)}(z) = (n-1)!e^{nf(z)}, n \geq 1$$

$$f^{(n)}(0) = (n-1)!e^{nw_0}, n \geq 1.$$

The Taylor expansion of f about 0 is

$$\begin{aligned} f(z) &= w_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!} z^n \\ &= w_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} (e^{w_0} z)^n. \end{aligned} \tag{1.2}$$

The series converges for $|e^{w_0} z| = |z| e^{\operatorname{Re} w_0} < 1$, or

$$|z| < e^{-\operatorname{Re} w_0}.$$

The second line of (1.2) is

$$f(z) = w_0 + \log \frac{1}{1 - e^{w_0 z}}. \quad (1.4)$$

Solution #2

The second line of (1.1) is the same as

$$f'(z) e^{-f(z)} = 1.$$

If there is a solution on Δ , it must satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} z &= \int_0^z f'(w) e^{-f(w)} dw \\ &= -e^{-f(w)} \Big|_0^z = e^{-w_0} - e^{-f(z)} \end{aligned}$$

Rearrangement yields the same function (1.4).

Problem 2 Let $0 < r < 1$, and denote by C_r the circle of radius r , with the positive (counterclockwise) orientation. Prove that

$$\int_{C_r} \frac{1}{(1 - \bar{z})^{n+1}} dz = 2\pi i (n+1) r^2, n \geq 0.$$

What about $n < 0$?

Solution

If $z \in C_r$, then $\bar{z} = \frac{r^2}{z}$, and the integral may be rewritten

$$\int_{C_r} \frac{1}{(1 - \bar{z})^{n+1}} dz = \int_{C_r} \frac{z^{n+1}}{(z - r^2)^{n+1}} dz.$$

Since $r^2 < r < 1$, the Cauchy integral formula for the n^{th} derivative implies

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{C_r} \frac{z^{n+1}}{(z-r^2)^{n+1}} dz &= (2\pi i) \frac{(z^{n+1})^{(n)}(r^2)}{n!} \\ &= 2\pi i (n+1) r^2. \end{aligned}$$

If $n < 0$, then $\frac{1}{(1-\bar{z})^{n+1}} = (1-\bar{z})^{-n-1}$ is a polynomial in \bar{z} ,

$$(1-\bar{z})^{-n-1} = \sum_{k=0}^{-n-1} \binom{-n-1}{k} (-\bar{z})^k.$$

The only power with a nonzero integral is the first, and therefore

$$\int_{C_r} (1-\bar{z})^{-n-1} dz = (-n-1) \int_{C_r} -\bar{z} dz = 2\pi i (n+1) r^2.$$

Problem 3 Let $f(\cdot)$ be holomorphic on a neighborhood, U , of a point z_0 . Define $g(\cdot)$ on U by

$$g(z) = \begin{cases} \frac{f(z)-f(z_0)}{z-z_0}, & z \in U, z \neq z_0 \\ f'(z_0), & z = z_0 \end{cases} \quad (3.1)$$

Give **TWO** proofs that $g(\cdot)$ is holomorphic on U . For each proof, cite carefully theorem(s) about holomorphic functions that imply the statement under consideration

Solution #1

Since $\lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} g(z) = g(z_0)$, $g(\cdot)$ is bounded and holomorphic on a punctured disc about z_0 . The Riemann Removable singularities theorem says that g extends to be holomorphic on the unpunctured disc. Since the extension is, in particular, continuous, the function (3.1) is holomorphic.

Solution #2

Since $f(\cdot)$ is holomorphic on U , the Taylor series of f converges locally uniformly to f on a disc, Δ , about z_0 ,

$$f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(z_0)}{n!} (z - z_0)^n.$$

Therefore, if $z \neq z_0$,

$$\frac{f(z) - f(z_0)}{z - z_0} = f'(z_0) + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(z_0)}{n!} (z - z_0)^{n-1}.$$

The power series converges on Δ and is zero at z_0 . Therefore, $g(\cdot)$ is holomorphic.

