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in Einzeldarstellungen  
mit besonderer Berücksichtigung  
der Anwendungsgebiete

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# Classification Theory of Riemann Surfaces



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## Preface

The purpose of the present monograph is to systematically develop a classification theory of Riemann surfaces. Some first steps will also be taken toward a classification of Riemannian spaces.

Four phases can be distinguished in the chronological background: the type problem; general classification; compactifications; and extension to higher dimensions.

The type problem evolved in the following somewhat overlapping steps: the Riemann mapping theorem, the classical type problem, and the existence of Green's functions. The Riemann mapping theorem laid the foundation to classification theory: there are only two conformal equivalence classes of (noncompact) simply connected regions. Over half a century of efforts by leading mathematicians went into giving a rigorous proof of the theorem: RIEMANN, WEIERSTRASS, SCHWARZ, NEUMANN, POINCARÉ, HILBERT, WEYL, COURANT, OSGOOD, KOEBE, CARATHÉODORY, MONTEL.

The classical type problem was to determine whether a given simply connected covering surface of the plane is conformally equivalent to the plane or the disk. The problem was in the center of interest in the thirties and early forties, with AHLFORS, KAKUTANI, KOBAYASHI, P. MYRBERG, NEVANLINNA, SPEISER, TEICHMÜLLER and others obtaining incisive specific results. The main problem of finding necessary and sufficient conditions remains, however, unsolved.

At the end of his dissertation RIEMANN had already referred to the significance of the existence of the Green's function. This aspect gave rise to a generalization which chronologically ran somewhat parallel to the classical type problem: finding tests for the class  $O_G$  of parabolic surfaces characterized by the nonexistence of Green's functions. The class was studied by P. MYRBERG and explicit criteria were established by AHLFORS, NEVANLINNA, LAASONEN, WITTICH, and LE-VAN.

For plane regions this generalized type problem formed the bridge to the classical theory of SZEGÖ, NEVANLINNA, FROSTMAN, and others on capacities of point sets. In particular  $O_G$  turned out to be the class of regions whose boundaries have vanishing logarithmic capacity,

Schwarz's harmonic measure, or Fékete's transfinite diameter. Moreover  $R \in O_G$  was necessary and sufficient for  $R$  to possess Evans-Selberg potentials.

The present monograph will only lightly touch upon these important early developments of classification theory. We start with the second aspect of the evolution, the general classification, which today continues at an ever increasing pace. It was inaugurated in 1948 with the introduction of the class  $O_{AD}$  of surfaces without nonconstant  $AD$ -functions, i. e. analytic functions with finite Dirichlet integrals. Such surfaces were said to have "hebbar" boundaries, in reference to their behavior as closed surfaces in significant function-theoretic respects (see Introduction and Bibliography). At the Trondheim Congress in 1949 a systematic array of null-classes, together with current notation, was introduced. Penetrating results on function-theoretic null sets related to several such classes were obtained in 1950 by AHLFORS and BEURLING. In 1954 the study of boundary components in classification theory was initiated by the introduction of their capacities.

During the two decades since the beginning of the general classification theory the subject has grown in depth and breadth into one of the major branches of function theory. The main achievements are due to AHLFORS, BEURLING, CONSTANTINESCU, CORNEA, HEINS, KAMETANI, KURAMOCHI, KURODA, KUSUNOKI, LEHTO, MARDEN, MATSUMOTO, A. MORI, S. MORI, L. MYRBERG, P. MYRBERG, NEVANLINNA, NOSHIRO, OHTSUKA, OIKAWA, OZAWA, PARREAU, PFLUGER, RAO, RODIN, ROYDEN, TÔKI, TSUJI, VIRTANEN, YÛJÔBÔ, among others. For a complete list of workers in the field we refer the reader to the Author Index and the Bibliography.

Although capacities of subboundaries are useful especially in the study of plane regions, detailed information on ideal boundaries can only be obtained by compactifying the surface. The mode of compactification depends on the class of functions under consideration. For the class  $HD$  of harmonic functions with finite Dirichlet integrals ROYDEN introduced in 1952 the compactification now bearing his name. For the class  $HB$  of bounded harmonic functions the Wiener compactification proved to be the most fruitful choice. The Royden and Wiener compactifications can also be described as corresponding to the solution of the Dirichlet problem by Dirichlet's principle or by Perron's method.

The most recent aspects of the theory of compactification started in 1962 with the discovery by KURAMOCHI of surfaces carrying distinguished minimal points on their boundaries. The work was continued in the authoritative treatise of Constantinescu-Cornea in 1963. The current compactification theory as it appears in the present monograph is of the recent vintage of 1966, much of it previously unpublished.

Classification of Riemannian spaces of higher dimensions is the latest facet of the theory. Although only in its infancy it has already produced surprising phenomena.

From the chapter and section headings the reader may obtain an over-all view of the plan of the book. Broadly speaking, regular functions are treated first, then those with logarithmic singularities. Among regular functions the analytic functions precede the harmonic functions; in each category those with finite Dirichlet integrals are discussed first. One denotes by  $AB$  and  $AD$  the classes of analytic bounded or Dirichlet finite functions, by  $HB$  and  $HD$  the corresponding classes of harmonic functions, and by  $O_{AD}$ , e.g., the class of surfaces without nonconstant  $AD$ -functions. The resulting scheme  $O_{AD}$ ,  $O_{AB}$ ,  $O_{HD}$ ,  $O_{HB}$ ,  $O_G$  roughly corresponds to the decreasing "magnitude" of the null classes. Treating  $O_{AD}$  at the beginning of the book also has the advantage of first encountering the numerous concrete properties that are associated with  $O_{AD}$ , more than with any other class. Finally, starting with  $O_{AD}$  somewhat follows the historical development of general classification theory.

