

2. If a meromorphic function is defined by a discrete set  $E \subset \Omega$  and  $f \in \mathcal{H}(\Omega - E)$ , then any pole of this function is contained in  $E$ .

**Definition 5.** Let  $\Omega$  be an open set in  $\mathbb{C}$  and  $f$  a meromorphic function on  $\Omega$ . Let  $a \in \Omega$  be a pole of  $f$ . We define the *order of the pole of  $f$  at  $a$*  as follows:

Let  $f(z) = \sum_{n=-N}^{\infty} c_n(z-a)^n$  be the Laurent expansion of  $f$  at  $a$  (it has the form given because of Lemma 3). We may assume that  $c_{-N} \neq 0$ . Then  $-N < 0$  (since otherwise  $f$  would be holomorphic at  $a$ ). The order of the pole of  $f$  at  $a$  is then  $N$  by definition.

*Note.* This is equivalent to requiring that  $g(z) = (z-a)^N f(z)$  is holomorphic at  $a$  and that  $g(a) \neq 0$ .

**Definition 6.** Let  $\Omega$  be a connected open set in  $\mathbb{C}$  and let  $f$  be meromorphic on  $\Omega$ ,  $f \neq 0$ .

Let  $a \in \Omega$ , and let  $f(z) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} c_n(z-a)^n$  be the Laurent expansion of  $f$  at  $a$ .

We define the *order*  $\text{ord}_a(f)$  of  $f$  at  $a$  by

$$\text{ord}_a(f) = \inf\{n | c_n \neq 0\}$$

(This is meaningful because of Lemma 3). If  $f \equiv 0$ , we set  $\text{ord}_a(0) = \infty$ .

The next lemma contains results which are easy consequences of the definitions, so that the proofs will be omitted.

**Lemma 4.** Let  $\Omega$  be a connected open set in  $\mathbb{C}$  and let  $f$  be a meromorphic function on  $\Omega$ ,  $f \neq 0$ . Let  $a \in \Omega$ .

- 1°.  $a$  is a pole of  $f$  if and only if  $\text{ord}_a(f) < 0$ . In this case,  $f$  has a pole of order  $-\text{ord}_a(f)$  at  $a$ .
- 2°.  $f$  is holomorphic and has a zero at  $a$  if and only if  $\text{ord}_a(f) > 0$ . In this case  $\text{ord}_a(f)$  is called the *order of the zero of  $f$  at  $a$* .
- 3°.  $f$  is holomorphic at  $a \in \Omega$  if and only if  $\text{ord}_a(f) \geq 0$ .
- 4°.  $f$  is holomorphic at  $a$  and  $f(a) \neq 0$  if and only if  $\text{ord}_a(f) = 0$ .
- 5°. If  $f$  and  $g$  are meromorphic functions on  $\Omega$ , we have

$$\text{ord}_a(f \cdot g) = \text{ord}_a(f) + \text{ord}_a(g).$$

## 6. The Looman–Menchoff theorem

- 6°. If  $f$  and  $g$  are meromorphic functions on  $\Omega$  and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\lambda \neq 0$ , we have

$$\text{ord}_a(\lambda f) = \text{ord}_a(f),$$

$$\text{ord}_a(f + g) \geq \min(\text{ord}_a(f), \text{ord}_a(g)).$$

Further, if  $\text{ord}_a(f) \neq \text{ord}_a(g)$ , we have

$$\text{ord}_a(f + g) = \min(\text{ord}_a(f), \text{ord}_a(g)).$$

**Definition 7.** Let  $f$  be meromorphic on the open set  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$ , and let  $a \in \Omega$ .

We say that  $f$  has a *simple pole* at  $a$  if  $\text{ord}_a(f) = -1$ .

We say that  $f$  has a *simple zero* at  $a$  if  $\text{ord}_a(f) = +1$ .

If  $\text{ord}_a(f) = k > 0$ , we call  $k$  the *order of the zero of  $f$  at  $a$* . Thus a simple zero is a zero of order 1.

