

Complex Analysis

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1 Complex Differentiation

1.1 Definitions

The goal of this course is to develop the surprisingly rich theory of complex valued functions of one complex variable and the theory of integrating such functions along complex paths. The motivations for investigating such topics are complex polynomials of interest in geometry and number theory.

We will also look at functions defined by power series such as the map from $s \rightarrow \sum_{n \in N} \frac{1}{n^s} = \zeta(s)$ will define a complex differentiable function for $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$. There is also a connection to harmonic functions which is developed further in Analysis of Functions. We can also use complex methods to solve classical integrals or and differential equations which is developed more in IB Complex Methods.

For this course we will use $z \in \mathbb{C}$ and $x = \operatorname{Re}(z), y = \operatorname{Im}(z)$. We will also use θ for the argument of z , $\arg(z)$ which is well-defined up to adding $2\pi\mathbb{Z}$. We will use the principal argument $\operatorname{Arg}(z) \in (-\pi, \pi]$.

Definition. (Open disc) An *open disc* or *open ball* centred at a with radius r in \mathbb{C} is the set $\{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z - a| < r\} = B(a, r) = D(a, r)$.

Remark. We will use $\mathbb{D} = B(0, 1)$ and $\bar{B}(a, r) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z - a| \leq r\}$.

We use \mathbb{C}^* to denote $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$.

Recall that a set $U \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ is open if it contains an open disc about each of its points.

Definition. (Path) A *path* in $U \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ is a continuous map $\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow U$.

Definition. (Path-connected) We say that $U \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ is *path-connected* if for all $x, y \in U$ there exists a path $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow U$ such that $\gamma(0) = x$ and $\gamma(1) = y$.

Definition. (Domain) A *domain* in \mathbb{C} is a non-empty path-connected subset of \mathbb{C} .

Definition. (Closed path) If γ is a path and $\gamma(a) = \gamma(b)$ then we say that γ is a *closed path*.

Definition. (C^1 path) We say a path is C^1 if it is continuously differentiable. We say a path is *piecewise C^1* if it has finitely many non-differentiable points but still globally continuous.

Definition. (Simple path) A path is *simple* if it is injective except perhaps at the end-points.

Definition. Let $U \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ be open.

(i) We say that $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is *differentiable* at $w \in U$ if

$$f'(w) = \lim_{z \rightarrow w} \frac{f(z) - f(w)}{z - w}$$

exists.

(ii) We say that f is *holomorphic* at $w \in U$ if $\exists \varepsilon > 0$ such that f is differentiable on $B(w, \varepsilon) \subseteq U$.

(iii) If f is holomorphic everywhere, we say f is *entire*.

Remark. Some authors use analytic for holomorphic.

Remark. The usual rules for differentiating sums and products and the inverse of a function (when it exists) apply exactly like we say in IA Analysis I with exactly the same proof.

Any $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ can be written as $f(z) = f(x + iy) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$ where $u, v : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are the real and imaginary parts of f .

Recall that $u : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable at $(c, d) \in U$ with derivative $Du|_{(c,d)} = (\lambda, \mu)$ if and only if

$$\frac{u(x, y) - u(c, d) - (\lambda(x - c) + \mu(y - d))}{\sqrt{(x - c)^2 + (y - d)^2}} \rightarrow 0$$

as $(x, y) \rightarrow (c, d)$.

Proposition. (Cauchy-Riemann equations) Let $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be defined on an open set U and write $f = u + iv$, then f is differentiable at $w = c + id \in U$ with $f'(w) = p + iq$ if and only if u and v are both differentiable at (c, d) and $u_x = v_y = p$ and $-u_y = v_x = q$ at (c, d) . Then $f'(w) = u_x(c, d) + iv_x(c, d)$.

Proof. f is differentiable at w with derivative $p + iq$ if and only if

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow w} \frac{f(z) - f(w) - (z - w)(p + iq)}{z - w} = 0$$

One can check that $\lim_{z \rightarrow a} \frac{f(z)}{|g(z)|} = 0$ if and only if $\lim_{z \rightarrow a} \frac{f(z)}{|g(z)|} = 0$ and $(p + iq)(z - w) = p(x - c) - q(y - d) + i(q(x - c) + p(y - d))$ so using these and taking real and imaginary parts we get that

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (c,d)} \frac{u(x, y) - u(c, d) - (p(x - c) - q(y - d))}{\sqrt{(x - c)^2 + (y - d)^2}} = 0$$

for the real part. And

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (c,d)} \frac{v(x, y) - v(c, d) - (q(x - c) + p(y - d))}{\sqrt{(x - c)^2 + (y - d)^2}} = 0$$

for the imaginary part. This is equivalent to saying that u is differentiable with $Du|_{(c,d)} = (p, -q)$ and v is differentiable with $Dv|_{(c,d)} = (q, p)$. \square

Remark. Let's make some remarks about the Cauchy-Riemann equations.

