NORMAL ANALYTIC FUNCTIONS AND A THEOREM OF DOOB

C. L. Belna and J. H. Mathews

Let f be an analytic function in the open unit disk D, and let Λ denote the collection of all one-to-one conformal mappings of D onto D. Then f is called *normal* if the family of functions $\{f \circ \lambda\}_{\lambda \in \Lambda}$ is normal in D in the sense of Montel.

Let X be a chord of the unit circle C having one endpoint at $\zeta = 1$, and let α be a finite complex value. For each $\varepsilon > 0$, let

$$\delta_\varepsilon = \liminf_{r \to 0^+} \frac{\mu[\{z: |f(z) - \alpha| < \varepsilon\} \cap X_r]}{r},$$

where $\mu[\,\cdot\,]$ denotes linear Lebesgue measure and $X_r = X \cap \{z: |z - 1| < r\}$. We say (see [3, p. 163]) that α is a *metric cluster value of the first kind of* f *on* X *at* 1 if

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \varepsilon^{(\delta_\varepsilon)^d} = 0 \quad \text{for some } d > 0. \tag{1}$$

The upper limit of the exponents d for which (1) holds is called the *order* of the cluster value.

We shall prove the following theorem, which has already been established by J. L. Doob in the particular case that f is a bounded analytic function [3, Theorem 4].

THEOREM. *Let* f *be a normal analytic function in* D, *and let the finite complex value* α *be a metric cluster value of the first kind of* f *on some chord* X *at* 1. *If the order of* α *is greater than* 2, *then* f *has angular limit* α *at* 1.

Proof. To begin, suppose that f is bounded on X. Corresponding to each $\varepsilon_0 > 0$, let X' be a chord of C having one endpoint at $\zeta = 1$ and forming the angle $\pi/2(1 + \varepsilon_0)$ with X. By a theorem of F. Bagemihl [1, Theorem 4], there exists a positive number r such that f is bounded in the sector S determined by the chords X and X' and an arc of the circle $|z - 1| = r$. Since f has the metric cluster value α of the first kind of order greater than 2 on X at 1, we can now use the exact argument given by Doob [3, proof of Theorem 4] to conclude that f has the limit α as $z \to 1$ along certain paths in S ending at 1. Then, according to O. Lehto and K. I. Virtanen [4, Theorem 2], it follows that f possesses the angular limit α at 1.

To complete the proof of our theorem, we need only show that condition (1) implies that f is bounded on X. Suppose not. Then there exists a sequence $\{z_n\} \subset X$ with $z_n \to 1$ and $f(z_n) \to \infty$.

Let τ be an arbitrary positive number. For each pair of points z and z' in D, let $\rho(z, z')$ denote the non-Euclidean distance between z and z', and for each point z' in D, let $D(z', \tau) = \{z \in D: \rho(z, z') < \tau\}$. An argument of F. Bagemihl and W. Seidel [2, proof of Theorem 1] shows that our sequence $\{z_n\}$ has the property that

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