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REMARKS ON SCHWARZ'S LEMMA

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If $f(z)$ is an analytic function, regular in $|z| \leq 1$, $|f(z)| \leq 1$ for $|z| = 1$ and $f(0) = 0$, then by Schwarz's lemma

$$|f(re^{i\theta})| \leq r, \quad (0 \leq r \leq 1).$$

More generally, if $f(z)$ is regular inside and on the unit circle, $|f(z)| \leq 1$ on the circle and $f(a) = 0$, where $|a| < 1$, then

$$(1) \quad |f(z)| \leq |(z-a)/(1-\bar{a}z)|,$$

inside the circle. In other words,

$$(2) \quad |f(z)/(z-a)| < 1/|1-\bar{a}z|,$$

for $|z| \leq 1$. For a fixed a on the unit circle, let C_a denote the class of functions $f(z)$ which are regular in $|z| \leq 1$, vanish at the point $z = a$, and for which

$$\max_{|z|=1} |f'(z)| = 1.$$

Any positive number A being given, it is clearly possible to construct a function $f(z)$ of the class C_a for which

$$\mathcal{M}_f(1) = \max_{|z|=1} |f'(z)/(z-a)| > A,$$

i.e. $\mathcal{M}_f(1)$ is not uniformly bounded for $f \in C_a$. If $f(z)$ is restricted to a subclass of C_a there may exist a uniform bound for $\mathcal{M}_f(1)$ as $f(z)$ varies within the subclass. It is clear that such is the case for the important subclass consisting of all polynomials of degree at most n vanishing at $z = a$. The problem is to find the uniform bound.

We prove:

THEOREM. *If $p(z)$ is a polynomial of degree n such that $|p(z)| \leq 1$ on the unit circle, and $p(1) = 0$, then for $|z| \leq 1$.*

$$(3) \quad |p(z)/(z-1)| \leq n/2.$$

The example $(z^n - 1)/2$ shows that the bound in (3) is precise. The following corollary is immediate.

COROLLARY 1. *If $p(z)$ is a polynomial of degree n satisfying the conditions of the theorem, then $|p'(1)| \leq n/2$.*

This is interesting in view of the fact that if $p(1) \neq 0$ all we can say [2, p. 357] is that $|p'(1)| \leq n$.

If $p(z)$ is a polynomial of degree n and $|p(z)| \leq 1$ on the unit circle then the polynomial

$$\frac{p(z) - p(1)}{1 + |p(1)|}$$

satisfies the hypotheses of our theorem. Consequently

$$\left| \frac{p(z) - p(1)}{z - 1} \right| \leq \frac{n}{2}(1 + |p(1)|),$$

or

$$|p(z) - p(1)| \leq \frac{n}{2}(1 + |p(1)|)|z - 1|.$$

Thus we have:

COROLLARY 2. *If $p(z)$ is a polynomial of degree n and $|p(z)| < 1$ on the unit circle, then for $|z| \leq 1$,*

$$|p(z)| \leq |p(1)| + \frac{n}{2}(1 + |p(1)|)|z - 1|.$$

Proof of the theorem. Set $p(z)/(z - 1) = \tilde{p}(z)$ and let the maximum of $|\tilde{p}(e^{i\theta})|$ for $-\pi \leq \theta \leq \pi$ occur when $\theta = 2\theta_0$. We may suppose that $|e^{2i\theta_0} - 1| < 2/n$, otherwise there is nothing to prove. Let

$$t(\theta) = e^{-i(n-1)\theta} \tilde{p}(e^{2i\theta}),$$

and choose γ such that $e^{i\gamma t(\theta_0)}$ is real. Consider the real trigonometric polynomial

$$T(\theta) \equiv \text{Re} \{e^{i\gamma t(\theta)}\}.$$

Since $|e^{i\gamma t(\theta)}|$ has its maximum at θ_0 , the real trigonometric polynomial $T(\theta)$ has its maximum modulus at θ_0 where it is actually a local maximum, i.e. $T'(\theta_0) = 0$. The function $2 \sin \theta T(\theta)$ is a real trigonometric polynomial of degree n such that

$$|2 \sin \theta T(\theta)| = |e^{-i\theta}(e^{2i\theta} - 1)T(\theta)| \leq |p(e^{2i\theta})| \leq 1$$

for $-\pi \leq \theta \leq \pi$.

A result of van der Corput and Schaake [1] states that if $F(\theta)$ is a real trigonometric polynomial of degree n and $|F(\theta)| \leq 1$ for real θ , then

$$(4) \quad n^2 F(\theta)^2 + (F'(\theta))^2 \leq n^2.$$

Applying this result to the trigonometric polynomial $2 \sin \theta T(\theta)$ we

get

$$n^2 \sin^2 \theta T^2(\theta) + \{\cos \theta T(\theta) + \sin \theta T'(\theta)\}^2 \leq \frac{n^2}{4}$$

for $-\pi \leq \theta \leq \pi$. Setting $\theta = \theta_0$ we get

$$\{1 + (n^2 - 1) \sin^2 \theta_0\} T^2(\theta_0) \leq \frac{n^2}{4},$$

since $T'(\theta_0) = 0$. Hence

$$|T(\theta_0)| \leq (n/2)(1 + (n^2 - 1) \sin^2 \theta_0)^{-1/2},$$

and the result follows.

