

On the Property of Riemann Surfaces and the Defect.

By

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I. Introduction.

Let $w=f(z)$ be a meromorphic function in $|z| < R \leq \infty$ (not rational), then a is said to be exceptional (in R. Nevanlinna's sense) if the defect $\delta(a) = \lim_{r \rightarrow R} \frac{m(r, a)}{T(r, f)}$ is positive.

May we decide whether a is exceptional or not, by the local construction of Riemann surface F of its inverse function? For this, there is a well-known consequence due to Cartan and Selberg:

If there lie only schlicht discs or ones of n -sheets, having only a as the branch point, above the ρ -neighbourhood $|w-a| < \rho$, and furthermore, n is uniformly bounded, then a is not an exceptional value of $f(z)$.

In this paper we want to investigate the property of the simply connected Riemann surfaces and find some sufficient conditions in order that a given value a may be non-exceptional.

II. A property of the simply connected Riemann surfaces.

Let us project the w -plane stereographically on the Riemann sphere Σ of diameter 1 touching the w -plane at the origin.

Let $a = |a|e^{i\alpha}$ be a point on the w -plane, then the surface element of Σ is given by $d\sigma = \frac{|a|d|a|d\alpha}{(1+|a|^2)^2}$. We consider a circular domain D_ρ on Σ (spherical cap) obtained by the projection of the disc $|w| \leq \rho$ ($0 < \rho < \infty$). Let $I_0(D_\rho)$ denote the area of D_ρ and $I_r(D_\rho)$ the total area of common parts of the domains above D_ρ and F_r , which is the Riemannian image of $|z| \leq r$, then we have

$$(1) \quad I_0(D_\rho) = \int_{D_\rho} d\sigma = \frac{\pi\rho^2}{1+\rho^2},$$

$$(2) \quad I_r(D_\rho) = \int_{D_\rho} n(r, a) d\sigma,$$

where $n(r, a)$ denotes the number of a -points in $|z| \leq r < R$. Put

$$d\mu_{D_\rho} = \frac{d\sigma}{I_0(D_\rho)},$$

then μ_{D_ρ} is a continuous mass-distribution on D_ρ of total mass 1. Denoting by $S_r(D_\rho)$ the average number of sheets of F_r above D_ρ and using (2), we may write

$$(3) \quad S_r(D_\rho) \equiv \frac{I_r(D_\rho)}{I_0(D_\rho)} = \int_{D_\rho} n(r, a) \frac{d\sigma}{I_0(D_\rho)} = \int_{D_\rho} n(r, a) d\mu_{D_\rho}.$$

Here we consider the following formula

$$(4) \quad T(r) = \int_0^r \frac{A(t)}{t} dt = N(r, a) + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \log \frac{1}{k(w(re^{i\varphi}), a)} d\varphi - \log \frac{1}{k(w_0, a)},$$

where $w_0 = w(0) \neq a$ and $k(w, a) = \frac{|w-a|}{\sqrt{(1+|w|^2)(1+|a|^2)}}$ denotes the euclidean distance between w and a on Σ . Multiplying $d\mu_{D_\rho}(a)$ both sides of (4) and integrating on D_ρ , we have

$$(5) \quad T(r) = \int_{D_\rho} N(r, a) d\mu_{D_\rho} + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} P(w(re^{i\varphi})) d\varphi - P(w_0),$$

where $P(w)$ denotes the spherical logarithmic potential on D_ρ of mass distribution μ_{D_ρ} :

$$P(w) = \int_{D_\rho} \log \frac{1}{k(w, a)} d\mu_{D_\rho}.$$

$P(w)$ remains finite so far as $0 < \rho < \infty$. We shall next give an explicit form of it.

