

## On the multivalency of analytic functions.

By Toshio UMEZAWA

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Noshiro's theorems<sup>1)</sup> (generalizations of Dieudonné's theorem<sup>2)</sup>) concerning the univalence of regular functions were extended to the case of  $p$ -valence by E. Sakai<sup>3)</sup>. In the present paper we are going to generalize some of them to meromorphic functions which are defined in a multiply-connected domain. By accomplishing this task we shall also be able to extend Z. Nehari's results<sup>4)</sup> and to make them more sharp.

LEMMA 1. *Let  $\varphi(z)$  be regular in an  $n$ -ply connected domain  $D$  and let  $\varphi(z) \in T^{(5)}$  in  $D$ , where  $T$  is a given connected domain. Let us denote by  $u=g(t)$  an arbitrary branch of a function mapping  $T$  conformally on  $|u| < 1$  and suppose that  $g(\varphi(z))$  is single-valued in  $D$ , and put*

$$(1) \quad \frac{1 - |g(\alpha)|^2}{|g'(\alpha)|} \equiv \Omega(\alpha, T) \quad (\alpha \in T)^{(6)}.$$

Then

$$(2) \quad |\varphi'(z)| \leq 2\pi k(z, z) \Omega(\varphi(z), T) \quad (z \in D),$$

where  $k(z, \xi)$  denotes the Szegö kernel function<sup>7)</sup> of  $D$ .

PROOF. In order that the integration be permissible we assume that the boundary  $I'$  of  $D$  consists of smooth curves and that  $\varphi(\xi)$  is continuous on  $I'$ ; but once the result is obtained, both assumptions can easily be disposed of. Indeed, if  $D$  is not smoothly bounded, we may approximate  $D$  by a sequence of domains  $D_n$  which satisfy  $D_n \subset D$ ,  $D_n \subset D_{n+1}$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} D_n = D$  and whose boundaries  $I_n$  are smooth. If we replace  $D$  by  $D_n$ , the additional assumption under which we prove Lemma 1 are satisfied. The general result then follows by letting  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and observing that the Szegö kernel function  $k(z, z)$  is a continuous domain function.