Problem 4 Let $f \geq 0$ be real-valued and measurable on \mathbb{R} . Denote by m the Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R} . Prove that, whether or not f is integrable,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{k}{N} m \left(f^{-1} \left(\left[\frac{k}{N}, \frac{k+1}{N} \right] \right) \right) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) m(dx). \quad (4.1)$$

Solution

Let f_N be the function

$$f_N(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{k}{N} \chi_{f^{-1}(\left[\frac{k}{N}, \frac{k+1}{N} \right])}(x) \leq f(x). \quad (4.2)$$

Since f takes values in \mathbb{R} , it is true that for all x

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} f_N(x) = f(x), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (4.3)$$

The Monotone Convergence Theorem implies for each N that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}} f_N(x) m(dx) &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \sum_{k=0}^L \frac{k}{N} \chi_{f^{-1}(\left[\frac{k}{N}, \frac{k+1}{N} \right])}(x) m(dx) \\ &= \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=0}^L \frac{k}{N} m \left(f^{-1} \left(\left[\frac{k}{N}, \frac{k+1}{N} \right] \right) \right) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{k}{N} m \left(f^{-1} \left(\left[\frac{k}{N}, \frac{k+1}{N} \right] \right) \right). \end{aligned} \quad (4.4)$$

By (4.2)-(4.4) and Fatou's Lemma

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) m(dx) &\geq \limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}} f_N(x) m(dx) \\ &\geq \liminf_{N \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}} f_N(x) m(dx) \geq \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) m(dx) \end{aligned}$$

Problem 5 Let f be a function on the (x, y) plane. Assume that for each fixed x (resp. for each fixed y) $f(x, y)$ is continuous in y (resp. $f(x, y)$ is continuous in x). Prove that f is a Borel function on the plane. Hint: You may wish to consider the functions

$$f_{m,n}(x, y) = f\left(\frac{[mx]}{m}, \frac{[ny]}{n}\right), m, n > 0.$$

($[w] = \max\{n \in \mathbb{Z} | n \leq w\}$ is the greatest integer function.)

Solution

For all $y \in \mathbb{R}$ it is true for $n > 0$ that

$$[ny] \leq ny < [ny] + 1.$$

Therefore,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{[ny]}{n} = y.$$

The functions $f_{m,n}(x, y)$ are Borel (constant on each rectangle, $R_{m,n}(k, l)$,

$$R_{m,n}(k, l) = \left[\frac{k}{m}, \frac{k+1}{m}\right) \times \left[\frac{l}{n}, \frac{l+1}{n}\right), k, l \in \mathbb{Z},$$

of a partition of \mathbb{R}^2 into rectangles). By the assumption on f ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_{m,n}(x, y) = f\left(\frac{[mx]}{m}, y\right), \text{ all } m > 0, x, y \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Since a pointwise everywhere limit of a sequence of Borel functions is Borel, the functions

$$f_m(x, y) = f\left(\frac{[mx]}{m}, y\right)$$

are Borel for all m . Once again, the assumption on f implies

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} f_m(x, y) = f(x, y)$$

and $f(x, y)$ is Borel.

REMARK

On the Continuum Hypothesis, there exists on the plane a function that is **not even Lebesgue measurable** and which has the property that restricted to any line in the plane it has at most two discontinuities. (Notes attached.)

Problem 6 let f be measurable on \mathbb{R} , and assume that both $f(x)$ and $xf(x)$ are integrable with respect to Lebesgue measure, m . Define $F(y)$ on \mathbb{R} by

$$F(y) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) \sin xy \, m(dx).$$

Prove that F is differentiable on \mathbb{R} and that

$$F'(y) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} xf(x) \cos(xy) \, m(dx). \quad (6.1)$$

Solution

For all x, y and $\delta \neq 0$ the mean value theorem implies there is a point $\xi(x, y, \delta)$ strictly between y and $y + \delta$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{\sin x[y+\delta] - \sin xy}{\delta} \right| &= |x \cos(x\xi(x, y, \delta))| \\ &\leq |x| \end{aligned}$$

Now, use the assumption that $xf(x)$ is Lebesgue integrable: As

$$\frac{F'(y + \delta) - F'(y)}{\delta} = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) \frac{\sin x(y + \delta) - \sin xy}{\delta} m(dx)$$

and

$$\left| f(x) \frac{\sin x[y + \delta] - \sin xy}{\delta} \right| \leq |xf(x)|,$$

the dominated convergence theorem implies that (6.1) is true.

