

## RAMIFICATION OF KLEIN COVERINGS

CABIRIA ANDREIAN CAZACU

The aim of this paper is to extend the Hurwitz formula on the ramification of the covering surfaces [7], [8], as well as its generalizations by S. Stoilow [11], [12], ourselves [3] and I. Bârză [6] from Riemann coverings to Klein coverings. In what follows we shall use definitions and notations due to N. L. Alling and N. Greenleaf [2].

1. Let  $\mathcal{X}=(X, \mathcal{A})$  and  $\mathcal{Y}=(Y, \mathcal{B})$  be connected *Klein surfaces*, orientable or non-orientable, with or without border:  $X$  and  $Y$  will be connected two-manifolds with countable bases (surfaces)  $\mathcal{A}=\{(U, z)\}$  and  $\mathcal{B}=\{(W, w)\}$  dianalytic atlases,  $B_X$  and  $B_Y$  the border (boundary) of  $X$  and  $Y$ , respectively, [2], Section 2.

A *morphism of Klein surfaces*  $T: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$  is a continuous mapping  $T: X \rightarrow Y$ , with the properties that  $T(B_X) \subset B_Y$  and that for all points  $P \in X$  there exist dianalytic charts  $(U, z) \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $(W, w) \in \mathcal{B}$  about  $P$  and  $p = T(P)$ , respectively, and an analytic function  $F$  on  $z(U) \subset C^+ = \{z \in C: y \geq 0\}$ , such that  $T|U = w^{-1} \circ \varphi \circ F \circ z$ . Here  $\varphi: C \rightarrow C^+$  is the folding mapping  $\varphi(z) = x + i|y|$  that folds  $C$  over  $C^+$ , [2], Section 4.

Evidently, if  $B_Y = \emptyset$ , it follows  $B_X = \emptyset$  and one may give up  $\varphi$ , but if  $B_Y \neq \emptyset$ , even for Riemann surfaces, i.e., for  $X$  and  $Y$  orientable surfaces, this concept of morphism differs from the classical one ([9], I, II) since it permits the folding over  $B_Y$ . Starting from Stoilow's topological theory of Riemann surfaces [12], it was natural to compare this concept with that of the *interior transformation* (continuous, open and 0-dimensional (light) mapping) and we proved [5]:

**Theorem 1.** *Non-constant morphisms of Klein surfaces are topologically equivalent to interior transformations in the sense of Stoilow.*

It is obvious that a non-constant morphism is an interior transformation, but Stoilow's methods extend, so that we generalized his local inversion theorem for interior mappings  $T: X \rightarrow Y$  between surfaces  $X$  and  $Y$  as above. Namely, if  $P \in X \setminus T^{-1}(B_Y)$ , then in the neighbourhood of  $P$  the map  $T$  is topologically equivalent to  $w = z^h$ , and if  $P \in T^{-1}(B_Y)$ , to  $w = \varphi \circ z^h$ , which corresponds to the local *normal form* of a morphism ([2], p. 30). If  $T: X \rightarrow Y$  is an interior map, and if we organize  $Y$  with a dianalytic structure as a Klein surface  $\mathcal{Y}$ , this structure is lifted by means of  $T$  in a unique way to  $X$  yielding a Klein surface  $\mathcal{X}$  such that  $T$  becomes a morphism  $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ .

On the model of Stoilow's definition of Riemann covering ([12], Chapter II, I, 2 and Chapter V, III, 4) we call each triple,  $(X, T, Y)$  where  $T: X \rightarrow Y$  is an interior transformation between the surfaces  $X$  and  $Y$  a *Klein covering*.

The problem of the ramification of a Klein covering being of topological nature we shall not further refer to the Klein structure of our surfaces  $X$  and  $Y$ , which we always suppose to be connected and of finite Euler characteristic  $\varrho_X$  and  $\varrho_Y$ , respectively.

2. Let us first shortly resume the previous results: the Hurwitz formula and its generalizations in the case of the coverings without folds, i.e.,  $T^{-1}(B_Y) = B_X$ , in particular in the case  $B_Y = \emptyset$ .

1) *Hurwitz formula* ([7], p. 54) is proved in Kerékjártó's book ([8], p. 158—159) for both orientable and non-orientable, compact surfaces with or without border  $X$  and  $Y$  under the hypothesis  $T^{-1}(B_Y) = B_X$ . The ramification number  $r$  of the relatively unbordered  $n$ -sheeted covering  $T: X \rightarrow Y$  satisfies the relation

$$(1) \quad r = \varrho_X - n\varrho_Y.$$

(See also Ahlfors' generalization of this formula [1], p. 168, and [10], p. 324.)

