

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

MATH6101/MATH7101 Intermediate Complex Analysis
Assignment 1

Due Date: October 23, 2025

(Send scanned copies of your solutions to Mimi Lui at mimi@hku.hk.)

1. (a) Let $\{x_1, \dots, x_p\}$ be a set of p distinct points, $p > 0$, on the Riemann sphere $\mathbb{P}^1 = \mathbb{C} \amalg \{\infty\}$ and let n_1, \dots, n_p be non-zero integers such that $n_1 + \dots + n_p = 0$. Show that there exists a nonconstant meromorphic function f on \mathbb{P}^1 such that $\text{ord}_{x_k}(f) = n_k$ for $1 \leq k \leq p$ and $\text{ord}_x(f) = 0$ for every point x on \mathbb{P}^1 not belonging to $\{x_1, \dots, x_p\}$. [Here $\text{ord}_a(f) = s$ is the zero order at a if $s > 0$, $-\text{ord}_a(f) = -s$ is the pole order at a if $s < 0$, and $\text{ord}_a(f) = 0$ if and only if f is holomorphic and non-zero at a].
- (b) Let $L = \mathbb{Z}\omega_1 + \mathbb{Z}\omega_2 \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a lattice and define $X := \mathbb{C}/L$. Let $\{x_1, \dots, x_p\}$ be p distinct points on X , $p > 0$, such that $x_k + x_\ell \neq 0$ on X for $1 \leq k, \ell \leq p$ (when $X = \mathbb{C}/L$ is regarded as a commutative group). For $1 \leq k \leq p$ let n_k be non-zero integers such that $n_1 + \dots + n_p = 0$. Prove using the Weierstrass \wp -function that there exists a meromorphic function f on X such that $\text{ord}_{x_k}(f) = \text{ord}_{-x_k}(f) = n_k$, and $\text{ord}_x(f) = 0$ for any $x \in X$ such that $x \notin \{x_1, \dots, x_p; -x_1, \dots, -x_p\}$.
2. Let $\omega_1, \omega_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ be linearly independent over \mathbb{R} and write $L = \{n_1\omega_1 + n_2\omega_2 : n_1, n_2 \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ for the lattice generated by ω_1 and ω_2 . Write $L' := L - \{0\}$.
 - (a) Show that for $k \geq 3$ we have $\sum_{\omega \in L'} \frac{1}{|\omega|^k} < \infty$.
 - (b) Show that $\sum_{\omega \in L} \frac{z + \omega}{(z + \omega)^6 - 1}$ converges in an appropriate sense to an elliptic function. Describe the nature of the convergence and explain why the limiting function is indeed doubly periodic with respect to L .
 - (c) Suppose $\omega_1 = 2$ and $\omega_2 = 2i$ and write $f(z) := \sum_{\omega \in L} \frac{z + \omega}{(z + \omega)^6 - 1}$. Determine the poles of f and the pole order at each of the poles. Regarding f equivalently as a meromorphic function h on $X = \mathbb{C}/L$, counting multiplicities how many zeros of h are there on X ? Explain why.

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Solution to Assignment 1

1. (a) Assume first that $\infty \notin \{x_1, \dots, x_p\}$. Consider the function $f(z) = \prod_{k=1}^p (z - x_k)^{n_k}$. Then, for $1 \leq k \leq p$, $\text{ord}_{x_k}(f) = n_k$ by construction. Moreover, f is holomorphic and non-zero whenever $x \in \mathbb{C}$ and $x \notin \{x_1, \dots, x_p\}$. To prove that f satisfies the required properties it suffices to show that f has a removable singularity at $z = \infty$ and it is nonzero there after extension. Since $\sum_{k=1}^p n_k = 0$ we have $\prod_{k=1}^p z^{n_k} = 1$ and

$$f(z) = \frac{\prod_{k=1}^p (z - x_k)^{n_k}}{\prod_{k=1}^p z^{n_k}} = \prod_{k=1}^p \left(\frac{z - x_k}{z} \right)^{n_k} = \prod_{k=1}^p \left(1 - \frac{x_k}{z} \right)^{n_k}.$$

Taking limits as $z \rightarrow \infty$ we have $\lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} f(z) = 1$. In particular, f is locally bounded at $z = \infty$ and it has a removable singularity at $z = \infty$, such that $f(\infty) = 1 \neq 0$ after extension, as desired.

