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Reinhold Remmert

Theory of Complex Functions

Translated by Robert B. Burckel

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Preface to the English Edition

Und so ist jeder Übersetzer anzusehen, dass er sich als Vermittler dieses allgemein-geistigen Handels bemüht und den Wechseltausch zu befördern sich zum Geschäft macht. Denn was man auch von der Unzulänglichkeit des Übersetzers sagen mag, so ist und bleibt es doch eines der wichtigsten und würdigsten Geschäfte in dem allgemeinen Weltverkehr. (And that is how we should see the translator, as one who strives to be a mediator in this universal, intellectual trade and makes it his business to promote exchange. For whatever one may say about the shortcomings of translations, they are and will remain most important and worthy undertakings in world communications.) J. W. von GOETHE , vol. VI of *Kunst und Alterthum*, 1828.

This book is a translation of the second edition of *Funktionentheorie I*, Grundwissen Mathematik 5, Springer-Verlag 1989. Professor R. B. BURCKEL did much more than just produce a translation; he discussed the text carefully with me and made several valuable suggestions for improvement. It is my great pleasure to express to him my sincere thanks.

Mrs. Ch. ABIKOFF prepared this T_EX-version with great patience; Prof. W. ABIKOFF was helpful with comments for improvements. Last but not least I want to thank the staff of Springer-Verlag, New York. The late W. KAUFMANN-BÜHLER started the project in 1984; U. SCHMICKLER-HIRZEBRUCH brought it to a conclusion.

Lengerich (Westphalia), June 26, 1989

Reinhold Remmert

Preface to the Second German Edition

Not only have typographical and other errors been corrected and improvements carried out, but some new supplemental material has been inserted. Thus, e.g., HURWITZ's theorem is now derived as early at 8.5.5 by means of the minimum principle and Weierstrass's convergence theorem. Newly added are the long-neglected proof (without use of integrals) of Laurent's theorem by SCHEEFFER, via reduction to the Cauchy-Taylor theorem, and DIXON's elegant proof of the homology version of Cauchy's theorem. In response to an oft-expressed wish, each individual section has been enriched with practice exercises.

I have many readers to thank for critical remarks and valuable suggestions. I would like to mention specifically the following colleagues: M. BARNER (Freiburg), R. P. BOAS (Evanston, Illinois), R. B. BURCKEL (Kansas State University), K. DIEDERICH (Wuppertal), D. GAIER (Giessen), ST. HILDEBRANDT (Bonn), and W. PURKERT (Leipzig).

In the preparation of the 2nd edition, I was given outstanding help by Mr. K. SCHLÖTER and special thanks are due him. I thank Mr. W. HOMANN for his assistance in the selection of exercises. The publisher has been magnanimous in accommodating all my wishes for changes.

Lengerich (Westphalia), April 10, 1989

Reinhold Remmert

Preface to the First German Edition

Wir möchten gern dem Kritikus gefallen: Nur nicht dem Kritikus vor allen. (We would gladly please the critic: Only not the critic above all.) G. E. LESSING.

The authors and editors of the textbook series “Grundwissen Mathematik”¹ have set themselves the goal of presenting mathematical theories in connection with their historical development. For function theory with its abundance of classical theorems such a program is especially attractive. This may, despite the voluminous literature on function theory, justify yet another textbook on it. For it is still true, as was written in 1900 in the prospectus for vol. 112 of the well-known series *Ostwald’s Klassiker Der Exakten Wissenschaften*, where the German translation of Cauchy’s classic “Mémoire sur les intégrales définies prises entre des limites imaginaires” appears: “Although modern methods are most effective in communicating the content of science, prominent and far-sighted people have repeatedly focused attention on a deficiency which all too often afflicts the scientific education of our younger generation. *It is this, the lack of a historical sense and of any knowledge of the great labors on which the edifice of science rests.*”

The present book contains many historical explanations and original quotations from the classics. These may entice the reader to at least page through some of the original works. “Notes about personalities” are sprinkled in “in order to lend some human and personal dimension to the science” (in the words of F. KLEIN on p. 274 of his *Vorlesungen über die Entwicklung der Mathematik im 19. Jahrhundert* — see [H₈]). But the book is not a history of function theory; the historical remarks almost always reflect the contemporary viewpoint.

Mathematics remains the primary concern. What is treated is the material of a 4 hour/week, one-semester course of lectures, centering around

¹The original German version of this book was volume 5 in that series (translator’s note).