A more detailed description of the book is given in brief surveys at the beginning of each chapter and section. For a first orientation of the nonexpert we also give, in the Introduction, some concrete examples from the early part of the book.

Every effort was made to develop the theory into a harmonious unity. The rather detailed Table of Contents and the Table of strict inclusion relations reveal some of the strands of the rather intricate logical network tying the chapters into a whole which we hope to be something more than the sum of its parts.

On occasion a result may seem isolated until its significance manifests itself in relationships given in later chapters. In this regard the Subject Index is essential as it gives cross-sections on specific topics, e.g. a particular null class.

Some subsections, indicated by an asterisk before the heading, are not needed for the understanding of the subsequent parts of the book.

Bibliographical references, summarized in the Author Index, are complete in that the source of every result not due to the authors is explicitly given.

The reader is not expected to have any previous knowledge of classification theory. For general prerequisites a standard Ph. D. curriculum is sufficient. In the few instances where we have made an exception, a precise reference is given to some well-known monograph.

The basic terminology we use is that adopted in AHLFORS-SARIO [1].

Although some vague ideas for the book go back two decades, the actual planning, writing, and revising was carried out during the past five years, in particular while the junior author was visiting at UCLA

in 1965–1967. We are deeply grateful to the U.S. Army Research Office–Durham for several grants which made our collaboration possible, and to Drs. J. DAWSON and A. S. GALBRAITH for their magnificent cooperation through the entire course of the work.

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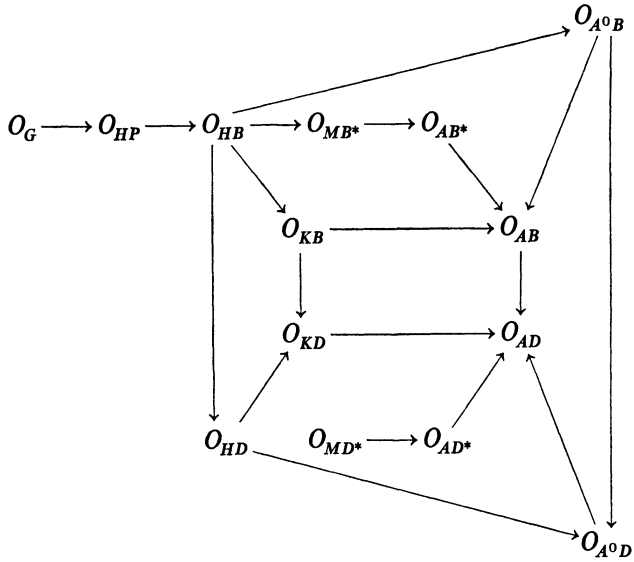
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Los Angeles and Nagoya  
February 1, 1970

LEO SARIO  
MITSURU NAKAI



$$\begin{array}{cccccccc}
 O_G < O_{HP} = O_{HP}^1 < O_{HP}^2 < \dots < O_{HP}^\infty < U_{HP} \cup O_G & & & & & & & \\
 \wedge & \wedge & \wedge & & \wedge & & \vee & \\
 O_{HB} = O_{HB}^1 < O_{HB}^2 < \dots < O_{HB}^\infty < U_{HB} \cup O_G < O_{AB} & & & & & & & \\
 \wedge & \wedge & \wedge & & \wedge & & \wedge & \wedge \\
 O_{HD} = O_{HD}^1 < O_{HD}^2 < \dots < O_{HD}^\infty < U_{\tilde{HD}} \cup O_G < O_{AD} & & & & & & & 
 \end{array}$$

*Table of strict inclusion relations*



# Contents

Introduction . . . . .	1
------------------------	---

## Chapter I • Dirichlet Finite Analytic Functions

§ 1. Arbitrary Surfaces . . . . .	10
1. Modular Test . . . . .	11
1A. Modulus 11 — 1B. Geometric Meaning 11 — 1C. Generalization 12 — 1D. Modular Test 14 — 1E. Example 15 — 1F. Relative Class $SO_{AD}$ 16 — 1G. Classes $O_{A_0D}$ and $O_{A^0D}$ 17 — 1H. Test for $O_{A_0D}$ and $O_{A^0D}$ 18	
2. Conformal Metric Test . . . . .	18
2A. Conformal Metric 18 — 2B. Conformal Metric Test 19 — *2C. Fundamental Polygons 20 — *2D. Euclidean Metric Test 21	
3. Regular Chain Test . . . . .	22
3A. Regular Chains 22 — 3B. Regular Chain Test 22 — *3C. Second Proof 24 — 3D. Comments on Regular Chains 25 — 3E. Concluding Remarks 25	
§ 2. Plane Regions . . . . .	25
4. Convergent Modular Products . . . . .	26
4A. Estimate for Modulus 26 — 4B. Bisecting the Annulus 27 — 4C. Second Proof 28 — 4D. Convergent Modular Products 29	
5. Relative Width Test . . . . .	29
5A. Relative Width 29 — 5B. Relative Width Test 30 — 5C. Square Net Test 31	
6. Generalized Cantor Sets . . . . .	32
6A. Vanishing Linear Measure 32 — 6B. Zero Area 34 — 6C. Regions of Area $\varepsilon$ 34	
7. Extremal Functions and Conformal Mappings . . . . .	35
7A. Principal Functions 35 — 7B. Proof 36 — 7C. Operators $L_0$ and $L_1$ 38 — 7D. Functions with Singularities 39 — 7E. Conformal Mappings 40 — 7F. Principal Functions $P_j^0$ 41 — 7G. Univalence of $P_0^0$ 42 — 7H. An Extremal Property of $P_0^0$ 42 — 7I. Horizontal Slits 43 — 7J. Mappings $P_0$ and $P_1$ 43 — 7K. Mapping $P_0 + P_1$ 43	