In Stoilow's theory  $X$  and  $Y$  are orientable surfaces without border and the Hurwitz formula holds for the *total* covering, which is realized by any interior mapping  $T: X \rightarrow Y$  with the following property: for each infinite sequence of points  $P_v \in X$  which tends to the ideal boundary  $\partial X$  of  $X$  (i.e., has no accumulation point in  $X$ , notation:  $P_v \rightarrow \partial X$ ), its projection  $p_v = T(P_v)$  tends to  $\partial Y$ . This is in particular the case when  $X$  and  $Y$  are compact ([12], Chapter VI, II—III).

2) In 1933, [11], Stoilow extended formula (1) by introducing the *partially regular* covering  $T: X \rightarrow Y$ , characterized by the existence of a finite family of mutually disjoint Jordan curves  $\gamma$  on  $Y$  with the following properties:  $(\beta_1)$  for each sequence  $P_v \rightarrow \partial X$ , its projection  $p_v \rightarrow \gamma \cup \partial Y$  (i.e.,  $p_v$  has accumulation points only on  $\gamma$ ), and  $(\beta_2)$  the set  $T^{-1}(\gamma)$  is either compact or empty. Then the family  $\gamma$  decomposes  $Y$  into a finite number of regions  $Y_i$  of finite characteristic  $\varrho_i$  and totally covered with  $n_i$  sheets by  $T^{-1}(Y_i)$ . For such a partially regular covering Stoilow obtained the formula ([11], [12], Chapter VI, IV)

$$(2) \quad r = \varrho_X - \sum n_i \varrho_i.$$

3) In 1960, [3], we considered — again in the orientable, unbordered case — a family  $\gamma$  on  $Y$ , consisting of a finite number of mutually disjoint Jordan curves and of a finite number of Jordan arcs with the end points in well-determined points on  $Y$ , which we called knots, or elements of  $\partial Y$ . An arc of  $\gamma$  can meet another arc or curve of  $\gamma$  only in a knot. The set of knots will be denoted by  $\mathcal{K}$ .

We supposed that the interior transformation  $T: X \rightarrow Y$  satisfies the condition  $(\beta_1)$  but we gave up the condition  $(\beta_2)$  and introduced the local condition  $(L\beta_2)$ : a point  $p \in \gamma$  satisfies  $(L\beta_2)$  if there exists a neighbourhood  $v$  of  $p$  such that the pre-image of the component of  $v \cap \gamma$ , which contains  $p$ , is either relatively compact in  $X$

or empty. In this way it was natural to define the *exceptional points*  $p \in \gamma$  which do not satisfy  $(L\beta_2)$ , and we proved that the set  $\mathcal{E}$  of these points is finite or empty.

The surface  $Y$  is again decomposed by  $\gamma$  into a finite number of regions  $Y_i$  of finite characteristic  $\varrho_i$  and totally covered by  $n_i$  sheets.

We chose a family  $\gamma'$  of mutually disjoint Jordan curves from  $\gamma$ , which contains all Jordan curves of  $\gamma \setminus (\mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{N})^*$ . Let  $\mathcal{E}_{\gamma'}$  be the set of exceptional points of  $\gamma'$  with respect to itself (i.e., the set of the points  $p \in \gamma'$  for which  $T^{-1}(v \cap \gamma')$  is not relatively compact in  $X$  for every neighbourhood  $v$  of  $p$ ). The curves  $\gamma'$  with  $\mathcal{E}_{\gamma'} \neq \emptyset$  are decomposed by  $\mathcal{E}_{\gamma'}$  into open Jordan arcs and similarly  $(\gamma \setminus \gamma') \setminus (\mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{N})$  consists of open Jordan arcs. We called these arcs *cross cuts* and denoted them by  $\gamma''_j$ , the family contained in  $\gamma'$  by  $\{\gamma''_j\}^1$  and the rest by  $\{\gamma''_j\}^2$ . Every cross cut  $\gamma''_j$  is covered by  $s_j$  sheets.

Further, we denoted by  $\nu(p)$  the number of sheets of the covering over a point  $p \in Y^{**}$ , designated by  $p_k$  the points of the set  $\mathcal{E}_{\gamma'} \cup (\mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{N} \setminus \gamma')$  and wrote  $\nu(p_k) = \nu_k$ .

Then we obtained the following generalization of the Hurwitz–Stoilow formula (2):

$$(3) \quad r = \varrho_X - \sum n_i \varrho_i - \sum s_j + \sum \nu_k.$$

Its importance is due to its wide application possibilities, for instance to the regions of the exhaustion of a Riemann surface and thus to the study of the ramification of Riemann coverings in general [4].

4) The formulae (2) and (3) remain valid for non-orientable surfaces without border, as it was proved by I. Bârză [6].

3. We shall now consider the *general case* of a Klein covering  $T: X \rightarrow Y$  and obtain in Theorem 2 the formula (4), which, assuming the particular hypotheses presented above, reduces to the results 1)–4). It thus remains to concentrate on the case  $T^{-1}(B_Y) \neq B_X$ ,  $X$  and  $Y$  being orientable or non-orientable,  $B_Y \neq \emptyset$  but  $B_X$  being empty or not. It should be mentioned that even in the case  $T^{-1}(B_Y) = B_X$  formula (4) will bring new information since the assertions 2)–4) have been established only for  $B_Y = \emptyset$  but according to (4) they are also true if  $B_Y \neq \emptyset$ .

