

Maths (Miscellaneous)

Haydn Cheng

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Contents

1	Functions of Complex Variables	2
1.1	Complex Numbers	2
1.2	Analytic Functions	6
1.2.1	Definition	6
1.2.2	Properties and Examples	8
1.3	Power Series in a Complex Variable	12
1.4	Solutions to the Laplace's Equation	13
1.5	Singularities	13
1.5.1	Definitions	13
1.5.2	Poles	13
1.5.3	Removable Singularities	14
1.5.4	Essential Singularities	14
1.5.5	Non-isolated Singularities	14
1.6	Branch Points, Branch Cuts, Principal Branch and Riemann Surface . . .	15
1.6.1	Branch Points, Branch Cuts and Principal Branch	15
1.7	Integration	19
1.7.1	Cauchy's Theorem	19
1.7.2	Cauchy's Integral Formula	22
1.7.3	Laurent Expansion	24
1.7.4	Cauchy's Residue Theorem	26
1.7.5	Integrations Around Branch Cuts.	27
1.8	Temperory	28
2	Fourier Series and Integral Transforms	29
2.1	Fourier Series	29
2.2	Fourier Transforms	31
3	Statistics	33
3.1	Standard Deviation	33
3.2	Probability Density Function	34

Functions of Complex Variables

1.1 Complex Numbers

A complex number is most conveniently thought of as a vector with the x -axis replaced by the real axis with unit vector 1 and the y -axis replaced by the imaginary axis with unit vector $i = \sqrt{-1}$. An arbitrary vector can then be represented in polar form or Cartesian form

$$z = re^{i\theta} = x + iy, \quad (1.1)$$

where $r = |z| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ and $\theta = \arg(z)$ is the angle between the complex number (vector) and the positive x -axis, measured counterclockwise. If the complex number (vector) lies in the first quadrant, then

$$\arg(z) = \arctan(y/x) + 2\pi k \quad (1.2)$$

If it is not in the first quadrant then $\pi/2$ or π must be added. k can be any integer value, but usually we use the principal value of the argument, the value of n such that *i.e.*, $\arg(z) \in (-\pi, \pi]$.

In particular, if $r = 1$, then it is easy to show that

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta, \quad (1.3)$$

since we simply decompose a complex number (vector) into its components. This equation can also be verified using the Taylors' expansion of the exponential, sine and cosine function.

Raising both sides of the above equation to the power n , we have the DeMoivre's formula

$$(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^n = e^{in\theta} = \cos(n\theta) + i \sin(n\theta). \quad (1.4)$$

Using the polar form, it is trivial to derive the relations

$$|z_1 z_2| = |z_1| |z_2| \text{ and } \arg(z_1 z_2) = \arg(z_1) + \arg(z_2). \quad (1.5)$$

Hence multiplying two complex numbers (vectors) together can be thought separately as two process. First, the modulus (length) of the new complex number (vector) is the product of the modulus (length) of the two complex numbers (vectors). Second, the argument of the new complex number (vector) is the sum of the arguments of the two complex numbers (vectors).

The complex conjugate of a complex number is defined as

$$z^* = x - iy = re^{-i\theta}. \quad (1.6)$$

For complex number with a more complicated form, we simply replace all i by $-i$. This follows from the fact that $(z_1 + z_2)^* = z_1^* + z_2^*$ and $(z_1 z_2)^* = z_1^* z_2^*$.

Geometrically, we flip the imaginary axis (y -axis) upside down. Therefore, z and z^* are two complex numbers (vectors) reflected about the real axis (x -axis). Thus we have

$$zz^* = |z|^2 \quad (1.7)$$

When extend to complex numbers, the natural logarithm is always multivalued, this is because

$$\ln(z) = \ln(|z|e^{i\theta+2\pi k}) = \ln(|z|) + i(\theta + 2\pi k). \quad (1.8)$$

The principal value is defined as the value when $\theta \in (-\pi, \pi]$.

The hyperbolic trigonometric formulas are largely reminiscent of the ordinary trigonometric formulas, with a few exceptions:

$$\cosh^2(x) - \sinh^2(x) = 1, \quad 1 - \tanh^2(x) = \operatorname{sech}^2(x) \text{ and } \cosh^2(x) + \sinh^2(x) = \cosh(2x). \quad (1.9)$$

The inverse of trigonometric functions can be written in terms of the natural logarithmic function. For example, we have

$$z = \tan w = \frac{1}{i} \left(\frac{e^{iw} - e^{-iw}}{e^{iw} + e^{-iw}} \right) \implies e^{2iw} = \frac{1 + iz}{1 - iz} \implies \tan^{-1} z = \frac{1}{2i} \ln \left(\frac{1 + iz}{1 - iz} \right). \quad (1.10)$$

Example: Inverse Trigonometric Functions of Complex Variables (1).

Question: Express $\tan^{-1}(\sqrt{3}i)$ in the form $a + bi$. Hence solve the equation $\tan z = \sqrt{3}i$.

Solution: To calculate $\tan^{-1}(\sqrt{3}i)$ we substitute $z = \sqrt{3}i$ into eq. (1.10) and get

$$\tan^{-1}(\sqrt{3}i) = \frac{1}{2i} \ln\left(\frac{1-\sqrt{3}}{1+\sqrt{3}}\right) = \frac{1}{2i} \ln\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}-1}{\sqrt{3}+1}e^{i\pi}\right) = -\frac{i}{2} \ln(2-\sqrt{3}) + \frac{\pi}{2}. \quad (1.11)$$

To solve the equation $\tan z = \sqrt{3}i$, we add $n\pi$ to $\tan \sqrt{3}i$ to get

$$z = -\frac{i}{2} \ln(2-\sqrt{3}) + \frac{\pi}{2}(1+2n). \quad (1.12)$$

Example: Inverse Trigonometric Functions of Complex Variables (2).

Question: Express $\sin^{-1}(3)$ in the form $a + bi$. Hence solve the equation $\sin z = 3$.

Solution: To calculate $\sin^{-1}(3)$ we substitute $z = 3$ into eq. (1.88) and get

$$\sin^{-1}(3) = \frac{\pi}{2} - i \ln(3 + 2\sqrt{2}). \quad (1.13)$$

To solve the equation $\sin z = 3$ we add $2\pi n$ to $\sin^{-1}(3)$ or we subtract $\sin^{-1}(3)$ from $\pi + 2\pi n$ and get

$$z = \frac{\pi}{2} - i \ln(3 + 2\sqrt{2}) + 2\pi n \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\pi}{2} + i \ln(3 + 2\sqrt{2}) + 2\pi n, \quad (1.14)$$

which we may combine compactly as

$$z = \frac{\pi}{2} + 2\pi n \pm i \ln(3 + 2\sqrt{2}), \quad (1.15)$$

We can also solve the equation without using the predetermined formula, but start from

$$\sin z = \frac{e^{iz} - e^{-iz}}{2i} = 3 \quad (1.16)$$

to get

$$\begin{aligned} z &= -i \ln(i(3 + 2\sqrt{2})) = -i \left(i\frac{\pi}{2} + 2\pi in + \ln(3 \pm \sqrt{2}) \right) \\ &= \frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi - i \ln(3 + 2\sqrt{2}) \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi - i \left(\ln(-1) + \ln(2\sqrt{2} - 3) \right) \\ &= \frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi - i \ln(3 + 2\sqrt{2}) \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi - i \left(i\pi + 2\pi ki - \ln(3 + 2\sqrt{2}) \right) \\ &= \frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi - i \ln(3 + 2\sqrt{2}) \quad \text{or} \quad -\frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi + i \ln(3 + 2\sqrt{2}). \end{aligned} \quad (1.17)$$

$$z = \frac{\pi}{2} + 2\pi n + i \ln(3 \pm 2\sqrt{2}). \quad (1.18)$$

Example: Plot on the Complex Plane (1).

Question: Plot the equation $\arg((z - 4)/(z - 1)) = 3\pi/2$ on the complex plane.

Solution: Writing $z = x + iy$, we have

$$\frac{z - 4}{z - 1} = \frac{(x - 4)(x - 1) + y^2}{(x - 1)^2 + y^2} + i \frac{3y}{(x - 1)^2 + y^2}. \quad (1.19)$$

The real part must be zero and the imaginary part must be negative for the argument to be $3\pi/2$, so we get $(x - 4)(x - 1) + y^2 = 0 \implies (x - 5/2)^2 + y^2 = 0$ and $y < 0$. Note we cannot use the formula $\arg(z) = \arctan(y/x)$, since the complex number does not lie in the first quadrant.

Example: Plot on the Complex Plane (2).

Question: Plot the equation $\arg(z - 3i) = \pi/4$ on the complex plane.

Solution: Writing $z = x + iy$, we have

$$\arg(x + i(y - 3)) = \frac{\pi}{4} \implies y - 3 = x. \quad (1.20)$$

However, an extra condition $x > 0$ has to be imposed so that the point $(x, y - 3)$ lies in the direction corresponding to an angle of $\pi/4$.

To find the cosine or sine of some multiples of angle (*e.g.*, $\sin(6\theta)$), the simplest way is always expand $(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^6 = \cos(6\theta) + i \sin(6\theta)$ and compare the imaginary (or real) part.

To find some power of cosine or sine of angle (*e.g.*, $\sin^6 \theta$) in terms of single power of cosine or sine, the simplest way is always write $\sin \theta = (e^{i\theta} - e^{-i\theta})/2i$, and expand.