Suppose now $\infty \in \{x_1, \dots, x_p\}$. Without loss of generality we may assume $x_p = \infty$. Define now $f(z) = \prod_{k=1}^{p-1} (z - x_k)^{n_k}$. Then, as in the former case we have $\text{ord}_{x_k}(f) = n_k$ for $1 \leq k \leq p-1$ and for $x \in \mathbb{C} - \{x_1, \dots, x_p\}$ we have $\text{ord}_x(f) = 0$. It remains to verify that $\text{ord}_\infty(f) = n_p$. Since $n_1 + \dots + n_{p-1} = (n_1 + \dots + n_p) - n_p = -n_p$ we have

$$f(z) = z^{n_1 + \dots + n_{p-1}} \prod_{k=1}^{p-1} \left(1 - \frac{x_k}{z} \right)^{n_k} = z^{-n_p} \prod_{k=1}^{p-1} \left(1 - \frac{x_k}{z} \right)^{n_k} = w^{n_p} \prod_{k=1}^{p-1} (1 - x_k w)^{n_k},$$

where $w = \frac{1}{z}$, showing that $\text{ord}_\infty(f) = n_p$, as desired.

An alternative solution for the second case

If $\infty \in \{x_1, \dots, x_p\}$ we choose $\gamma \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}^1)$ so that $\infty \notin \{\gamma x_1, \dots, \gamma x_p\}$. By the above there exists some f meromorphic on \mathbb{P}^1 such that $\text{ord}_{\gamma x_k}(f) = n_k$ for $1 \leq k \leq \infty$ and there are no other zeros nor poles on \mathbb{P}^1 . Then, $f \circ \gamma$ gives the solution of the original problem.

3. Given a lattice $L = \mathbb{Z}\omega_1 + \mathbb{Z}\omega_2 \subset \mathbb{C}$, and writing $L^* = L - \{0\}$ define

$$\zeta(z) = \frac{1}{z} + \sum_{\omega \in L^*} \left(\frac{1}{z+\omega} + \frac{z}{\omega^2} - \frac{1}{\omega} \right).$$

Check using 2(a) that the following holds true: For any $R > 0$, on $D(R)$ one can decompose $\zeta(z)$ as a sum of a finite number of meromorphic functions and an infinite sum of holomorphic functions such that the latter sum converges uniformly on $D(R)$ to a holomorphic function.

4. For a given lattice $L = \mathbb{Z}\omega_1 + \mathbb{Z}\omega_2$, $L' := L - \{0\}$, it is assumed known that $\wp(z) := \frac{1}{z^2} + \sum_{\omega \in L'} \left(\frac{1}{(z+\omega)^2} - \frac{1}{\omega^2} \right)$ converges in an appropriate sense to a meromorphic function on \mathbb{C} .

(a) Prove that \wp is indeed an elliptic function with respect to L .

(b) Define

$$\begin{cases} f(z) = (\wp'(z))^2 \\ g(z) = \left(\wp(z) - \wp\left(\frac{\omega_1}{2}\right) \right) \left(\wp(z) - \wp\left(\frac{\omega_2}{2}\right) \right) \left(\wp(z) - \wp\left(\frac{\omega_1 + \omega_2}{2}\right) \right). \end{cases}$$

Show that, counting multiplicities, f and g have the same zeros and the same poles. Hence deduce that

$$(\wp'(z))^2 = 4 \left(\wp(z) - \wp\left(\frac{\omega_1}{2}\right) \right) \left(\wp(z) - \wp\left(\frac{\omega_2}{2}\right) \right) \left(\wp(z) - \wp\left(\frac{\omega_1 + \omega_2}{2}\right) \right).$$