8. Characterization of $O_{AD}$ -Regions . . . . .	44
8A. The Analytic Span 44 — 8B. Regular Functions 45 — 8C. Characterizations 46 — 8D. Removable Sets 47 — 8E. Surfaces of Finite Genus 48 — 8F. Closed Extensions 49 — 8G. Closed Extensions (continued) 49	
9. Class $ABD$ on Surfaces of Finite Genus . . . . .	50
9A. $O_{AD} = O_{ABD}$ for Finite Genus 50 — *9B. Finite $ABD$ -Interpolation 51 — *9C. Finite $AD$ -Interpolation with Minimum Norm 52	
10. Essential Extendability . . . . .	53
10A. Finite Genus 53 — 10B. Infinite Genus 53 — 10C. Boundary Property 54 — 10D. Relations $O_{A^0D} < O_{A_0D}$ and $O_{A^0D} < O_{AD}$ 55	
11. Koebe's Circular Mappings . . . . .	55
11A. Koebe's Principle 55 — 11B. Exhaustion by Noncompact Regions 55 — 11C. Regular Chain Sets 55 — 11D. Test for Circular Mappings 56 — 11E. An Application 57	
§ 3. Covering Surfaces of the Sphere . . . . .	58
12. Finite Sets of Projections of Branch Points . . . . .	58
12A. Surface Elements 58 — 12B. Polyhedral Representation 59 — 12C. $O_{AD}$ -Test 59 — 12D. Construction of an Exhaustion 60 — 12E. Disk Chains Covering $\alpha$ 60 — 12F. Disk Chains Covering $\beta$ 61 — 12G. Enumeration 61	
*13. Application to Planar Surfaces . . . . .	61
13A. Line Complexes 61 — 13B. $O_{AD}$ -Test 62 — 13C. Edge Sequences with Bounded Vertex Numbers 63 — 13D. Finite Sets of Branch Points 63 — 13E. Periodic Ends 63	
*14. Nonplanar Surfaces . . . . .	64
14A. Strip Complexes 64 — 14B. Example 64	
*15. Punctured Surfaces . . . . .	65
15A. Polyhedral Representation of a Punctured Surface 65 — 15B. $O_{AD}$ -Test 66 — 15C. Chains Relative to $\{\sigma_n\}$ 66 — 15D. Chains Relative to $\{h_n\}$ 67 — 15E. Construction of Exhaustion 68 — 15F. Evaluation of $D_R$ 68	
*16. Finite Sets of Sheets . . . . .	69
16A. Regular and Singular Projections 69 — 16B. $O_{AD}$ -Test 69	
§ 4. Covering Surfaces of Riemann Surfaces . . . . .	70
17. Preliminaries . . . . .	70
17A. Problem 70 — 17B. Covering Surfaces of the Torus 70 — 17C. Pair of Cuts 71 — 17D. Covering Surfaces of the Double Torus 71 — 17E. Covering Surface $\tilde{R}(a_1)$ 71 — 17F. Covering Surface	

$\tilde{R}(a_1+b_1)$  72 — **17 G.** Covering Surface  $\tilde{R}(a_1, a_2)$  72 — **17 H.** Covering Surface  $\tilde{R}(a_1+b_1, a_2)$  72 — **17 I.** Covering Surface  $\tilde{R}(a_1+b_1, a_2+b_2)$  72

**18.** Covering Surfaces of Closed Surfaces . . . . . 72  
     **18 A.** Definitions 72 — **18 B.** Main Theorem 73 — **18 C.** Schottky Point Sets 74

**\*19.** Covering Surfaces of Open Surfaces . . . . . 74  
     **19 A.** Covering Surfaces Associated with a Set of Cycles 74 — **19 B.** Abelian and Schottky Covering Surfaces 75 — **19 C.** Covering by Regular Chains 75 — **19 D.**  $O_{AD}$ -Test 76 — **19 E.** Finite Genus 77 — **19 F.** Transcendental Hyperelliptic Surfaces 77 — **19 G.** Strip Complexes 78

**Chapter II · Other Classes of Analytic Functions**

**§ 1. Inclusion Relations** . . . . . 79

**1.** Basic Inclusions . . . . . 80  
         **1 A.** Plane Regions 80 — **1 B.** Arbitrary Surfaces 80

**2.** The Class  $O_{AB}$  . . . . . 80  
         **2 A.** Conformal Metric Test 80 — **2 B.** Modular Test 83 — **2 C.** Relative Classes 84 — **2 D.** Plane Regions 84 — **2 E.** Hausdorff Measure 85 — **2 F.** Newtonian Potential 86 — **2 G.** Newtonian Capacity 86 — **2 H.** The Class  $N$  88 — **2 I.** Associated Measure 88 — **2 J.** The Proof of  $N \subset M_{1+\varepsilon}$  89 — **2 K.**  $O_{AB}$ -Test and Linear Measure 90 — **2 L.** Test for Linear Measure Zero 91 — **2 M.** Boundary Property 92