The fundamental theorem of algebra states that a n^{th} order polynomial equation will have exactly n roots. For example, the equation $x^8 = 16$ has eight roots $x = \sqrt[8]{16} = (16e^{2\pi k})^{1/8} = \sqrt{2}e^{\pi n/4}$, where $n = (0, \dots, 7)$ or $(1, \dots, 8)$.

The sum and product of roots of the polynomial equation

$$a_0 + a_1 z + a_2 z^2 + \dots + a_n z^n = a_n(z - z_1)(z - z_2) \dots (z - z_n) = 0 \quad (1.21)$$

can be extracted to be

$$\sum_{i=1}^n z_i = -\frac{a_{n-1}}{a_n} \quad \text{and} \quad \prod_{i=1}^n z_i = (-1)^n \left(\frac{a_0}{a_n} \right). \quad (1.22)$$

1.2 Analytic Functions

1.2.1 Definition

For a complex vector

$$z(x, y) = x + iy, \quad (1.23)$$

a complex function $f(x, y)$ maps a complex vector $x + iy$ to one or more vectors of $f(x, y)$,¹ and can be represented by

$$f(x, y) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y). \quad (1.24)$$

In fact, since (x, y) and (z, \bar{z}) are related by

$$x = \frac{\bar{z} + z}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad y = \frac{i(\bar{z} - z)}{2}, \quad (1.25)$$

we can rewrite the functions in terms of z and \bar{z} , *i.e.*, $f(x, y) = f(z, \bar{z})$.

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(x, y) &= (x^2 - y^2, 2xy) = f_1(z, \bar{z}) = z^2, \\ f_2(x, y) &= (x^2 + y^2, 0) = f_2(z, \bar{z}) = z\bar{z}, \\ f_3(x, y) &= (x^3 + xy, 0) = f_3(z, \bar{z}) = \frac{1}{8}(z + \bar{z})^2 - \frac{i}{4}(z^2 - \bar{z}^2). \end{aligned} \quad (1.26)$$

At first glance, one may think that since \bar{z} is a “function” of z , so $f(z, \bar{z})$ is just $f(z)$. However, we cannot recreate x or y from z alone without using the \Re or \Im “functions”. In other words, there is no elementary way of describing all possible transformations on the complex plane with z alone. For example, for $f(x, y) = x$, indeed we can write the equivalent $f(z) = \Re(z)$, but it would be difficult to work in this form as the \Re “function” is not easy to work with. Instead it is much more convenient to introduce \bar{z} , where we can write the function as $f(z, \bar{z}) = (z + \bar{z})/2$.

Therefore, $f(z)$ is only a subset of all the possible transformations of z , where the general $f(z, \bar{z}) = f(z)$ depends on z alone but not \bar{z} . This type of complex functions will be our main focus due to its usefulness.

For a complex function $f(z, \bar{z})$ to be independent of \bar{z} we must have

¹In rigorous definition a function should be single-valued. However, it serves no harm to define a “multi-valued” function, and this is a widely accepted terminology. In later sections we will choose one of the many possible $f(x, y)$ as the principal value, which resolves the “issue” of having a function that gives multiple values on a single input.

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \bar{z}} = 0. \quad (1.27)$$

We start from writing the total derivative of $f(x, y)$ in terms of x and y

$$df = f_x dx + f_y dy. \quad (1.28)$$

Dividing both sides by $d\bar{z}$ while keeping z constant we have

$$\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial \bar{z}}\right)_z = f_x \left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial \bar{z}}\right)_z + f_y \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial \bar{z}}\right)_z = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial}{\partial y}\right) (u+iv) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}\right) + \frac{i}{2} \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}\right). \quad (1.29)$$

Enforcing it to be zero we obtain the Cauchy-Riemann conditions

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -\frac{\partial v}{\partial x}. \quad (1.30)$$

A single-valued function $f(z)$ is differentiable point z if the derivative

$$\frac{df}{dz} = \lim_{\delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(z + \delta z) - f(z)}{\delta z} \quad (1.31)$$

exists² and is unique, in that its value does not depend on the direction in the complex plane from which δz tends to zero.

A function $f(z)$ is said to be holomorphic at a point a if it is differentiable at every point within some open disk centered at a , and is said to be analytic at a if in some open disk centered at a it can be expanded as a convergent power series

$$f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (z - a)^n, \quad (1.32)$$

which is the Taylor series of $f(z)$ around the point $z = a$. It could be shown that in complex analysis holomorphic functions are analytic and vice versa. In the following we will be mostly using the term analytic except otherwise specified.

Given that the derivative df/dz exists, consider as δz approaches zero along the x - and y -axes

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{df}{dz} &= \lim_{\delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \delta x, y) - f(x, y)}{\delta x} = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)_y = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}, \\ \frac{df}{dz} &= \lim_{\delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x, y + \delta y) - f(x, y)}{i \delta y} = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right)_x = \frac{1}{i} \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}. \end{aligned} \quad (1.33)$$

²The existence of df/dz is the same as the existence of just $f(z)$.

For the derivatives to be unique we require the two results to be equal we obtain the Cauchy-Riemann conditions. This shows that a complex function being analytic is the same as saying that the function $f(z, \bar{z}) = f(z)$ depends on z alone but not \bar{z} .

Their relations can be summarized by

$$f(z) \text{ is analytic (given existence)} \iff \text{Cauchy-Riemann Conditions} \iff f(z) = f(z, \bar{z}). \quad (1.34)$$

A function may be analytic in a domain except at a finite number of points, called the singularities of $f(z)$ (or an infinite number if the domain is infinite). Functions that are analytic everywhere (except, maybe, at $z = \infty$) are called entire or integral functions.

Example: f Being Constant.

Question: Prove that if f is real-valued or if $|f|$ is constant, then f is constant given that f is an analytic function.

Solution: If f is real-valued, then $v(x, y) = 0$. From the Cauchy-Riemann conditions we have $u_x = u_y = 0$, so u is constant.

If $|f|$ is constant, then we have

$$u^2 + v^2 = R^2 \implies \begin{cases} uu_x + vv_x = 0, \\ uu_y + vv_y = 0. \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} uv_y + vv_x = 0, \\ u(-v_x) + vv_y = 0. \end{cases} \quad (1.35)$$

Viewed as a linear system in the unknowns v_x and v_y , the determinant is $v^2 + u^2 = R^2 > 0$, hence the only solution is $v_x = v_y = u_x = u_y = 0$, so f is a constant.

1.2.2 Properties and Examples

$u(x, y) = c_1$ and $v(x, y) = c_2$ being Orthogonal

Consider the lines on the Argand plane that satisfy

$$u(x, y) = c_1 \quad \text{and} \quad v(x, y) = c_2. \quad (1.36)$$

The normal vectors to these curves are

$$\mathbf{n}_u = \nabla u(x, y) = \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{n}_v = \nabla v(x, y) = \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right). \quad (1.37)$$

If we now take the dot product between these two vectors we find

$$\mathbf{n}_u \cdot \mathbf{n}_v = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = 0. \quad (1.38)$$

In other words, curves of constant u and v are orthogonal to each other, wherever the function is analytic.

Conformality

Consider two infinitesimal changes to z which are at angle θ

$$z_1 = z + \epsilon e^{i\theta_1} \quad \text{and} \quad z_2 = z + \epsilon e^{i\theta_2} \implies \frac{z_2 - z}{z_1 - z} = e^{i\theta}. \quad (1.39)$$

We now transform the two points

$$w_1 = f(z_1) \quad \text{and} \quad w_2 = f(z_2). \quad (1.40)$$

But given that the function is analytic we can also Taylor expand to get

$$w + \delta w_1 = f(z) + f'(z)\epsilon e^{i\theta_1} \quad \text{and} \quad w + \delta w_2 = f(z) + f'(z)\epsilon e^{i\theta_2}, \quad (1.41)$$

so the angle between the two transformed points is

$$\arg\left(\frac{\delta w_2}{\delta w_1}\right) = \arg\left(\frac{f'(z)\epsilon e^{i\theta_2}}{f'(z)\epsilon e^{i\theta_1}}\right). \quad (1.42)$$

Such angle preserving transformations are also known as conformal transformations.

An analytic function is conformal at a point z_0 when its derivative there is non-zero, *i.e.*, $f'(z_0) \neq 0$.

Examples

Examples of analytic functions include

$$f(z) = z^n, \quad f(z) = e^z \equiv \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^k}{k!}, \quad f(z) = \cos(z) \equiv \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k z^{2k}}{(2k)!}. \quad (1.43)$$

But by far the most commonly used complex functions are the multivalued functions

$$z^{1/n} = |z|^{1/n} e^{i(\theta+2\pi k)/n} \quad \text{and} \quad \ln(z) = \ln|z| + i(\theta + 2\pi k). \quad (1.44)$$

For multivalued functions there is a canonical choice called the principal value, which preserve the injective property of ordinary function. For the examples above, we restrict ourselves to $(\theta + 2\pi k) \in (0, 2\pi]$ or $\in (-\pi, \pi]$, depending on the convention adopted.

If we restrict ourselves to the principal roots, then the function $f(z) = z^{1/2}$ transforms the complex plane into the upper half plane while the function $f(z) = z^{1/4}$ transforms the complex plane into the first quadrant, *etc.* On the other hand, the natural logarithmic function transforms the complex plane into an infinite horizontal strip with boundaries at $y = 0$ and 2π .

A less commonly used multivalued function is the complex power

$$t^z = e^{z \ln t} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^k (\ln |t| + i(\theta + 2\pi k))^t}{k!}. \quad (1.45)$$

One particularly interesting example maps the half plane onto a circle

$$f(z) = \left(\frac{z - z_0}{z - \bar{z}_0} \right) e^{i\theta_0}, \quad (1.46)$$

where the point z_0 will be mapped onto the origin while $-\infty$ and $+\infty$ will be mapped onto the point $e^{i\theta_0}$.