First, since $\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \log |w - e^{i\theta}| d\theta = \log^+ |w|^{(5)}$,

$$\begin{aligned} u(w) &= \int_{D_\rho} \log \frac{1}{|w-a|} d\mu_{D_\rho} = \frac{1+\rho^2}{\rho^2} \int_0^\rho \int_0^{2\pi} \log \frac{1}{|w-a|} \cdot \frac{|a|d|a|du}{\pi(1+|a|^2)^2} \\ &= -\frac{2(1+\rho^2)}{\rho^2} \int_0^\rho \left(\log |a| + \log \left| \frac{w}{a} \right| \right) \frac{|a|d|a|}{(1+|a|^2)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

(i) For $|w| > \rho$,

$$u(w) = -\frac{2(1+\rho^2)}{\rho^2} \int_0^\rho \frac{|a| \log |w|}{(1+|a|^2)^2} d|a| = \log \frac{1}{|w|}.$$

(ii) For $|w| \leq \rho$,

$$\begin{aligned} u(w) &= -\frac{2(1+\rho^2)}{\rho^2} \left[\int_0^{|w|} \frac{|a| \log |w|}{(1+|a|^2)^2} d|a| + \int_{|w|}^\rho \frac{|a| \log |a|}{(1+|a|^2)^2} d|a| \right] \\ &= \log \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{\rho^2}} + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \log \sqrt{1 + \rho^2} - \left(1 + \frac{1}{\rho^2}\right) \log \sqrt{1 + |w|^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, if we put

$$F(\rho) \equiv \int_{D_\rho} \log \sqrt{1 + |a|^2} d\mu_{D_\rho} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\rho^2} \log \sqrt{1 + \rho^2},$$

we can evaluate $P(w)$ in the following manner :

I. $\rho < |w| < \infty$;

$$P(w) = u(w) + \log \sqrt{1 + |w|^2} + F(\rho) = \log \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{|w|^2}} + F(\rho).$$

Hence $F(\rho) < P(w) < \log \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{\rho^2}} + F(\rho)$.

II. $|w| \leq \rho$;

$$P(w) = \log \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{\rho^2}} + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \log \sqrt{\frac{1 + \rho^2}{1 + |w|^2}} + F(\rho).$$

Hence $F(\rho) < P(w) \leq \log \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{\rho^2}} + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \log \sqrt{1 + \rho^2} + F(\rho)$.

III. $w = \infty$;

since $\log \frac{1}{k(\infty, a)} = \log \sqrt{1 + |a|^2}$,

$$P(\infty) = \int_{D_\rho} \log \frac{1}{k(\infty, a)} d\mu_{D_\rho} = F(\rho).$$

Thus we have always, for any w ,

$$(6) \quad F(\rho) \leq P(w) \leq \log \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{\rho^2}} + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \log \sqrt{1 + \rho^2} + F(\rho).$$

The same result is obtained for the integral

$$(7) \quad I = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} P(w(re^{i\varphi})) d\varphi.$$

But the equality sign now does not occur. For, otherwise $w(z)$ reduces to a constant. From (3), (5), (6) and (7), we have

$$(8) \quad \int_0^r \frac{S_t(D_\rho)}{t} dt < T(r) + \log \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{\rho^2}} + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \log \sqrt{1 + \rho^2}.$$

$$(9) \quad T(r) < \int_0^r \frac{S_t(D_\rho)}{t} dt + \log \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{\rho^2}} + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \log \sqrt{1 + \rho^2}.$$

That is,

$$(10) \quad \left| T(r) - \int_0^r \frac{S_t(D_\rho)}{t} dt \right| < \log \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{\rho^2}} + \frac{1}{\rho^2} \log \sqrt{1 + \rho^2}.$$

For $0 < \rho \leq 1$ the right-hand-side can be replaced by $\log \frac{1}{\rho} + C$, where $0 < C < \frac{1}{2}(1 + \log 2)$, and we shall later use this form. Now, by (1), we have

$$(11) \quad \rho^2 = \frac{I_0(D_\rho)}{\pi - I_0(D_\rho)}.$$

Putting (11) into the right hand side of (10) and remarking that the quantities $A(t)$, $S_t(D_\rho)$, $I_0(D_\rho)$ appeared there are all invariant for the rotation of Riemann sphere, we have the following