3.1. Since  $X$  and  $Y$  have finite characteristics, we can represent them by means of homeomorphisms which do not influence the ramification of the Klein covering  $T: X \rightarrow Y$  as subsets of compact surfaces  $X$  and  $Y$  with the same genus as  $X$  and  $Y$ . Here  $X$  is orientable if and only if  $Y$  is orientable; the same holds for  $Y$  and  $X$ . Under these homeomorphisms the ideal boundaries of  $X$  and  $Y$  correspond to a finite set of points  $F_X \subset X$  and  $F_Y \subset Y$  and their borders to a finite family of mutually disjoint Jordan curves and arcs  $B_X$  on  $X$  and  $B_Y$  on  $Y$ , the arcs ending in points of  $F_X$  and  $F_Y$ , respectively. For  $X$  we shall write  $B_X = B_X^1 \cup B_X^2$  and  $F_X = F_X^1 \cup F_X^2$ , where  $B_X^1$  contains the Jordan curves of  $B_X$  and  $B_X^2$  its Jordan arcs,

\*) We denote by  $\gamma$  the family of curves and arcs, one curve or arc of the family as well as the set of the points of these curves and arcs; the same remark holds about  $\gamma'$ .

\*\*\*)  $\nu(p)$  is the number of points in  $T^{-1}(p)$  counted with their multiplicities.

$F_X^1$  the isolated points of  $B_X \cup F_X$  and  $F_X^2$  the end points of the arcs from  $B_X^2$ . Moreover — without influencing the ramification of the covering — we can suppose ([5]) that  $B_X^2 \cup F_X^2$  consists of a finite number of mutually disjoint Jordan curves on  $X$ , each point of  $F_X^2$  giving exactly two end points of arcs of  $B_X^2$ . Similar notations will be used for  $Y$ .

**3.2.** On  $Y$  we shall consider a family  $\gamma$  like that of 3) but we let arcs from  $\gamma$  have end points on  $B_Y \cup F_Y$ . The points of  $\gamma \cap B_Y$  will also be called knots and the set of all the knots will again be designated by  $\mathcal{N}$ . The covering  $(X, T, Y)$  will satisfy the condition  $(\beta_1)$  for  $\gamma \cup B_Y \cup F_Y$ . Further,  $\mathcal{E}$  will designate the set of the exceptional points of  $\gamma$ . Obviously  $\mathcal{E} \cap B_Y \subset \mathcal{N}$ . Besides  $\mathcal{E}$  the covering can present exceptional points on  $B_Y$  relatively to  $B_Y$  itself. For such a point  $p \in B_Y$  the pre-image  $T^{-1}(v \cap B_Y)$  is not relatively compact for any neighbourhood  $v$  of  $p$ . The set of these points will be denoted by  $E$ .

**3.3.** Another important set will be  $\mathcal{R}$  — the set of the projections of the ramification points of the covering  $T: X \rightarrow Y$ .

The new type of coverings we are now considering may be characterized by one of the following equivalent conditions:

- (i)  $T^{-1}(B_Y) \neq B_X$ , and
- (ii) the covering presents folds over  $B_Y$ .

If  $\mathcal{R} \cap B_Y \neq \emptyset$ , then these conditions are fulfilled.

Before writing formula (4) we shall discuss in 3.4 and 3.5 the two new aspects that occur for the covering.

**3.4. The case  $\mathcal{R} \cap B_Y \neq \emptyset$ .** Let  $p$  be a point of  $B_Y$ . Its pre-image  $T^{-1}(p)$  consists of points  $Q_j \in \dot{X} = X \setminus B_X$ ,  $j=1, \dots, i(p)$ , with the multiplicity  $h_j$  (i.e., where locally  $T$  is topologically equivalent to the mapping  $w = \varphi \circ z^{h_j}$ ), and of points  $P_j \in B_X$ ,  $j=1, \dots, b(p)$ , with the multiplicity  $k_j$  (i.e., where locally  $T$  is topologically equivalent to one of the mappings  $w = \varphi \circ z^{k_j}$  or  $w = \varphi \circ (-z^{k_j})$ ).