- (i) If $f = u + iv$ and $u_x = v_u$ and $u_y = -v_x$ at a point w we *cannot* conclude that f is differentiable at w (Example Sheet 1).
- (ii) If the partial derivatives u_x, u_y, v_x, v_y exist and are continuous in an open neighbourhood of w then the Cauchy-Riemann equations holding does imply complex differentiability.

Let's see some examples.

- (i) Polynomials are sums and products of the identity function, hence they are entire.
- (ii) If P and Q are polynomials, and $U \subseteq \mathbb{C} \setminus \{x \mid Q(x) = 0\}$ then $\frac{P}{Q}$ is differentiable on U . These are called *rational functions*.
- (iii) If $f(x) = |x|$, this is not differentiable anywhere in \mathbb{C} . $f = u + iv$ with $u = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ and $v = 0$. If $(x, y) \neq (0, 0)$ then

$$u_x = \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}, \quad u_y = \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}.$$

So the Cauchy-Riemann equations do not hold, and if $(x, y) = (0, 0)$ we know that this isn't even differentiable in the real case, hence it's also not differentiable in the complex case. So f isn't differentiable anywhere.

Remark. Later we'll see that if f is holomorphic on U , then f' is also holomorphic on U . Then from the Cauchy-Riemann equations, we can see that f is harmonic. Conversely we can later see that every harmonic function on an open set in \mathbb{R}^2 is locally $\text{Re}(f)$ for some holomorphic function f .

1.2 Conformal maps

Proposition. Let $U \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ be a domain and suppose that $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is holomorphic and $f'(z) = 0$ on U . Then f is constant.

Proof. We will without proof the following elementary topological fact.

Lemma. If U is a domain and $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow U$ is a path with $\gamma(0) = a$ and $\gamma(1) = b$. Then there is another path $\bar{\gamma} : [0, 1] \rightarrow U$ with $\bar{\gamma}(0) = a$ and $\bar{\gamma}(1) = b$ where $\bar{\gamma}$ is composed of finitely many segments, each parallel to the x or y axis, so $\bar{\gamma}$ is piecewise- C^1 .

Given this we know that $u_x = v_y$ and $u_y = -v_x$ hold. Since f' is zero, all these partials vanish on U . Now the usual mean value theorem shows that u, v are constant along the segments of $\bar{\gamma}$. So $f(a) = f(b)$. \square

Definition. (Conformal) If f is holomorphic at a point w and $f'(w) \neq 0$ we say that f is *conformal* at w .

This is a geometric property of f .

Suppose that U is a domain and $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is conformal at w . Let's take $\gamma_i : (-\varepsilon, \varepsilon) \rightarrow U$ such that $\gamma_i(0) = w$, and $\gamma'_i(0) \neq 0$. So γ_i have non-zero tangent vectors through w . The angle

between these vectors is $\arg(\gamma'_1(0)) - \arg(\gamma'_2(0))$. But then

$$\frac{(f\gamma_1)'(0)}{(f\gamma_2)'(0)} = \frac{f'(w)}{f'(w)} = \frac{\gamma'_1(0)}{\gamma'_2(0)} = 1$$

and so the angle between $f\gamma_1$ and $f\gamma_2$ at $f(w)$ the same as for γ_1 and γ_2 . So conformal means that f preserves angles.

Definition. (Conformal equivalence) If U, V are open in \mathbb{C} and $f : U \rightarrow V$ is a holomorphic bijection which is everywhere conformal on U we say that f is a *conformal equivalence* and U and V are conformally equivalent.

Remark. In this setting, if f is conformal, the inverse function theorem says that f is locally invertible and that local inverse is complex differentiable. If f is a bijection it is globally invertible, and hence the chain rule shows that f^{-1} is conformal.

Let's see some examples.

- (i) A linear map $f(z) = az + b$ with $a \neq 0$ is a conformal equivalence $\mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$.
- (ii) $f(z) = z^n$ takes $\{z \mid 0 \leq \text{Arg}(z) \leq \frac{\pi}{n}\} \rightarrow \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid \text{Im}(z) > 0\} = \mathcal{H}$. This fails at the origin, but if we consider the open sector and open upper half plane.
- (iii) The exponential map, $z \rightarrow \exp z = e^x e^{iy}$ sends verticle lines to circles with radius $e^{\text{Re } z}$.
- (iv) $z \in \mathcal{H} \iff z$ is closer to i than to $-i \iff \left| \frac{z-i}{z+i} \right| < 1$. The Mobius map $z \rightarrow \frac{z-i}{z+i}$ takes $\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$. Moreover $f'(z) = \frac{2i}{(z+i)^2}$ is non-zero for $z \in \mathcal{H}$, so f is an conformal equivalence.