Theorem 1. Suppose F the simply connected Riemann surface of the inverse function spread over Riemann sphere \mathcal{S} . Let D , $I_0(D)$ and $S_r(D)$ denote respectively an arbitrary disc on \mathcal{S} , its area and the average number of sheets of F_r above D . Then

$$(12) \quad \left| \int_0^r \frac{S_t(\mathcal{S})}{t} dt - \int_0^r \frac{S_t(D)}{t} dt \right| < \log \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{I_0(D)}} \\ + \frac{\pi - I_0(D)}{I_0(D)} \log \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\pi - I_0(D)}} \\ = \frac{1}{I_0(D)} \sum_{i=2}^r I_0(D_i) \log \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{I_0(D_i)}} \\ (D_1 = D, D_2 = \text{complementary disc of } D).$$

If we suppose D , as special case, be the hemi sphere, we have the following

Corollary: Let D_1 and D_2 denote respectively the north and south hemi spheres. Then we have

$$\left| \int_0^r \frac{S_i(D_1)}{t} dt - \int_0^r \frac{S_i(D_2)}{t} dt \right| < 2 \log 2.$$

Remark 1. When $D \rightarrow \Sigma$, $S_i(D) \rightarrow S_i(\Sigma)$ and now both sides of (12) tend to zero. When $D \rightarrow$ a point, the right hand side tends to logarithmic infinity.

Remark 2. Integrating the Ahlfors' first covering theorem with respect to $\log r$, we have the same expression as the left hand side of (12), but the other side is $\frac{h}{I_0(D)} \int_0^r \frac{L(t)}{t} dt$. This expression depends on r , $I_0(D)$ and a constant h . While the right hand side of (12) depends only on $I_0(D)$.

III. Some Lemmas.

For our purpose we shall now give some lemmas.

Lemma 1. Let $\zeta = \zeta(\omega)$ be a regular schlicht function in $|\omega| < 1$. Suppose that $\zeta(0) \neq 0$ and ζ -image D of $|\omega| < 1$ does not contain the disc $|\zeta| \leq |\zeta(0)|$ perfectly. Then we have

$$|\zeta'(0)| \leq 8|\zeta(0)|.$$

Proof. Let l denote the smallest distance connecting $\zeta(0)$ to the intersection points of $|\zeta| = |\zeta(0)|$ and the boundary of D . Since D does not contain $|\zeta| \leq |\zeta(0)|$ perfectly, such l always exists and $0 < l \leq 2|\zeta(0)|$. By Koebe's theorem we have

$$\frac{1}{4} |\zeta'(0)| \leq l \leq 2|\zeta(0)|, \text{ q.e.d.}$$

Remark. The extreme case is attained by the function

$$\zeta(\omega) = a + \frac{8a\omega}{(1-\omega)^2} \quad (a: \text{arbitrary number})$$

which maps $|\omega| < 1$ to the plane with a cut $(-a, \infty)$.

Lemma 2. Suppose that $\zeta = \zeta(\omega)$ maps the n -ple disc $|\omega| < \rho$ having only $\omega = 0$ as the branch point conformally on D . Suppose further that $\zeta(0) \neq 0$ and D does not contain $|\zeta| \leq |\zeta(0)|$ perfectly. Then we have

$$|\zeta(\omega) - \zeta(0)| < d \quad \text{in } |\omega| \leq \left(\frac{d}{2d + 8|\zeta(0)|} \right)^\rho,$$

where d is a real positive number.

Proof. Let $n=1, \rho=1$. By the "Verzerrungssatz" of schlicht functions we have

$$\left| \frac{\zeta(\omega) - \zeta(0)}{\zeta'(0)} \right| \leq \frac{|\omega|}{(1-|\omega|)^2},$$

hence

$$\max_{|\omega|=\theta} |\zeta(\omega) - \zeta(0)| \leq \frac{\theta}{(1-\theta)^2} |\zeta'(0)| \quad (0 < \theta < 1).$$

Therefore, we have

$$|\zeta(\omega) - \zeta(0)| \leq d \quad \text{for } |\omega| \leq \theta$$

for any θ which satisfies

$$(13) \quad \frac{\theta}{(1-\theta)^2} |\zeta'(0)| \leq d.$$

Let θ_1 be a solution of (13), then we have, by lemma 1,

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_1 &= \frac{2d}{2d + |\zeta'(0)| + \sqrt{4d|\zeta'(0)| + |\zeta'(0)|^2}} > \frac{d}{2d + |\zeta'(0)|} \\ &\geq \frac{d}{2d + 8|\zeta'(0)|}. \end{aligned}$$

