

**Problem (Problem 1):** Let  $U \subseteq \mathbb{C}$  be a bounded region,  $f: \bar{U} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  continuous such that  $f|_U$  is holomorphic. Suppose  $f$  is nonvanishing in  $U$ , and that there exists  $c > 0$  such that  $|f(z)| = c$  for all  $z \in \partial U$ . Prove that there exists some  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $f(z) = ce^{i\theta}$  for all  $z \in \bar{U}$ .

**Solution:** Since  $f$  is holomorphic on the connected, bounded, open set  $U$ , it follows from the maximum modulus principle that for all  $z \in U$ , we have  $|f(z)| \leq |f(w)|$  for all  $w \in \partial U$ . In particular, we must have  $|f(z)| \leq c$  for all  $z \in U$ . Since  $|f(z)| \neq 0$  for all  $z \in U$ , it follows that  $\frac{1}{|f(z)|} \geq \frac{1}{c}$  for all  $z \in U$ . Yet, at the same time, since  $\frac{1}{f(z)}$  is holomorphic, we must have  $\frac{1}{|f(z)|} \leq \frac{1}{|f(w)|}$  for all  $w \in \partial U$ , meaning that  $\frac{1}{|f(z)|} \leq \frac{1}{c}$ , so that  $\frac{1}{|f(z)|} = \frac{1}{c}$ , or that  $|f(z)| = c$  for all  $z \in U$ .

In particular, for all  $z \in U$ , we have  $|f(z)| \geq |f(w)|$  for all  $w \in \partial U$ , the maximum modulus principle gives that  $f$  is constant. Since  $|f(z)| = c$ , we thus have  $f(z) = ce^{i\theta}$  for some  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$ .

**Problem (Problem 2):** For  $0 < r < R$ , let  $A(z_0, r, R) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid r < |z - z_0| < R\}$ . Suppose that there exists a continuous  $f: \bar{A}(z_0, r, R) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that  $f|_{A(z_0, r, R)}$  is holomorphic, and that there exist constants  $C_r$  and  $C_R$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  such that  $\operatorname{Re}(f(z)) = C_r$  on  $S(z_0, r)$ , and  $\operatorname{Re}(f(z)) = C_R$  on  $S(z_0, R)$ . Show that  $C_r = C_R$ , and that  $f$  is constant for all  $z \in \bar{A}(z_0, r, R)$ .

**Solution:** Without loss of generality, since we may take  $g(z) = f(z - z_0)$ , we may assume that  $z_0 = 0$ , so that we let  $u(x, y): \bar{A}(0, r, R) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be given by  $u(x, y) = \operatorname{Re}(f(x - x_0 + i(y - y_0)))$ . Since  $u$  is the real part of a holomorphic function,  $u$  is necessarily harmonic, so by the extended maximum modulus principle,  $u$  takes on its maximum modulus on either  $S(0, r)$  or  $S(0, R)$ . In other words, it is the case that the maximum modulus for  $u$  is either  $|C_r|$  or  $|C_R|$ .

Now, consider the function

$$w(x, y) = u(x, y) - C_r - (C_R - C_r) \frac{\ln(x^2 + y^2) - \ln(r^2)}{\ln(R^2) - \ln(r^2)}.$$

We start by verifying that  $w$  is harmonic. Towards this end, since Laplace's equation is linear, we only need to evaluate the expression in the fraction free of the constants.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} &= \frac{C_R - C_r}{\ln(R^2) - \ln(r^2)} \frac{2x}{x^2 + y^2} \\ \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2} &= \frac{C_R - C_r}{\ln(R^2) - \ln(r^2)} \left( \frac{2}{x^2 + y^2} - 2x \left( \frac{2x}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} \right) \right) \\ &= \frac{C_R - C_r}{\ln(R^2) - \ln(r^2)} \frac{2y^2 - 2x^2}{x^2 + y^2} \\ \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial y^2} &= \frac{C_R - C_r}{\ln(R^2) - \ln(r^2)} \frac{2x^2 - 2y^2}{x^2 + y^2}, \end{aligned}$$

which means that the sum is zero, and thus  $w$  is harmonic. In particular, it also satisfies the extended maximum modulus principle, meaning that  $w$  attains its maxima on the boundary of the annulus. Since, for  $x + iy \in S(0, r)$ , we have  $u(x, y) = C_r$  and  $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$ , we thus get that  $w = 0$ , and similarly,  $w = 0$  on  $S(0, R)$ , meaning that  $w$  is identically zero on  $\bar{A}(0, r, R)$ .

Thus, we find that

$$u(x, y) = C_r + (C_R - C_r) \frac{\ln(x^2 + y^2) - \ln(r^2)}{\ln(R^2) - \ln(r^2)}.$$