Another interesting mapping is the Möbius map

$$f(z) = \frac{az + b}{cz + d}, \quad (1.47)$$

which carries generalized circles, *i.e.*, Euclidean circles or straight lines, into generalized circles. So given any three distinct points z_1, z_2, z_3 on one generalized circle and any three distinct images $f(z_1), f(z_2), f(z_3)$ on another generalized circle, there is exactly one Möbius map sending $z_i \mapsto f(z_i)$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$.

Example: Analytic Functions.

Question: Given that $v(x, y) = (x^2 - y^2) + y^2$ and $f(0) = 0$, find $f(z)$.

Solution: We notice that the first part is simply $\Re(z^2)$ while the second part is $\Im(z)$. We therefore guess that

$$f(z) = iz^2 + z + c, \quad (1.48)$$

where $c = 0$ to satisfy the condition at $z = 0$.

Alternatively we can use a more systematic method and find from the Cauchy-Riemann conditions that

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = -2y + 1 \implies u = -2xy + x + h(y), \quad (1.49)$$

and

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = -2x \implies h(y) = c = 0. \quad (1.50)$$

Example: Jacobian.

Question: Prove that $|J| = |f'|^2$.

Solution: Using the Cauchy-Riemann conditions we see that

$$|J| = \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right| = \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)^2 = \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right)^2. \quad (1.51)$$

On the other hand we have

$$\begin{aligned} f'(z) &= \frac{df}{dz} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} - i \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) (u + iv) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) - \frac{i}{2} \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - i \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + i \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}. \end{aligned} \quad (1.52)$$

Thus the norm-squared is

$$|f'(z)|^2 = \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right)^2 = \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)^2 = |J|^2. \quad (1.53)$$

Example: Conformal Mapping.

Question: Consider the function

$$f : z \mapsto w = z + \frac{1}{z}. \quad (1.54)$$

1. Give the subset of the complex z plane in which f is holomorphic.
2. Determine whether the mapping is conformal in the region of holomorphy.
3. Onto which subset of the w plane does f map the upper half and lower half of circle $|z| = 1$?
4. What is the image through f of a circle $|z| = \rho$ with $\rho \neq 1$?

Solution:

1. The function is holomorphic everywhere except at the pole $z = 0$ and ∞ .
2. The derivative is zero at $z = \pm 1$, so the function is conformal everywhere except at $x = 0$ and ± 1 .
3. On the unit circle we parametrize
- 4.

$$z = e^{i\theta}, \quad 0 \leq \theta < 2\pi, \quad (1.55)$$

then

$$f(z) = f(e^{i\theta}) = e^{i\theta} + e^{-i\theta} = 2 \cos \theta. \quad (1.56)$$

Hence both upper and lower half of the circle get mapped to the real segment $[-2, 2]$.

5. We parametrize the circle by

$$z = \rho e^{i\theta}, \quad 0 \leq \theta < 2\pi, \quad (1.57)$$

then

$$f(z) = f(\rho e^{i\theta}) = \left(\rho + \frac{1}{\rho}\right) \cos \theta + i \left(\rho - \frac{1}{\rho}\right) \sin \theta. \quad (1.58)$$

Defining

$$x \equiv \Re(f(z)) = \left(\rho + \frac{1}{\rho}\right) \cos \theta \quad \text{and} \quad y \equiv \Im(f(z)) = \left(\rho - \frac{1}{\rho}\right) \sin \theta, \quad (1.59)$$

one sees that (x, y) satisfies the ellipse equation

$$\frac{x^2}{(\rho + 1/\rho)^2} + \frac{y^2}{(\rho - 1/\rho)^2} = 1. \quad (1.60)$$

Thus the circle $|z| = \rho$ is carried to the ellipse centered at the origin with semi-axes

$$a = \rho + \frac{1}{\rho} \quad \text{and} \quad b = \left| \rho - \frac{1}{\rho} \right|. \quad (1.61)$$

1.3 Power Series in a Complex Variable

If the power series

$$f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n r^n e^{in\theta} \quad (1.62)$$

converge then its real (and imaginary) part must be convergent, *i.e.*,

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |a_n| r^n \quad (1.63)$$

is convergent.

The radius of convergence R can be found by the Cauchy-root test or the ratio test

$$\frac{1}{R} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |a_n|^{1/n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_n}{a_{n+1}} \right|, \quad (1.64)$$

and it can be proved that the series is convergent if $|z| < R$ and divergent if $|z| > R$. If $|z| = R$ then no particular conclusion may be drawn and must be considered separately.

It can also be shown that the power series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n$ has a sum that is an analytic function of z inside its circle of convergence. As a corollary, it may further be shown that if $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n$ then, inside the circle of convergence of the series $f'(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n a_n z^{n-1}$. Repeated application of this result demonstrates that any power series can be differentiated any number of times inside its circle of convergence.

1.4 Solutions to the Laplace's Equation

We notice that if $f(x, y)$ is analytic, then $u(x, y)$ and $v(x, y)$ are harmonic functions, *i.e.*, they satisfy the Laplace's equation in two dimensions, since

$$\nabla^2 u(x, y) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right) = 0. \quad (1.65)$$

The same holds for $\nabla^2 v(x, y) = 0$.

1.5 Singularities

1.5.1 Definitions

As we have defined earlier, a singularity is a point on the complex plane, where $f(z)$ fails to be analytic. It can either be an isolated singularity, which includes a pole, a removable singularity and an essential singularity, or a non-isolated singularity.

Formally, if the limit of a function $\lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} f(z)$ does not exist but satisfies

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} ((z - z_0)^n f(z)) = a, \quad (1.66)$$

then $z = z_0$ is a pole of order n and $a \equiv \text{Res}(f, z)$ is the residue of $f(z)$ if $n = 1$.³ If no finite value of n can be found such that this equation is satisfied then $z = z_0$ is called an essential singularity. A non-isolated singularity occurs when poles accumulate together at one point.

If the limit $\lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} f(z)$ exists and unique then $z = z_0$ is called a removable singularity.

The behaviour of a function $f(z)$ at $z = \infty$ is the same as the behaviour of the function $f(1/\xi)$ at $\xi = 0$.

1.5.2 Poles

A pole is a point on the complex plane where the derivative df/dz is infinite. A simple example is

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{z}, \quad (1.67)$$

which has a pole at $z = 0$ with order 1.

For another example the function

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{(z - a)^n} \quad (1.68)$$

has a pole at $z = a$ with order n .

³The formula for finding the residue with pole of any order will be introduced later.

1.5.3 Removable Singularities

A removable singularity is one that has a finite limit at the singularity, so the function can be rendered completely analytic by setting $f(z_0) = \lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} f(z)$, for example,

$$f(z) = \frac{\sin z}{z} \quad (1.69)$$

has a singularity at $z = 0$, but can be easily removed by setting $f(0) = 1$. Note that the function does not exist at removable singularity but the limit exists.

The behaviour of a function $f(z)$ at infinity is given by that of $f(1/\xi)$ at $\xi = 0$, where $\xi \equiv 1/z$.

1.5.4 Essential Singularities

A singularity which is neither removable or a pole is known as an essential singularity. A particularly notorious example is

$$f(z) = e^z. \quad (1.70)$$

To analyse the function's behaviour at $z = \infty$, consider the function $f(1/\xi)$ at $\xi = 0$

$$f\left(\frac{1}{\xi}\right) = e^{1/\xi} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\xi^n n!}. \quad (1.71)$$

We have $\xi = 0$ as a pole with infinite order thus $z = 0$ is an essential singularity.

1.5.5 Non-isolated Singularities

For the function

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{\sin(1/z)}, \quad (1.72)$$

we have poles at $z = 1/n\pi$ of order 1. However, at $z = 0$ the poles accumulate together so we call the singularity at $z = 0$ a non-isolated one.

Another example of a non-isolated singularity is the function

$$f(z) = \tan z \quad (1.73)$$

at $z = \infty$. This is because the function

$$f\left(\frac{1}{\xi}\right) = \tan\left(\frac{1}{\xi}\right) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{2n-1} \xi^{1-2n}, \quad (1.74)$$

which has a pole of infinite order at $\xi = 0$.

Example: Singularities.

Question: Find the singularities of the functions

$$f(z) = \tanh z. \quad (1.75)$$

Solution: We rewrite the function as

$$f(z) = \tanh z = \frac{e^z - e^{-z}}{e^z + e^{-z}}. \quad (1.76)$$

Therefore $f(z)$ has a singularity when

$$e^z = -e^{-z} = e^{i(2n+1)\pi - z} \implies z = \left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right) \pi i. \quad (1.77)$$

1.6 Branch Points, Branch Cuts, Principal Branch and Riemann Surface

1.6.1 Branch Points, Branch Cuts and Principal Branch

In the definition of an analytic function, one of the conditions imposed was that the function is single-valued. Nevertheless, it happens that the properties of analytic functions can still be applied to multi-valued functions provided that suitable care is taken.

Branch Points

Consider the root of a complex vector

$$f(z) = z^{1/2} = r^{1/2} e^{i\theta/2}. \quad (1.78)$$

It is clear that as the point z traverses any closed contour C that does not enclose the origin, θ will return to its original value after one complete circuit. However, for any closed contour C' that does enclose the origin, after one circuit we have

$$\theta \rightarrow \theta + 2\pi \implies f(z) \rightarrow -f(z). \quad (1.79)$$

We call $z = 0$ the branch point $f(z)$ with order 1, since the function return to its original value after 2 loops (which is the minimum number of loops).