REMARK ON PROBLEM 5:

A REASON TO OPPOSE

THE CONTINUUM HYPOTHESIS

Let $(E, \leq) = E$ be a nonempty partially ordered set. E is **well-ordered** if every nonempty subset of E has a least element. Notice that if $x, y \in E$, then either $x = y$ or one of the inequalities $x < y, y < x$ must hold. That is, a well-ordered set is **totally ordered**. An induction argument shows that any nonempty **finite** subset of a well-ordered set has a **maximum** element.

If E is well-ordered, if $x \in E$, and if

$$S(x) \stackrel{def}{=} \{y \in E \mid x < y\} \neq \emptyset.$$

then $S(x)$ has a least element, which we denote by

$$\sigma(x) = \min S(x).$$

Refer to $\sigma(x)$ as the **successor** of x . There are two kinds of elements of E , successors and limit elements, i.e., elements which have no immediate predecessors. Example,

$$E = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, \infty\}.$$

with the natural order. ∞ is not a successor.

If (E, \leq) is nonempty and well-ordered, there exists a least element of E . Define

$$0 = \min E.$$

For any $x \in E$ define an "interval" $[0, x)$ by

$$[0, x) = \{y \mid y < x\}.$$

Proposition 7 Let $(E, \leq) = E$ be an uncountable well-ordered set. Define $E^\omega \subseteq E$ by

$$E^\omega = \{x \mid [0, x) \text{ is countable}\}.$$

Then E^ω is an uncountable "initial segment" of E . That is, E^ω is an uncountable set, and if $x \in E^\omega$, then $[0, x) \subset E^\omega$.

Proof. If E^ω were countable, the assumption that E is uncountable implies the set

$$\widehat{E} = E \setminus E^\omega \neq \emptyset.$$

Since it is nonempty, \widehat{E} has a smallest element. Let $z = \min \widehat{E}$. If $x < z < y$, then by definition $x \in E^\omega$. Since $[0, z) \subset [0, y)$ and $[0, z)$ is uncountable, $[0, y)$ is uncountable. In particular, $y \notin E^\omega$. Therefore, $E^\omega = [0, z)$, contradicting the assumption that E^ω is countable. ■

The proposition implies that an uncountable well-ordered set E contains an uncountable well-ordered subset with the property that each of its initial segments is **countable**. From now on we assume fixed

(E, \leq) an uncountable well-ordered set

such that (CH1)

$[0, x)$ is countable, all $x \in E$.

To see that such a set exists, begin with any uncountable set, F , e.g., the set of all subsets of the integers, apply the axiom of choice to well order F , and then use the discussion above to see that $E = F^\omega$ has the desired property.

We now state one assumption and one known fact:

ASSUMPTION:

The continuum hypothesis is true. The set (CH1) has (CH2)

the same cardinality as the set of real numbers.

FACT

The set, $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^2)$, of Borel sets has the same cardinality (CH3)

as the set of real numbers.

A PDF of a proof of (CH3), which does not require the continuum hypothesis, is available upon request to interested students.

Theorem 8 *There exists a set $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ such that*

1. For any line $L \subset \mathbb{R}^2$, $L \cap \Omega$ contains at most two points.
2. Ω contains no uncountable Borel set.
3. If $B \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \Omega$ is a Borel set, then B is contained in a countable union of lines.
4. Ω is not Lebesgue measurable.