(c) Assume known that \wp satisfies the equation $(\wp')^2 = 4\wp^3 + a\wp + b$ for some complex numbers a, b (depending on L). Prove that

$$\wp\left(\frac{\omega_1}{2}\right) + \wp\left(\frac{\omega_2}{2}\right) + \wp\left(\frac{\omega_1 + \omega_2}{2}\right) = 0.$$

- (b) Denote by $\pi : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow X = \mathbb{C}/L$ the universal covering map. Write $\wp(z) = \frac{1}{z^2} + \sum_{\omega \in L^*} \left(\frac{1}{(z - \omega)^2} - \frac{1}{\omega^2} \right)$, $L = L^* - \{0\}$, for the Weierstrass \wp -function associated to the lattice L . Then, for every integer k , $1 \leq k \leq p$, choosing $y_k \in \pi^{-1}(x_k) \in \mathbb{C}$, the elliptic function $f_k(z) := \wp(z) - \wp(y_k)$ has a zero at any $z = \tilde{x}_k$ whenever $\pi(\tilde{x}_k) = x_k$, i.e., $\tilde{x}_k = y_k + \omega$ for some $\omega \in L$. Regarded as a meromorphic function on X , f_k has a zero at x_k . Since \wp is an even function on X , $f_k(-\tilde{x}_k) = f_k(\tilde{x}_k) = 0$, so that as a meromorphic function on X , $f_k(-x_k) = 0$. Now f_k has a double pole at $0 \in X$. Since $2x_k \neq 0$ on X (as a commutative group), f has two distinct zeros at x_k and $-x_k$. Since the total number of zeros of f_k agree with the number of poles, f_k must have a simple zero at x_k and at $-x_k$. By assumption $x_k + x_\ell \neq 0$ on X for $1 \leq k, \ell \leq n$, hence $\{x_1, \dots, x_p; -x_1, \dots, -x_p\}$ consist of $2p$ distinct points. Define now $f = f_1^{n_1} \cdots f_p^{n_p}$. Then,

$$\text{ord}_{x_k} f = \text{ord}_{-x_k} f = n_k \text{ for } 1 \leq k \leq p.$$

For $x \notin \{x_1, \dots, x_p; -x_1, \dots, -x_p; 0\}$, it is clear from the definition of f that $\text{ord}_x f = 0$. It remains to show that $\text{ord}_0 f = 0$. But now $f_k(z) = \wp(z) - \wp(y_k)$ has a double pole at 0 for each k , $1 \leq k \leq p$. Hence,

$$\text{ord}_0 f = \sum_{k=1}^p \text{ord}_0(f_k^{n_k}) = 2 \sum_{k=1}^p n_k = 0$$

by assumption. As a conclusion, f solves the Weierstrass Problem for the given data $\{(x_k; n_k) : 1 \leq k \leq p\}$.

2. (a) For an integer $n \geq 1$ define $S_n = \{n_1\omega_1 + n_2\omega_2 : -n \leq n_1, n_2 \leq n\}$, and define $T_0 = \{0\}$, $T_n := S_n - S_{n-1}$ for $n \geq 1$. We have $\text{Card}(S_n) = (2n+1)^2$, so that

$$\text{Card}(T_n) = (2n+1)^2 - (2n-1)^2 = (4n^2 + 4n + 1) - (4n^2 - 4n + 1) = 8n.$$

Then, S_n is the disjoint union of T_0, T_1, \dots, T_n , and

$$\sum_{\omega \in L'} \frac{1}{|\omega|^k} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{\omega \in T_n} \frac{1}{|\omega|^k} \right).$$

Obviously there exists a constant $c > 0$ such that $|\omega| \geq cn$ for any $\omega \in T_n$.

Hence, for $k \geq 3$ we have

$$\sum_{\omega \in L'} \frac{1}{|\omega|^k} \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{8n}{(cn)^k} = \frac{8}{c^k} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{k-1}} < \infty$$

since $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{\alpha}} < \infty$ whenever $\alpha > 1$.