Cauchy's integral theorem. Besides the usual themes which no text on function theory can omit, the reader will find here

- RITT's theorem on asymptotic power series expansions, which provides a function-theoretic interpretation of the famous theorem of É. BOREL to the effect that any sequence of complex numbers is the sequence of derivatives at 0 of some infinitely differentiable function on the line.
- EISENSTEIN's striking approach to the circular functions via series of partial fractions.
- MORDELL's residue-theoretic calculations of certain Gauss sums.

In addition *cognoscenti* may here or there discover something new or long forgotten.

To many readers the present exposition may seem too detailed, to others perhaps too compressed. J. KEPLER agonized over this very point, writing in his *Astronomia Nova* in the year 1609: "Durissima est hodie conditio scribendi libros Mathematicos. Nisi enim servaveris genuinam subtilitatem propositionum, instructionum, demonstrationum, conclusionum; liber non erit Mathematicus: sin autem servaveris; lectio efficitur morosissima. (It is very difficult to write mathematics books nowadays. If one doesn't take pains with the fine points of theorems, explanations, proofs and corollaries, then it won't be a mathematics book; but if one does these things, then the reading of it will be extremely boring.)" And in another place it says: "Et habet ipsa etiam prolixitas phrasium suam obscuritatem, non minorem quam concisa brevitatis (And detailed exposition can obfuscate no less than the overly terse)."

K. PETERS (Boston) encouraged me to write this book. An academic stipend from the Volkswagen Foundation during the Winter semesters 1980/81 and 1982/83 substantially furthered the project; for this support I'd like to offer special thanks. My thanks are also owed the Mathematical Research Institute at Oberwolfach for oft-extended hospitality. It isn't possible to mention here by name all those who gave me valuable advice during the writing of the book. But I would like to name Messrs. M. KOECHER and K. LAMOTKE, who checked the text critically and suggested improvements. From Mr. H. GERICHKE I learned quite a bit of history. Still I must ask the reader's forbearance and enlightenment if my historical notes need any revision.

My colleagues, particularly Messrs. P. ULLRICH and M. STEINSIEK, have helped with indefatigable literature searches and have eliminated many deficiencies from the manuscript. Mr. ULLRICH prepared the symbol, name, and subject indexes; Mrs. E. KLEINHANS made a careful critical pass through the final version of the manuscript. I thank the publisher for being so obliging.

Notes for the Reader. Reading really ought to start with Chapter 1. Chapter 0 is just a short compendium of important concepts and theorems known to the reader by and large from calculus; only such things as are important for function theory get mentioned here.

A citation 3.4.2, e.g., means subsection 2 in section 4 of Chapter 3. Within a given chapter the chapter number is dispensed with and within a given section the section number is dispensed with, too. Material set in reduced type will not be used later. The subsections and sections prefaced with * can be skipped on the first reading. Historical material is as a rule organized into a special subsection in the same section where the relevant mathematics was presented.

Contents

<i>Preface to the English Edition</i>	v
<i>Preface to the Second German Edition</i>	vi
<i>Preface to the First German Edition</i>	vii
<i>Historical Introduction</i>	1
<i>Chronological Table</i>	6
 Part A. Elements of Function Theory	
<i>Chapter 0. Complex Numbers and Continuous Functions</i>	9
§1. The field \mathbb{C} of complex numbers.	10
1. The field \mathbb{C} — 2. \mathbb{R} -linear and \mathbb{C} -linear mappings $\mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ — 3. Scalar product and absolute value — 4. Angle-preserving mappings	
§2. Fundamental topological concepts	17
1. Metric spaces — 2. Open and closed sets — 3. Convergent sequences. Cluster points — 4. Historical remarks on the convergence concept — 5. Compact sets	
§3. Convergent sequences of complex numbers	22
1. Rules of calculation — 2. Cauchy's convergence criterion. Characterization of compact sets in \mathbb{C}	
§4. Convergent and absolutely convergent series	26
1. Convergent series of complex numbers — 2. Absolutely convergent series — 3. The rearrangement theorem — 4. Historical remarks on absolute convergence — 5. Remarks on Riemann's rearrangement theorem — 6. A theorem on products of series	

