

Preface

In August 1981 the first author gave a short course of six lectures on function theory at the NATO Advanced Study Institute in Montreal. The object was to point out the surprising connections which quasidisks—by definition the images of a disk under a quasiconformal mapping of the Riemann sphere—have with various branches of analysis and geometry.

The written account, *Characteristic properties of quasidisks* (97 triple-spaced pages), was published by the University Press of the University of Montreal in 1982 and became quite popular. Thus the notes were out of print after a few years. In the meantime the number of characterizing properties increased, and in the late 1990s we decided to write a book with the tentative title *The Ubiquitous Quasidisk* as an expanded version of the “Montreal notes”.

This book will hopefully be an inspiration for graduate students in geometric function theory. More specifically, the book could be a candidate for the text of a semester-long second-year graduate course on selected topics in the field. The texts by Ahlfors [7] and by Lehto and Virtanen [117] on quasiconformal mappings provide valuable reference literature. A more recent account for additional material is the book by Astala, Iwaniec, and Martin [16].

Our mathematical descendant Ole Jacob Broch has been of invaluable help in writing up the manuscript. He was assisted by Geir Arne Hjelle, another former student, who transformed most of the hand drawn figures to computer pictures in a way that we think helps to preserve the spirit of the “Montreal notes”. We would also like to thank Per Hag and Olli Martio who have read the manuscript and made valuable suggestions.

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