**\*3.** Covering Surfaces of Closed Surfaces . . . . . 93  
         **3 A.** Commutative Covering Surfaces 93 — **3 B.** Generators of  $G(\tilde{R})$  93 — **3 C.** Construction of  $\tilde{R}$  95 — **3 D.** Structures of  $\tilde{R}$  and  $G(\tilde{R})$  95 — **3 E.** Standard Exhaustion  $\{\tilde{R}_n\}$  of  $\tilde{R}$  96 — **3 F.** Main Theorem 97 — **3 G.** Estimation of Length of  $\partial\tilde{R}_n$  98 — **3 H.** Length of Components of  $\partial\tilde{R}_n$  99 — **3 I.** Membership in  $O_{AB}$  100

**§ 2. Plane Regions and Conformal Invariants** . . . . . 101

**4.** The Invariant  $M_F$  . . . . . 102  
         **4 A.** Weak and Strong Monotonic Properties 102 — **4 B.** Compact Function Classes 103 — **4 C.** Special Classes 103

**5.** Invariants  $M_{AB}$  and  $M_{AE}$  . . . . . 104  
         **5 A.** Equality of Invariants 104 — **5 B.** Vanishing of  $M_{AB}=M_{AE}$  105 — **5 C.** Meromorphic Functions 106 — **5 D.** Painlevé Null Sets 106

**6.** Invariants  $M_{AD}$  and  $M_{SE}$  . . . . . 106  
         **6 A.** Equality of Invariants 106 — **6 B.** Inequality  $M_{AD} \leq M_{AB}$  107

7. The Invariant $M_{AD}(z_1, z_2, R)$ . . . . .	107
7 A. A Characterization 107 — 7 B. Circular and Radial Slit Mappings 107 — 7 C. Evaluation of $M_{AD}(z_1, z_2, R)$ 108	
8. Invariants $M_{SD}$ and $M_{SB}$ . . . . .	109
8 A. Extremal Length 109 — 8 B. Elementary Properties 110 — 8 C. Perimeter of a Set 112 — 8 D. Perimeter of a Point 113 — 8 E. $M_{SB} = \max \mu$ for a Regular Region 113 — 8 F. $M_{SD} = M_{SB}$ for a Regular Region 114 — 8 G. The General Case 115	
9. $O_{AD}$ -Regions and Extremal Distances . . . . .	115
9 A. Extremal Distance 115 — 9 B. General Form 117 — 9 C. Pro- jections 117	
10. Linear Sets . . . . .	118
10 A. Linear Measure and $M_{AB}$ 118 — 10 B. Invariants $M_{SB}$ and $M_{AD}$ 119 — 10 C. Sets of Capacity Zero 120 — 10 D. Sets on a Circle 120 — 10 E. Circular Sets with $O_{AD}$ -Complements 121	
11. Counterexamples . . . . .	121
11 A. General Relations 121 — 11 B. $M_1$ and $O_{SB}$ 122 — 11 C. $M_2$ and $O_{SB}$ 124 — 11 D. $M_1$ and $O_{AD}$ 124 — 11 E. Strict Inclusion $M_1 < O_{AB}$ 125 — 11 F. Positive Length 125 — 11 G. Analytic Capacity 126 — 11 H. Cauchy Potentials 127 — 11 I. Perturbation 129 — 11 J. An Estimate 130 — 11 K. Completion of the Proof 130	
§ 3. $K$ -Functions . . . . .	131
12. Inclusion Relations and Tests . . . . .	132
12 A. Basic Inclusions 132 — 12 B. Inclusions for $H$ 133 — 12 C. $O_{KD}$ -Test 133	
13. Characterization of $O_{KD}$ . . . . .	134
13 A. Spaces $\mathcal{D}^\infty$ and $\mathcal{D}$ 134 — 13 B. Spaces $\mathcal{D}_K^\infty$ and $\mathcal{D}_K$ 134 — 13 C. Characterization of $O_{KD}$ 134	
14. Quasiconformal Mappings and Boundary Properties . . . . .	135
14 A. Quasiconformal Mappings as Dirichlet Mappings 135 — 14 B. Quasiconformal Invariance of $O_{KD}$ 135 — 14 C. Quasiconformal Noninvariance of $O_{KB}$ 135 — 14 D. Boundary Properties 136	
15. Surfaces of Finite Genus . . . . .	137
15 A. Identities for $A$ and $K$ 137 — 15 B. Quasiconformal Invariance of $O_{AD}$ for Finite Genus 137 — 15 C. Surfaces with Holes 137 — 15 D. Strict Inclusions 137 — 15 E. The Class $O_{KP}$ 138	
*16. The Riemann-Roch Theorem . . . . .	138
16 A. Divisors 138 — 16 B. Relations 139 — 16 C. Relations as Principal Parts 139 — 16 D. An Auxiliary Formula 140 — 16 E. Solu- tions of $L_f(\alpha) = 0$ 140 — 16 F. Characterization of Principal Parts 141 — 16 G. Neumann's Function 141 — 16 H. Sufficiency 141 — 16 I. Generalized Riemann-Roch Theorem 142 — 16 J. Classical Case 143	