In the other case, put $w = \sqrt[n]{\frac{\omega}{\rho}}$ and consider the mapping $w \rightarrow \omega \rightarrow \zeta$, then since $\zeta = \zeta(\omega) = \zeta(\rho w^n) \equiv \zeta_1(w)$ maps $|w| < 1$ conformally on D , by the above result if $|w| \leq \frac{d}{2d + 8|\zeta_1(0)|}$ i. e.

$$|\omega| \leq \left(\frac{d}{2d + 8|\zeta_1(0)|} \right)^n \cdot \rho, \quad \text{we have } |\zeta(\omega) - \zeta(0)| < d, \quad \text{q.e.d.}$$

To make the expression simple, we write $N(r)$, $n(r)$ instead of $N(r, a)$, $n(r, a)$ respectively.

Let $w = f(z)$ be a meromorphic function in $|z| < \infty$.

Since $N(r)$ is the convex function with respect to $\log r$, we have for $r < \rho < \rho'$

$$N(\rho) - N(r) \leq \frac{\log \frac{\rho}{r}}{\log \frac{\rho'}{r}} (N(\rho') - N(r)) \leq \frac{\log \frac{\rho}{r}}{\log \frac{\rho'}{r}} (T(\rho') + O(1))$$

$$\leq \frac{\rho'}{r} \cdot \frac{\rho-r}{\rho'-r} (T(\rho') + O(1)).^{(4)}$$

Therefore if ρ is defined as

$$(14) \quad \rho-r = \frac{r}{\rho'} \cdot \frac{\rho'-r}{T(\rho')} \quad (< \rho'-r)$$

it follows

$$(15) \quad N(\rho) - N(r) \leq O(1).$$

Here for our later purpose we adopt $\rho' = r + \frac{1}{\log T(r)}$. Then we have by (14), (15) and easy calculation,

$$(16) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{if } \rho = r + 1/T\left(r + \frac{1}{\log T(r)}\right)^a & (a > 1), \\ N(\rho) \leq N(r) + O(1) & (r \geq r_0). \end{array} \right.$$

IV. Theorems.

Consider $w=f(z)$ which is meromorphic in $|z| < R \leq \infty$ (not rational). Let F_r denote the Riemannian image of $|z| \leq r$ and $\rho = \rho(r, a)$ be taken so small that all the discs above $\rho(r, a)$ -neighbourhood $|w-a| < \rho^*$ having common part with F_r are only schlicht discs or those with n -sheets having only a as the branch point. Let $\lambda(r)$ be a maximum number of n , then we have

Theorem 2. Let F be an open Riemann surface of the parabolic type. Suppose that $\lambda(r) \leq A$ (bounded) and $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log 1/\rho(r, a)}{T(r)} = 0^*$, then a is not exceptional.

Proof. For simplicity we assume $a=0$. The other case can be reduced to this case, if we bring a to the origin by a certain rotation of the Riemann sphere Σ . Now consider the functions

$$d(r) = 1/T\left(r + \frac{1}{\log T(r)}\right)^a \quad (a > 1)$$

and

* When $a=\infty$, we may consider $|w| > \rho(r, \infty)$ for the neighbourhood and $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log \rho(r, \infty)}{T(r)} = 0$ as the condition in Theorem 2.