**Definition 8.** Let  $a \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $r > 0$  and let  $f$  be holomorphic on  $\{z \in \mathbb{C} | 0 < |z-a| < r\}$ . We say that  $a$  is an *essential singularity of  $f$*  (or that  $f$  has an *essential singularity at  $a$* ) if, in the Laurent expansion

$\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} c_n(z-a)^n$  of  $f$  at  $a$ , there are infinitely many  $n < 0$  with  $c_n \neq 0$ .

This is equivalent to saying that  $f$  is not meromorphic on  $D(a, r)$ .

**Theorem 4 (The Casorati–Weierstrass Theorem).** Let  $a \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $r > 0$ ,  $D^* = \{z \in \mathbb{C} | 0 < |z-a| < r\}$ . Let  $f \in \mathcal{H}(D^*)$  and suppose that  $a$  is an essential singularity of  $f$ . Then  $f(D^*)$  is dense in  $\mathbb{C}$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that this is false. Then, there exist  $c \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$f(D^*) \cap \{w \in \mathbb{C} | |w-c| < \delta\} = \emptyset.$$

Hence, if  $g = (f-c)^{-1}$ ,  $g \in \mathcal{H}(D^*)$  and  $|g(z)| \leq \delta^{-1}$  for  $z \in D^*$ . By the Riemann extension theorem, there is  $G \in \mathcal{H}(D(a, r))$  such that  $G|_{D^*} = g$ . Clearly then  $G \neq 0$  ( $G \cdot (f-c) = 1$  on  $D^*$ ) and  $f = c + G^{-1}$  on  $D^*$ , so that  $f$  would be meromorphic on  $D(a, r)$ , contrary to our assumption that  $f$  has an essential singularity at  $a$ .

Very much more than this is true. The so-called “Big Picard Theorem” asserts that there can exist at most one  $c \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $c \notin f(D^*)$ . We shall prove this theorem in Chapter 4.

## 6 The Looman–Menchoff theorem

In this section, we shall prove the Looman–Menchoff theorem stated in §1.1.

We shall need, just in this section, to allow rectangles to degenerate into segments (or even points).

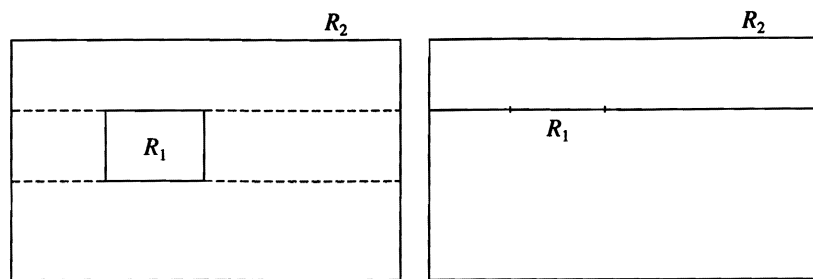


Figure 5.

Let  $a \leq b, c \leq d$  be real numbers. The set

$$R = \{z \in \mathbb{C} | a \leq \Re z \leq b, c \leq \Im z \leq d\} = [a, b] \times [c, d]$$

will be called a *degenerate rectangle* if either  $b = a$  or  $d = c$  (or both). We define the boundary  $\partial R$  exactly as before (see §1.2, Example (c) and Definition 7). Note that if  $R$  is a degenerate rectangle and  $f$  is a continuous function defined on an open set containing  $\text{Im}(\partial R)$ , then  $\int_{\partial R} f dz = 0$ .

**Lemma 1.** Let  $R$  be a closed rectangle in  $\mathbb{C}$  and let  $f$  be a continuous function on  $R$  which is holomorphic on the interior  $\overset{\circ}{R}$  of  $R$ . Then  $\int_{\partial R} f dz = 0$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $R_\varepsilon$  be a closed rectangle,  $R_\varepsilon \subset \overset{\circ}{R}$ , whose vertices converge to those of  $R$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ . Since  $f$  is uniformly continuous on  $R$ , we have

$$\int_{\partial R} f dz = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\partial R_\varepsilon} f dz;$$

by §1.2, Theorem 1,  $\int_{\partial R_\varepsilon} f dz = 0$ . (The argument is the same as the one given in the proof of §1.2, Theorem 2.)

