Topics list for Math 3851 midterm

The midterm will be held in class on Wednesday, February 13th. Calculators, laptops, notes, cheat sheets, etc. will NOT be allowed. The midterm will cover the material from Sections 1-34 of the textbook, NOT including Sections 17, 27, and 28. The best ways to prepare for the midterm are to review your class notes, re-read the text material, review the homework problems, and work on other problems in the text. Below is a review of some the main ideas from the course followed by key points to remember. I DO NOT claim that every single idea covered in the course is in this list, but it should hit all of the largest ideas.

1. BASICS OF COMPLEX NUMBERS:

The set of complex numbers is the set $\mathbb{C} = \{x + iy\}$ where x, y are real numbers. We defined complex addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division on this set, under which the basic rules of arithmetic were obeyed. We viewed $\mathbb{C}$ as the 2-dimensional plane, and this gave a geometric context to the complex numbers, and to complex arithmetic in particular.

(1) Know the definition of complex numbers, and their rectangular and polar representations ($x+iy$ and $re^{i\theta}$). Be comfortable with complex arithmetic, in both its rectangular and polar form. Know the geometric significance of adding, subtracting, multiplying, or dividing complex numbers (rectangular form is more useful for the first two, and exponential is more useful for the second two.)

(2) Recall the definitions of the modulus, argument, and conjugate of a complex number. Know the geometric significance of these, and also how to use these in calculations. Know how to use the triangle inequality to give upper or lower bounds on sums or differences of complex numbers.

(3) Recall complex powers and roots. Know the geometric significance of taking the complex power or root of a complex number (modulus gets taken to the same power, argument gets multiplied by the exponent)

(4) Know the basic definitions for planar sets: (open set, closed set, connected set, domain). Know how to explain that a set does

or does not have any of these properties.

2. ANALYTIC FUNCTIONS:

By a complex function $f(z)$ we just mean any function from some subset $S \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ to $\mathbb{C}$, which can be represented either as $f(x+iy) = u(x,y) + iv(x,y)$, or as $f(re^{i\theta}) = u(r,\theta) + iv(r,\theta)$. We gave definitions for when a complex function is continuous and when it is (complex) differentiable at a given point. We observed that the basic computation rules of differentiation from calculus (e.g. product rule, quotient rule, chain rule) are obeyed. We observed that while continuity of f is equivalent to continuity of u and v, differentiability of f was much more restrictive than u, v being differentiable in the usual real sense.

It was then shown that, up to continuity conditions on partial derivatives, complex differentiability corresponds to u and v satisfying the Cauchy-Riemann equations, which gives a convenient way to determine when/where a given function is dierentiable. Finally, we discussed harmonic functions and showed that the real and imaginary parts of an analytic function were harmonic conjugates.

(1) Know the basic definition for $f(z)$ to be differentiable at a point z_0, analytic at a point z_0 and analytic on a set $S \subseteq \mathbb{C}$.

(2) Know the Cauchy-Riemann equations (in both rectangular and polar form) and know how they are used in determining differentiability and analyticity. Know how to use them to find the derivative of a complex differentiable function.

(3) Know the definition of a harmonic function, and the relation between harmonic functions and analytic functions. In particular, given a harmonic function, know how to find a harmonic conjugate.

3. THE ELEMENTARY FUNCTIONS:

The most important elementary functions are: polynomials, rational functions, exponential functions, trigonometric functions, logarithms, and complex powers. Note that except for the polynomials and rational functions, the elementary analytic functions were all defined using either the complex exponential e^z, or the complex logarithm $\log z$.

(1) Know the definitions of the elementary functions, their basic properties, their domains of analyticity, and their derivatives.

(2) Know what it means for a function to be a branch of a multi-valued complex function.

(3) Know what the standard branches $\log_\alpha z$ of log z are, and their domains (cut planes) of analyticity. Know the corresponding branches of the power function z^α.

(4) Know that some, but not all, of the laws of exponents and logarithms are true: For example, although we always have $e^{z_1}e^{z_2} = e^{z_1+z_2}$, $\log_\alpha z_1 + \log_\alpha z_2$ does not always equal $\log_\alpha(z_1 z_2)$. Understand the obstructions when such identities are not true (it usually has to do with the fact that performing operations on values of $\arg_\alpha z$ may not give you a legal value of $\arg_\alpha$, i.e. an argument in the correct interval $(\alpha, \alpha + 2\pi]$.

(5) Know how to determine the domains of analyticity for compositions using the elementary analytic functions. (For instance, be able to find a branch of a multi-valued function which is analytic in a given domain.)