$$(17) \quad \bar{\rho}(r) \equiv \bar{\rho}(r, 0) = \left\{ \frac{d(r)}{k(2d(r) + r)} \right\}^{\Delta} \cdot \rho_1(r, 0) \quad (r \geq r_0),$$

where $\rho_1(r, 0) = \frac{\rho(r, 0)}{2}$ and k is a numerical constant ≥ 8 . Next, we describe a circle $|w| = \bar{\rho}(r)$ in w -plane and let us map every domain above this disc to z -plane by the inverse function of $f(z)$. Now by the definition of $\rho_1(r, 0)$, the images of $|w| \leq \bar{\rho}(r, 0)$ having common parts with $|z| \leq r$ are all simply connected and have no common part one another and moreover, for $|w| \leq \bar{\rho}(r)$, by lemma 2, they are either contained in circles of radius $d(r)$ around zero-points except at most a domain containing the origin, or have no common part with $|z| \leq r$. Namely according as the modulus of the zero-point is less than $r + d(r)$ or equal to $r + l$ ($l > d$), each domain containing it belongs respectively to the former or to the latter, since

$$\frac{d}{k(2d+r)} < \frac{d}{2d+8(r+d)} < 1, \quad \frac{d}{k(2d+r)} < \frac{l}{2l+8(r+l)} < 1, \quad (k \geq 8)$$

and $\lambda(r) \leq 1$.

Here we adopt $\bar{\rho}(r)$ for ρ in (10) and vary the basic domain with r . Since $S_t(D_{\bar{\rho}}) = \frac{I_t(D_{\bar{\rho}})}{I_0(D_{\bar{\rho}})}$ and all the zero-points of the above mentioned image-domains which have common parts with $|z| \leq t$ are contained at most in $|z| \leq t + d(r)$ for any $t \leq r$, we have

$$(18) \quad S_t(D_{\bar{\rho}(r)}) \leq n(t + d(r)) \quad (r \geq r_1),$$

where r_1 denotes the smallest modulus of zero-points.

I. In case $w(0) \neq 0$, for any given $\varepsilon > 0$, we can choose r_0 so large that $\bar{\rho}(r)$ ($r > r_0$) becomes very small. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^r \frac{S_t(D_{\bar{\rho}})}{t} dt &= \int_0^{r_0} + \int_{r_0}^r \leq \int_{r_0}^r \frac{n(t + d(r))}{t} dt + O(1) \\ &= (1 + \varepsilon) \{N(r + d(r)) - N(r_0)\} + O(1) \\ &= (1 + \varepsilon)N(r) + O(1) \quad \text{by (16).} \end{aligned}$$

II. In case $w(0)$ is λ -ple zero, we can also choose r_0 so large that $\bar{\rho}(r)$ ($r > r_0$) becomes very small. Then,

$$\int_0^{\bar{\rho}} \frac{S_t(D_{\bar{\rho}})}{t} dt = O\left(\frac{1+\bar{\rho}^2}{\pi\bar{\rho}^2} \int_0^{\bar{\rho}} \frac{dt}{t} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{|w'|^2}{(1+|w|^2)^2} \tau d\tau d\theta\right) = O(1)$$

$$\int_{\bar{\rho}}^r \frac{S_t(D_{\bar{\rho}})}{t} dt = \int_{\bar{\rho}}^r \frac{S_t(D_{\bar{\rho}}) - \lambda}{t} dt + \lambda \log r + \lambda \log \frac{1}{\rho}.$$

Therefore

$$\int_0^r \frac{S_t(D_{\bar{\rho}})}{t} dt \leq \int_{r_0}^{r+d(r)} \frac{n(\tau) - \lambda}{\tau} d\tau + \lambda \log(r+d) + \lambda \log \frac{1}{\rho} + O(1)$$

$$\leq (1+\epsilon)N(r) + \lambda \log \frac{1}{\rho} + O(1). \text{ by (16).}$$

Thus, by (9), we have for any $r \geq r_0$

$$(19) \quad m(r, 0) \leq \epsilon N(r) + \mu \log \frac{1}{\rho(r)} + O(1) \quad (\mu = \lambda + 1)$$

As $N(r) \leq T(r) + O(1)$,

$$(20) \quad \delta(0) = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{m(r, 0)}{T(r)} \leq \epsilon + \mu \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log \frac{1}{\rho(r)}}{T(r)}.$$

Under the condition $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log \frac{1}{\rho(r, 0)}}{T(r)} = 0$,

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log \frac{1}{\rho(r)}}{T(r)} = N \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log T\left(r + \frac{1}{\log T(r)}\right)}{T(r)}.$$

While by Borel's Lemma $T(r)$ satisfies a relation

$$T\left(r + \frac{1}{\log T(r)}\right) < T(r)^2$$

except at most the suit of intervals that the total linear mass is finite. Therefore we have

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log T\left(r + \frac{1}{\log T(r)}\right)}{T(r)} = 0 \text{ and } \delta(0) \leq \epsilon.$$

As $\epsilon > 0$ is arbitrary, we can conclude that $\delta(0) = 0$, q.e.d.