§5. Continuous functions.....	34
1. The continuity concept — 2. The \mathbb{C} -algebra $\mathcal{C}(X)$ — 3. Historical remarks on the concept of function — 4. Historical remarks on the concept of continuity	
§6. Connected spaces. Regions in \mathbb{C}	39
1. Locally constant functions. Connectedness concept — 2. Paths and path connectedness — 3. Regions in \mathbb{C} — 4. Connected components of domains — 5. Boundaries and distance to the boundary	
 <i>Chapter 1. Complex-Differential Calculus</i>	45
§1. Complex-differentiable functions.....	47
1. Complex-differentiability — 2. The Cauchy-Riemann differential equations — 3. Historical remarks on the Cauchy-Riemann differential equations	
§2. Complex and real differentiability	50
1. Characterization of complex-differentiable functions — 2. A sufficiency criterion for complex-differentiability — 3. Examples involving the Cauchy-Riemann equations — 4*. Harmonic functions	
§3. Holomorphic functions	56
1. Differentiation rules — 2. The \mathbb{C} -algebra $\mathcal{O}(D)$ — 3. Characterization of locally constant functions — 4. Historical remarks on notation	
§4. Partial differentiation with respect to x, y, z and \bar{z}	63
1. The partial derivatives $f_x, f_y, f_z, f_{\bar{z}}$ — 2. Relations among the derivatives $u_x, u_y, v_x, v_y, f_x, f_y, f_z, f_{\bar{z}}$ — 3. The Cauchy-Riemann differential equation $\frac{\partial f}{\partial \bar{z}} = 0$ — 4. Calculus of the differential operators ∂ and $\bar{\partial}$	
 <i>Chapter 2. Holomorphy and Conformality. Biholomorphic Mappings</i> ..	71
§1. Holomorphic functions and angle-preserving mappings	72
1. Angle-preservation, holomorphy and anti-holomorphy — 2. Angle- and orientation-preservation, holomorphy — 3. Geometric significance of angle-preservation — 4. Two examples — 5. Historical remarks on conformality	
§2. Biholomorphic mappings	80
1. Complex 2×2 matrices and biholomorphic mappings — 2. The biholomorphic Cayley mapping $\mathbb{H} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{E}, z \mapsto \frac{z-i}{z+i}$ — 3. Remarks on the Cayley mapping — 4*. Bijective holomorphic mappings of \mathbb{H} and \mathbb{E} onto the slit plane	

§3. Automorphisms of the upper half-plane and the unit disc	85
1. Automorphisms of \mathbb{H} — 2. Automorphisms of \mathbb{E} — 3. The encryption $\eta \frac{z-w}{\bar{w}z-1}$ for automorphisms of \mathbb{E} — 4. Homogeneity of \mathbb{E} and \mathbb{H}	
 <i>Chapter 3. Modes of Convergence in Function Theory</i>	91
 §1. Uniform, locally uniform and compact convergence	93
1. Uniform convergence — 2. Locally uniform convergence — 3. Compact convergence — 4. On the history of uniform convergence — 5*. Compact and continuous convergence	
 §2. Convergence criteria	101
1. Cauchy's convergence criterion — 2. Weierstrass' majorant criterion	
 §3. Normal convergence of series	104
1. Normal convergence — 2. Discussion of normal convergence — 3. Historical remarks on normal convergence	
 <i>Chapter 4. Power Series</i>	109
 §1. Convergence criteria	110
1. Abel's convergence lemma — 2. Radius of convergence — 3. The CAUCHY-HADAMARD formula — 4. Ratio criterion — 5. On the history of convergent power series	
 §2. Examples of convergent power series	115
1. The exponential and trigonometric series. Euler's formula — 2. The logarithmic and arctangent series — 3. The binomial series — 4*. Convergence behavior on the boundary — 5*. Abel's continuity theorem	
 §3. Holomorphy of power series	123
1. Formal term-wise differentiation and integration — 2. Holomorphy of power series. The interchange theorem — 3. Historical remarks on term-wise differentiation of series — 4. Examples of holomorphic functions	
 §4. Structure of the algebra of convergent power series	128
1. The order function — 2. The theorem on units — 3. Normal form of a convergent power series — 4. Determination of all ideals	