(b) Let $K = \overline{D(R)}$. Formally

$$\sum_{\omega \in L} \frac{z + \omega}{(z + \omega)^6 - 1} = \sum_{|\omega| \leq 2R} \frac{z + \omega}{(z + \omega)^6 - 1} + \sum_{|\omega| > 2R} \frac{z + \omega}{(z + \omega)^6 - 1}$$

There are only finitely many terms in the first summation \sum' . For the second summation \sum'' , $|z + \omega| \geq |\omega| - |z| \geq |\omega| - R > \frac{|\omega|}{2}$, so that

$$\sum_{|\omega| > 2R} \left| \frac{z + \omega}{(z + \omega)^6 - 1} \right| < \sum_{\omega > 2R} \frac{R + |\omega|}{(\frac{|\omega|}{2})^6 - 1}.$$

Choosing $R \geq 1$,

$$\sum_{|\omega| > 2R} \left| \frac{z + \omega}{(z + \omega)^6 - 1} \right| < \sum_{\omega > 2R} \frac{R + |\omega|}{\frac{1}{2} (\frac{|\omega|}{2})^6} < \sum_{\omega \in L'} \frac{2^7 \cdot R}{|\omega|^6} + \sum_{\omega \in L'} \frac{2^7}{|\omega|^5}.$$

By (a), the second summation \sum'' is absolutely and uniformly convergent on $\overline{D(R)}$. From absolute convergence of \sum'' it follows readily that the order of summation is immaterial, hence for any $\nu \in L$

$$\begin{aligned} f(z) &:= \sum_{\omega \in L} \frac{z + \omega}{(z + \omega)^6 - 1} = \sum_{\omega \in L} \frac{z + (\nu + \omega)}{(z + (\nu + \omega))^6 - 1} = \sum_{\omega \in L} \frac{(z + \nu) + \omega}{((z + \nu) + \omega)^6 - 1} \\ &= f(z + \nu). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, f is an elliptic function.

- (c) Suppose z_0 is a pole of f . Then, z_0 must be a pole of $\frac{z_0 + \omega}{(z_0 + \omega)^6 - 1}$ for some $\omega \in L$. Hence $(z_0 + \omega)^6 = 1$, i.e.,

$$z_0 = \pm 1 + 2n_1 + 2n_2i, \pm e^{\frac{\pi i}{3}} + 2n_1 + 2n_2i, \pm e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}} + 2n_1 + 2n_2i$$

for some integers n_1, n_2 . Thus, $z_0 = \pm 1, \pm \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}i\right), \pm \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}i\right)$ and their translates by $L = 2\mathbb{Z} + 2\mathbb{Z}i$ are all the possible poles. By inspection any two distinct entities of the six listed potential poles cannot be congruent to each other with the exception of the pair 1 and -1 , where $1 - (-1) = 2 \in L$. Thus, $\pm \left(\frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}i\right) + 2n_1 + 2n_2i$ are poles of f , and they are simple poles since $((z_0 + \omega)^6 - 1)' = 6(z + \omega)^5 \neq 0$ whenever $(z + \omega)^6 = 1$. On the other hand, at $z_0 = 1$, two summands $\frac{z}{z^6 - 1}$ and $\frac{z - 2}{(z - 2)^6 - 1}$ have simple poles at 1. The sum has either a simple pole or a removable singularity at 1. To determine this we have to determine the residues. We have $((z + \omega)^6 - 1)' = 6(z + \omega)^5$ and hence

$$\text{Res}\left(\frac{z}{z^6 - 1}; 1\right) = \frac{1}{6}, \text{Res}\left(\frac{z - 2}{(z - 2)^6 - 1}; 1\right) = \frac{1 - 2}{6(-1)^5} = \frac{-1}{-6} = \frac{1}{6}.$$

Hence the residues do not cancel each other, and there are exactly 5 poles, all simple, modulo L , given by $1 + L, \pm \left(\frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}i\right) + L$. Finally, writing $f(z) = h(\pi(z))$ for the uniformizing map $\pi : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/L = X$, by the Residue Theorem, counting multiplicities, the number of zeros of h or X agrees with the number of poles. There are hence 5 zeros of h , counting multiplicities.