**Lemma 2.** Let  $R_2$  be a closed rectangle in  $\mathbb{C}$  and  $R_1$  a closed rectangle or a degenerate rectangle such that  $R_1 \subset R_2$ . Suppose that  $f$  is continuous on  $R_2 - \overset{\circ}{R}_1$  and holomorphic on  $\overset{\circ}{R}_2 - R_1$ . Then

$$\int_{\partial R_1} f dz = \int_{\partial R_2} f dz.$$

In particular, if  $R_1$  is a degenerate rectangle,  $\int_{\partial R_2} f dz = 0$ .

*Proof.*  $\int_{\partial R_2} f dz - \int_{\partial R_1} f dz$  can be written as the sum of four integrals of the form  $\int_{\partial R} f dz$ ,  $R$  being a closed rectangle contained in  $R_2 - \overset{\circ}{R}_1$  and such that  $f$  is holo-

## 6. The Looman–Menchoff theorem

**Lemma 3.** Let  $S \subset \mathbb{R}$  and let  $S_0$  be the set of isolated points of  $S$ . Then  $S_0$  is either finite or countable.

*Proof.* Let  $\{I_\nu\}$  be the set of open intervals with rational endpoints arranged in a sequence,  $\nu = 1, 2, \dots$ . For  $s \in S_0$ , let  $\nu(s)$  be the smallest integer  $\nu \geq 1$  such that  $s \in I_\nu \cap S = \{s\}$ . Then the map  $s \mapsto \nu(s)$  of  $S_0$  into  $\mathbb{N}$  is injective; in fact, if  $\nu(s) = \nu(s')$ , we have  $\{s\} = I_{\nu(s)} \cap S = I_{\nu(s')} \cap S = \{s'\}$ .

**Lemma 4.** Let  $I = [a, b] \subset \mathbb{R}$  be a closed interval and let  $\phi$  be a complex valued function defined on  $I$ . Suppose that  $\phi$  has a derivative  $\phi'$  at every point of  $I$ . Let  $E$  be a nonempty closed subset of  $I$  and  $M > 0$  a constant such that

$$|\phi(x) - \phi(y)| \leq M|x - y| \quad \text{whenever } x \in E, y \in I.$$

Then

$$\left| \phi(b) - \phi(a) - \int_E \phi'(x) dx \right| \leq M \cdot m_1(I - E),$$

where  $m_1$  is Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{R}$ . (Note that  $|\phi'| \leq M$  on  $E$ , so that the integral exists.)

*Proof.* Let  $J = [\alpha, \beta] \subset I$ . We define the function  $\phi_J: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  to be the unique function of the form  $x \mapsto \lambda x + \mu$  ( $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{C}$  being constants) for which  $\phi_J(\alpha) = \phi(\alpha)$ ,  $\phi_J(\beta) = \phi(\beta)$ . (Explicitly  $\lambda = (\phi(\beta) - \phi(\alpha))/(\beta - \alpha)$ ,  $\mu = (\beta\phi(\alpha) - \alpha\phi(\beta))/(\beta - \alpha)$ .) We have

$$|\phi_J(x) - \phi_J(y)| \leq \frac{|\phi(\beta) - \phi(\alpha)|}{\beta - \alpha} |x - y| \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \mathbb{R}.$$

$E_0 = E \cup \{a\} \cup \{b\}$ , and define a function  $\psi$  on  $I$  as follows:

$$\psi|_{E_0} = \phi|_{E_0};$$

if  $J$  is a complementary interval of  $E_0$  in  $I$  (i.e.,  $J$  is the closure of a connected component of  $I - E_0$ ),

$$\psi|_J = \phi_J|_J.$$

that both endpoints of such a  $J$  lie in  $E_0$ , and at least one of them lies in  $E$  (since otherwise  $J = [a, b]$  and  $E = \emptyset$ ). We claim that

$$|\psi(x) - \psi(y)| \leq M|x - y| \quad \text{for all } x, y \in I.$$

we may suppose that  $x < y$ . There are two possible cases.