**Chapter III · Dirichlet Finite Harmonic Functions**

**§ 1. Royden's Compactification . . . . . 145**

    1. Royden's Algebra . . . . . 147

        1 A. Tonelli Functions 147 — 1 B. Definition of Royden's Algebra 148 — 1 C. Completeness 148 — 1 D. Approximation 150 — 1 E. Green's Formula 151 — 1 F. Dirichlet's Principle 153 — 1 G. Potential Subalgebra 153 — 1 H. Ideals 154

    2. Royden's Compactification . . . . . 154

        2 A. Definition of Royden's Compactification 154 — 2 B. Characters 155 — 2 C. Urysohn's Property 155 — 2 D. Royden's Boundary 156 — 2 E. Harmonic Boundary 156 — 2 F. Parabolic Surfaces 157 — 2 G. Maximum Principle I 159 — 2 H. Maximum Principle II 159 — 2 I. Maximum Principle III 160 — 2 J. Duality 160

    3. Orthogonal Projection . . . . . 161

        3 A. Quasi-Dirichlet Finiteness 161 — 3 B. Orthogonal Decomposition 162 — 3 C. Reformulation 164 — 3 D. Orthogonal Projection 165 — 3 E.  $HD$ -Minimal Functions 165 — 3 F. A Characterization of  $O_{HD}$  166 — 3 G. Space  $HD$  of Finite Dimension 166 — 3 H. Evans' Superharmonic Function 167 — 3 I. Maximum Principle IV 168 — 3 J. Dirichlet Integral of the Harmonic Measure 168

**§ 2. Dirichlet's Problem . . . . . 171**

    4. Harmonic Measure and Kernel . . . . . 171

        4 A. Harmonic Measure on  $\Gamma$  171 — 4 B. Harmonic Kernel 173 — 4 C. Harnack's Function 174 — 4 D. Harmonicity of  $P(z, p)$  175 — 4 E. Integral Representation 176 — 4 F. Vector Lattice  $HD$  177 — 4 G. The Identity  $O_{HBD} = O_{HD}$  178 — 4 H. Strict Inclusion  $O_{HB} < O_{HD}$  178 — 4 I. The Class  $\widetilde{HD}$  181 — 4 J. Upper Semicontinuous Functions on  $\mathcal{A}$  182 — 4 K. Boundary Function 183 — 4 L. Semivector Lattice  $\widetilde{HD}$  184 — 4 M. Characterization of  $\widetilde{HD}$ -Minimality 186 — 4 N. Characterization of  $U_{\widetilde{HD}}$  187

    5. Perron's Method . . . . . 187

        5 A. Perron's Family 187 — 5 B. Compactification of Subregions 189 — 5 C. Coincidence of Boundary Points 190 — 5 D. Correspondence of Harmonic Measures I 191 — 5 E. Correspondence of Harmonic Measures II 192 — 5 F. Surfaces of Almost Finite Genus 193 — 5 G.  $O_G = O_{HD}$  for Almost Finite Genus 194 — 5 H. Boundary Theorem of Riesz-Lusin-Privaloff Type 194 — 5 I. The Inclusion  $U_{\widetilde{HD}} < O_{AD}$  196 — 5 J. Examples of  $O_{HD}^n$ -Surfaces 197

    6. Green's Lines . . . . . 197

        6 A. Polar Coordinates 197 — 6 B. Space of Green's Lines 199 — 6 C. Ends of Green's Lines 201 — 6 D. Radial Limits 203 — 6 E. Lat-

tice of Radial Limits 204 — **6 F.** Gauss' Property of Radial Limits 205  
**6 G.** Functions with Radial Limits Zero 205 — **6 H.** Harmonic and  
 Green's Measures 205 — **6 I.** Boundary Theorem of Riesz Type 206 —  
**6 J.** Blocks 206 — **6 K.** Another Characterization of  $U_{\tilde{H}D}$  208 —  
**6 L.** Second Proof of  $U_{\tilde{H}D} \subset O_{AD}$  209

**§ 3. Invariance under Deformation . . . . . 209**

**7. Algebraic Structure . . . . . 210**

**7 A.** Quasiconformal Mappings 210 — **7 B.** Annular Functions 210  
**7 C.** Algebraic Characterization 211 — **7 D.** Analytic Properties 212 —  
**7 E.** Existence of the Isomorphism 212 — **7 F.** Existence of a Topo-  
 logical Map 213 — **7 G.** Quasiconformality 214 — **7 H.** Conformal  
 Equivalence 216

**8. Topological Structure . . . . . 216**

**8 A.**  $A$ -Sets 216 — **8 B.** Royden's Mapping 216 — **8 C.** Topological  
 Characterization 217 — **8 D.** Topological Extension 218 — **8 E.** Re-  
 striction 219 — **8 F.** Boundary Behavior 219 — **8 G.** Boundary Behav-  
 ior (continued) 220 — **8 H.** Invariance of  $O_G, O_{HD}, O_{\tilde{H}D}$ , and  $U_{HD}$   
 221 — **8 I.** Boundary Property 221

**Chapter IV • Other Classes of Harmonic Functions**

**§ 1. Wiener's Compactification . . . . . 222**

**1. Wiener's Algebra . . . . . 223**

**1 A.** Harmonizable Functions 223 — **1 B.** Definition of Wiener's  
 Algebra 223 — **1 C.** Potential Subalgebra 224 — **1 D.** Properties of  
 $\mathbb{N}(R)$  226 — **1 E.** Completeness 226 — **1 F.** Lattice 227 — **1 G.** The  
 Inclusion  $M\mathbb{I}(R) \subset \mathbb{N}(R)$  227