Let  $v$  be a sufficiently small open neighbourhood of  $p$  and  $l, l^*$  the two open Jordan arcs in which  $p$  divides the component of  $v \cap B_Y$  that contains it. For each  $Q_j$  the corresponding component of  $T^{-1}(v)$  is a normal region (in Stoilow's sense [12], Chapter V, II) which covers  $v$  under  $T$  with  $2h_j$  sheets and  $l \cup l^*$  with  $h_j$  folds. Similarly, for each  $P_j$  the corresponding component of  $T^{-1}(v)$  is a normal region and covers  $v$  under  $T$  with  $k_j$  sheets and  $l \cup l^*$  with  $(k_j - 1)$  folds and 2 borders. More precisely, if  $k_j$  is odd, each of the arcs  $l$  and  $l^*$  will be covered by  $(k_j - 1)/2$  folds and a border, and if  $k_j$  is even, one of them will be covered by  $k_j/2$  folds and the other by  $(k_j - 2)/2$  folds and 2 borders.

In order to preserve the form (1) of the Hurwitz formula for total coverings, we shall define the ramification order of a point  $Q_j$  as usual by  $(h_j - 1)$  but the ramification order of a point  $P_j$  by  $(k_j - 1)/2, *$ ) so that the ramification of the covering at

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\*) This definition has also an interpretation in connection with the double coverings.

$p$  will be

$$r(p) = \sum_{j=1}^{i(p)} (h_j - 1) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{b(p)} (k_j - 1).$$

A special role will be played in what follows by  $\mathcal{R}_{1/2} = \{p \in \mathcal{R} \cap B_Y : h_j = 1 \text{ for each } Q_j \in T^{-1}(p) \cap \dot{X} \text{ and } k_j = 1 \text{ or } 2 \text{ for each } P_j \in T^{-1}(p) \cap B_X, \text{ with at least one } k_j = 2\}$ . If  $p \in \mathcal{R}_{1/2}$ , then the number of the points  $P_j$  with  $k_j = 2$  in  $T^{-1}(p) \cap B_X$  will be  $2r(p)$ . Thus  $2r(p)$  represents also the number of the folds that cover one of the arcs  $l$  or  $l^*$  but transform at  $p$  into two borders covering the arc  $l^*$  or  $l$ , respectively.

At a point  $p \in \dot{Y} = Y \setminus B_Y$  the ramification will be taken as usual

$$r(p) = \sum_{j=1}^{i(p)} (h_j - 1),$$

where  $T^{-1}(p) = \{Q_1, \dots, Q_{i(p)}\} \subset \dot{X}$  and  $Q_j$  has the multiplicity  $h_j$  (i.e., locally  $T$  is topologically equivalent to  $w = z^{h_j}$ ) and the ramification order  $(h_j - 1)$ .

Evidently,  $p \in \mathcal{R}$  if and only if  $r(p) > 0$  and the ramification number of the covering  $r = \sum_{p \in \mathcal{R}} r(p)$ .

**3.5.** Folds “ending at a point” of  $E \cup F_Y^2$ . If  $p \in E$ , there are folds or borders (at least one) which cover one of the arcs  $l$  or  $l^*$  without covering  $p$ . Let  $f(p)$  and  $b(p)$ , respectively, be the numbers of these folds and borders. Such a fold (border) represents an asymptotic way in  $\dot{X}$  (on  $B_X$ ) for  $T$  with the asymptotic value  $p$  and will be called fold or border “ending at  $p$ ”.

The same notations  $f(p)$  and  $b(p)$  will be introduced for the points  $p \in F_Y^2$ . (If we do not suppose, as indicated in 3.1, that  $B_Y^2 \cup F_Y^2$  consists of Jordan curves and in a sufficiently small neighbourhood  $v$  of  $p$  one has exactly two arcs  $l$  and  $l^*$  of  $B_Y^2$  ending at  $p$ , then  $p$  can be an end point for more than two arcs like  $l$  or for a single one, and  $f(p)$  as well as  $b(p)$  will be the numbers of folds or borders “ending at  $p$ ” over all these arcs. The sum  $\sum_{p \in F_Y^2} f(p)$  is independent of this [5].)

**3.6.** With these remarks and notations we can formulate

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $T: X \rightarrow Y$  be a Klein covering,  $\gamma$  a family of curves and arcs as in 3) but which, if  $B_Y \neq \emptyset$ , may have end points on  $B_Y$ , too, and suppose that  $T$  satisfies the condition  $(\beta_1)$  with respect to  $\gamma \cup B_Y \cup F_Y$  (if  $P_v \rightarrow B_X \cup F_X$ , then  $p_v \rightarrow \gamma \cup B_Y \cup F_Y$ ). The family  $\gamma$  decomposes  $Y$  into the regions  $Y_i$  with the characteristics  $q_i$  and number of the sheets  $n_i$ :  $Y \setminus (\gamma \cup B_Y) = \cup Y_i$ . We choose a family  $\gamma'$  of mutually disjoint Jordan curves from  $\gamma$ , so that it contains all those curves from  $\gamma$  without exceptional points with respect to themselves (i.e., if a curve  $\gamma$  has  $\mathcal{E}_\gamma = \emptyset$ , then it will be included in the family  $\gamma'$ ).\*) As in 3) we determine the cross cuts  $\gamma'_j$  covered by  $s_j$  sheets. Further, let  $p_k$  be the points of the set  $\mathcal{E}_{\gamma'} \cup [(\mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{N}) \setminus (\gamma' \cup B_Y)]$  and  $q_l$  the points of  $E \cup F_Y^2$ ,  $v_k = v(p_k)$*

