

Subfamilies of Möbius transformations

Automorphisms of the unit disk $\mathbb{D}$ are those analytic and univalent (one-to-one) functions f in $\mathbb{D}$ with $f(\mathbb{D}) = \mathbb{D}$.

We denote by $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{D})$ the family of automorphisms in the unit disk. The "good news" is that $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{D})$ consists of Möbius transformations, as we shall see.

We also need the Schwarz-Lemma.

Lemma (Schwarz).

Let φ be an analytic function in $\mathbb{D}$ with $\varphi(0) = 0$ and $\varphi(\mathbb{D}) \subset \mathbb{D}$.

then $|\varphi(z)| \leq |z| \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{D}$

and $|\varphi'(0)| \leq 1$.

Moreover, if $\exists z \neq 0$ such that $|\varphi(z)| = |z|$ or $|\varphi'(0)| = 1$, then

$$\varphi(z) = \lambda z, \quad |\lambda| = 1.$$

that is, $\varphi \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{D})$ (and $\varphi(0) = 0$).

the proof should be known for all of us. See, for instance, [Ahlfors, Complex Analysis, 2nd. Ed. McGraw-Hill, p. 135].

We can now prove the main theorem:

Theorem - Let $\varphi \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{D})$. Then

$$\varphi(z) = \lambda \varphi_a(z), \text{ for some } |\lambda| = 1 \text{ and } a \in \mathbb{D}.$$

Here $\varphi_a(z) = \frac{a-z}{1-\bar{a}z}$, $z \in \mathbb{D}$.

In other words, $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{D}) = \{ \lambda \varphi_a(z), |\lambda| = 1, a \in \mathbb{D} \}$.

Pf. - Note that φ_a is analytic in $\mathbb{D}$, it is one-to-one ($\varphi_a \in \mathcal{M}$).

Moreover, if $|z| = 1$, $|\varphi_a(z)| = 1$:

$$\left| \frac{a-z}{1-\bar{a}z} \right|^2 = \frac{|a|^2 + |z|^2 - 2\text{Re}\{\bar{a}z\}}{1 + |az|^2 - 2\text{Re}\{\bar{a}z\}} \underset{|z|=1}{=} 1.$$

In fact, if $|z| < 1$,

$$|a|^2 + |z|^2 - 2\text{Re}\{\bar{a}z\} < 1 + |az|^2 - 2\text{Re}\{\bar{a}z\}$$

$$\Gamma \equiv |z|^2 + |a|^2 < 1 + |az|^2 \equiv |a|^2(1 - |z|^2) < 1 - |z|^2 \equiv |a| < 1 \quad \checkmark$$

So that $\varphi_a(\mathbb{D}) \subset \mathbb{D}$.

Since $\varphi_a^{-1} = \varphi_a$, we have $\varphi_a \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{D})$,
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hence $\{\lambda \varphi_a(z), |\lambda|=1, a \in \mathbb{D}\} \subset \text{Aut}(\mathbb{D})$.

Assume now that $\varphi \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{D})$, $\varphi(0) = a$.

Consider the automorphism (composition of 2 automorphisms)

$$\psi = \varphi_a \circ \varphi$$

then, $\psi(\mathbb{D}) = \mathbb{D}$ & $\psi(0) = \varphi_a(\varphi(0)) = \varphi_a(a) = 0$.

$$\Rightarrow |\psi(z)| \leq |z| \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{D}.$$

But $\psi^{-1} \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{D})$ & $\psi^{-1}(0) = 0$.

$$\Rightarrow |\psi^{-1}(z)| \leq |z| \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{D}.$$

$$\Rightarrow |z| \leq |\psi(z)| \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{D}.$$

$\xi = \psi(z)$

that is, $|\psi(z)| = |z| \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{D} \Rightarrow \varphi_a \circ \varphi(z) = \mu z, |\mu|=1$.

$$\Rightarrow \varphi(z) = \varphi_a^{-1}(\mu z) = \varphi_a(\mu z) = \frac{a - \mu z}{1 - \bar{a} \mu z}$$

$$= \mu \frac{\bar{\mu} a - z}{1 - (\bar{\mu} a) z} = \lambda \varphi_a(z), \quad \lambda = \mu, a = \bar{\mu} a.$$

□.