3. Fix $R > 0$. Let $A \subset L^*$ be the subset of all points ω in L^* such that $|\omega| < 2R$. Then on $D(R)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(z) &= \left\{ \frac{1}{z} + \sum_{\omega \in A} \left(\frac{1}{z + \omega} + \frac{z}{\omega^2} - \frac{1}{\omega} \right) \right\} \\ &\quad + \sum_{\omega \in L^* - A} \left(\frac{1}{z + \omega} + \frac{z}{\omega^2} - \frac{1}{\omega} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Write f_R for the sum inside $\{\cdots\}$, and ζ_R for the infinite sum. Then f_R is a meromorphic function on $D(R)$. For the infinite sum, write a summand as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{z+\omega} + \frac{z}{\omega^2} - \frac{1}{\omega} &= \frac{1}{(z+\omega)\omega^2} (\omega^2 + z(z+\omega) - (z+\omega)\omega) \\ &= \frac{1}{(z+\omega)\omega^2} (\omega^2 + z^2 + z\omega - z\omega - \omega^2) = \frac{z^2}{(z+\omega)\omega^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, on $D(R)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\left| \frac{1}{z+\omega} + \frac{z}{\omega^2} - \frac{1}{\omega} \right| \\ &< \left| \frac{R^2}{(\omega-R)\omega^2} \right| \leq \frac{2R^2}{|\omega|^3}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\sum_{\omega \in L^* - A} \left| \left(\frac{1}{z+\omega} + \frac{z}{\omega^2} - \frac{1}{\omega} \right) \right| \leq \sum_{|\omega| \geq 2R} \frac{2R^2}{|\omega|^3} < \infty$$

by 2(a), and hence the infinite sum under study converges absolutely and uniformly on $D(R)$, as desired.

4. (a) The convergence being absolute and uniform on compact subsets (after removing a finite number of terms with possible poles on a given compact subset), the order of summation is unimportant. We have $\wp'(z) = \frac{-2}{z^3} + \sum_{\omega \in L} \frac{-2}{(z+\omega)^3} = -2E_3$. which is elliptic. It follows that for any $\omega \in L$, $h_\omega(z) := \wp(z+\omega) - \wp(z)$ satisfies $h'_\omega(z) = -2E_3(z+\omega) + 2E_3(z) = 0$, hence $h_\omega(z) = C_\omega$ for some complex number C_ω . From $\wp(z+\omega) - \wp(z) = C_\omega$, substituting $z = -\frac{\omega_i}{2}, \omega = \omega_i, i = 1, 2$, we have $C_{\omega_i} = \wp\left(-\frac{\omega_i}{2} + \omega_i\right) - \wp\left(-\frac{\omega_i}{2}\right) = \wp\left(\frac{\omega_i}{2}\right) - \wp\left(-\frac{\omega_i}{2}\right)$ noting that $\wp\left(\frac{\omega_i}{2}\right)$ and $\wp\left(-\frac{\omega_i}{2}\right)$ are finite. From the definition \wp is an even function, i.e., $\wp(z) = \wp(-z)$. It follows that $C_{\omega_i} = \wp\left(\frac{\omega_i}{2}\right) - \wp\left(\frac{\omega_i}{2}\right) = 0$ for $i = 1, 2$. Hence $\wp(z+\omega) = \wp(z)$ for $z \in \mathbb{C}, \omega \in L$, i.e., \wp is an elliptic function.