\*) There is a difference between the actual construction of  $\gamma'$  and that of 3) but this does not influence the result.

and  $f_i=f(q_i)$ . Then the ramification number of the covering is given by the formula

$$(4) \quad r = \varrho_X - \sum n_i \varrho_i - \sum s_j + \sum v_k - \frac{1}{2} \sum f_i.$$

Remark 1. We can admit that  $\gamma$  contains, besides curves and arcs as before, a finite number of points  $p \in \dot{Y}$  such that for each neighbourhood  $v$ , its pre-image  $T^{-1}(v)$  is not relatively compact in  $X$ . These points will be interpreted as curves  $\gamma'$  reduced to a point and be considered in  $\mathcal{E}_{\gamma'}$ , hence denoted by  $p_k$ . Formula (4) holds in this case too, with the mention that the sum  $\sum v_k$  contains also the terms corresponding to these points  $p_k$ .

Remark 2. Evidently (4) refers also to the case of the total covering with folds:  $\gamma = \emptyset$ . If  $f(p)=0$  for each  $p \in B_Y \cup F_Y^2$ , then (4) takes the form (1). This case may also be proved directly by counting the simplexes of the covering as for the classical Hurwitz formula ([10], p. 324). This was done in [2, p. 43], for the case of the unramified double covering of a compact Klein surface.

The proof of (4) will be given in the next two sections, 4. and 5., by adapting the method we used in [3] in order to prove (3). Ahlfors' formula for the addition of the characteristics will remain the main tool.

The finiteness of the sets  $\mathcal{E}$ ,  $E$ ,  $\mathcal{R}$  as well as the total covering and the finite numbers of sheets  $n_i$ ,  $s_j$ ,  $v_k$  over each  $Y_i$ ,  $\gamma_j''$ ,  $p_k$ , respectively, and the finiteness of the numbers  $f_i$  are proved by similar devices as in [3]. (For details see [5].)

4. Let us first prove Theorem 2 in the special case  $\mathcal{R} \cap (\gamma \cup B_Y) = \mathcal{R}_{1/2}$  and  $\mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{N} \subset \gamma' \cup B_Y$ .

Besides the cross cuts  $\{\gamma_j''\}$ , we shall also consider a family of cross cuts  $\{B_m''\}$  on  $B_Y$ , namely, the family of Jordan arcs which appear on  $B_Y$  when one takes out the points of  $\mathcal{R}_{1/2} \cup E$ . These arcs have their end points in the set  $M = \mathcal{R}_{1/2} \cup E \cup F_Y^2$  and each  $B_m''$  is covered by  $\sigma_m$  sheets.

We denote by  $X_u$  and  $X_{ui}^v$  the components of  $X \setminus T^{-1}(\gamma' \cup B_Y)$  and  $X \setminus T^{-1}(\gamma \cup B_Y)$ , respectively, where  $X_{ui}^v$  are the components of  $X_u \cap T^{-1}(Y_i)$ , and remark that  $(X_{ui}^v, T|, Y_i)$  is a total covering in Stoilow's sense, so that we can apply the Hurwitz formula (1) to get

$$(5) \quad r_{ui}^v = \varrho_{ui}^v - n_{ui}^v \varrho_i,$$

where  $r_{ui}^v$  is the ramification of the covering,  $n_{ui}^v$  the number of sheets and  $\varrho_{ui}^v$  the characteristic of  $X_{ui}^v$ .

If  $\varrho_u$  is the characteristic of  $X_u$  and  $N_1$  or  $N_B$ , respectively, represents the number of cross cuts in the decomposition  $X \setminus T^{-1}(\gamma' \cup B_Y) = \cup X_u$  which comes from  $T^{-1}(\gamma')$  and  $T^{-1}(B_Y)$ , respectively (we remark that  $\gamma' \cap B_Y = \emptyset$ ), then by Ahlfors' formula

$$(6) \quad \varrho_X = \sum \varrho_u + N_1 + N_B.$$

Further, let  $N_2$  be the number of cross cuts which appear when we continue the decomposition:  $\cup X_u \setminus T^{-1}(\{\gamma_j''\}^2) = \cup X_{ui}^v$ . The same formula gives

$$(7) \quad \sum q_u = \sum q_{ui}^v + N_2.$$

By repeating the device used in [3], we obtain again

$$(8) \quad N_1 + N_2 = \sum s_j - \sum v_k$$

( $N_1 = \sum^1 s_j - \sum v_k$ ,  $N_2 = \sum^2 s_j$ , where  $\sum^1$  and  $\sum^2$  extend to the families  $\{\gamma_j''\}^1$  and  $\{\gamma_j''\}^2$ , respectively, and  $p_k \in \mathcal{E}_{\gamma'}$ ).