Remark: We said that $\varphi_a \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{D})$, $\varphi_a^{-1} = \varphi_a$,

$\varphi_a(a) = 0$. Note also that $\varphi_a(0) = a \equiv \varphi_a$ is an involutive automorphism that interchanges the points 0 and a.

the Schwarz-Pick lemma.

Here we have a generalization of the Schwarz lemma

Lemma [Schwarz-Pick]. Let $\varphi \in \mathcal{H}(\mathbb{D})$ with $\varphi(\mathbb{D}) \subset \mathbb{D}$. then

(i) $d_{ph}(\varphi(z), \varphi(w)) \leq d_{ph}(z, w) \quad \forall z, w \in \mathbb{D}$,
where, for $a, b \in \mathbb{D}$,
 $d_{ph}(a, b) = |\varphi_a(b)| \equiv$ pseudo-hyperbolic distance between a and b .
 $\varphi(0)=0, \quad \varphi_0(\varphi(z)) \leq |\varphi_0(z)| \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{D}$
 $w=0 \quad |\varphi(z)| \leq |z|$

$$(ii) \quad |\varphi'(z)| \leq \frac{1-|\varphi(z)|^2}{1-|z|^2} \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{D}.$$

Moreover, equality holds in either (i) for $a \neq b$ or

(ii) if and only if $\varphi \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{D})$.

Pf.- Let a be an arbitrary point in $\mathbb{D}$.

define $\psi_a(z) = \varphi_{\varphi(a)} \circ \varphi \circ \varphi_a(z)$

then, $\psi_a \in \mathcal{H}(\mathbb{D})$, $\psi_a(\mathbb{D}) \subset \mathbb{D}$, and

$$\psi_a(0) = 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow |\psi_a(z)| \leq |z| \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{D}.$$

$$\equiv |\varphi_{\varphi(a)} \circ \varphi \circ \varphi_a(z)| \leq |z| \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{D}$$

$$\equiv (z = \varphi_a(b)) \quad |\varphi_{\varphi(a)}(\varphi(b))| \leq |\varphi_a(b)|.$$

And $\equiv$ holds iff. $|\varphi_a(z)| = |z|$ for some $a \neq b$.

$$\equiv \varphi_{\varphi(a)} \circ \varphi \circ \varphi_a(z) = \lambda z \equiv \varphi_{\varphi(a)} \circ \varphi(z) = \lambda \varphi_a(z)$$

$\equiv \varphi(z)$ is the composition of 2 automorphisms

$\Rightarrow \varphi \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{D})$.

Also, $|\varphi_a'(0)| \leq 1$ ($\equiv$ iff $\varphi_a \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{D})$
 $\equiv \varphi \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{D})$, as
 before).



$$|\varphi'_{\varphi(a)}(\varphi(a))| \cdot |\varphi'(a)| \cdot |\varphi_a'(0)| \leq 1.$$

Since $\varphi_a'(z) = \frac{1-a^2}{(1-\bar{a}z)^2}$, $|\varphi_a'(0)| = 1-|a|^2$, $|\varphi_a'(a)| = \frac{1}{1-|a|^2}$

This proves the lemma. $\square$.

Solutions to some related exercises

(1) Let $T(z) = \frac{az+b}{cz+d} \in \mathcal{M}$. Prove that the following conditions are equivalent.

(a) $T \in \mathcal{H}(\mathbb{D})$ & $T(\mathbb{D}) \subset \mathbb{D}$.

(b) $|b\bar{d} - a\bar{c}| + |ad - bc| \leq |d|^2 - |c|^2$.

(c) $|\bar{c}d - \bar{a}b| + |ad - bc| \leq |d|^2 - |b|^2$.

(d) $|d| > |c|$ & $2|a\bar{b} - c\bar{d}| \leq |c|^2 + |d|^2 - |a|^2 - |b|^2$.

• (a) $\Leftrightarrow$ (b).

$\Rightarrow$ $T \in \mathcal{H}(\mathbb{D}) \Rightarrow cz+d \neq 0 \forall z \in \mathbb{D} \Rightarrow |d| > |c|$.
(otherwise, $z = -\frac{d}{c}$, $c \neq 0$, belongs to $\mathbb{D}$!)