Chapter 5. Elementary Transcendental Functions 133

- §1. The exponential and trigonometric functions 134
 - 1. Characterization of $\exp z$ by its differential equation — 2. The addition theorem of the exponential function — 3. Remarks on the addition theorem — 4. Addition theorems for $\cos z$ and $\sin z$ — 5. Historical remarks on $\cos z$ and $\sin z$ — 6. Hyperbolic functions
- §2. The epimorphism theorem for $\exp z$ and its consequences 141
 - 1. Epimorphism theorem — 2. The equation $\ker(\exp) = 2\pi i\mathbb{Z}$ — 3. Periodicity of $\exp z$ — 4. Course of values, zeros, and periodicity of $\cos z$ and $\sin z$ — 5. Cotangent and tangent functions. Arctangent series — 6. The equation $e^{i\frac{\pi}{2}} = i$
- §3. Polar coordinates, roots of unity and natural boundaries 148
 - 1. Polar coordinates — 2. Roots of unity — 3. Singular points and natural boundaries — 4. Historical remarks about natural boundaries
- §4. Logarithm functions 154
 - 1. Definition and elementary properties — 2. Existence of logarithm functions — 3. The Euler sequence $(1 + z/n)^n$ — 4. Principal branch of the logarithm — 5. Historical remarks on logarithm functions in the complex domain
- §5. Discussion of logarithm functions 160
 - 1. On the identities $\log(wz) = \log w + \log z$ and $\log(\exp z) = z$ — 2. Logarithm and arctangent — 3. Power series. The NEWTON-ABEL formula — 4. The Riemann ζ -function

Part B. The Cauchy Theory

Chapter 6. Complex Integral Calculus 167

- §0. Integration over real intervals 168
 - 1. The integral concept. Rules of calculation and the standard estimate — 2. The fundamental theorem of the differential and integral calculus
- §1. Path integrals in \mathbb{C} 171
 - 1. Continuous and piecewise continuously differentiable paths — 2. Integration along paths — 3. The integrals $\int_{\partial B} (\zeta - c)^n d\zeta$ — 4. On the history of integration in the complex plane — 5. Independence of parameterization — 6. Connection with real curvilinear integrals
- §2. Properties of complex path integrals 178
 - 1. Rules of calculation — 2. The standard estimate — 3. Interchange theorems — 4. The integral $\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial B} \frac{d\zeta}{\zeta - z}$

§3. Path independence of integrals. Primitives	184
1. Primitives — 2. Remarks about primitives. An integrability criterion — 3. Integrability criterion for star-shaped regions	
 <i>Chapter 7. The Integral Theorem, Integral Formula and Power Series Development</i>	191
§1. The Cauchy Integral Theorem for star regions	192
1. Integral lemma of GOURSAT — 2. The Cauchy Integral Theorem for star regions — 3. On the history of the Integral Theorem — 4. On the history of the integral lemma — 5*. Real analysis proof of the integral lemma — 6*. The Fresnel integrals $\int_0^\infty \cos t^2 dt$, $\int_0^\infty \sin t^2 dt$	
§2. Cauchy's Integral Formula for discs	201
1. A sharper version of Cauchy's Integral Theorem for star regions — 2. The Cauchy Integral Formula for discs — 3. Historical remarks on the Integral Formula — 4*. The Cauchy integral formula for continuously real-differentiable functions — 5*. Schwarz' integral formula	
§3. The development of holomorphic functions into power series	208
1. Lemma on developability — 2. The CAUCHY-TAYLOR representation theorem — 3. Historical remarks on the representation theorem — 4. The Riemann continuation theorem — 5. Historical remarks on the Riemann continuation theorem	
§4. Discussion of the representation theorem	214
1. Holomorphy and complex-differentiability of every order — 2. The rearrangement theorem — 3. Analytic continuation — 4. The product theorem for power series — 5. Determination of radii of convergence	
§5*. Special Taylor series. Bernoulli numbers	220
1. The Taylor series of $z(e^z - 1)^{-1}$. Bernoulli numbers — 2. The Taylor series of $z \cot z$, $\tan z$ and $\frac{z}{\sin z}$ — 3. Sums of powers and Bernoulli numbers — 4. Bernoulli polynomials	

Part C. Cauchy-Weierstrass-Riemann Function Theory

Chapter 8. Fundamental Theorems about Holomorphic Functions 227

§1. The Identity Theorem	227
1. The Identity Theorem — 2. On the history of the Identity Theorem — 3. Discreteness and countability of the a -places — 4. Order of a zero and multiplicity at a point — 5. Existence of singular points	