Recall that the Mobius group, \mathcal{M} , is the group of mappings $z \rightarrow \frac{az+b}{cz+d}$ with $ad - bc \neq 0$. $A \in \mathcal{M}$ defines a conformal equivalence from $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{-\frac{d}{c}\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \setminus \{\frac{a}{c}\}$, but it's much better to think of it as a conformal equivalence to the extended complex plane \mathbb{C}_∞ . Recall that Mobius maps are triply transitive, so

$$z \rightarrow \frac{(z-z_1)(z_2-z_3)}{(z-z_3)(z_2-z_1)}$$

sends the triple (z_1, z_2, z_3) to $(0, 1, \infty)$.

Recall further that Mobius maps send circlines to circlines (where a circline is a circle or a line plus the point at infinity).

Suppose we have a sector bounded between lines L_1, L_2 . What are the images of a sector under a Mobius map? This depends on if our Mobius map T is such that $T^{-1}(\infty) \in L_1$ or $T^{-1}(\infty) \in L_2$. Any region formed by two non-pallel lines, a circle and a line, or two circles could be image under a Mobius map.

The *Joukowsky transform* is the map sending $z \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(z + \frac{1}{z}) = \frac{z^2+1}{2z}$. We can compute that $f'(z) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2z^2}$ and f is holomorphic except at 0 and is conformal except at 0 and ± 1 . Take the circle passing through -1 and $-i$ not centred at the origin. Under the map f , creates a kink at -1 since it's not conformal, but the curve is nice everywhere else since it's conformal on the rest of the circle. The transformed curve resembles an aerofoil. The incompressible fluid equations, $\nabla \times v = 0, v = \nabla \phi$ implies that $\nabla^2 \phi$ vanishes, so ϕ is harmonic. So ϕ is locally $\text{Re}(f)$, with f holomorphic. This is used to transfer questions about fluid flow about complicated shapes to the much simpler circle.

Let $S^1 = \partial\mathbb{D} = \{x \in \mathbb{C} : |x| = 1\}$

Definition. (Simply connected) Let $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a domain. We say that U is *simply connected* if every continuous map $\gamma : S^1 \rightarrow U$ extends to a map $\hat{\gamma} : \overline{\mathbb{D}} \rightarrow U$ such that $\hat{\gamma}|_{\partial\mathbb{D}} = \gamma$.

Remark. This is the notion that any loop can be continuously shrunk to a point.

For example for the annulus, if we take γ to be the closed path going all the way around the annulus, we will later prove that no such $\hat{\gamma}$ can exist.

Theorem. (Riemann mapping theorem) If $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ is a proper subdomain and U is simply connected, then U is conformally equivalent to the disc, $\mathbb{D} = \{z : |z| < 1\}$.

Remark. The notation of being simply connected is invariant under conformal equivalences. Being simply connected is a topological property and is invariant under any homeomorphism (since conformal maps are homeomorphisms).

Remark. The condition that $U \neq \mathbb{C}$ is essential. If \mathbb{C} was conformally equivalent to the open disc then there would exist a function $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$ conformal, hence a homeomorphism, but from IB Topological Spaces, homeomorphisms are closed maps, hence since \mathbb{C} is closed, \mathbb{D} should be closed, but it isn't hence f cannot exist. We will see a non-topological proof later in the course.

A useful construction of holomorphic functions (and we'll see later the universal construction) is convergent power series.

1.3 Power series

Let's see some reminders from IB Analysis II.

- (i) A sequence f_n of functions on a set T converges uniformly to a function f on T if that $\forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists N$ s.t. $\forall n \geq N \in \mathbb{N}$, $|f_n(x) - f(x)| < \varepsilon$.
- (ii) The uniform limit of continuous functions is continuous.
- (iii) The Weiestress M-test says that if we have values $M_n \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ such that $|f_n(x)| \leq M_n$ for all $x \in T$, then if $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} M_n$ converges, then the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_n(x)$ converges absolutely and uniformly on T .
- (iv) Suppose we have a sequence $\{a_n\}$ then there is a unique $R \in [0, \infty]$ such that the series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n(z - a)^n$ converges absolutely if $|z - a| < R$ and diverges if $|z - a| > R$. Moreover if $0 < r < R$ then the series converges uniformly on $\{z : |z - a| < r\}$. This is called the radius of convergence. The root test says that