Now, $T(\mathbb{D}) = D(z_0, r) \subset \mathbb{D}$ for some $z_0 \in \mathbb{D}$ & $r > 0$, since $T(\mathbb{D}) \subset \mathbb{D}$. But hence, $\frac{T(z) - z_0}{r}$ maps the disk onto itself & is one-to-one. That is, this transf. equals an automorphism of $\mathbb{D}$: $(|z_0| + r < 1)$

$$\frac{T(z) - z_0}{r} = \mu \varphi_\alpha(z), \quad |\mu| = 1, |\alpha| < 1, \varphi_\alpha(z) = \frac{\alpha - z}{1 - \bar{\alpha}z}$$

$$\equiv \frac{az+b}{cz+d} = \mu r \frac{\alpha - z}{1 - \bar{\alpha}z} + z_0, \quad r + |z_0| \leq 1 !!!$$

(since, again, $T(\mathbb{D}) \subset \mathbb{D}$!)

$$\equiv \frac{\frac{a}{d}z + \frac{b}{d}}{\frac{c}{d}z + 1} = \frac{(-\mu r - z_0 \bar{\alpha})z + z_0 + \mu r \alpha}{-\bar{\alpha}z + 1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{III} \quad r &= \left| \frac{c}{d} \cdot z_0 - \frac{a}{d} \right| = \left| \frac{c}{d} \cdot \frac{b\bar{d} - a\bar{c}}{|d|^2 - |c|^2} - \frac{a}{d} \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{|d|} \frac{|bc\bar{d} - \cancel{a|c|^2} - a|d|^2|}{|d|^2 - |c|^2} = \frac{|bc - ad|}{|d|^2 - |c|^2} \quad (**). \end{aligned}$$

⇐ If (b) holds, then $|d| > |c|$ (since $ad - bc \neq 0$) and the system above can be solved for $r > 0$, $z_0 \in \mathbb{D}$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{D}$, and $|\mu| = 1$ with $r + |z_0| < 1$ & $T(z) - z_0 = \mu r \varphi_\alpha(z)$. Hence (a) holds.

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Lemma :- $\varphi(z) = \frac{az+b}{cz+d}$ is an analytic function in $\mathbb{D}$ with $\varphi(\mathbb{D}) \subset \mathbb{D}$ if and only if

$$\varphi^*(z) = \frac{1}{\varphi^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)} \stackrel{(*)}{=} \frac{\bar{a}z - \bar{c}}{-\bar{b}z + \bar{d}}$$

has the same properties.

pf. - $\varphi(\mathbb{D}) \subset \mathbb{D} \Rightarrow \varphi^{-1}(s) : \mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}}$

[if $\exists s \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}} : \varphi^{-1}(s) \in \mathbb{D}$, then $\varphi(\varphi^{-1}(s)) = s$ would belong to both $\mathbb{D}$ (since $\varphi(\mathbb{D}) \subset \mathbb{D}$) & $\mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}}$ by hypothesis $\rightarrow \Leftarrow$].

Now, $z \in \mathbb{D} \rightarrow \frac{1}{z} \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}} \Rightarrow \varphi^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{z}\right) \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}}$

& $\frac{1}{\varphi^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)} \in \mathbb{D}$. Moreover, $\varphi^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{z}\right) \neq 0$!

this proves the lemma in addition to the identity $(*)$ which is easily obtained using that

$$\varphi^{-1}(z) = \frac{dz+b}{a-cz} \quad \square.$$

To complete the proof of $(b) \Leftrightarrow (c)$ just apply $(a) \Leftrightarrow (b)$ to φ^* .

Finally, $(a) \Leftrightarrow (c)$.

$\Rightarrow$ As mentioned before, $T \in \mathcal{H}(\mathbb{D}) \Rightarrow |d| > |c|$.

Also, $T(\mathbb{D}) \subset \mathbb{D} \equiv |T(z)| \leq 1 \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{D}$ (hence $\forall |z| \leq 1$).

$$\Rightarrow |az+b|^2 \leq |cz+d|^2 \quad \forall |z|=1.$$

$$\equiv 2\operatorname{Re}\{(a\bar{b}-c\bar{d})z\} \leq |c|^2 + |d|^2 - |a|^2 - |b|^2 \quad \forall |z|=1.$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \cdot a\bar{b} - c\bar{d} = 0 \Rightarrow (c) \text{ for sure.} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \cdot a\bar{b} - c\bar{d} \neq 0 \Rightarrow (c) \text{ too (take } z = \frac{a\bar{b}-c\bar{d}}{|a\bar{b}-c\bar{d}|} \in \partial\mathbb{D}). \end{cases}$$

$\Leftarrow$ Just undo the previous argument:

$$\cdot a\bar{b} - c\bar{d} = 0 \Rightarrow \forall |z|=1 \quad \left| \frac{az+b}{cz+d} \right| \leq 1$$

$\Rightarrow$ by the Maximum modulus principle, $\left| \frac{az+b}{cz+d} \right| \leq 1$ in $\mathbb{D}$.

the same holds if $a\bar{b} - c\bar{d} \neq 0$.