**2. Wiener's Compactification . . . . . 228**

**2 A.** Definition of Wiener's Compactification 228 — **2 B.** Characters  
 228 — **2 C.** The Identity  $\mathbb{N}(R) = B(R_{\mathbb{N}}^*)$  229 — **2 D.** Čech Compactifi-  
 cation 229 — **2 E.** Wiener's Boundary 229 — **2 F.** The Fiber Space  
 $(R_{\mathbb{N}}^*, R_{M\mathbb{I}}^*, \rho)$  230 — **2 G.** Remarks on  $\Gamma_{\mathbb{N}}$  and  $\Delta_{\mathbb{N}}$  231 — **2 H.** The  
 Class  $\mathscr{W}$  for  $R \notin O_G$  231 — **2 I.** The Class  $\mathscr{W}$  for  $R \in O_G$  232

**3. Harmonic Projection . . . . . 233**

**3 A.** Positive Harmonic Functions 233 — **3 B.** Bounded Harmonic  
 Functions 234 — **3 C.** Strict Inclusion  $O_{HP} < O_{HB}$  235 — **3 D.** Maxi-  
 mum Principle  $V$  235 — **3 E.** Harmonic Decomposition 236 —  
**3 F.** The Space  $\mathscr{W}_{\Delta}(R)$  236 — **3 G.** The Space  $\mathscr{W}_{\Delta \cup K}(R)$  237 —  
**3 H.** Harmonic Projection 239 — **3 I.** Evans' Superharmonic Function  
 239 — **3 J.** Maximum Principle VI 240 — **3 K.** The Class  $U_{HB}$  240 —  
**3 L.** Relative Classes  $SO_{HB}$  and  $SO_{HD}$  241 — **3 M.** Two Region Test  
 242 — **3 N.** Strict Inclusions 243

**§ 2. Dirichlet's Problem . . . . . 244**

**4. Harmonic Measure and Kernel . . . . . 244**

**4 A.** Harmonic Measure on  $\Gamma_{\mathbb{N}}$  244 — **4 B.** Harmonic Kernel 245 —  
**4 C.** Stonean Space  $\mathcal{A}_{\mathbb{N}}$  245 — **4 D.** Integral Representation 246 —  
**4 E.** Operator  $B'$  248 — **4 F.** Evans' Harmonic Function for a Set in  $\mathcal{A}_{\mathbb{N}}$   
248

**5. Perron's Method . . . . . 249**

**5 A.** Perron's Family 249 — **5 B.** Measure Correspondence between  
 $\Gamma_{\mathbb{N}}$  and  $\Gamma_{\mathbb{M}}$  250 — **5 C.** Compactifications of Subsurfaces 250 —  
**5 D.** Stoilow's Compactification  $R_{\mathbb{S}}^*$  250 — **5 E.** Harmonic Measure  
on  $\Gamma_{\mathbb{S}}$  252 — **5 F.** Test for Quasiboundedness 252

**6.  $\Phi$ -Bounded Harmonic Functions . . . . . 254**

**6 A.**  $\Phi$ -Boundedness 254 — **6 B.** Determination of  $O_{H\Phi}$  255 —  
**6 C.** Harmonic Measures on the Disk 257 — **6 D.** Convergence on the  
Boundary 259 — **6 E.** First Example 261 — **6 F.** Second Example 264  
**6 G.** The Inclusion  $H\Phi \subset HP'$  264 — **6 H.** The Inclusion  $H\Phi \cap HP' \subset$   
 $HB'$  265 — **6 I.** The Relative Class  $SO_{H\Phi}$  266 — **6 J.** The Class  
 $SO_{H\Phi}$  for  $\bar{d}(\Phi) < \infty$  266 — **6 K.** Increasing Convex  $\Phi$  267 —  
**6 L.**  $\Phi$ -Mean Boundedness 268 — **6 M.** A Relation to  $HD$  268

**§ 3. Lindelöfian Meromorphic Functions . . . . . 269**

**7. Inclusion Relations . . . . . 269**

**7 A.** Boundary Theorem of Riesz-Lusin-Privaloff Type 269 — **7 B.**  
Lindelöfian Meromorphic Functions 270 — **7 C.** The Inclusion  $O_G \subset O_{MB^*}$   
270 — **7 D.** The Decomposition Theorem 271 — **7 E.** Continuity on  $R_{\mathbb{N}}^*$   
271 — **7 F.** Properties of  $B'u(z; f-a)$  271 — **7 G.** The Inclusion  $U_{HB} \subset$   
 $O_{MB^*}$  272

**8. Covering Properties . . . . . 272**

**8 A.** Capacity of a Plane Set 272 — **8 B.** Capacity of  $f(\mathcal{A}_{\mathbb{N}})$  273 —  
**8 C.** Meromorphic Functions on  $O_{MB^*}$ -Surfaces 273 — **8 D.** Parabolic  
Ends 274 — **8 E.** Bounded Valence 276

**9. Examples Concerning  $O_{MB^*}$  . . . . . 276**

**9 A.** Lindelöfian Analytic Functions 276 — **9 B.** Picard's End 278 —  
**9 C.** General  $O_{MB^*}$  280 — **9 D.**  $O_{MB^*}$  for Finite Genus 280

