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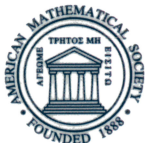
Regional Conference Series in Mathematics

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Number 6

## Lectures on the Edge-of-the-wedge Theorem

Walter Rudin



**American Mathematical Society**  
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Published for the  
**Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences**  
by the  
**American Mathematical Society**  
**Providence, Rhode Island**  
with support from the  
**National Science Foundation**

Expository Lectures  
from the CBMS Regional Conference  
held at the University of Missouri, St. Louis  
June 1-5, 1970

**Key Words and Phrases:** Analytic continuation, extensions of domains, tube domains, convex tubes, cones, reflection theorems, test functions, distribution limits, multiple power series, polydiscs, inner functions.

2000 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 32D15, 32D20, 46F10.

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Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 73-145640  
International Standard Book Number 0-8218-1655-1

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a sequence of polynomials that converges uniformly to the given function  $f$  on the compact set

$$K = \overline{W^+} \cup \overline{W^-},$$

and hence converges also uniformly on the polynomial hull  $\hat{K}$  of  $K$ . This gives the holomorphic extension of  $f$  to the interior  $\Omega$  of  $\hat{K}$ . By embedding holomorphic discs whose boundaries lie in  $K$  one shows that  $\Omega \supset E$ .

( $\hat{K}$  is, by definition, the set of all  $z$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  at which

$$|P(z)| \leq \max\{|P(w)| : w \in K\}$$

for every polynomial  $P$ .)

Kolm and Nagel [24; p.91] seem to have been the first to consider 1-dimensional edges in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . The lemma in [35] states essentially the same result:

Let  $E$  be a  $C^1$ -curve in  $\mathbb{C}$  which separates a disc  $\Delta \subset \mathbb{C}$  into two regions,  $\Delta^+$  and  $\Delta^-$ . Write points  $z \in \mathbb{C}^n$  in the form  $z = (z_1, z')$ ,  $z' = (z_2, \dots, z_n)$  and put

$$W^+ = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^n : z_1 \in \Delta^+, |z'| < \text{dist}(z_1, E \cap \Delta)\}$$

$$W^- = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^n : z_1 \in \Delta^-, |z'| < \text{dist}(z_1, E \cap \Delta)\}.$$

There is then an open set  $\Omega$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ ,

$$\Omega \supset W^+ \cup (E \cap \Delta) \cup W^-,$$

with the following property: If  $f$  is holomorphic in  $W^+ \cup W^-$ , and every derivative  $D^\alpha f$  extends continuously to  $W^+ \cup (E \cap \Delta) \cup W^-$ , then  $f$  extends holomorphically to  $\Omega$ .

Instead of having  $E$  in  $\mathbb{C}$  one could also have  $E$  lie in any one-dimensional complex manifold.

Other results of this kind, some with generic edges of dimension greater than  $n$ , can be found in [16] and [34].

Edge-of-the-wedge theorems have been used to give simpler proofs of Fefferman's famous theorem [22] which asserts the  $C^\infty$ -extendibility of biholomorphic maps between bounded strictly pseudoconvex domains in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  with  $C^\infty$ -boundaries. His original proof involved a difficult analysis of Bergman kernels and a detailed study of the geodesics with respect to the Bergman metric. For simplifications using reflections see [26], [38], [29]; also [25] and [21]. The simplest proof so far is probably the one by Forstnerič [23] which combines the edge-of-the wedge theorem (also used in [32]) with the  $n$ -variable version of the Julia-Caratheodory theorem [36].

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ISBN 0-8218-1655-1



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