**Case 1.**  $x, y$  lie in the same complementary interval  $J = [\alpha, \beta]$  of  $I - E_0$ .

In this case

$$|\psi(x) - \psi(y)| \leq \frac{|\phi(\beta) - \phi(\alpha)|}{\beta - \alpha} |x - y|,$$

... of  $\alpha, \beta$  lies in  $E$ . By hypothesis,  $|\phi(\beta) - \phi(\alpha)| \leq M(\beta - \alpha)$ , so that

$$|\psi(x) - \psi(y)| \leq M|x - y|.$$

**Case 2.**  $x, y$  do not both lie in the same complementary interval of  $I - E_0$ .

In this case, there is a point  $\xi \in E$  with  $x < \xi < y$ , since otherwise, the open interval  $(x, y)$  would be disjoint from  $E \cup \{a\} \cup \{b\}$ , so that the closed interval  $[x, y]$  would be contained in a complementary interval of  $E_0$ .

If  $x \in E_0$ , we have

$$|\psi(x) - \psi(\xi)| = |\phi(x) - \phi(\xi)| \leq M(\xi - x) \quad \text{since } \xi \in E.$$

If  $x \notin E_0$ , let  $J$  be the complementary interval of  $E_0$  containing  $x$ , and let  $x'$  be the right-hand endpoint of  $J$ . Then

$$|\psi(x) - \psi(\xi)| \leq |\psi(x) - \psi(x')| + |\psi(x') - \psi(\xi)|;$$

now  $|\psi(x) - \psi(x')| \leq M(x' - x)$  by Case 1, and  $|\psi(x') - \psi(\xi)| \leq M(\xi - x')$  since  $\xi \in E, x' \in E_0$ . Hence

$$|\psi(x) - \psi(\xi)| \leq M(\xi - x).$$

Similarly,  $|\psi(\xi) - \psi(y)| \leq M(y - \xi)$ ; adding these two inequalities gives  $|\psi(x) - \psi(y)| \leq M(y - x)$ . This proves that

$$|\psi(x) - \psi(y)| \leq M|x - y| \quad \text{for all } x, y \in I.$$

In particular,  $\psi$  is absolutely continuous, so that, by Lebesgue's theorem

$$\psi(b) - \psi(a) = \int_E \psi'(x) dx + \int_{I-E} \psi'(x) dx.$$

Now,  $\psi(a) = \phi(a), \psi(b) = \phi(b)$ . Further, since  $\phi'$  exists at every point of  $E$ , we have  $\phi'(x) = \psi'(x)$  if  $x$  is a nonisolated point of  $E$  at which  $\psi'(x)$  exists. Hence, by Lemma 3 and Lebesgue's theorem,  $\phi' = \psi'$  almost everywhere on  $E$ . Finally,  $|\psi'| \leq M$  almost everywhere on  $I$ . This gives

$$|\phi(b) - \phi(a) - \int_E \phi'(x) dx| = \left| \int_{I-E} \psi'(x) dx \right| \leq M \cdot m_1(I - E).$$

**Lemma 5.** Let  $\Omega$  be an open set in  $\mathbb{C}$  and let  $f$  be a continuous function on  $\Omega$ . Let  $R = [a, b] \times [c, d]$  be a closed rectangle,  $R \subset \Omega$ , and let  $A > 0$  be such that  $A^{-1} \leq (d - c)/(b - a) \leq A$ .