Further, infinity is also a second order branch point for $f(z) = z^{1/2}$, as $\xi = 0$ is a branch point of $f(\xi) = \xi^{-1/2}$, by the same argument as above.

Now consider the logarithm of a complex vector

$$f(z) = \ln z = \ln r + i\theta. \quad (1.80)$$

With the same arguments as above, $z = 0$ and ∞ are branch points of the function. They have ∞ order, since the function would not return to its original value no matter how many loops one transverse. In general, the function $\ln(G(z))$ has branch points at $G(z) = 0$ or ∞ with ∞ order.

Branch Cuts

In order that $f(z)$ may be treated as single-valued, recovering the traditional notion of a function, we may define a branch cut, which is a curve in the complex plane that serves as an artificial barrier that we must not cross, preventing one from making a complete circuit around any branch point.

For the both of the functions above $f(z) = z^{1/2}$ or $\ln z$, the branch cut can be any curve starting at the origin $z = 0$ and extending out to $|z| = \infty$ in any direction, restricting θ to lie in the range $0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$.

Principal Branch

A branch is a single-valued choice of the multi-valued function on the complex plane with the branch cut. The principal branch is the standard and most commonly used branch. For both the functions $f(z) = z^{1/2}$ and $f(z) = \ln z$, the principal branch is obtained by cutting along the negative x -axis, and taking the argument as $\arg(z) \in (-\pi, \pi)$.

Riemann Surfaces

Alternatively we can also introduce a Riemann surface. For examples, the Riemann surface of $f(z) = z^{1/2}$ is shown in fig. 1.1b and that of $f(z) = \ln z$ is shown in fig. 1.1a.

For the complex logarithm, we cut the complex plane along $x > 0$ and glue the $y > 0$ edge of one copy to the $y < 0$ edge of another copy. On the first sheet we have $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$, and on the second sheet we have $2\pi \leq \theta \leq 4\pi$ etc.

For the square root function, we start off the same way but after that we take the $y < 0$ edge of the second copy and glue it back onto the $y > 0$ edge of the first one. For the general $f(z) = z^{1/n}$, we stack n copies of the complex plane before wrapping the last one onto the first one.

Example: Branch Points, Branch Cuts and Riemann Surfaces (1).

Question: Find the location and order of the branch points of the function

$$f(z) = \sqrt{z^2 + 1}, \quad (1.81)$$

and hence sketch suitable arrangements of branch cuts and describe the Riemann surfaces.

Solution: We begin by writing $f(z)$ as

$$f(z) = \sqrt{z^2 + 1} = \sqrt{(z + i)(z - i)}. \quad (1.82)$$

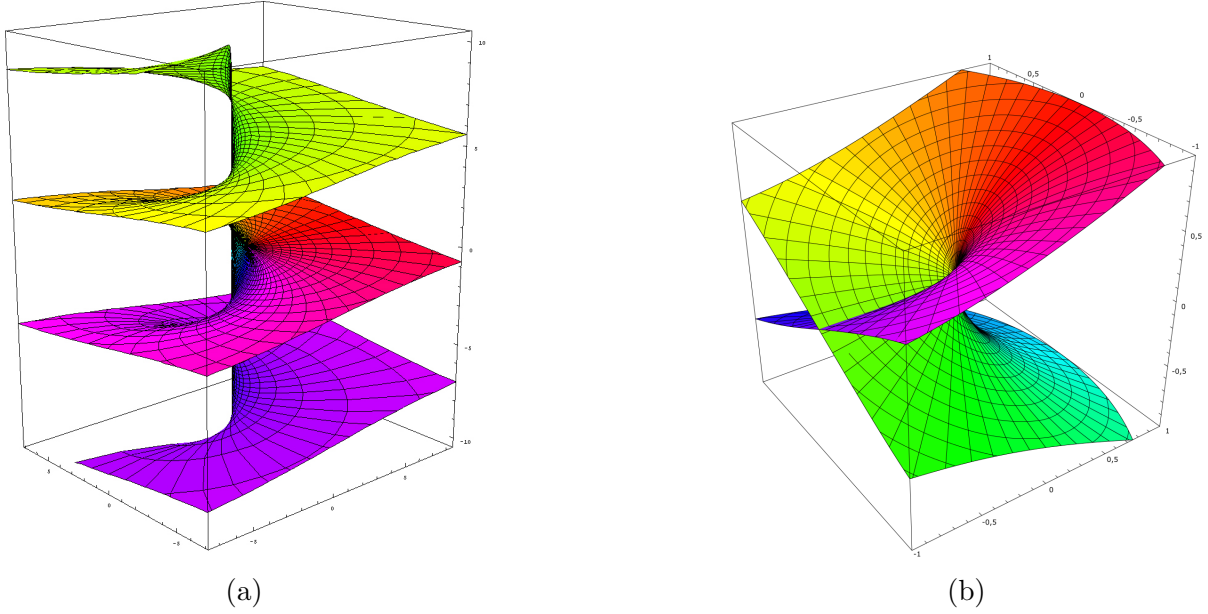


Figure 1.1

We expect $f(z)$ to have branch points at values of z that make the expression under the square root equal to zero, *i.e.*, at $z = i$ and $z = -i$, and they are first order branch points.

If we let

$$z - i = r_1 e^{i\theta_1} \quad \text{and} \quad z + i = r_2 e^{i\theta_2} \implies f(z) = \sqrt{r_1 r_2} e^{i(\theta_1 + \theta_2)/2}, \quad (1.83)$$

then we have the four cases: If C encloses

1. neither branch points, then $\theta_1 \rightarrow \theta_1$ and $\theta_2 \rightarrow \theta_2$ and so $f(z) \rightarrow f(z)$;
2. $z = i$ but not $z = -i$, then $\theta_1 \rightarrow \theta_1 + 2\pi$ and $\theta_2 \rightarrow \theta_2$ and so $f(z) \rightarrow -f(z)$;
3. $z = -i$ but not $z = i$, then $\theta_1 \rightarrow \theta_1$ and $\theta_2 \rightarrow \theta_2 + 2\pi$ and so $f(z) \rightarrow -f(z)$;
4. both branch points, then $\theta_1 \rightarrow \theta_1 + 2\pi$ and $\theta_2 \rightarrow \theta_2 + 2\pi$ and so $f(z) \rightarrow f(z)$.

From this the suitable cuts are shown in fig. 1.2.

The Riemann surface

Note that infinity is not a branch point, since at $z \gg 1$, we have $f(z) \approx z = |z|e^{i\theta}$, which does not flip the sign of $f(z)$ as $\theta \rightarrow \theta + 2\pi$.

Alternatively, we can see this by consider $f(1/\xi) = \sqrt{1 + \xi^2}/\xi$, which does not have $\xi = 0$ as one of its branch points.

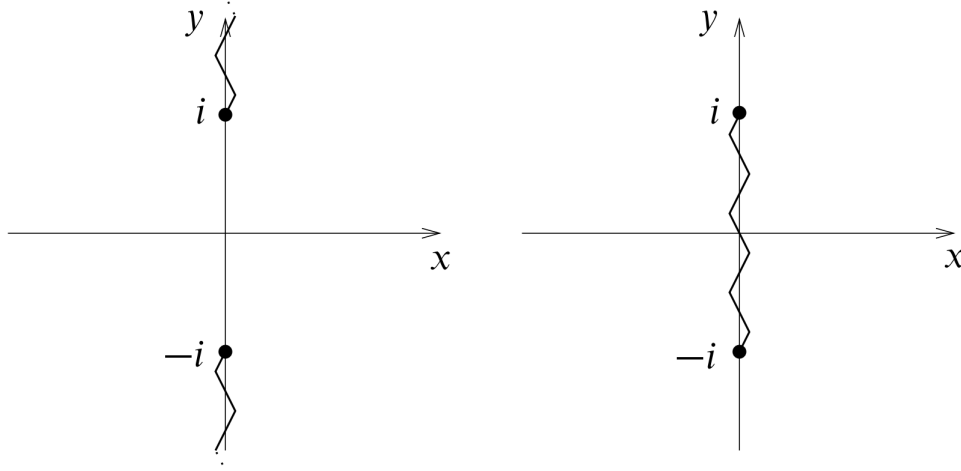


Figure 1.2

Example: Branch Points, Branch Cuts and Riemann Surface (2).

Question: Find the location and order of the branch points of the function

$$w = (z - 1)^{1/3} \quad (1.84)$$

and describe a branch cut.

Describe a Riemann surface for this function and determine the image of each Riemann sheet in the w plane.

Solution: $z = 1$ and ∞ are second order branch points. A branch cut is a ray from $z = 1$ to $z = \infty$.

The Riemann surface consists of three sheets R_0, R_1, R_2 each cut along the chosen branch cut above, where the upper edge cut in R_2 is joined back to the lower edge cut in R_0 .

On sheet k , we have

$$z - 1 = re^{i\theta}, \quad \theta \in (2\pi k, 2\pi(k + 1)), \quad (1.85)$$

so after the mapping we have

$$w = (z - 1)^{1/3} = r^{1/3} e^{i\theta/3} \implies \arg(w) = \theta/3 \in \left(\frac{2\pi k}{3}, \frac{2\pi(k + 1)}{3} \right). \quad (1.86)$$

Therefore R_0 gets mapped to $0 < \arg(w) < 2\pi/3$, R_1 gets mapped to $2\pi/3 < \arg(w) < 4\pi/3$ and R_2 gets mapped to $4\pi/3 < \arg(w) < 2\pi$.