In order to evaluate  $N_B$  we remark that a cross cut from  $T^{-1}(\{B_m''\})$  determines a fold and counted with its end points contributes with 2 to the sum  $\sum_{p \in M} (2r(p) + f(p))$ . Therefore

$$(9) \quad N_B = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{p \in M} (2r(p) + f(p)).$$

Since  $r = \sum r_{ui}^v + \sum_{p \in M} r(p)$  and  $\sum_{p \in M} f(p) = \sum f_l$ , formula (4) follows from (5)–(9).

Remark 3. By the device used in the calculation of  $N_1$ , [3], one proves that

$$2(\sum \sigma_m - \sum_{p \in M} v(p)) = \sum_{p \in M} (2r(p) + f(p) + b(p)).$$

**5. The general case.** In order to obtain from the general Klein covering  $T: X \rightarrow Y$  with the condition  $(\beta_1)$  for a family  $\gamma \cup B_Y \cup F_Y$  a covering from the special case 4, we suitably modify the method used in [3], 8. Namely, we introduce the sets  $\mathcal{R}^* = (\mathcal{R} \cap \gamma) \setminus (\mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{N})$ ,  $\mathcal{R}^{**} = (\mathcal{R} \cap B_Y) \setminus \mathcal{R}_{1,2}$  and  $A = (\mathcal{R}^* \cup \mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{N}) \setminus B_Y$ , and we choose a set of sufficiently small open neighbourhoods  $v$  for the points  $p \in A \cup \mathcal{R}^{**}$ , such that the closed neighbourhoods  $\bar{v}$  are mutually disjoint and the following conditions are fulfilled: For each  $p \in A$ ,  $\bar{v} \subset \dot{Y}$ ,  $\bar{v}$  is a Jordan domain bounded by a Jordan curve  $c$ ;  $(\bar{v} \setminus \{p\}) \cap (\mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{N} \cup \mathcal{R}) = \emptyset$  and  $\bar{v} \cap \gamma$  consists of a finite number of Jordan arcs with an end point at  $p$  and another on  $c$ ; these arcs decompose  $v$  into sectors; any non-compact component of  $T^{-1}(\bar{v})$  does not intersect  $T^{-1}(p)$ . For each  $p \in \mathcal{R}^{**}$ ,  $\bar{v} \setminus B_Y \subset \dot{Y}$ ,  $\bar{v} \cap B_Y$  is a Jordan arc  $apb$  while  $\bar{v}$  is a Jordan domain bounded on  $y$  by  $apb$  and a Jordan arc  $c$  which is contained in  $\dot{Y}$  except for its end points  $a$  and  $b$ ;  $(\bar{v} \setminus \{p\}) \cap (\mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{N} \cup \mathcal{R} \cup E) = \emptyset$ , and  $\bar{v} \cap \gamma$  has the same properties as in the case  $p \in A$ ; any non-compact component of  $T^{-1}(\bar{v})$  does not intersect  $T^{-1}(p)$  and every compact component contains a single point of  $T^{-1}(p)$ .

First we take out of  $X$  the union of the non-compact components of  $T^{-1}(\bar{v})$  for all  $p \in A$  and obtain a surface  $X^*$ .

According to [3], 7, these components are either simply connected and separated from  $X^*$  by a cross cut or doubly connected and separated from  $X^*$  by a Jordan curve, such that we have

$$(10) \quad q_X = q_{X^*} \quad \text{and} \quad r = r^*,$$

where  $q_{X^*}$  means the characteristic of  $X^*$  and  $r^*$  the ramification number of the covering  $(X^*, T|, Y)$ .

Secondly, we take out of  $X^*$  the non-compact components of  $T^{-1}(\bar{v})$  and the relatively compact components of  $T^{-1}(v)$  for all  $p \in \mathcal{R}^{**}$ , obtaining a surface  $\tilde{X}$  with the characteristic  $q_{\tilde{X}}$ , and take out from  $Y$  the neighbourhoods  $v$  for all  $p \in \mathcal{R}^{**}$ , obtaining the surface  $\tilde{Y}$ .