§2. The concept of holomorphy	236
1. Holomorphy, local integrability and convergent power series — 2. The holomorphy of integrals — 3. Holomorphy, angle- and orientation-preservation (final formulation) — 4. The Cauchy, Riemann and Weierstrass points of view. Weierstrass' creed	
§3. The Cauchy estimates and inequalities for Taylor coefficients ...	241
1. The Cauchy estimates for derivatives in discs — 2. The Gutzmer formula and the maximum principle — 3. Entire functions. LIOUVILLE's theorem — 4. Historical remarks on the Cauchy inequalities and the theorem of LIOUVILLE — 5*. Proof of the Cauchy inequalities following WEIERSTRASS	
§4. Convergence theorems of WEIERSTRASS	248
1. Weierstrass' convergence theorem — 2. Differentiation of series. Weierstrass' double series theorem — 3. On the history of the convergence theorems — 4. A convergence theorem for sequences of primitives — 5*. A remark of WEIERSTRASS' on holomorphy — 6*. A construction of WEIERSTRASS'	
§5. The open mapping theorem and the maximum principle	256
1. Open Mapping Theorem — 2. The maximum principle — 3. On the history of the maximum principle — 4. Sharpening the WEIERSTRASS convergence theorem — 5. The theorem of HURWITZ	
<i>Chapter 9. Miscellany</i>	<i>265</i>
§1. The fundamental theorem of algebra	265
1. The fundamental theorem of algebra — 2. Four proofs of the fundamental theorem — 3. Theorem of GAUSS about the location of the zeros of derivatives	
§2. Schwarz' lemma and the groups $\text{Aut } \mathbb{E}$, $\text{Aut } \mathbb{H}$	269
1. Schwarz' lemma — 2. Automorphisms of \mathbb{E} fixing 0. The groups $\text{Aut } \mathbb{E}$ and $\text{Aut } \mathbb{H}$ — 3. Fixed points of automorphisms — 4. On the history of Schwarz' lemma — 5. Theorem of STUDY	
§3. Holomorphic logarithms and holomorphic roots	276
1. Logarithmic derivative. Existence lemma — 2. Homologically simply-connected domains. Existence of holomorphic logarithm functions — 3. Holomorphic root functions — 4. The equation $f(z) = f(c) \exp \int_{\gamma} \frac{f'(\zeta)}{f(\zeta)} d\zeta$ — 5. The power of square-roots	
§4. Biholomorphic mappings. Local normal forms	281
1. Biholomorphy criterion — 2. Local injectivity and locally biholomorphic mappings — 3. The local normal form — 4. Geometric interpretation of the local normal form — 5. Compositional factorization of holomorphic functions	

§5. General Cauchy theory.....	287
1. The index function $\text{ind}_\gamma(z)$ — 2. The principal theorem of the Cauchy theory — 3. Proof of $\text{iii}) \Rightarrow \text{ii})$ after DIXON — 4. Nullhomology. Characterization of homologically simply-connected domains	
§6*. Asymptotic power series developments	293
1. Definition and elementary properties — 2. A sufficient condition for the existence of asymptotic developments — 3. Asymptotic developments and differentiation — 4. The theorem of RITT — 5. Theorem of É. BOREL	
 <i>Chapter 10. Isolated Singularities. Meromorphic Functions</i>	 303
§1. Isolated singularities	303
1. Removable singularities. Poles — 2. Development of functions about poles — 3. Essential singularities. Theorem of CASORATI and WEIERSTRASS — 4. Historical remarks on the characterization of isolated singularities	
§2*. Automorphisms of punctured domains.....	310
1. Isolated singularities of holomorphic injections — 2. The groups $\text{Aut } \mathbb{C}$ and $\text{Aut } \mathbb{C}^\times$ — 3. Automorphisms of punctured bounded domains — 4. Conformally rigid regions	
§3. Meromorphic functions.....	315
1. Definition of meromorphy — 2. The \mathbb{C} -algebra $\mathcal{M}(D)$ of the meromorphic functions in D — 3. Division of meromorphic functions — 4. The order function o_c	
 <i>Chapter 11. Convergent Series of Meromorphic Functions</i>	 321
§1. General convergence theory	321
1. Compact and normal convergence — 2. Rules of calculation — 3. Examples	
§2. The partial fraction development of $\pi \cot \pi z$	325
1. The cotangent and its double-angle formula. The identity $\pi \cot \pi z = \varepsilon_1(z)$ — 2. Historical remarks on the cotangent series and its proof — 3. Partial fraction series for $\frac{\pi^2}{\sin^2 \pi z}$ and $\frac{\pi}{\sin \pi z}$ — 4*. Characterizations of the cotangent by its addition theorem and by its differential equation	