(2) For a given analytic function φ in $\mathbb{D}$ and a positive integer n , define the n -th iterates of φ by the recursive formulas

$$\varphi_1 = \varphi \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_n = \varphi \circ \varphi_{n-1}.$$

$\varphi_1 = \varphi$ and $\varphi_n = \varphi \circ \varphi_{n-1}$.

(1) What are the solutions of $\varphi_2 = T$, $\rightarrow \varphi$?
where $T \in M$? Note that $\varphi \in H(D)$, so
that in order to ensure that φ_2 is
well-defined, we need $\varphi(D) \subset D$ (hence $T(D) \subset D$!)

(2) And the solutions of $\varphi_n = T$, $n \geq 2$??

(1) $T = Id$ & $\lambda^2 = 1$, $\varphi(z) = \varphi_p(\lambda \varphi_p(z))$, φ_p is home

$\varphi_p(z) = \frac{p-z}{1-\bar{p}z}$, $p \in \mathbb{D}$ satisfies

$$\varphi_2(z) = T$$

Note that the same holds if $\lambda^n = 1$ with the same φ to solve $\varphi_n = \underline{\text{Id}}$!

(1) & (2): Case when $\exists p \in \mathbb{D} : T(p) = p$

Lemma - Let $T \in \mathcal{M}$, $T(\mathbb{D}) \subset \mathbb{D}$, $T(p) = p$, $p \in \mathbb{D}$, $T \neq \text{Id}$.

then $\hat{T} = \varphi_p \circ T \circ \varphi_p$ has the form

$$\hat{T}(0) = 0 \mid \hat{T}(z) = \frac{Az}{Cz+1}, \quad |A|+|C| \leq 1, \quad A \neq 1. \quad (\text{previous ex})$$

Pf. - $\hat{T}$ is a Möbius transformation that fixes the origin and is analytic in $\mathbb{D}$

$$\equiv \hat{T}(z) = \frac{az}{cz+d} \stackrel{d \neq 0}{=} \frac{Az}{Cz+1}$$

Since $\hat{T}(\mathbb{D}) \subset \mathbb{D}$, by the previous exercise we have $|A|+|C| \leq 1$. & $A=1 \Rightarrow C=0 \rightarrow T = \text{Id}$. $\square$

Finding φ : $\varphi_n = T$, with T as in the lemma.

$$\varphi_p \circ \varphi \circ \varphi \circ \dots \circ \varphi \circ \varphi_p = \varphi \circ T \circ \varphi_p \equiv \varphi_p \circ \varphi \circ \varphi_p \circ \varphi_p \circ \varphi \circ \varphi_p \dots \circ \varphi_p \circ \varphi \circ \varphi_p = \hat{T}$$

$$\equiv \hat{\varphi}_n = \hat{T}. \quad \& \quad \hat{\varphi}_n(0) = 0 \Rightarrow \hat{\varphi}(0) = 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{\varphi}(z) = \frac{az}{cz+1}, \quad \hat{\varphi}_2(z) = \frac{a\left(\frac{az}{cz+1}\right)}{c\left(\frac{az}{cz+1}\right)+1} = \frac{a^2 z}{(c+ac)z+1}$$

$$\dots \hat{\varphi}_n(z) = \frac{a^n z}{(c+ac+\dots+a^{n-1}c)z+1}$$

note that, as before, if $a=1 \Rightarrow \varphi = \text{Id} \Rightarrow T = \text{Id}!$

thus, we are to solve

$$\begin{cases} a^n = A \\ c(1+a+\dots+a^{n-1}) = C \end{cases}$$

$$\equiv \begin{cases} a^n = A \\ c = \frac{c}{1+a+\dots+a^{n-1}} \end{cases} \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{note:} \\ s = 1+a+\dots+a^{n-1} = 0 \\ \Rightarrow s = \frac{1-a^n}{1-a} = \frac{1-A}{1-a} = 0 \Rightarrow A=1 \end{array} \right)$$

$$\therefore \hat{\varphi}(z) = \frac{az}{\frac{c}{\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} a^j} z + 1}$$

(1) & (2): Case when $\varphi(z) \neq z \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{D}$. $\varphi_\mu, |\mu|=1$

Recall that, in this case, $\exists \mu \in \partial \mathbb{D} : T(\mu) = \mu$.

this is similar to the previous item but considering now $\hat{T} = T_\mu \circ T \circ T_\mu^{-1}$, $T_\mu = \frac{\mu+z}{\mu-z}$ Cayley maps.