In this way the full Riemann surface z covers the entire w plane exactly once through $w(z)$, making the cube root a single-valued function.

Example: Branch Points and Principal Branch.

Question: Show that the inverse sine function is given by

$$f(z) = \sin^{-1}(z) = -i \ln\left(iz + \sqrt{1 - z^2}\right). \quad (1.87)$$

Give the location and order of the branch points of this function.

Consider the branch of $f(z)$ with the branch cut from -1 to $-\infty$ and from +1 to $+\infty$. Taking the principal branch of the logarithm and the square root, determine the value of $f(z)$ at the point $z = 3$.

Solution: We have

$$z = \sin w = \frac{e^{iw} - e^{-iw}}{2i} \implies e^{iw} = iz \pm \sqrt{1 - z^2} \implies \sin^{-1} z = w = -i \ln\left(iz + \sqrt{1 - z^2}\right). \quad (1.88)$$

Note that we have neglected the \pm sign in the final expression. This is because the \pm sign in fact comes from the multivaluedness of the square root function and by choosing the principal branch we only care about the plus sign.

This is why we say $\sqrt{4} = 2$ but solving $x^2 = 4$ gives $x = \pm 2$. Similarly, by choosing the principal branch the $\sin^{-1}(z)$ function is single-valued, however if we are told to solve the equation $\sin z = a$ we would need to say $z = \sin^{-1}(a) + 2\pi n$ or $\pi - \sin^{-1}(a) + 2\pi n$.

The branch point of this function is $z = \pm 1$ due to the square root, and they are first order. Note that $z = \infty$ is not a branch point of $f(z)$ since $\xi = 0$ is not a branch point of $f(1/\xi)$.

Taking the principal branch we have

$$f(3) = -i \ln\left(3i + 2\sqrt{2}i\right) = -i \ln i - i \ln\left(3 + 2\sqrt{2}\right) = \frac{\pi}{2} - i \ln\left(3 + 2\sqrt{2}\right). \quad (1.89)$$

1.7 Integration

1.7.1 Cauchy's Theorem

Since the complex plane is two-dimensional we can talk about the contour integral

$$\int_C f(z) dz = \int_C (u + iv)(dx + idy) = \int_C (u dx - v dy) + i \int_C (v dx + u dy). \quad (1.90)$$

The Cauchy's theorem states that if $f(z)$ is an analytic function in a region R enclosed by a contour C , then

$$\oint_C f(z) dz = 0. \quad (1.91)$$

This is because using the Stokes' theorem we have

$$\oint_C f(z)dz = \oint_C (udx-vdy)+i \oint_C (vdx+udy) = \int_S \left(-\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}\right) dxdy + i \int_S \left(-\frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}\right) dxdy = 0, \quad (1.92)$$

according to the Cauchy-Riemann conditions.

By the usual argument in vector calculus since the loop integral vanishes the path integral is path independent, *i.e.*,

$$\int_C f(z)dz = \int_{C'} f(z)dz. \quad (1.93)$$

Example: Fourier Transform of the Gaussian.

Question: Evaluate the integral

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{-x^2} \cos(2kx)dx. \quad (1.94)$$

Solution: The integral can be rewritten as a complex integral by

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{-x^2} \cos(2kx)dx = \Re \left(\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{-x^2} e^{-2ikx} dx \right). \quad (1.95)$$

Normally we would take a change of variables $u = x + ik$ and wave our hands into doing the integral on the real line.

To do this formally we consider the contour shown in fig. 1.3. The integral around the contour is zero since the function is analytic, so we have

$$\oint_{\Gamma} e^{-z^2} dz = \int_{-R}^R e^{-x^2} dx + \int_0^k e^{-(R+iy)^2} dy + \int_R^{-R} e^{-(x+ik)^2} dx + \int_k^0 e^{-(-R+iy)^2} dy. \quad (1.96)$$

When $R \rightarrow \infty$ we get rid of the integrals associated to paths ℓ_- and ℓ_+ . Flipping the order of integration in the third integral gives

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{-(x+ik)^2} dx = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{-x^2} dx = \sqrt{\pi}. \quad (1.97)$$

Taking the real part we find the integral desired to be

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{-x^2} \cos(2kx)dx = e^{-k^2} \sqrt{\pi}. \quad (1.98)$$

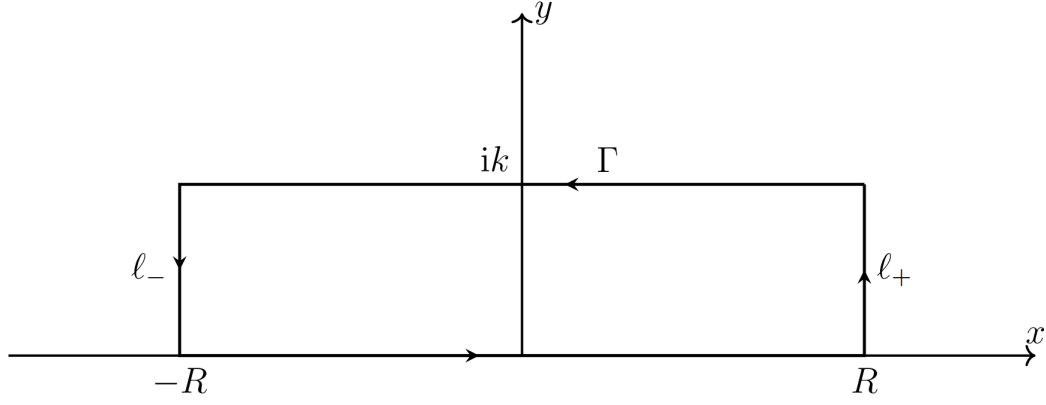


Figure 1.3

Example: Fresnel's Integrals.

Question: Consider the integral of the function $f(z) = e^{iz^2}$ round the closed path Γ in the complex z plane given in fig. 1.4

$$\oint_{\Gamma} e^{iz^2} dz. \quad (1.99)$$

Evaluate this integral for arbitrary $R > 0$.

Consider the third line segment Γ_3 , joining the points $z = Re^{i\pi/4}$ and $z = 0$. Evaluate this integral for $R \rightarrow \infty$.

Consider the second line segment Γ_2 , along the circular arc between the points $z = R$ and $z = Re^{i\pi/4}$. Show that this integral vanishes for $R \rightarrow \infty$.

Use the results to compute the Fresnel's integrals

$$\int_0^\infty \cos(x^2) dx \quad \text{and} \quad \int_0^\infty \sin(x^2) dx. \quad (1.100)$$

Solution: Since $f(z)$ is entire, *i.e.*, analytic everywhere, so from Cauchy's Theorem we have

$$\oint_{\Gamma} e^{iz^2} = 0. \quad (1.101)$$

We parameterize Γ_3 by $z = re^{i\pi/4}$, then the integral becomes

$$\int_{\Gamma_3} e^{iz^2} dz = \int_0^R e^{ir^2 e^{i\pi/2}} (e^{i\pi/4} dr) = e^{i\pi/4} \int_0^\infty e^{-r^2} dr = e^{i\pi/4} \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}. \quad (1.102)$$

We parameterize Γ_2 by $z = Re^{i\theta}$, then

$$\left| e^{iz^2} \right| = \left| e^{iR^2(\cos 2\theta + i \sin 2\theta)} \right| = e^{-R^2 \sin 2\theta} \implies \max(|f(z)|) = e^{-R^2}. \quad (1.103)$$

Using the ML inequality we have

$$\left| \int_{\Gamma_2} e^{iz^2} dz \right| \leq (\max(|f(z)|))(\text{length of } \Gamma_2) = e^{-R^2} \left(\frac{\pi R}{4} \right). \quad (1.104)$$

As $R \rightarrow \infty$, we get the integral to be zero as desired since the exponential term e^{-R^2} grows faster than the counteracting R .

From above we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} \oint_{\Gamma} e^{iz^2} dz &= \int_{\Gamma_1} e^{iz^2} dz + \int_{\Gamma_2} e^{iz^2} dz + \int_{\Gamma_3} e^{iz^2} dz = 0 \\ \int_0^{\infty} e^{ix^2} dx &= e^{i\pi/4} \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}. \end{aligned} \quad (1.105)$$

Taking the real and imaginary part we have

$$\int_0^{\infty} \cos(x^2) dx = \frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{4} = \int_0^{\infty} \sin(x^2) dx. \quad (1.106)$$

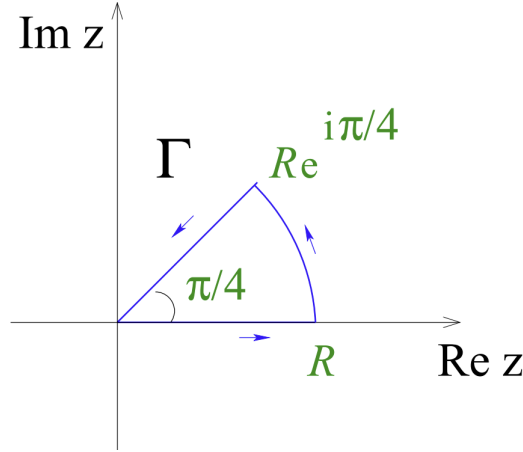


Figure 1.4

1.7.2 Cauchy's Integral Formula

In the previous subsection we consider the loop integral of $f(z)$ alone (eq. (1.91)). Now consider the integral of $f(z)/(z - a)$ around a circle centered at a with radius R

Poisson's
integral
formula

$$\oint_C \frac{f(z)}{z - a} dz = \oint_C \frac{f(a + Re^{i\theta})}{Re^{i\theta}} iRe^{i\theta} d\theta = i \oint_C f(a + Re^{i\theta}) d\theta, \quad (1.107)$$

which is analytic everywhere in the contour C except at $z = a$.

