

XI.3. Hadamard's Factorization Theorem.

Note. In this section we give a converse of Corollary XI.2.6. That is, we prove that a function of finite order is of finite genus. We know that a function of finite genus can be factored as $z^n e^{g(z)} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} E_{\mu}(z/a_n)$ where g is a polynomial of degree at most μ . This is why the result is called a “factorization theorem.”

Lemma XI.3.1. Let f be a nonconstant entire function of order λ with $f(0) \neq 0$ and let $\{a_1, a_2, \dots\}$ be the zeros of f repeated according to multiplicity and arranged so that $|a_1| \leq |a_2| \leq \dots$. If p is an integer such that $p > \lambda - 1$ then

$$\frac{d^p}{dz^p} \left[\frac{f'(z)}{f(z)} \right] = -p! \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(a_n - z)^{p+1}}$$

for $z \in \{a_1, a_2, \dots\}$.

Note. The proof of Lemma XI.3.1 assumes that f has infinitely many zeros, but also holds if f only has finitely many zeros.

Theorem XI.3.4. Hadamard's Factorization Theorem.

If f is an entire function of finite order λ then f has finite genus $\mu \leq \lambda$. Therefore, f can be factored as $f(z) = z^m e^{g(z)} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} E_{\mu}(z/a_n)$ where g is a polynomial of degree at most μ .

Note. Picard's Theorems, to be seen in Sections XII.2 and XII.4, concern the range of analytic functions. We can use Hadamard's Factorization Theorem to prove a special case of Picard's Theorem.

Theorem XI.3.6. If f is an entire function of finite order, then f assumes each complex number with one possible exception.

Note. The exponential function $f(z) = e^z$ assumes every value except 0 (see Lemma III.2.A(b)), since a branch of the logarithm can be defined on some region containing any given nonzero complex number. In fact, since e^z is periodic with period $2\pi i$, it assumes each nonzero value an infinite number of times. The following theorem and corollary shows that a similar result holds for certain entire functions of finite order.

Theorem XI.3.7. Let f be an entire function of finite order λ where λ is not an integer. Then f has infinitely many zeros.

Note. If $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$, then applying Theorem XI.3.7 to $f(z) - \alpha$ we see that f assumes the value α an infinite number of times. This is summarized in the following.

Corollary XI.3.8. If f is an entire function of order λ and λ is not an integer then f assumes each complex value an infinite number of times.