Remark. Cartan-Selberg's theorem is the special case— $\rho(r, a) = \text{const.}$ —of our Theorem 2.

Theorem 3. Let F be an open Riemann surface of the hyperbolic type. Suppose that $\lambda(r) \leq A$ (bounded),

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \frac{\log 1/\rho(r, a)}{T(r)} = 0^* \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \frac{\log \frac{1}{1-r}}{T(r)} = 0$$

(i.e. the case $\Sigma\delta(a) \leq 2$),

then a is not an exceptional value.

Proof. We can prove this by taking $d(r)$ in the above proof as follows. i.e. Here we adopt ρ' defined by

$$\frac{1}{1-\rho'} = \frac{1}{1-r} + \frac{1}{\log T(r)} \quad \text{as } \rho \text{ in (14).}$$

Hence we have

$$(21) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{If } \rho = r + \frac{(1-r)^2}{T\left(r + \frac{(1-r)^2}{(1-r) + \log T(r)}\right)^a} \quad (a > 1), \\ N(\rho) \leq N(r) + O(1) \quad (r \geq r_0). \end{array} \right.$$

In this case also we obtain

$$\delta(0) \leq \varepsilon + \mu N a \lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \frac{\log T(\rho')}{T(r)},$$

If we take $d(r) = \rho - r$ (ρ in (21)). While by Borel's Lemma we have

$$T(\rho') < T(r)^2$$

except at most the suit of intervals such that the total variation $\int d\left(\frac{1}{1-r}\right)$ is finite. Hence $\lim_{r \rightarrow 1} \frac{\log T(\rho')}{T(r)} = 0$, thus our proof is completed.

V. Remarks.

1. If we reflect the above proofs, it will be found that $\lambda(r)$ does not need to be bounded. i.e.

$$\text{If } \lambda(r) \leq A \text{ or } \lambda(r) \log r = O(T(r)^{1-\delta}) \quad (\text{for Theorem 2.}),$$

* Cf. the foot-note of Theorem 2.

$$\lambda(r) \log \frac{1}{1-r} = O(T(r)^{1-\delta}) \quad (\text{for Theorem 3.}) \quad 0 < \delta < 1,$$

and $\lim_{r \rightarrow R} \frac{\log 1/\rho(r, a)}{T(r)} = 0$, we have also $\delta(0) = 0$.

2. We shall find, by the slight modification of the definition of $\rho(r, a)$, that there may lie logarithmic singular points above a . i.e. Let $\tilde{\rho}(r, a)$ be taken so small that each $\tilde{\rho}(r, a)$ -neighbourhood $|w-a| < \tilde{\rho}(r, a)$ of the logarithmic singular points has no common part with F_r , then Theorems 2 and 3 hold good even when $\rho(r, a)$ is replaced by the function $\min. (\tilde{\rho}(r, a), \rho(r, a))$.

At the end I wish to express my hearty thanks to Professors Toshizô Matsumoto and Akira Kobori for their kind guidance during my researches.

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Added during the proof. We can always choose $\rho(r, a)$ so that all the discs above $|w-a| < \rho(r, a)$ intersecting with F_r belong either to K_1 -class or to K_2 -class, where K_1 and K_2 consist respectively of n -ple discs having only a as the branch point ($1 \leq n \leq \lambda(r)$), and of infinite sheets of discs S , such as $a \in S \cap F_r$. Let $q(t)$ denote the number of sheets which \tilde{F}_t , the Riemannian image of $|z| < t \leq r$, penetrates in K_2 above $|w-a| < \tilde{\rho}(r)$, then the results of § V. 1 hold good, if $\int_t^r \frac{q(t)}{t} dt = o(T(r))$.