By the reasoning from the previous section R can take any value we want. Taking the limit as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ yields

$$f(a) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint_C f(a + Re^{i\theta}) d\theta = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_C \frac{f(z)}{z - a} dz. \quad (1.108)$$

The former equality is known as the Gaussian mean-value theorem and the latter is known as the Cauchy's integral formula. The first theorem states that the average of an analytic function over a circle is equals to its value at the center. The later formula states that we can know the value of any point of a function as long as we have know the value of the function at the contour, which is any circle centered at the point at interest.

Since the real part of any analytic function is harmonic, taking the real part of the Gaussian mean-value theorem we have that the average of any harmonic function over a circle is equals to its value at the center, coinciding with our understanding of the solution to the Laplace's equation.

Further we can determine the value of any derivative of f from

$$f^{(n)}(a) = \frac{n!}{2\pi i} \oint_C \frac{f(z)}{(z-a)^{n+1}} dz. \quad (1.109)$$

The taylor expansion around a is therefore

$$\begin{aligned} f(a + \epsilon) &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_C \frac{f(z)}{z - a - \epsilon} dz = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_C \frac{f(z)}{(z-a)(1 - \frac{\epsilon}{z-a})} dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_C \frac{f(z)}{z-a} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\epsilon^n}{(z-a)^n} dz = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!} \epsilon^n. \end{aligned} \quad (1.110)$$

Example: Liouville's Theorem

Question: Show that every bounded entire function must be constant.

Solution: From the Cauchy's formula we have

$$f'(z_0) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{\gamma_R} \frac{f(z)}{(z-a)^2} dz, \quad (1.111)$$

where γ_R is a circle centered at $z = a$ with radius R .

Applying the ML inequality we have

$$|f'(z_0)| \leq (\max(|f(z)|))(\text{length of } \gamma_R) = \frac{1}{2\pi} MR^{-2}(2\pi R) = \frac{M}{R}. \quad (1.112)$$

As $R \rightarrow \infty$, $f'(z_0) \rightarrow 0$, therefore $f(z) = 0$ since z_0 is arbitrary.

Example: Gaussian Mean-Value Theorem.

Question: Evaluate the follwoing integrals

$$I_1 = \int_0^{2\pi} \cos(\cos \theta) \cosh(\sin \theta) d\theta \quad \text{and} \quad I_2 = \int_0^{2\pi} \sin(\cos \theta) \sinh(\sin \theta) d\theta. \quad (1.113)$$

Solution: First we notice that

$$I_1 + iI_2 = \int_0^{2\pi} \cos(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta) d\theta = \int_0^{2\pi} \cos(e^{i\theta}) d\theta. \quad (1.114)$$

To evaluate the last integral we have

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \cos(e^{i\theta}) d\theta = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{2\pi} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{i^n e^{in\theta} + (-i)^n e^{in\theta}}{n!} = \frac{1}{2} (1+1)(2\pi) = 2\pi, \quad (1.115)$$

where we have used the well known

$$\int_0^{2\pi} e^{in\theta} = 2\pi \delta_{n,0}. \quad (1.116)$$

Taking the real and imaginary part we conclude that $I_1 = 2\pi$ and $I_2 = 0$.

Alternatively, we can evaluate the integral directly using the Gaussian mean-value theorem

$$\cos(0) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_C \frac{\cos z}{z} dz = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \cos(e^{i\theta}) d\theta = 1, \quad (1.117)$$

and get the same result from here on out.

1.7.3 Laurent Expansion

Taylor expansion still works in the complex plane and we can expand the function about any point, but it would only converge inside the circular disc with radius smaller than the radius of convergence (the distance from the point of expansion to the nearest pole). Outside this disc we would need the Laurent expansion.

For a function $f(z)$ which has a pole of order p at $z = a$, we know from eq. (1.66) that $(z - a)^p f(z)$ is analytic at $z = a$ and we can Taylor expand around this pole to get

$$(z - a)^p f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n (z - a)^n \implies f(z) = \sum_{n=-p}^{\infty} a_n (z - a)^n. \quad (1.118)$$

This expansion which contains negative power of $z - a$ is called the Laurent expansion. This part of the series which only contains negative power of $z - a$ is called the principal part. We also note that the residue of the function is given by the coefficient $\text{Res}(f, a) = a_{-1}$.

Example: Laurent Expansion about a Pole.

Question: Find the Laurent expansion of the function

$$f(z) = \frac{(z+1)^2}{(z-1)^2} \quad (1.119)$$

about the pole $z = 1$.

Solution: To obtain the Laurent expansion about the pole at $z = 1$ we rewrite the function $f(z)$ in terms of the variable $z - 1$

$$f(z) = \frac{(z+1)^2}{(z-1)^2} = \frac{(z-1+2)^2}{(z-1)^2} = \frac{(z-1)^2 + 2(z-1)(2) + 2^2}{(z-1)^2} = \frac{4}{(z-1)^2} + \frac{4}{z-1} + 1. \quad (1.120)$$

Example: Laurent Expansion about the Origin.

Question: Find the Laurent expansion for the function

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{(z+1)(z+3)} \quad (1.121)$$

1. about the origin in the disk $|z| < 1$;
2. about the origin in the annulus $1 < |z| < 3$;
3. about the origin in the region $|z| > 3$;
4. about the pole $z = -1$ and give its region of convergence.

Solution: First it is easiest to begin with the partial fraction decomposition

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{(z+1)(z+3)} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{z+1} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{z+3}. \quad (1.122)$$

1. For $|z| < 1$, the Laurent series is the usual Taylor series

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n z^n - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{z^n}{3^{n+1}} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n (1 - 3^{-(n+1)}) z^n. \quad (1.123)$$

2. For $1 < |z| < 3$, the Laurent series is found by expanding the first fraction in negative powers and the second fraction as usual

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{2z} \frac{1}{1+1/z} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{z+3} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n z^{-(n+1)} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{z^n}{3^{n+1}}. \quad (1.124)$$

3. For $|z| > 3$, we expand both fractions in negative powers

$$\begin{aligned} f(z) &= \frac{1}{2z} \frac{1}{1+1/z} - \frac{1}{2z} \frac{1}{1+3/z} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n z^{-(n+1)} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n 3^n z^{-(n+1)} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n (1 - 3^n) z^{-(n+1)}. \end{aligned} \quad (1.125)$$

4. About the pole $z = -1$ we let $w = z + 1$ and get

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{w(w+2)} = \frac{1}{2w} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \left(\frac{w}{2}\right)^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{(z+1)^{n-1}}{2^{n+1}}. \quad (1.126)$$

The radius of convergence is $0 < |z + 1| < 2$.

Example: Laurent Expansion about an Essential Singularity.

Question: Determine the Laurent Expansion of the function

$$f(z) = (z - 3) \sin\left(\frac{1}{z + 2}\right) \quad (1.127)$$

about the point $z = -2$.

Solution: We let $w = z + 2$ and rewrite the function as

$$\begin{aligned} f(z) &= (w - 5) \sin\left(\frac{1}{w}\right) = (w - 5) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1}{(2n+1)!} w^{-(2n+1)} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{(z+2)^{-2n} - 5(z+2)^{-(2n+1)}}{(2n+1)!}. \end{aligned} \quad (1.128)$$

As we see there can be a Laurent expansion about an essential singularity, but not for non-isolated singularity.

1.7.4 Cauchy's Residue Theorem

Consider the following integral

$$\oint_C (z - a)^n dz, \quad (1.129)$$

where C is a circle centered at $z = a$ with an infinitesimal radius $z = a + \epsilon e^{i\theta}$. We then have

$$\oint_C (z - a)^n dz = i \int_0^{2\pi} \epsilon^{n+1} e^{i(n+1)\theta} d\theta = \begin{cases} 0, & n \neq -1, \\ 2\pi i, & n = -1. \end{cases} \quad (1.130)$$

We can now use this fact to calculate such integral for an $f(z)$ which has a Laurent expansion

$$\oint_C f(z) dz = \sum_{n=-p}^{\infty} a_n \oint_C (z - a)^n dz = 2\pi i a_{-1}. \quad (1.131)$$

In other words, the contour integral for a function $f(z)$ around a loop that contains a pole is simply given by the residue of the pole (upto a factor of $2\pi i$). This is known as the Cauchy Residue Theorem.

If the contour encloses N poles at $z = w_k$ then we have the general

$$\oint_C f(z)dz = 2\pi i \sum_{k=1}^N \text{Res}(f, w_k). \quad (1.132)$$

Example: Cauchy's Residue Theorem(1).

Question: Evaluate the integral

$$\oint_C \frac{z+1}{z(z^2+1)}dz, \quad (1.133)$$

where C is the circle centered at $z = 0$ with radius 2.

Solution: We see that the integrand has 3 poles at $z_0 = 0$ and $\pm i$. To find the residues of each of these poles we use partial fraction to rewrite the integrand as

$$\frac{z+1}{z(z^2+1)} = \frac{1}{2}(z+1) \left(\frac{2}{z} - \frac{1}{z+i} - \frac{1}{z-i} \right) \quad (1.134)$$

and directly read off the residues using eq. (1.66) as 1 , $-(1+i)/2$ and $-(1-i)/2$, respectively.

