A Remark Concerning a Lemma of Heinz on Harmonic Mappings

HANS LUDWIG DE VRIES

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The following lemma is due to Erhard Heinz [1]:

Suppose that the transformation S: $\begin{cases} X = X(\alpha, \beta) & \text{maps the unit disc } \alpha^2 + \beta^2 \leq 1 \\ Y = Y(\alpha, \beta) & \end{cases}$

onto the unit disc $X^2 + Y^2 \leq 1$ in a one-to-one and continuous manner. If $X(\alpha, \beta)$ and $Y(\alpha, \beta)$ are harmonic functions in $\alpha^2 + \beta^2 < 1$ and X(0, 0) = Y(0, 0) = 0, then there exists an inequality,

$$\Phi(S) = [X_{\alpha}^{2} + X_{\beta}^{2} + Y_{\alpha}^{2} + Y_{\beta}^{2}]_{\alpha = \beta = 0} \ge \mu,$$

valid for all S.

A lower bound for μ ,

$$\mu \ge 2 - \frac{8}{\pi} \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2} \approx 0.358,$$

found by Heinz [1], was improved by Johannes C. C. Nitsche [2]: $\mu \ge 0.64$. In the present note it is shown that $\mu > 0.869$.

This estimate follows directly from Heinz's proof of his lemma. Let $\alpha = \rho \cos \vartheta$, $\beta = \rho \sin \vartheta$ and $Z(\alpha, \beta) = X(\alpha, \beta) + iY(\alpha, \beta)$. Then

$$Z(\alpha, \beta) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \rho^{k}(a_{k} \cos k\vartheta + b_{k} \sin k\vartheta)$$

with

$$a_k = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} Z(\cos t, \sin t) \cos kt \, dt$$

$$b_k = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} Z(\cos t, \sin t) \sin kt \, dt$$

$$k = 1, 2, \dots$$

Since Z(0,0)=0,

$$\int_0^{2\pi} Z(\cos t, \sin t) dt = 0.$$

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