By a direct computation we prove that the non-compact components of  $T^{-1}(\bar{v})$ ,  $p \in \mathcal{R}^{**}$ , are again of the same type as described for  $p \in A$ .\*) If  $T^{-1}(p) = \{Q_1, \dots, Q_{i(p)}, P_1, \dots, P_{b(p)}\}$ ,  $Q_j \in \tilde{X}^*$ ,  $P_j \in B_{X^*}$ , as in 3.4, the component of  $T^{-1}(\bar{v})$  containing  $Q_j$  will be a Jordan domain included in  $\tilde{X}^*$  and the component containing  $P_j$  will be homeomorphic to a half disc separated from  $\tilde{X}$  by a Jordan arc projected by  $T$  on  $c$ . Therefore with Ahlfors' formula we have

$$(11) \quad q_{\tilde{X}} = q_X + \sum_{p \in \mathcal{R}^{**}} i(p).$$

On the other hand, taking out a relatively compact component of  $T^{-1}(v)$  for  $p \in \mathcal{R}^{**}$  which contains a point  $Q_j$  with the multiplicity  $h_j$ , we have  $2h_j$  new ramification points of order  $1/2$  projected over  $a$  and  $b$ . Similarly, if the component contains a point  $P_j$  with the multiplicity  $k_j$ , we have  $(k_j - 1)$  new ramification points of order  $1/2$  projected over  $a$  and  $b$ .\*\*) Therefore the ramification number  $\tilde{r}$  of the covering  $(\tilde{X}, T|, \tilde{Y})$  will be given by the relation

$$(12) \quad \tilde{r} = r + \sum_{p \in \mathcal{R}^{**}} i(p).$$

However, the covering  $(\tilde{X}, T|, \tilde{Y})$  satisfies the condition  $(\beta_1)$  with respect to the family of curves and arcs  $\tilde{\gamma} = (\tilde{\gamma} \setminus \bigcup_{p \in A \cup \mathcal{R}^{**}} v) \cup (\bigcup_{p \in A} c)$  and to  $B_{\tilde{Y}} \cup F_{\tilde{Y}}$ , the family  $\tilde{\gamma}'$  consisting of the curves  $c$  for  $p \in A$  and the former curves  $\gamma'$  which do not intersect  $A$ . Let us remark that  $\mathcal{E}_c = \emptyset$  for each  $p \in A$ , hence  $\mathcal{E}_{\tilde{\gamma}'} = \emptyset$ . Further,  $B_{\tilde{Y}}$  is obtained from  $B_Y$  replacing the arc  $apb$  by the corresponding arc  $c$  for each  $p \in \mathcal{R}^{**}$ . It follows that  $F_{\tilde{Y}}^2 = F_Y^2$ . We denote by  $\tilde{E}$  the set of the points of  $B_{\tilde{Y}}$  which are exceptional with respect to  $B_{\tilde{Y}}$ . Obviously  $\tilde{E}$  is obtained from  $E$  replacing each point  $p \in \mathcal{R}^{**} \cap E$  by the corresponding pair  $\{a, b\}$ .

In order to apply (4) to the covering  $(\tilde{X}, T|, \tilde{Y})$ , let us denote by  $\tilde{Y}_\lambda$  the components of  $\tilde{Y} \setminus (\tilde{\gamma} \cup B_{\tilde{Y}})$ , by  $\tilde{\gamma}_\mu$  the cross cuts (of the type  $\{\gamma_j''\}^2$ ) determined on  $\tilde{\gamma} \setminus \tilde{\gamma}'$ , by  $\tilde{q}_\lambda$  the characteristic of  $\tilde{Y}_\lambda$ , by  $\tilde{n}_\lambda$  and  $\tilde{s}_\mu$  the number of sheets over  $\tilde{Y}_\lambda$  and  $\tilde{\gamma}_\mu$ , by  $\tilde{q}$  a point of  $\tilde{E} \cup F_{\tilde{Y}}^2$  and by  $\tilde{f}(\tilde{q})$  the number of folds of  $(\tilde{X}, T|, \tilde{Y})$  "ending at  $\tilde{q}$ ". In this

\*) Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be the interior of such a component. The covering  $(\mathcal{V}, T|, v)$  satisfies  $(\beta_1)$  with respect to  $(\gamma \cap v) \cup \partial v$  and  $v$  is decomposed by the arcs from  $\gamma \cap v$  into sectors. The number of the sheets over a sector is at least equal to the number of the sheets over each arc from  $\gamma \cap v$  on its boundary and at least twice the number of the folds over one of the arcs  $pa$  and  $pb$  on its boundary. The pre-images of these arcs and of  $pa$  and  $pb$  give cross cuts of  $\mathcal{V}$ . The assertion follows using Ahlfors' formula for the characteristic of  $\mathcal{V}$  and the Hurwitz formula (1) for each covering of the sectors.

\*\*) One sees why it was necessary to consider  $\mathcal{R}_{1/2}$  in Section 4.



way formula (4) gives

$$(13) \quad \tilde{r} = \varrho_X - \sum \tilde{n}_\lambda \tilde{q}_\lambda - \sum \tilde{s}_\mu - \frac{1}{2} \sum \tilde{f}(\tilde{q}).$$

It remains to express (13) in terms of the covering  $(X, T, Y)$ .