Alternatively, we can find the residues in a more general way by considering the Laurent expansion at each poles. For example, for $z = 0$ we have

$$\frac{z+1}{z(z^2+1)} = \quad (1.135)$$

Applying the Cauchy's residue theorem we have that

$$\oint_C \frac{z+1}{z(z^2+1)}dz = 2\pi i \left(1 - \frac{1+i}{2} - \frac{1-i}{2} \right) = 0. \quad (1.136)$$

1.7.5 Integrations Around Branch Cuts.

In the previous subsection we have seen how to integrate around a pole using the Cauchy's residue theorem. In this subsection we will try and integrate around branch cuts, where the function fails to be analytic.

Consider

1.8 Temporary

The stereographic projection is when we map each point on a sphere with radius 1 centered at $(0, 0, 1)$ onto a complex number, where the a line strating from the north pole at $(0, 0, 2)$ and ending at complex number intersect the sphere exactly once. By this mapping any point at infinity on the plane will be identified with the north pole. The sphere is called the Riemann sphere and is shown in fig. 1.5.

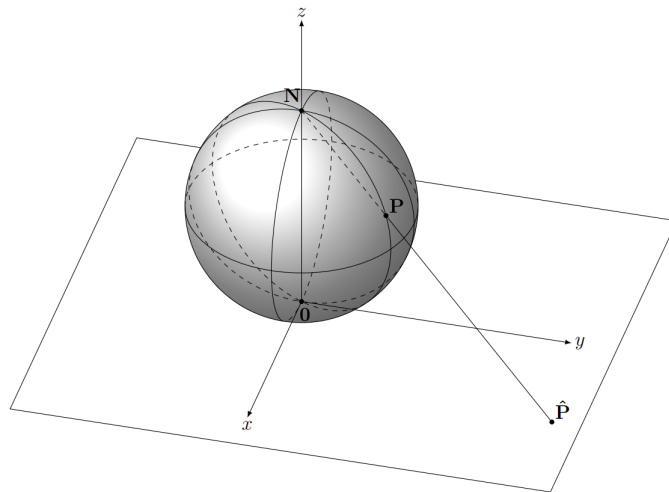


Figure 1.5

If (x, y, z) are the coordinates on the sphere and (X, Y) are coordinates on the plane we have the mapping

$$(X, Y) = \left(\frac{2x}{2-z}, \frac{2y}{2-z} \right) \quad \text{and} \quad (x, y, z) = \left(\frac{4X}{4+X^2+Y^2}, \frac{4Y}{4+X^2+Y^2}, \frac{2(X^2+Y^2)}{4+X^2+Y^2} \right). \quad (1.137)$$

Fourier Series and Integral Transforms

2.1 Fourier Series

The Fourier series expansion of the function $f(x)$ with period L is conventionally written as

$$f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \left(a_r \cos\left(\frac{2\pi r x}{L}\right) + b_r \sin\left(\frac{2\pi r x}{L}\right) \right). \quad (2.1)$$

All the terms of a Fourier series are mutually orthogonal, *i.e.*,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{x_0}^{x_0+L} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi r x}{L}\right) \cos\left(\frac{2\pi p x}{L}\right) dx &= 0 \quad \text{for all } r \text{ and } p, \\ \int_{x_0}^{x_0+L} \cos\left(\frac{2\pi r x}{L}\right) \cos\left(\frac{2\pi p x}{L}\right) dx &= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } r = p = 0, \\ \frac{L}{2} & \text{for } r = p > 0, \\ 0 & \text{for } r \neq p, \end{cases} \\ \int_{x_0}^{x_0+L} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi r x}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi p x}{L}\right) dx &= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } r = p = 0, \\ \frac{L}{2} & \text{for } r = p > 0, \\ 0 & \text{for } r \neq p. \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

Thus, the Fourier coefficient of a certain cosine or sine function with a particular r can be found by multiplying $f(x)$ same cosine and sine function and then integrate, which would yield the result $a_r L/2$ or $b_r L/2$. Thus the Fourier coefficients are given by

$$a_r = \frac{2}{L} \int_{x_0}^{x_0+L} f(x) \cos\left(\frac{2\pi r x}{L}\right) dx \quad \text{and} \quad b_r = \frac{2}{L} \int_{x_0}^{x_0+L} f(x) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi r x}{L}\right) dx. \quad (2.3)$$

Any arbitrary function $f(x)$ can be decomposed into the sum of an even and an odd function, since

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2}(f(x) + f(-x)) + \frac{1}{2}(f(x) - f(-x)) = f_{\text{odd}}(x) + f_{\text{even}}(x). \quad (2.4)$$

Comparing the above equation with the Fourier expansion of $f(x)$, we see that all the cosines terms sum up to $f_{\text{even}}(x)$ and all the sines terms sum up to $f_{\text{odd}}(x)$.

Therefore, if the function $f(x)$ is even, the all the coefficients of the sines terms are zero and vice versa.

For a function $f(x)$ that is symmetric (even or odd) about $L/4$, *i.e.*, $f(L/4-x) = \pm f(x-L/4)$, we make the substitution $s = x - L/4$ and we have

$$\begin{aligned} b_r &= \frac{2}{L} \int_{x_0}^{x_0+L} f(s) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi rs}{L} + \frac{\pi r}{2}\right) ds \\ &= \frac{2}{L} \int_{x_0}^{x_0+L} f(s) \left(\sin\left(\frac{2\pi rs}{L}\right) \cos\left(\frac{\pi r}{2}\right) + \cos\left(\frac{2\pi rs}{L}\right) \sin\left(\frac{\pi r}{2}\right) \right) ds. \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

If r is even then the second term in the integrand vanishes. The integral becomes the normal Fourier coefficient, but the dummy variable is now s instead of x . If $f(s)$ is also even, then we can conclude that the integral is zero, as for all even function the fourier coefficient $b_r = 0$. By similar means, we can conclude that

1. If $f(x)$ is even about $\frac{L}{4}$ then $a_{2r+1} = 0$ and $b_{2r} = 0$.
2. If $f(x)$ is odd about $\frac{L}{4}$ then $a_{2r} = 0$ and $b_{2r+1} = 0$.

For non-periodic function in a finite range we can simply extend the function to make it periodic. However, if the periodic function has discontinuity then the value obtained from the Fourier series will converge to a value halfway between the upper and lower values.

Leveraging the Euler's identity $e^{irx} = \cos(rx) + i \sin(rx)$, the Fourier series can be written in a more compact form

$$f(x) = \sum_{r=-\infty}^{+\infty} c_r e^{\left(\frac{2\pi i r x}{L}\right)} dx, \quad (2.6)$$

where the coefficients are

$$c_r = \frac{1}{L} \int_{x_0}^{x_0+L} f(x) e^{\left(-\frac{2\pi i r x}{L}\right)} dx, \quad (2.7)$$

since

$$\int_{x_0}^{x_0+L} e^{\left(-\frac{2\pi i p x}{L}\right)} e^{\left(\frac{2\pi i r x}{L}\right)} dx = \begin{cases} L & \text{for } r = p, \\ 0 & \text{for } r \neq p. \end{cases} \quad (2.8)$$

To relate a_r, b_r and c_r , we have

$$c_r = \frac{1}{2}(a_r - ib_r) \text{ and } c_{-r} = \frac{1}{2}(a_r + ib_r). \quad (2.9)$$

If $f(x)$ is real then $c_{-r} = c_r^*$.

Parseval's theorem states that

$$\frac{1}{L} \int_{x_0}^{x_0+L} |f(x)|^2 dx = \sum_{r=-\infty}^{+\infty} |c_r|^2 = \left(\frac{a_0}{2}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} (a_r^2 + b_r^2). \quad (2.10)$$

To prove this theorem, consider two functions $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ with Fourier series

$$f(x) = \sum_{r=-\infty}^{+\infty} c_r e^{\left(\frac{2\pi i r x}{L}\right)} \quad \text{and} \quad g(x) = \sum_{p=-\infty}^{+\infty} d_p e^{\left(\frac{2\pi i p x}{L}\right)}. \quad (2.11)$$

Now consider

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{L} \int_{x_0}^{x_0+L} f(x) g^*(x) dx &= \sum_{r=-\infty}^{+\infty} c_r \frac{1}{L} \int_{x_0}^{x_0+L} g^*(x) e^{\frac{2\pi i r x}{L}} dx \\ &= \sum_{r=-\infty}^{+\infty} c_r \left(\frac{1}{L} \int_{x_0}^{x_0+L} g(x) e^{\left(\frac{-2\pi i r x}{L}\right)} dx \right)^* = \sum_{r=-\infty}^{+\infty} c_r \gamma_r^*. \end{aligned} \quad (2.12)$$

2.2 Fourier Transforms

Replacing the general variable x with time t , we can express any time-varying function with period T as

$$f(t) = \sum_{r=-\infty}^{+\infty} c_r e^{\left(\frac{2\pi i r t}{T}\right)} = \sum_{r=-\infty}^{+\infty} c_r e^{i\omega_r t}, \quad c_r = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-\frac{T}{2}}^{\frac{T}{2}} f(t) e^{-\frac{2\pi i r t}{T}} dt = \frac{\Delta\omega}{2\pi} \int_{-\frac{T}{2}}^{\frac{T}{2}} f(t) e^{-i\omega_r t} dt, \quad (2.13)$$

where we have defined

$$\omega_r \equiv \frac{2\pi r}{T} \implies \Delta\omega = \frac{2\pi}{T}. \quad (2.14)$$

For function with no periodicity, we have $T \rightarrow \infty$ and $\Delta\omega = 2\pi/T \rightarrow 0$. Thus we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(t) &= \sum_{r=-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\Delta\omega}{2\pi} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) e^{-i\omega_r t} dt \right) e^{i\omega_r t} \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{i\omega t} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) e^{-i\omega t} dt \right) d\omega \end{aligned} \quad (2.15)$$