Suppose that there is a nonempty closed set  $E \subset \Omega$  and a constant  $M > 0$  such that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{and } |f(x', y) - f(x, y)| \leq M|x' - x| \text{ whenever } (x, y) \in E \text{ and } (x', y) \in \Omega \\ |f(x, y') - f(x, y)| \leq M|y' - y| \text{ whenever } (x, y) \in E \text{ and } (x, y') \in \Omega. \end{array} \right.$$

The Looman-Menchoff theorem

Suppose also that  $\partial f/\partial x, \partial f/\partial y$  exist at every point  $z = x + iy \in \Omega, x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ . Let  $R_0 \subset R$  be the intersection of all closed rectangles containing  $E \cap R$ ; if  $E \cap R \neq \emptyset$ , then  $R_0$  is either a closed rectangle or a degenerate rectangle. Under these conditions, we have

$$\left| \int_{\partial R_0} f dz - 2i \iint_{E \cap R} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \bar{z}} dz dy \right| \leq 8 \cdot A \cdot M \cdot m_2(R - R \cap E),$$

where  $m_2$  denotes Lebesgue measure in  $\mathbb{R}^2 = \mathbb{C}$ .

*Proof.* We may suppose that  $E \cap R \neq \emptyset$ , since otherwise the statement is trivial.

Let  $R_0 = [a_0, b_0] \times [c_0, d_0] = I \times J$ . For  $x \in I$ , let  $E_x = \{y \in J | (x, y) \in E\}$ . By hypothesis we have

$$|f(x, y) - f(x, y')| \leq M|y' - y| \quad \text{if } y \in E_x, y' \in J.$$

Hence, if  $E_x \neq \emptyset$ , Lemma 4 gives

$$\left| f(x, d_0) - f(x, c_0) - \int_{E_x} \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dy \right| \leq M \cdot m_1(J - E_x) \leq 4AMm_1(J - E_x).$$

However,  $E_x = \emptyset$ , we can find  $\xi, \xi' \in I$  such that  $(\xi, c_0) \in E \cap R, (\xi', d_0) \in E \cap R$ . We then have

$$\begin{aligned} |f(x, d_0) - f(x, c_0)| &\leq |f(x, d_0) - f(\xi', d_0)| + |f(\xi', d_0) - f(\xi', c_0)| \\ &\quad + |f(\xi', c_0) - f(\xi, c_0)| + |f(\xi, c_0) - f(x, c_0)| \\ &\leq M\{|x - \xi'| + |d_0 - c_0| + |\xi' - \xi| + |\xi - x|\}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, if  $E_x = \emptyset$ , we have  $|f(x, d_0) - f(x, c_0)| \leq (3A+1)M(d-c) \leq 4AM(d-c)$ .

Thus, in either case,

$$\left| f(x, d_0) - f(x, c_0) - \int_{E_x} \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dy \right| \leq 4A \cdot M \cdot (d - c - m_1(E_x)).$$

Integrating this inequality with respect to  $x$  over  $I$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{a_0}^{b_0} (f(x, d_0) - f(x, c_0)) dx - \iint_{E \cap R} \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dx dy \right| \\ \leq 4A \cdot M \cdot \{(b_0 - a_0)(d - c) - m_2(E \cap R_0)\} \\ \leq 4A \cdot M \cdot m_2(R - E \cap R), \quad \text{since } E \cap R_0 = E \cap R. \end{aligned} \quad (6.1)$$

In the same way

$$\int_{c_0}^{d_0} (f(b_0, y) - f(a_0, y)) dy - \iint_{E \cap R} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dx dy \leq 4AMm_2(R - E \cap R). \quad (6.2)$$

Now

$$\int_{\partial R_0} f dz = i \int_{c_0}^{d_0} (f(b_0, y) - f(a_0, y)) dy + \int_{a_0}^{b_0} (f(x, c_0) - f(x, d_0)) dx$$

and  $2i\partial f/\partial\bar{z} = i\partial f/\partial x - \partial f/\partial y$ . Hence, if we multiply (6.2) by  $i$  and add the result to (6.1), we obtain

$$\left| \int_{\partial R_0} f dz - 2i \iint_{E \cap R} \frac{\partial f}{\partial\bar{z}} dx dy \right| \leq 8AMm_2(R - R \cap E).$$

We pass now to the Looman–Menchoff theorem.