**§ 4. Invariance under Deformation . . . . . 281**

**10. Wiener's Structure . . . . . 281**

**10 A.** Wiener's Mapping 281 — **10 B.** Algebraic Structure 281 —  
**10 C.** Topological Structure 282

**11. Boundary Behavior . . . . . 282**

**11 A.** Invariance of Harmonic Boundary 282 — **11 B.** Absolute  
Continuity 284 — **11 C.** Invariant Classes 284 — **11 D.** Boundary  
Property 285

## Chapter V · Functions with Logarithmic Singularities

<b>§ 1. Capacity Functions</b> . . . . .	286
<b>1. Capacity of the Boundary.</b> . . . . .	287
<b>1A.</b> An Inequality 287 — <b>1B.</b> Minimum Property 287 — <b>1C.</b> Convergence Proof 288 — <b>1D.</b> Deviation Formula 289 — <b>1E.</b> Capacity $c_\beta$ 290	
<b>2. The Class of Functions <math>W</math></b> . . . . .	290
<b>2A.</b> Minimum of $D(W)$ 290 — <b>2B.</b> Schwarz's Lemma 291 — <b>2C.</b> Minimax Property 292	
<b>3. Capacity of an Ideal Boundary Point.</b> . . . . .	292
<b>3A.</b> Minimum Property 292 — <b>3B.</b> Capacity $c_\gamma$ 294 — <b>3C.</b> The Class $\{V\}$ 294 — <b>3D.</b> Subboundaries 295	
<b>4. Surface Classes <math>C_\beta</math> and <math>C_\gamma</math></b> . . . . .	295
<b>4A.</b> Weak Boundaries 295 — <b>4B.</b> Absolutely Disconnected Boundaries 295	
<b>5. Strong and Weak Components</b> . . . . .	296
<b>5A.</b> Boundary Components under Conformal Mappings 296 — <b>5B.</b> Weak Boundary Components 297 — <b>5C.</b> Tests 297 — <b>5D.</b> Capacity $c^\gamma$ 297 — <b>5E.</b> Strong Boundary Components 298 — <b>5F.</b> Minimum Property 298 — <b>5G.</b> Reduction Theorem 298	
<b>6. Univalent Functions</b> . . . . .	299
<b>6A.</b> The Class $\mathcal{F}$ 299 — <b>6B.</b> Maximal Disks 301 — <b>6C.</b> Minimal Disks 301 — <b>6D.</b> Rigid Disks 302	
 <b>§ 2. Parabolic and Hyperbolic Surfaces</b> . . . . .	 303
<b>7. Parabolicity.</b> . . . . .	303
<b>7A.</b> Review 303 — <b>7B.</b> Positive Superharmonic Functions 304 — <b>7C.</b> Strict Inclusion $O_G < O_{HP}$ 304 — <b>7D.</b> $HP$ -Symmetry 306 — <b>7E.</b> Characterization by Maximum Principle 308 — <b>7F.</b> The Identity $C_\beta = O_G$ 309 — <b>7G.</b> The Space $\mathcal{N}(R)$ 309 — <b>7H.</b> The Class $L$ 310 — <b>7I.</b> Relative Classes 310 — <b>7J.</b> The Class $O_{HP}^*$ 311	
<b>8. Green's Kernel</b> . . . . .	312
<b>8A.</b> Green's Function 312 — <b>8B.</b> Behavior on Royden's Compacti- fication 313 — <b>8C.</b> Kernels 313 — <b>8D.</b> Joint Continuity 314 — <b>8E.</b> Local Behavior 314 — <b>8F.</b> Extension to Royden's Compactification 314 — <b>8G.</b> Green's Kernel on $R_M^*$ 316 — <b>8H.</b> Properties of $G(\cdot, \cdot)$ 316	
<b>9. Green's Potentials</b> . . . . .	317
<b>9A.</b> Transfinite Diameter $\rho$ 317 — <b>9B.</b> Tchebycheff's Constant $\tau$ 318 — <b>9C.</b> An Estimate 318 — <b>9D.</b> Minimum Energy $\varepsilon$ 320 — <b>9E.</b> Maximum Principle 320 — <b>9F.</b> Measure $\xi$ 322 — <b>9G.</b> Gauss' Variation 322 — <b>9H.</b> Energy Principle 324 — <b>9I.</b> Proof of Theorem 9D 325 — <b>9J.</b> Uniqueness 325 — <b>9K.</b> Dirichlet's Constant $\delta$ 326 — <b>9L.</b> Identities 326	



**10. Parabolicity Tests . . . . . 328**  
     **10A. Modular Test 328 — 10B. Divergent Modular Product 328 —**  
     **10C. Conformal Metric Test 329 — \*10D. Euclidean Metric Test 330**  
     **— 10E. Regular Chain Test 331**

**11. Plane Regions. . . . . 332**  
     **11A. Inclusion Relations 332 — 11B. Removable Sets 333 — 11C.**  
     **Robin's Constant 334 — 11D. Change under Conformal Mapping**  
     **334 — 11E. Logarithmic Potentials 335 — 11F. Capacity of the Cantor**  
     **Set 336**

**§ 3. Existence of Kernels . . . . . 339**

**12. The Hyperbolic Case . . . . . 340**  
     **12A. The Fundamental Theorem 340 — 12B. An Auxiliary Function**  
     **340 — 12C. An Inequality 342 — 12D. Dirichlet Constant of  $F_{n+1,m}$**   
     **344 — 12E. Proof of  $\tau(\mathcal{E}_n) = \rho(\mathcal{E}_n) = \infty$  344 — 12F. Green's Potential**  
     **on  $R_{MI}^*$  345 — 12G. Evans' Potential 346 — 12H. Reduction 347 —**  
     **12I. An Estimate 347 — 12J. Irregular Hyperbolic Surfaces 349 —**  
     **12K. Green's Star Region 350**