We get $\hat{T}(\omega) = A\omega + B$, $\omega \in \mathbb{H} = \{\omega \in \mathbb{C} : \operatorname{Re}\{\omega\} > 0\}$.

You can find more details in:

[Coutères, Diaz-Madriz, M, Vukotic, Contemp. Math., 2012].

Remark - We have seen before that if $T \in M$ fixes 3 points in $\hat{\mathbb{C}}$, then $T = \text{Id}$.

The next result shows that the same result holds if we change the hypotheses $T \in M$ fixes 3 points in $\mathbb{C}$ by $\varphi \in H(\mathbb{D})$, $\varphi(\mathbb{D}) \subset \mathbb{D}$ and φ fixes 2 points.

Thm. - Let $\varphi \in H(\mathbb{D})$, $\varphi(\mathbb{D}) \subset \mathbb{D}$. Suppose that there exist $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{D}$, $z_1 \neq z_2$, such that $\varphi(z_1) = z_1$ and $\varphi(z_2) = z_2$. Then $\varphi = \text{Id}$.

Pf. - Consider, for $a \in \mathbb{D}$, the automorphism $\varphi_a(z) = \frac{a-z}{1-\bar{a}z}$, $|z| < 1$, and recall that $\varphi_a^{-1} = \varphi_a$.

Now, define $\psi = \varphi_{z_1} \circ \varphi \circ \varphi_{z_1} \in H(\mathbb{D})$.

Then, on the one side,

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(0) &= \varphi_{z_1} \circ \varphi(\varphi_{z_1}(0)) = \varphi_{z_1}(\varphi(z_1)) \\ &= \varphi_{z_1}(z_1) = 0. \end{aligned} \rightarrow |\psi(z)| \leq |z| \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{D}$$

On the other side, for $s = \varphi_{z_1}(z_2) (\neq 0)$, since $z_1 \neq z_2$, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(s) &= \varphi_{z_1} \circ \varphi \circ \varphi_{z_1}(s) = \varphi_{z_1} \circ \varphi(z_2) = \varphi_{z_1}(z_2) \\ &= s. \end{aligned} \quad \varphi_{z_1}(s) = \varphi_{z_1} \circ \varphi_{z_1}(z_2) = z_2$$

Hence $\psi(z) = \lambda z$, $|\lambda| = 1$. But $\lambda = 1$, since $\psi(s) = s$.

On the fixed points of a Möbius transformation $T \in M$, $T(\mathbb{D}) \subset \mathbb{D}$.

Several situations can come up.

$\rightarrow T = \text{Id}$ ($\Rightarrow T(z) = z \ \forall z \in \mathbb{D}$).

$\rightarrow T$ has 1 (unique) fixed point in $\mathbb{D}$.

$\rightarrow T$ has no fixed points in $\mathbb{D}$. Then, we will show that $\exists \zeta \in \partial\mathbb{D} : T(\zeta) = \zeta$.

We need Rouché's thm.

thm [Rouché] Let $f, g \in H(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$. If $|f+g| < |g|$ on $\partial\mathbb{D}$, then f has as many zeros in $\mathbb{D}$ as g has.
 $|T_k| = |r_k T(z)| < 1 = |g|$

Now, assume that T has no fixed points in $\mathbb{D}$. Choose an increasing sequence of positive real numbers $\{r_k\} \subset (0, 1)$ with $r_k \rightarrow 1$.

Define $F_k = r_k T$ and apply Rouché's thm. to $f(z) = T_k(z) - z = 0$ and $g(z) = z$. ($|r_k T(z)| \leq r_k < 1 = |z|$, $|z|=1$). So that each F_k has 1 unique fixed point, z_k , say, in $\mathbb{D} \ni r_k T(z_k) = z_k$.

Passing to a subsequence, if needed, $z_k \rightarrow \zeta \in \overline{\mathbb{D}}$ & $T(\zeta) = \zeta$. And since T has no fixed points in $\mathbb{D}$, we are done.