REMARK 1. From the method of proof it is clear that if $p(z)$ is a polynomial of degree n , such that $|p(z)| \leq 1$ on the unit circle and $p(\pm 1) = 0$, then for $|z| \leq 1$,

$$(5) \quad |p(z)/(z^2 - 1)| \leq n/4.$$

Or, more generally, if $p(z) = 0$ whenever z is a root of $z^k - 1 = 0$, and $|p(z)| \leq 1$ for $|z| \leq 1$, then

$$(6) \quad \max_{|z| \leq 1} |p(z)/(z^k - 1)| \leq n/(2k).$$

REMARK 2. For every $\varepsilon > 0$ and a lying inside the unit circle we can construct a polynomial $p(z)$ which vanishes at $z = a$, $|p(z)| \leq 1$ for $|z| \leq 1$ but

$$\max_{|z| \leq 1} |p(z)/(z - a)| > \frac{1}{1 - |a|} - \varepsilon.$$

In fact, let

$$\frac{1}{1 - \bar{a}z} = \sum_{\nu=0}^{\infty} a_{\nu} z^{\nu}$$

for $|z| < 1/|a|$, and choose N so large that

$$\left| \frac{1}{1 - \bar{a}z} - \sum_{\nu=0}^N a_{\nu} z^{\nu} \right| < \varepsilon' = \frac{(1 - |a|)\varepsilon}{2 - \varepsilon(1 - |a|^2)}$$

for $|z| \leq 1$. With this choice of N ,

$$\left| (z - a) \sum_{\nu=0}^N a_{\nu} z^{\nu} \right| < 1 + (1 + |a|)\varepsilon'$$

for $|z| \leq 1$ and

$$\frac{1}{1 + (1 + |a|)\varepsilon'} (z - a) \sum_{\nu=0}^N a_{\nu} z^{\nu}$$

is therefore a polynomial of the type we wanted to construct.

However, if we restrict ourselves to polynomials of degree at most $n (> 1)$ then we can easily prove that for $|z| \leq 1$

$$(7) \quad |p(z)/(z - a)| < n.$$

For $a = 0$ the result is included in Schwarz's lemma. If $a \neq 0$ we observe that

$$p(z) = \int_a^z p'(w) dw$$

and therefore

$$|p(z)| \leq |z - a| \max_{|w| \leq 1} |p'(w)| < n |z - a|$$

by an inequality due to M. Riesz [2, p. 357] wherein equality holds only when $p(z)$ is a constant multiple of z^n . This is the same as (7).

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TRW SYSTEMS
NAVAL ORDNANCE TEST STATION

M. J. C. Baker, <i>A spherical Helly-type theorem</i>	1
Robert Morgan Brooks, <i>On locally m-convex $*$-algebras</i>	5
Lindsay Nathan Childs and Frank Rimi DeMeyer, <i>On automorphisms of separable algebras</i>	25
Charles L. Fefferman, <i>A Radon-Nikodym theorem for finitely additive set functions</i>	35
Magnus Giertz, <i>On generalized elements with respect to linear operators</i>	47
Mary Gray, <i>Abelian objects</i>	69
Mary Gray, <i>Radical subcategories</i>	79
John A. Hildebrandt, <i>On uniquely divisible semigroups on the two-cell</i>	91
Barry E. Johnson, <i>AW^*-algebras are QW^*-algebras</i>	97
Carl W. Kohls, <i>Decomposition spectra of rings of continuous functions</i>	101
Calvin T. Long, <i>Addition theorems for sets of integers</i>	107
Ralph David McWilliams, <i>On w^*-sequential convergence and quasi-reflexivity</i>	113
Alfred Richard Mitchell and Roger W. Mitchell, <i>Disjoint basic subgroups</i>	119
John Emanuel de Pillis, <i>Linear transformations which preserve hermitian and positive semidefinite operators</i>	129
Qazi Ibadur Rahman and Q. G. Mohammad, <i>Remarks on Schwarz's lemma</i>	139
Neal Jules Rothman, <i>An L^1 algebra for certain locally compact topological semigroups</i>	143
F. Dennis Sentiilles, <i>Kernel representations of operators and their adjoints</i>	153
D. R. Smart, <i>Fixed points in a class of sets</i>	163
K. Srinivasacharyulu, <i>Topology of some Kähler manifolds</i>	167
Francis C.Y. Tang, <i>On uniqueness of generalized direct decompositions</i>	171
Albert Chapman Vosburg, <i>On the relationship between Hausdorff dimension and metric dimension</i>	183
James Victor Whittaker, <i>Multiply transitive groups of transformations</i>	189