Computer Investigation of Landau's Theorem

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Abstract. Let $f(z) = a_0 + a_1 z + \cdots$ be regular for $|z| < 1$ and never take the values 0 and 1; then $|a_1|$ has a bound depending only on a_0. J. A. Jenkins gave an explicit bound (*Canad. J. Math.* **8** (1956), 423–425) $|a_1| \leqq 2|a_0| \{|\log |a_0|| + 5.94\}$. The author investigates the shapes for the curves $|a_1| \leqq L(a_0)$ for given a_0 by the aid of a computer and shows that although Jenkins' result is about right when a_0 is negative, 4.38 will be the best possible constant in his form and that a much smaller estimate should be available when a_0 is positive or complex. ■

1. Introduction. The theorem of Landau in question may be stated in the form that if the function $f(z) = a_0 + a_1 z + \cdots$ is regular for $|z| < 1$ and never takes the values 0 and 1, then $|a_1|$ has a bound depending only on a_0. Hayman [1] gave the explicit bound $|a_1| \leqq 2|a_0|\{|\log |a_0|| + 5\pi\}$ and Jenkins [2] improved it to $|a_1| \leqq 2|a_0|\{|\log |a_0|| + 5.94\}$. For a given value of a_0, there is a certain possible region of values of a_1. This region is probably not a circle $|a_1| \leqq K\ (a_0)$. This region will probably have a different shape when a_0 is near 0, 1 and ∞. In this paper, I shall show that although Jenkins' result is about right when a_0 is negative, 4.38 will be the best possible constant in his form and that a much smaller estimate should be available when a_0 is positive or complex.

2. Preliminaries. Let $\lambda(\tau)$ be an elliptic modular function,

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda(\tau) &= \theta_2^4(0)/\theta_3^4(0)\\ &= 16q(1 + q^2 + q^6 + q^{12} + \cdots)^4/(1 + 2q + 2q^4 + 2q^9 + \cdots)^4\end{aligned}$$

where $q = e^{i\pi\tau}$. By a transformation

$$\zeta = (\tau - \tau_0)/(\tau - \bar{\tau}_0)\,, \qquad I_m(\tau_0) > 0$$

we have $g(\zeta) = \lambda(\tau)$ which is regular and $g(\zeta) \neq 0$, $g(\zeta) \neq 1$ for $|\zeta| < 1$. Hence

$$a_0 = g(0) = \lambda(\tau_0)$$

and

$$a_1 = g'(0) = \lambda'(\tau_0) 2 I_m(\tau_0)\,.$$

Thus, the problem of finding a better inequality in Landau's theorem may be solved by tabulating $|g'(0)|$ and $g(0)$. Hence, the matter simply depends on calculating the elliptic modular function $\lambda(\tau)$.

3. A Bound of $|a_1|$ for small $|a_0|$. When $I_m(\tau)$ is large and hence $|q|$ small we have $g(0) \simeq 16q_0$ where $q_0 = e^{i\pi\tau_0}$ and

$$g'(0) \simeq 16 i\pi e^{i\pi\tau_0} 2 I_m(\tau_0)\,.$$

Hence

Received March 14, 1968.

$$|g'(0)| \simeq \pi|g(0)|(2/\pi)|\log|g(0)/16||\,.$$

Therefore

$$|g'(0)| \simeq 2|g(0)|\left\{\log\frac{1}{|g(0)|} + 2.7726\right\}.$$

Thus, for small $|a_0|$, Landau's inequality is approximately

$$|a_1| \leqq 2|a_0|\left\{\log\frac{1}{|a_0|} + 2.7726\right\}.$$

4. Computer Investigation.

4.1. *The Case of a_0 Real.* When a_0 is real, we need only to compute the value of $a_1 = \lambda'(\tau_0)\, 2I_m(\tau_0)$ against $a_0 = \lambda(\tau_0)$ which varies from 1/2 to 0 and -1 to 0. The other values can be obtained by the following transformations:

$$U = 1 - W\,, \qquad V = 1/U\,;$$

here of course, $|U'| = |W'|$ and $|V'| = |U'|/|U|^2$. A simple computer program will give us a sufficient amount of information about the values of a_0 and a_1. I shall list only a few of them below and show the part of the curve in the attached figure. The computation is made by taking

$$\lambda(\tau) = 16q(1 + q^2 + q^6 + q^{12} + q^{20})^4/(1 + 2q + 2q^4 + 2q^9 + 2q^{16})^4.$$

TABLE

a_0	$\lvert a_1\rvert$	a_0	$\lvert a_1\rvert$	a_0	$\lvert a_1\rvert$	a_0	$\lvert a_1\rvert$	a_0	$\lvert a_1\rvert$
0.5	2.1884	−0.1	1.0744	−0.6	5.3195	−1.1	9.6336	−1.6	14.1583
0.4	2.1177	−0.2	1.9587	−0.7	6.1661	−1.2	10.5220	−1.7	15.0870
0.3	1.9020	−0.3	2.8063	−0.8	7.0203	−1.3	11.4187	−1.8	16.0234
0.2	1.5263	−0.4	3.6432	−0.9	7.8829	−1.4	12.3237	−1.9	16.9670
0.1	0.9527	−0.5	4.4793	−1.0	8.7538	−1.5	13.2371	−2.0	17.9173

4.2. $|a_1| \leqq 2|a_0|\{\log|a_0|| + 4.38\}$. From the above table, we notice that the constant $\Gamma^4(1/4)/4\pi^2 = 4.376\cdots$ in Littlewood's result [3] at $a_0 = -1$ is very sharp and by using the inequality in 3 and the numerical tabulation of $2|a_0|\{|\log|a_0|| + 4.38\}$, we can read that 4.38 will be the best possible constant in Jenkins' form.