Proof. Denote by $\mathcal{B}_c(\mathbb{R}^2)$ the set of uncountable Borel sets. By (CH2) and (CH3), there is a one-to-one and onto map,

$$E \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_c(\mathbb{R}^2)$$

$$x \rightarrow B_x \in \mathcal{B}_c(\mathbb{R}^2), x \in E.$$

We shall make an inductive construction of points

$$p(x), q(x), x \in E.$$

First, choose for $x = 0 = \min(E)$

$$p(0), q(0) \in B_0, p(0) \neq q(0).$$

Now assume $0 < y \in E$ and that the construction has been made for $0 \leq x < y$ with properties now to be described. Define

$$\Omega(y) = \{p(x) \mid x < y\}$$

$$\Lambda(y) = \{q(x) \mid x < y\}.$$

Assume

- A. For any line $L \subset \mathbb{R}^2$, $L \cap \Omega(y)$ contains at most two points.
- B. $\Lambda(y) \cap \Omega(y) = \emptyset$.
- C. If $x < y$ is such that B_x is not contained in a countable union of lines, then $p(x) \in B_x$. Otherwise, $p(x) = p(0)$.
- D. If $x < y$, then $q(x) \in B_x$.

We shall construct the values $p(y), q(y)$. $\Omega(y)$ is a countable set because $[0, y]$ is countable for each $y \in E$. Therefore, the set of pairs of distinct points in $\Omega(y)$ determines a countable set of lines. Denote the union of these lines by $\Gamma(y)$. If B_y is contained in a countable union of lines, define $p(y) = p(0)$. If B_y is not contained in a countable union of lines, $B_y \setminus \Gamma(y)$ cannot be a countable set. For $B_y \setminus \Gamma(y)$ were countable, it would also determine a countable set of lines whose union with $\Gamma(y)$ would contain B_y . Now choose $p(y) \in B_y \setminus \Gamma(y)$. Having chosen $p(y)$, define

$$\Omega(\sigma(y)) = \Omega(y) \cup \{p(y)\}.$$

Now to choose $q(y)$. Let $q(y)$ be any point in the uncountable set $B_y \setminus \Omega(\sigma(y))$. Let

$$\Lambda(\sigma(y)) = \Lambda(y) \cup \{q(y)\}.$$

The induction hypothesis and the fact $p(y) = p(0)$ or $p(y) \in B_y \setminus \Gamma(y)$ imply that no line contains more than two points of $\Omega(\sigma(y))$. This is Property A. Since $p(y) \neq q(y)$ and $p(y) \notin \Lambda(y), q(y) \notin \Omega(y)$, it is true that Property B holds for $\sigma(y)$. The induction hypothesis and the choices of $p(y)$ and $q(y)$ imply Properties C. and D. for $\sigma(y)$. The construction is now completed by induction. Define $\Omega, \Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ by

$$\Omega = \{p(y) \mid y \in E\}$$

$$\Lambda = \{q(y) \mid y \in E\}$$

$$\Lambda \cap \Omega = \emptyset.$$

The last line is due to B. If $B \in \mathcal{B}_c(\mathbb{R}^2)$, then $B = B_y$ for some $y \in E$. By D. $q(y) \in \Lambda(\sigma(y)) \subset \Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \Omega$. Therefore, $B \not\subseteq \Omega$, and 2. is true. Suppose that $B \in \mathcal{B}_c(\mathbb{R}^2)$ is not contained in a countable union of lines. If $B = B_y$, then by C. $p(y) \in B$. Therefore, $B \not\subseteq \Lambda$, and 3. is true. If $L \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ is a line, and if $L \cap \Omega$ contains at least three points, there would exist $y \in E$ such that $L \cap \Omega(y)$ contains at least three points, contradicting A. Therefore, Ω satisfies 3. Finally, if Ω is Lebesgue measurable, Ω must be a null set. For otherwise, the inner regularity of Lebesgue measure would imply that Ω contains a compact, in particular Borel, set of positive measure, in violation of 2. If Ω is a null set, then Λ is a Lebesgue measurable set of positive (infinite!) measure. Again applying inner regularity, Λ would

contain a Borel set of positive measure. Such a set cannot be contained in a countable union of lines, in violation of 3. We conclude that Ω is not a Lebesgue measurable set. ■

