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This book provides a comprehensive overview of the theory of theta functions, as applied to compact Riemann surfaces, as well as the necessary background for understanding and proving the Thomae formulae.

The exposition examines the properties of a particular class of compact Riemann surfaces, i.e., the Z_n curves, and thereafter focuses on how to prove the Thomae formulae, which give a relation between the algebraic parameters of the Z_n curve, and the theta constants associated with the Z_n curve.

Graduate students in mathematics will benefit from the classical material, connecting Riemann surfaces, algebraic curves, and theta functions, while young researchers, whose interests are related to complex analysis, algebraic geometry, and number theory, will find new rich areas to explore. Mathematical physicists and physicists with interests also in conformal field theory will surely appreciate the beauty of this subject.