**Theorem 1 (The Looman–Menchoff Theorem).** *Let  $\Omega$  be an open set in  $\mathbb{C}$  and let  $f$  be a continuous function on  $\Omega$ . Suppose that  $\partial f/\partial x$ ,  $\partial f/\partial y$  exist at every point of  $\Omega$  and satisfy*

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial\bar{z}} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right) \equiv 0 \quad \text{on } \Omega.$$

Then  $f$  is holomorphic on  $\Omega$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\Omega' \subset \Omega$  be the set of  $a \in \Omega$  which have neighborhoods  $U$  such that  $f|U \in \mathcal{H}(U)$ , and let  $E = \Omega - \Omega'$ ;  $E$  is the smallest closed subset of  $\Omega$  such that  $f|(\Omega - E)$  is holomorphic.

The theorem asserts that, with the hypotheses made in Theorem 1, we have  $E = \emptyset$ . Suppose that the contrary holds:  $E \neq \emptyset$ .

We claim that there is an open set  $W \subset \Omega$ , and a constant  $M > 0$  such that:  $E \cap W \neq \emptyset$  and  $|f(x', y) - f(x, y)| \leq M|x' - x|$ ,  $|f(x, y') - f(x, y)| \leq M|y' - y|$  whenever  $(x, y) \in E \cap W$  and  $(x', y)$  and  $(x, y')$  are in  $W$ .

We shall prove this claim using Baire's theorem (see the appendix to the book for this theorem). Let  $k$  be an integer  $\geq 1$ , and set

$$\Omega_k^{(1)} = \left\{ (x, y) \in \Omega \mid |f(x', y) - f(x, y)| \leq k|x' - x| \text{ for } |x' - x| \leq \frac{1}{k} \right\}$$

$$\Omega_k^{(2)} = \left\{ (x, y) \in \Omega \mid |f(x, y') - f(x, y)| \leq k|y' - y| \text{ for } |y' - y| \leq \frac{1}{k} \right\}$$

and let  $\Omega_k = \Omega_k^{(1)} \cap \Omega_k^{(2)}$ . Then, since  $f$  is continuous,  $\Omega_k$  is closed in  $\Omega$ . Further, since  $\partial f/\partial x$ ,  $\partial f/\partial y$  exist everywhere,  $(f(x', y) - f(x, y))/(x' - x)$  and  $(f(x, y') - f(x, y))/(y' - y)$  converge as  $x' \rightarrow x$  and  $y' \rightarrow y$ , for any  $(x, y) \in \Omega$ . Consequently  $\bigcup_{k \geq 1} \Omega_k = \Omega$ ; in particular,  $\bigcup_{k \geq 1} (\Omega_k \cap E) = E$ . By Baire's theorem, at least one of the sets  $\Omega_k \cap E$  must have nonempty interior in  $E$ , say  $\Omega_{k_0} \cap E$ . This means that there is an open set  $W \subset \Omega$  such that

$$\emptyset \neq W \cap E \subset \Omega_{k_0} \cap E.$$

We may assume that  $W$  is relatively compact in  $\Omega$ . There is then  $c > 0$  such that  $c < c/2$  on  $W$ . Then, if  $(x, y) \in E \cap W \subset \Omega_{k_0} \cap E$ , and  $(x', y)$ ,  $(x, y') \in W$ , we

$$|f(x', y) - f(x, y)| \leq \begin{cases} k_0|x' - x| & \text{if } |x' - x| \leq \frac{1}{k_0} \\ ck_0|x' - x| & \text{if } |x' - x| > \frac{1}{k_0}, \end{cases}$$

similar inequalities for  $|f(x, y') - f(x, y)|$ . This proves our claim with  $M = (k_0, ck_0)$ .