**13. The Parabolic Case . . . . . 351**  
     **13A. Evans-Selberg Potential 351 — 13B. Capacity Functions with**  
     **Compact Level Lines 352 — 13C. Existence Proof 352 — 13D.**  
     **Positive Singularities 353 — 13E. Evans' Kernel 354 — 13F. Proof**  
     **355 — 13G. Joint Continuity of Evans' Kernel 357 — 13H. Joint Uni-**  
     **form Convergence 359 — 13I. The  $s$ -Kernel 361 — 13J. Proof 362**

**Chapter VI · Functions with Iversen's Property**

**§ 1. Classes  $O_{A^0D}$  and  $O_{A^0B}$  . . . . . 364**

**1. Iversen's Property . . . . . 365**  
     **1A. Functions with Iversen's Property 365 — 1B. Cluster Set at the**  
     **Ideal Boundary 366 — 1C. Valence Function 367 — 1D. Degree of**  
     **a Component 368 — 1E. Asymptotic Values 368 — 1F. Deficiency**  
     **on  $\partial W_{ij}$  368 — 1G. Totally Disconnected  $C_R(f, \beta_S)$  369 — 1H. Total**  
      **$C_R(f, \beta_S)$  369 — 1I. Stoilow's Principle 370 — 1J. Proof of Theorem**  
     **1B 370 — 1K. Continuity of  $AB$ -Functions 370 — 1L. Remark on**  
     **Removable Sets 371**

**2. Meromorphic Functions on  $O_{A^0D}$ -Surfaces . . . . . 372**  
     **2A. Class  $MD^*$  372 — 2B.  $MD^*$  on  $O_{A^0D}$ -Surfaces 372 — 2C.**  
      **$AD$  on  $O_{A^0D}$ -Surfaces 373 — 2D. The Inclusion  $O_{HD} < O_{A^0D}$  374**

**3. Meromorphic Functions on  $O_{A^0B}$ -Surfaces . . . . . 374**  
     **3A. The Class  $M$  on  $O_{A^0B}$ -Surfaces 374 — 3B. A Characterization**  
     **of  $O_{A^0B}$  375 — 3C. Exceptional Sets 375 — 3D.  $AB \subset MD^*$  for  $O_{A^0B}$ -**  
     **Surfaces 376 — 3E. Integrated Form of  $O_{A^0B}$ -Test 377 — 3F. Modular**  
      **$O_{A^0B}$ -Test 379 — 3G. The Inclusion  $O_{HB} < O_{A^0B}$  380 — 3H. Inclusion**  
     **Relations 381**

<b>§ 2. Boundary Points of Positive Measure . . . . .</b>	<b>382</b>
4. Abstraction . . . . .	383
4A. Relative $X$ -Compactifications 383 — 4B. Points of Positive Measure 383 — 4C. Localizable $U_X$ 384 — 4D. The Class $C_{X,Y}$ 384 — 4E. General Identity Theorem 385	
5. Identity Theorems on $O_{A^0D}$ - and $O_{A^0B}$ -Surfaces . . . . .	385
5A. The Class $U_S$ 385 — 5B. The Class $U_S \cap O_{A^0D}$ 386 — 5C. A Surface in $U_S \cap O_{A^0D} - U_{\widehat{HD}}$ 386 — 5D. The Class $U_S \cap O_{A^0B}$ 387 — 5E. A Surface in $U_S \cap O_{A^0B} - U_{HB}$ 387	
6. The Class $O_{MD^*}$ . . . . .	388
6A. Continuity on $R_M^*$ 388 — 6B. $MD^*$ on $U_{HD}$ -Surfaces 388 — 6C. $M$ on $U_{HB}$ -Surfaces 388 — 6D. A Criterion for $O_{MD^*}$ 389 — 6E. Table of Strict Inclusion Relations 390	

### Appendix. Higher Dimensions

1. Fundamentals . . . . .	392
1A. Riemannian Manifolds 392 — 1B. Differential Forms 393 — 1C. Harmonic Functions 395 — 1D. Compactifications 396	
2. Moduli of Annuli . . . . .	397
2A. Modulus 397 — 2B. Bisection into Small Annuli 397 — 2C. An Estimate 398 — 2D. Proof of the Theorem 399	
3. Parabolicity. . . . .	399
3A. Equivalences and Inclusions 399 — 3B. Parabolic Riemannian Ball 400 — 3C. Hyperbolic Punctured Torus 401 — 3D. The Equation $\Delta u = Pu$ ( $P \geq 0$ ) 402 — 3E. Linear Operators 403 — 3F. Reduction to Fredholm's Equation 403 — 3G. Proof of $\ A\ _\infty < 1$ 404 — 3H. Proof of Hyperbolicity 405	
4. Invariance under Deformation. . . . .	405
4A. Inclusion Relations 405 — 4B. Wiener's and Royden's Mappings 406 — 4C. Quasiconformal Mappings 407 — 4D. Conformal Non-invariance 408 — 4E. Quasi-isometric Invariance 409 — 4F. Preliminaries 409 — 4G. Proof of Theorem 4E 410	
<b>Bibliography . . . . .</b>	<b>412</b>
<b>Author Index . . . . .</b>	<b>437</b>
<b>Subject and Notation Index . . . . .</b>	<b>439</b>