§3. The Euler formulas for $\sum_{\nu \geq 1} \nu^{-2n}$	331
1. Development of $\varepsilon_1(z)$ around 0 and Euler's formulas for $\zeta(2n)$ — 2. Historical remarks on the Euler $\zeta(2n)$ -formulas — 3. The differential equation for ε_1 and an identity for the Bernoulli numbers — 4. The Eisenstein series $\varepsilon_k(z) := \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(z+\nu)^k}$	
§4*. The EISENSTEIN theory of the trigonometric functions	335
1. The addition theorem — 2. Eisenstein's basic formulas — 3. More Eisenstein formulas and the identity $\varepsilon_1(z) = \pi \cot \pi z$ — 4. Sketch of the theory of the circular functions according to EISENSTEIN	
 <i>Chapter 12. Laurent Series and Fourier Series</i>	 343
§1. Holomorphic functions in annuli and Laurent series	343
1. Cauchy theory for annuli — 2. Laurent representation in annuli — 3. Laurent expansions — 4. Examples — 5. Historical remarks on the theorem of LAURENT — 6*. Derivation of LAURENT's theorem from the CAUCHY-TAYLOR theorem	
§2. Properties of Laurent series	356
1. Convergence and identity theorems — 2. The Gutzmer formula and Cauchy inequalities — 3. Characterization of isolated singularities	
§3. Periodic holomorphic functions and Fourier series	361
1. Strips and annuli — 2. Periodic holomorphic functions in strips — 3. The Fourier development in strips — 4. Examples — 5. Historical remarks on Fourier series	
§4. The theta function	365
1. The convergence theorem — 2. Construction of doubly periodic functions — 3. The Fourier series of $e^{-z^2 \pi \tau} \theta(i\tau z, \tau)$ — 4. Transformation formulas for the theta function — 5. Historical remarks on the theta function — 6. Concerning the error integral	
 <i>Chapter 13. The Residue Calculus</i>	 377
§1. The residue theorem	377
1. Simply closed paths — 2. The residue — 3. Examples — 4. The residue theorem — 5. Historical remarks on the residue theorem	
§2. Consequences of the residue theorem	387
1. The integral $\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} F(\zeta) \frac{f'(\zeta)}{f(\zeta)-a} d\zeta$ — 2. A counting formula for the zeros and poles — 3. ROUCHÉ's theorem	

<i>Chapter 14. Definite Integrals and the Residue Calculus</i>	395
§1. Calculation of integrals.....	395
0. Improper integrals — 1. Trigonometric integrals $\int_0^{2\pi} R(\cos \varphi, \sin \varphi) d\varphi$ — 2. Improper integrals $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx$ — 3. The integral $\int_0^{\infty} \frac{x^{m-1}}{1+x^n} dx$ for $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $0 < m < n$	
§2. Further evaluation of integrals.....	401
1. Improper integrals $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) e^{iax} dx$ — 2. Improper integrals $\int_0^{\infty} q(x)$ $x^{a-1} dx$ — 3. The integrals $\int_0^{\infty} \frac{\sin^n x}{x^n} dx$	
§3. Gauss sums.....	409
1. Estimation of $\frac{e^{uz}}{e^z - 1}$ for $0 \leq u \leq 1$ — 2. Calculation of the Gauss sums $G_n := \sum_0^{n-1} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{n} \nu^2}$, $n \geq 1$ — 3. Direct residue-theoretic proof of the formula $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-t^2} dt = \sqrt{\pi}$ — 4. Fourier series of the Bernoulli polynomials	
<i>Short Biographies of ABEL, CAUCHY, EISENSTEIN, EULER, RIEMANN and</i> <i>WEIERSTRASS</i>	417
<i>Photograph of Riemann's gravestone</i>	422
<i>Literature</i>	423
Classical Literature on Function Theory — Textbooks on Function Theory — Literature on the History of Function Theory and of Mathematics	
<i>Symbol Index</i>	435
<i>Name Index</i>	437
<i>Subject Index</i>	443
<i>Portraits of famous mathematicians</i>	3, 341