The integral in the bracket (times $1/\sqrt{2\pi}$) is defined to be the Fourier transform of $f(t)$, denoted by

$$\tilde{f}(\omega) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(t) e^{-i\omega t} dt. \quad (2.16)$$

The whole integral is the inverse Fourier transform, denoted by

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \tilde{f}(\omega) e^{i\omega t} d\omega. \quad (2.17)$$

Example: The Uncertainty Principle

Question: Find the Fourier transform of the normalized Gaussian distribution

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{\tau\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{t^2}{2\tau^2}}. \quad (2.18)$$

Solution: The Fourier transform of $f(t)$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{f}(\omega) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{\tau\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{t^2}{2\tau^2}} e^{-i\omega t} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{-\frac{1}{2\tau^2}(t^2 + 2\tau^2 i\omega t + (\tau^2 i\omega)^2 - (\tau^2 i\omega)^2)} dt \\ &= \frac{e^{-\frac{\tau^2 \omega^2}{2}}}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{-\frac{(t - i\tau^2 \omega)^2}{2\tau^2}} dt = \frac{e^{-\frac{\tau^2 \omega^2}{2}}}{2\pi}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.19)$$

which is another Gaussian distribution with a root mean square deviation of $\frac{1}{\tau}$. Thus the standard deviation in t and τ is inversely related, *i.e.*, $\sigma_t \sigma_\omega = 1$, independent of the value of τ .

In quantum mechanics, $f(t)$ or $f(x)$ represents a wave function evolving in time or space and the probability of finding the particle at position x at time t is given by $|f(x)|^2$ or $|f(t)|^2$, which is also a Gaussian but with the standard deviation multiplied by a factor of $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$.

Similarly, the probability distribution in terms of frequency and wave vector is given by $|f(\omega)|^2$ or $|f(k)|^2$.

Therefore, since $p = \hbar k$ and $E = \hbar \omega$, we have

$$\Delta E \Delta t = \frac{\hbar}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta p \Delta x = \frac{\hbar}{2}. \quad (2.20)$$

3.1 Standard Deviation

For a set of data which contains of N distinct values $j_1, j_2, \dots, j_i, \dots, j_N$ and each with frequency $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_i, \dots, f_N$, we can define $P_i = f_i / \sum_{i=1}^N f_i$ as the probability of selecting the data j_i , then the average value of any function $g(j)$ can be written as

$$\langle g(j) \rangle = \frac{f_1 g(j_1) + f_2 g(j_2) + \dots + f_N g(j_N)}{f_1 + f_2 + \dots + f_N} = \sum_{i=1}^N P_i g(j_i). \quad (3.1)$$

To measure the dispersion of the set of data, the most intuitive way is to calculate the average of difference between each data and the mean

$$\sigma' = \frac{f_1(j_1 - \langle j \rangle) + f_2(j_2 - \langle j \rangle) + \dots + f_N(j_N - \langle j \rangle)}{f_1 + f_2 + \dots + f_N}. \quad (3.2)$$

However, σ' always equals to zero since $\sum_{i=1}^N f_i j_i = \langle j \rangle \sum_{i=1}^N f_i$. So, either we take the absolute value of each term or we square each term in eq. (3.2) such that the result is non trivial. We adopt the latter choice since the former is tedious. We introduce the quantity standard deviation σ defined by

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{f_1(j_1 - \langle j \rangle)^2 + f_2(j_2 - \langle j \rangle)^2 + \dots + f_N(j_N - \langle j \rangle)^2}{f_1 + f_2 + \dots + f_N} = \sum_{i=1}^N P_i (j_i - \langle j \rangle)^2. \quad (3.3)$$

Note that σ in eq. (3.3) is squared so that the standard deviation has the same dimension as j .

By expanding the bracket in eq. (3.3) and applying eq. (3.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\sigma^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^N P_i (j_i^2 - 2j_i \langle j \rangle + \langle j \rangle^2) \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^N (j_i^2 P_i - 2\langle j \rangle \sum_{i=1}^N j_i P_i + \langle j \rangle^2 \sum_{i=1}^N P_i) \\
&= \langle j^2 \rangle - 2\langle j \rangle \langle j \rangle + \langle j \rangle^2 = \langle j^2 \rangle - \langle j \rangle^2.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.4}$$

Therefore, we have the useful identity

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\langle j^2 \rangle - \langle j \rangle^2}. \tag{3.5}$$

3.2 Probability Density Function

When we consider continuous variable, the probability of obtaining a certain value becomes meaningless now as there are infinite choices now so we define the probability density function $\rho(x)$ such that the probability of obtaining a value between x and $x + dx$ equals to $\rho(x)dx$ (its discrete counterpart being P_i). Therefore, just like the previous section, we have the relations

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \rho(x)dx = 1 \text{ and } \langle f(x) \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(x)\rho(x)dx. \tag{3.6}$$

Example: Free Falling of an Object.

Question: Consider an object being released at height h . Find the average distance $\langle x \rangle$ from the point of release if a random instant is chosen.

Solution: Let $\rho(x)dx$ be the probability of a random instant being located between x and $x + dx$ which is equals to $\frac{dt}{T}$. Since $v = \frac{dx}{dt} = gt$ and $T = \sqrt{\frac{2h}{g}}$, so we have $\rho(x) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{hx}} \cdot \langle x \rangle$ can then be obtained from straightforward integration

$$\langle x \rangle = \int_0^h \frac{x}{2\sqrt{hx}} dx = \frac{h}{3}. \tag{3.7}$$

We can define a joint probability distribution $\rho_{x,y}(x,y)$, where $\rho_{x,y}(x,y)dx dy$ is the probability for the variable x to obtain a value between x and $x + dx$, and for the variable y to obtain a value between y and $y + dy$.

The marginal distribution $\rho_x(x)$ regardless of the value of y is obtained by integrating the joint probability density function over all allowed values of y to get $\rho_x(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \rho_{x,y}(x,y)dy$.

The conditional distribution $\rho_x(x)$ given $y = y_0$ is obtained by $\rho_x(x) = \frac{\rho_{x,y}(x,y_0)}{\rho_y(y_0)}$, where the denominator serving a renormalization purpose.

Example: Joint Probability Density Function.

Question: Alice and Bob agree to meet for lunch at some time between noon and 1 pm. They are both willing to wait up to 10 min for the other to arrive, but will leave otherwise. Find the probability that they meet for lunch, if

1. their arrival times are independent and uniformly distributed, or
2. their arrival times are independent, but while Alice's probability of arrival is uniform, Bob is quadractically more likely to arrive later in the hour.

Solution:

1. For the first case, we have $\rho_x = \rho_y = C$. Normalizing gives $C = \frac{1}{60\text{mins}}$. So the joint probability density function is $\rho_{x,y} = \frac{1}{3600\text{mins}}$. We then have to integrate the joint probability density function over the region in which $|y - x| \leq 10$

$$P(|y - x| \leq 10) = \int_{|y-x| \leq 10} \rho_{x,y} dx dy, \quad (3.8)$$

which is the area of the region bounded by the x, y axes, the vertical and horizontal $y = 60$ and $x = 60$, respectively, and the lines $y = x + 10$ and $y = x - 10$, divided by 3600. So we get $P(|y - x| \leq 10) = 1100/3600 \approx 31\%$.

2. In the second case, for Alice we still have $\rho_x = \frac{1}{60\text{mins}}$, for Bob we have $\rho_y = Cy^2$, where upon normalization $C = \frac{3}{60^3\text{mins}}$. The joint probability density function is therefore $\rho_{x,y} = 3y^2/60^2$. Carrying out the double integral over the same region, we get $P(|y - x| \leq 10) = 767/2592 \approx 30\%$.

Example: Relations Between Variables.

Question: X has the probability distribution function

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{2}e^{-|x|}. \quad (3.9)$$

Find the culmulative distribution function and probability distribution function for $Y = X^2$, i.e., $F_Y(y)$ and $f_Y(y)$.

Solution: For the culmulative distribution function, since $Y \geq 0$, $P(Y \leq 0) = 0$, so $F_Y(y) = 0$ for $y \leq 0$. For $y \geq 0$,

$$F_Y(y) = P(Y \leq y) = P(-\sqrt{y} \leq X \leq \sqrt{y}) = \int_{-\sqrt{y}}^{\sqrt{y}} \frac{1}{2}e^{-|x|} dx = 1 - e^{-\sqrt{y}}. \quad (3.10)$$

For the probability distribution function, we simply take the derivative

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{d}{dy}(1 - e^{-\sqrt{y}}) = \frac{e^{-\sqrt{y}}}{2\sqrt{y}}. \quad (3.11)$$

This is for $y \geq 0$, and for $y \leq 0$ it is still zero.

Example: Marginal Probability Density Functions.

Question: A two dimensional joint probability density function is given by

$$f_{XY}(x, y) = \begin{cases} 6xy, & 0 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq y \leq \sqrt{x}, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (3.12)$$

Find the marginal probability density functions, $f_X(x)$ and $f_Y(y)$.

Solution: The marginal probability density functions are

$$f_X(x) = \int_0^{\sqrt{x}} 6xy dy = 3x^2 \quad \text{and} \quad f_Y(y) = \int_{y^2}^1 6xy dx = 3y(1 - y^4). \quad (3.13)$$

Note that to find $f_X(x)$, we are focusing on a particular value of x , and we sum up all the $6xy \times dy$. The same holds for $f_Y(y)$.