$$R = \frac{1}{\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|}}.$$

Theorem. Suppose that

$$f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(z - a)^n$$

is a complex power series with radius of convergence $R > 0$. Then

- (i) f is holomorphic on $B(a, R) = \{z : |z - a| < R\}$;
- (ii) $f'(z) = \sum n c_n (z - a)^{n-1}$ which also has radius of convergence R ;
- (iii) f is infinitely complex differentiable on $B(a, R)$ with

$$f^{(n)}(a) = n! c_n.$$

Proof. We can see (iii) follows from (ii) so enough to prove (i) and (ii). Take $a = 0$ wlog. Since $n|c_n| > |c_n|$ the radius of convergence of $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n c_n (x_a)^{n-1}$ is at most R . But if $|z| < R_1 < R$ then we can see that

$$\frac{|nc_n z^{n-1}|}{|c_n R_1^{n-1}|} = n \left| \frac{z}{R_1} \right|^{n-1} \rightarrow 0$$

which is true for all $R_1 < R$, hence the radius of convergence must be R .

Now to show f is differentiable with that derivative. Pick z, w with $|z|, |w| \leq R_1 < R$. Define

$$\varphi(z, w) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} z^j w^{n-1-j}.$$

We can see that

$$\left| c_n \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} z^j w^{n-1-j} \right| \leq n |c_n| R_1^n$$

so this converges uniformly with $|z| \leq R_1$ and $|w| < R_1$ so the limit is continuous. If $z \neq w$ we can sum as a geometric series, so

$$\varphi(z, w) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \left(\frac{z^n - w^n}{z - w} \right) = \frac{f(z) - f(w)}{z - w}.$$

Taking the limit as $w \rightarrow z$ we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{w \rightarrow z} \frac{f(z) - f(w)}{z - w} &= \varphi(z, z) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n n z^{n-1} = f'(z). \end{aligned}$$

Hence we're done. □

Corollary. Suppose we have a power series

$$f(z) = \sum_{n=-0}^{\infty} c_n (z - a)^n$$

with $R > 0$ and suppose that f vanishes on $B(a, \varepsilon)$ with $\varepsilon \in (0, R)$. Then f vanishes identically.

Proof. All derivatives are zero at $x = a$, hence $f(z) = 0$ □

Now we can define some familiar functions

1.4 Exponentials, logarithms, and branch cuts

Definition. (Exponential function) We define the function

$$e^z = \exp(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{n!},$$

which has the properties

- (i) Radius of convergence is ∞ ;
- (ii) $\frac{d}{dz} e^z = e^z$;
- (iii) $e^0 = 1$. If we fix w and let $F(z) = e^{z+w} e^{-z}$ then $F'(z)$ vanishes, hence F is constant, and $F(0) = e^w$, so $e^{z+w} = e^z e^w$ holds for all $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$.
- (iv) e^z never vanishes on \mathbb{C} .

Remark. We define the trigonometric functions again as we did in \mathbb{R} . The exponential function, sin and cos are entire.

This function is invertible over \mathbb{R} , but in \mathbb{C} it is not invertible. In fact for every $z \in \mathbb{C}$ there exists infinitely many $w \in \mathbb{C}$ distinct such that $e^w = z$. This can be seen since \exp is $2\pi i$ periodic.

Definition. (Branch of the logarithm) Let $U \subseteq \mathbb{C}^* = \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ open. A continuous function $\lambda : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is *branch of the logarithm* on U if $e^{\lambda(z)} = z$ for all $z \in U$.

The classical example is $U = \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}_{\leq 0}$, the slit plane. Let $\text{Log} : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be defined by $\text{Log}(z) = \log(z) + i\theta$ where $\theta = \text{Arg}(z)$. This is called the principal branch of the logarithm.

Proposition. Log is holomorphic on $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}_{\leq 0}$ with

- (i) $\frac{d}{dz} \text{Log}(z) = \frac{1}{z}$;
- (ii) If $|z| < 1$ then

$$\text{Log}(1+z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{z^n}{n}.$$

Proof. Log is continuous on U and \exp is continuous on \mathbb{C} . If $z = e^x$ and $w = e^y$, then

$$\frac{\text{Log}(z) - \text{Log}(w)}{z - w} = \frac{x - y}{e^x - e^y}$$

which as $x \rightarrow y$ converges to $\frac{1}{e^y} = \frac{1}{w}$.

By the ratio test, $\text{Log}(1+z)$ has a radius of convergence 1. We know that $\text{Log}(1+z)$ has derivative

$$1 - z + z^2 - \dots = \frac{1}{1+z}$$

so since the claimed power series and $\text{Log}(1+z)$ have the same derivative, they differ by a constant, and since they are both zero at $z = 0$, that constant is zero, so $\text{Log}(1+z)$ has the power series as claimed. \square