- (b) $f(z) = (\wp'(z))^2$ has a pole of order 6 at $z = \omega, \omega \in L$, and no other poles. Consider $z = \frac{\omega_1}{2}, \frac{\omega_2}{2}$ or $\frac{\omega_3}{2}, \omega_3 = \omega_1 + \omega_2$. From $\wp'(z) = -\wp'(-z)$ since \wp'

is odd, for $1 \leq i \leq 3$, we have $\wp'(\frac{\omega_i}{2}) = -\wp'(-\frac{\omega_i}{2}) = -\wp'(\frac{\omega_i}{2})$ since $\frac{\omega_i}{2} \equiv -\frac{\omega_i}{2} \pmod{L}$. It follows that $\wp'(\frac{\omega_1}{2}) = \wp'(\frac{\omega_2}{2}) = \wp'(\frac{\omega_1 + \omega_2}{2}) = 0$. Since \wp has only a triple pole at lattice points $\omega \in L$ and no other poles modulo L , there are exactly 3 zeros of \wp' counting multiplicities, so that $\frac{\omega_1}{2}, \frac{\omega_2}{2}, \frac{\omega_1 + \omega_2}{2}$ are simple zeros of \wp' and hence double zeros for $f = (\wp')^2$. For the elliptic function $g(z) = (\wp - \wp(\frac{\omega_1}{2}))(\wp - \wp(\frac{\omega_2}{2}))(\wp - \wp(\frac{\omega_1 + \omega_2}{2}))$, g has a pole of order 6 at $\omega \in L$ and no other poles. Moreover g has zeros at $z = \frac{\omega_1}{2}, \frac{\omega_2}{2}, \frac{\omega_1 + \omega_2}{2}$. Write $\omega_3 := \omega_1 + \omega_2$. Now $(\wp - \wp(\frac{\omega_1}{2}))' = \wp'$ and $\wp'(\frac{\omega_i}{2}) = 0$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$, so that $\wp - \wp(\frac{\omega_i}{2})$ must have at least a double zero at $z = \frac{\omega_i}{2}, i = 1, 2, 3$. Counting multiplicities, the number of zeros modulo L agrees with the number of poles modulo L for the elliptic function g , which is equal to 6. Hence, g must have a double zero at $z = \frac{\omega_1}{2}, \frac{\omega_2}{2}, \frac{\omega_1 + \omega_2}{2}$. Consequently f and g have exactly the same zeros and poles counting multiplicities. By the Maximum Principle $h := \frac{f}{g}$ is a non-zero constant λ . Expanding both sides using $\wp(z) = \frac{1}{z^2} + \dots, \wp'(z) = \frac{-2}{z^3} + \dots$ it follows that $\lambda = 4$, hence $(\wp'(z))^2 = 4(\wp(z) - \wp(\frac{\omega_1}{2}))(\wp(z) - \wp(\frac{\omega_2}{2}))(\wp(z) - \wp(\frac{\omega_1 + \omega_2}{2}))$, as desired.

(c) By (b) we have

$$(\wp'(z))^2 = 4\wp(z)^3 - 4\left(\wp\left(\frac{\omega_1}{2}\right) + \wp\left(\frac{\omega_2}{2}\right) + \wp\left(\frac{\omega_1 + \omega_2}{2}\right)\right)\wp(z)^2 + \dots$$

so that \wp satisfies the differential equation

$$(\wp'(z))^2 = 4\wp(z)^3 + \alpha\wp(z)^2 + \beta\wp(z) + \gamma \text{ for some}$$

$\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{C}$, where $\alpha = \wp\left(\frac{\omega_1}{2}\right) + \wp\left(\frac{\omega_2}{2}\right) + \wp\left(\frac{\omega_1 + \omega_2}{2}\right)$. Given that $(\wp'(z))^2 = 4\wp(z)^3 + a\wp(z)^2 + b$ for some $a, b \in \mathbb{C}$, it follows that

$$\alpha\wp(z)^2 + (\beta - a)\wp(z) + (\gamma - b) = 0.$$

Considering the Laurent series expansion at $z = 0$ we have $\frac{\alpha}{z^4} + \dots = 0$ which forces $\alpha = 0$. Thus $\wp\left(\frac{\omega_1}{2}\right) + \wp\left(\frac{\omega_2}{2}\right) + \wp\left(\frac{\omega_1 + \omega_2}{2}\right) = \alpha = 0$, as desired.