To complete the proof of the theorem, it is sufficient to prove that  $f|W$  is holomorphic.

Because of Morera's theorem, we have only to prove that  $\int_{\partial R} f dz = 0$  for any rectangle  $R = [a, b] \times [c, d] \subset W$  ( $a < b$ ,  $c < d$ ).

Choose  $A > 0$  so that  $A^{-1} \leq (d - c)/(b - a) \leq A$ . Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  and let  $U$  be an open set such that  $E \subset U$  and  $m_2(U - E) < \varepsilon$ . (Such a  $U$  exists because any closed set is measurable, so that its outer measure equals its measure.)

Let  $N \geq 1$  be an integer. We divide  $R$  into  $4^N$  congruent rectangles  $R_\nu$ ,  $\nu = 1, \dots, 4^N$  by iterating  $N$  times the operation of dividing a rectangle into four rectangles by joining the midpoints of opposite sides as in the proof of the Cauchy–Goursat theorem (§1.2, Theorem 1). If  $R_\nu = [\alpha, \beta] \times [\gamma, \delta]$ , we have  $(\delta - \gamma)/(\beta - \alpha) = (d - c)/(b - a)$ , so that  $A^{-1} \leq (\delta - \gamma)/(\beta - \alpha) \leq A$ .

If  $N$  is sufficiently large, we have the following: if  $R_\nu \cap E \neq \emptyset$ , then  $R_\nu \subset U$  ( $\nu = 1, \dots, 4^N$ ). We have

$$\int_{\partial R} f dz = \sum_{\nu} \int_{\partial R_\nu} f dz = \sum_{R_\nu \cap E \neq \emptyset} \int_{\partial R_\nu} f dz$$

and  $\int_{\partial R_\nu} f dz = 0$  if  $R_\nu \subset W - E$  (holomorphic functions being  $\mathbb{C}$ -differentiable, we can apply the Cauchy–Goursat theorem).

Let  $R_\nu^{(0)}$  be the intersection of all closed rectangles containing  $E \cap R_\nu$ .  $R_\nu^{(0)}$  is a possibly degenerate closed rectangle and we have  $\int_{\partial R_\nu} f dz = \int_{\partial R_\nu^{(0)}} f dz$  by Lemma 5. Applying Lemma 5 to a value of  $\nu$  with  $R_\nu \cap E \neq \emptyset$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{\partial R_\nu} f dz \right| &= \left| \int_{\partial R_\nu^{(0)}} f dz \right| \\ &= \left| \int_{\partial R_\nu^{(0)}} f dz - 2i \iint_{E \cap R_\nu} \frac{\partial f}{\partial\bar{z}} dx dy \right| \leq 8AMm_2(R_\nu - R_\nu \cap E). \end{aligned}$$

and  $\partial f/\partial\bar{z} \equiv 0$ ). Hence

$$\left| \int_{\partial R} f dz \right| \leq \sum_{R_\nu \cap E \neq \emptyset} \left| \int_{\partial R_\nu} f dz \right| \leq 8AM \sum_{R_\nu \cap E \neq \emptyset} m_2(R_\nu - R_\nu \cap E).$$

Since  $R_\nu \cap E \neq \emptyset$  implies that  $R_\nu \subset U$ . Further, the intersection of two distinct sets  $R_\nu$ ,  $\nu \neq \nu'$  has two-dimensional Lebesgue measure 0. Hence

$$\sum_{R_\nu \cap E \neq \emptyset} m_2(R_\nu - R_\nu \cap E) \leq m_2(U - U \cap E) < \varepsilon.$$

Thus

$$\left| \int_{\partial R} f dz \right| < 8AM\varepsilon.$$

Since  $\varepsilon > 0$  is arbitrary, we have  $\int_{\partial R} f dz = 0$ . This proves that  $f|_W$  is holomorphic, contradicting our assumption that  $W \cap E \neq \emptyset$ . This contradiction proves the theorem.

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