One sees immediately that

$$(14) \quad \sum \tilde{f}(\tilde{q}) = \sum f_i.$$

Indeed, if  $q_i \in (E \cup F_Y^2) \setminus \mathcal{R}^{**}$ , then it is a point  $\tilde{q}$  with  $\tilde{f}(\tilde{q}) = f_i$ , and if  $q_i = p \in \mathcal{R}^{**}$ , then it is replaced in  $\tilde{E} \cup F_Y^2$  by the corresponding pair  $\{a, b\}$  and  $f_i = \tilde{f}(a) + \tilde{f}(b)$ .

A region  $\tilde{Y}_\lambda$  is either a neighbourhood  $v$  for a point  $p \in A$  and in this case  $\tilde{q}_\lambda = -1$  while  $\tilde{n}_\lambda = v(p)$ , or it is included in a uniquely determined region  $Y_i$ . Then  $\tilde{q}_\lambda = \varrho_i$ ,  $\tilde{n}_\lambda = n_i$  and there exists a bijection between the regions  $\tilde{Y}_\lambda$  of this last type and the regions  $Y_i$ , [3], 8. Consequently

$$(15) \quad \sum \tilde{n}_\lambda \tilde{q}_\lambda = \sum n_i \varrho_i - \sum_{p \in A} v(p).$$

The curves  $\gamma'$  which do not intersect  $A$  have no contribution to  $\sum \tilde{s}_\mu$  nor to  $\sum s_j$ . Let  $\gamma'_1$  be the family of curves  $\gamma'$  with  $\mathcal{E}_{\gamma'} = \emptyset$  but which intersect  $A$ . Write  $A_1 = A \cap \gamma'_1$ . The curves  $\gamma'_1$  have no contribution to  $\sum s_j$  but yield  $\sum_{p \in A_1} v(p)$  in  $\sum \tilde{s}_\mu$ . The other curves  $\gamma'$  with  $\mathcal{E}_{\gamma'} \neq \emptyset$  decompose into cross cuts of the family  $\{\gamma''_j\}^1$  and these cross cuts as well as those from the family  $\{\gamma''_j\}^2$  yield cross cuts  $\tilde{\gamma}_\mu$ . Namely, if a cross cut  $\gamma''_j$  contains the points  $p \in A$ , then  $\gamma''_j$  contributes with  $s_j + \sum v(p)$  to  $\sum \tilde{s}_\mu$ . Hence

$$(16) \quad \sum \tilde{s}_\mu = \sum s_j + \sum_{p \in A_1 \cup A_2} v(p),$$

where  $A_2 = A \cap \gamma''$  and  $\gamma''$  is the family of all the cross cuts  $\gamma''_j$ .

Therefore (11)—(16) imply

$$(17) \quad r = \varrho_X - \sum n_i \varrho_i - \sum s_j + \sum_{p \in A \setminus (A_1 \cup A_2)} v(p) - \frac{1}{2} \sum f_i$$

and it is easy to verify that  $A \setminus (A_1 \cup A_2) = \{\mathcal{E}_{\gamma'} \cup [(\mathcal{E} \cup \mathcal{N}) \setminus \gamma']\} \setminus B_Y$ , so that  $\sum v(p)$  in (17) is equal to  $\sum v_k$  in (4).

6. Finally, let us establish Theorem 2 in the case mentioned in Remark 1 in 3.4 when  $\gamma$  also contains a finite number  $M$  of points of  $\dot{Y}$ . As indicated in 3.4, we consider these points in  $\mathcal{E}_{\gamma'}$ , denote them by  $p_k$  and suppose (if necessary by a change of numeration) that they correspond to the indices  $k=1, \dots, M$ . Set for each of these  $k$ ,  $T^{-1}(p_k) = \{Q_{k1}, \dots, Q_{ki_k}\} \subset \dot{X}$ , every point  $Q_{kj}$  having the multiplicity  $h_{kj}$ ,  $\dot{X} = X \setminus \bigcup_{k=1}^M T^{-1}(p_k)$  and  $\dot{Y} = Y \setminus \{p_1, \dots, p_M\}$ .

We can apply formula (4) to the covering  $(\dot{X}, T|, \dot{Y})$  so that the corresponding ramification number  $\hat{r}$  is given by

$$\hat{r} = \varrho_X - \sum n_i \varrho_i - \sum s_j + \sum_{k > M} v_k - \frac{1}{2} \sum f_i,$$

where  $q_{\hat{X}}$  is the characteristic of  $\hat{X}$  and  $Y_i$  are the components of  $Y \setminus (\gamma \cup B_\gamma)$ , the points  $p_1, \dots, p_M$  being included in  $\gamma$ .

On the other hand,

$$r = \hat{r} + \sum_{k=1}^M \left( \sum_{j=1}^{i_k} (h_{kj} - 1) \right) = \hat{r} + \sum_{k=1}^M v_k - \sum_{k=1}^M i_k$$

and  $q_{\hat{X}} = q_X + \sum_{k=1}^M i_k$  so that the formula (4) is true for the covering  $(X, T, Y)$ , too.

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University of Bucharest  
 Faculty of Mathematics  
 Bucharest 1  
 Romania

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