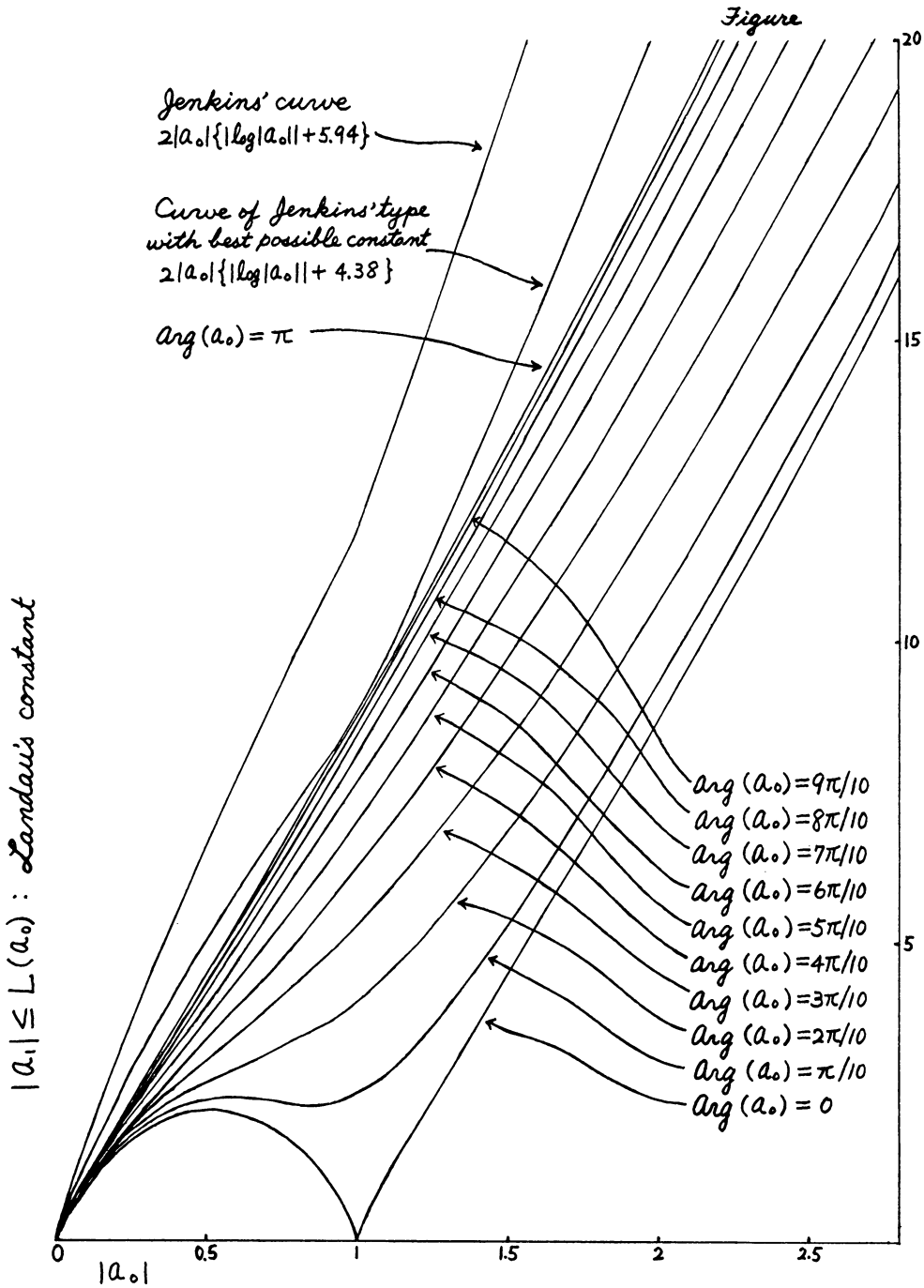
Remark 1. In fact, we have $|a_1| = 2.18843961$ and $|a_1| = 8.75375837$ for $a_0 = \lambda(i) = 0.50000000$ and $a_0 = \lambda(1 + i) = -0.99999999$ respectively. Hence, even if we consider a few more terms in $\lambda(\tau)$, almost no change in the value of $|a_1|$ can be expected.

4.3. *The Case of a_0 Complex.* I shall illustrate the best possible numerical bound of $|a_1|$ for each given a_0 with the argument $\alpha = n\pi/10$, $n = 1, 2, \cdots, 10$ in the figure. These curves are drawn from the values prepared by a computer by taking

$$\lambda(\tau) = 16q(1 + q^2 + q^6 + q^{12})^4/(1 + 2q + 2q^4 + 2q^9)^4\,.$$

Remark 2. From the table and the figure and from the transformations $U = 1 - W$ and $V = 1/U$, we can obtain the values of a_0 and its corresponding values of $|a_1|$ which suggest the shape of a possible region of values of a_1 for a given

a_0. For instance, we may draw the contour lines of $L(a_0)$ = constant in the a_0-complex plane. It is interesting to mention that Jenkins' result would just give concentric circles in that representation.



Acknowledgment. I wish to express my gratitude to the late Professor A. J.

Macintyre for his useful suggestions in this work and to Professor J. R. Meagher, the Director of the University Computer Center, and Mr. K. Williams for their great help in computer calculation.

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