

$f(z) = z^{t-1}e^{-z}$  (The origin is a branch-point). Take  $0 < t < 1$ ,  $z = Re^{i\theta}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left| \int_{\gamma_2} f \right| &= \left| \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} R^{t-1} e^{i(t-1)\phi} e^{-R \cos \theta} e^{-R \sin \theta} i R e^{i\theta} d\theta \right| \\
 &\leq R^t \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} e^{-R \cos \theta} d\theta \quad (\phi := \frac{\pi}{2} - \theta) \\
 &= R^t \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} e^{-R \sin \phi} d\phi \leq R^t \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} e^{-2R \frac{\phi}{\pi}} d\phi \quad (\text{Lemma}) \\
 &= R^t \frac{\pi}{2R} (1 - e^{-R}) \leq \frac{\pi}{2R^{1-t}} \rightarrow 0 \quad (R \rightarrow \infty).
 \end{aligned}$$

On  $\gamma_4$ ,  $e^{-z} = e^{-re^{i\theta}} \sim 1$  ( $r \rightarrow 0$ ). So by ML,

$$\left| \int_{\gamma_4} f \right| \leq O(r^{t-1}) \cdot O(r) = O(r^t) \rightarrow 0 \quad (r \rightarrow 0) \quad (t > 0).$$

Now  $\int_{\gamma_1} f \rightarrow \int_0^\infty x^{t-1} e^{-x} dx = \Gamma(t)$ , and on  $\gamma_3$ ,  $z = iy = e^{i\pi/2}y$ , so

$$\int_{\gamma_3} f \rightarrow - \int_0^\infty (iy)^{t-1} e^{-iy} i dy = -e^{it\pi/2} \int_0^\infty y^{t-1} (\cos y - i \sin y) dy.$$

Cauchy's Theorem:  $\int_\gamma f = 0$ . So as  $\int_{\gamma_1} f \rightarrow \Gamma(t)$ ,

$$\Gamma(t) = e^{it\pi/2} \int_0^\infty y^{t-1} (\cos y - i \sin y) dy : \quad \int_0^\infty x^{t-1} (\cos x - i \sin x) dx = e^{-it\pi/2} \Gamma(t).$$

Hence we can take the real and imaginary parts:

$$\int_0^\infty x^{t-1} \cos x dx = \cos \frac{1}{2} \pi t \Gamma(t), \quad \int_0^\infty x^{t-1} \sin x dx = \sin \frac{1}{2} \pi t \Gamma(t).$$

*Mellin Transforms.* If  $f : \mathbf{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ ,  $\tilde{f}(s) := \int_0^\infty x^{s-1} f(x) dx$  is called the Mellin transform of  $f$ .

*Examples.*

$f$	$\tilde{f}$	(where)
$e^{-x}$	$\Gamma(s)$	(definition of $\Gamma$ )
$\cos x$	$\cos \frac{1}{2} \pi s \Gamma(s)$	(above)
$\sin x$	$\sin \frac{1}{2} \pi s \Gamma(s)$	(above)
$1/(1+x)$	$\pi / \sin \pi s = \Gamma(s) \Gamma(1-s)$	(below)
$1/(e^x - 1)$	$\Gamma(s) \zeta(s)$	(below)

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_0^\infty \frac{x^{s-1}}{e^x - 1} dx &= \int_0^\infty x^{s-1} \frac{e^{-x}}{1 - e^{-x}} dx = \int_0^\infty x^{s-1} e^{-x} \sum_{n=0}^\infty e^{-nx} dx = \int_0^\infty x^{s-1} \sum_{n=0}^\infty e^{-(n+1)x} dx \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^\infty \int_0^\infty x^{s-1} e^{-(n+1)x} dx \quad (\text{OK by monotone convergence}) \\
&= \sum_{n=1}^\infty \int_0^\infty x^{s-1} e^{-nx} dx = \sum_{n=1}^\infty \int_0^\infty u^{s-1} e^{-u} du = \zeta(s) \Gamma(s).
\end{aligned}$$

*Note.* Mellin transforms  $\leftrightarrow (\mathbf{R}_+, \times)$  (multiplicative group of positive reals)  
as Fourier/Laplace transforms  $\leftrightarrow (\mathbf{R}, +)$  (additive group of reals.)

## 6. Integrals involving many-valued functions

*Example.*

$$I = \int_0^\infty \frac{x^{a-1}}{1+x} dx = \frac{\pi}{\sin \pi a} \quad (0 < a < 1).$$

Take  $f(z) := z^{a-1}/(1+z)$ ,  $\gamma$  the ‘keyhole’ contour consisting of:  $\gamma_1$ :  $r \leq x \leq R$ ,  $\arg z = 0$ , upper edge of the cut;  $\gamma_2$ : circle, radius  $R$ , +ve sense;  $\gamma_3$ : lower edge of cut, -ve sense;  $\gamma_4$ : circle, radius  $r$ , -ve sense.

$$\int_{\gamma_1} f \rightarrow I \quad (r \rightarrow 0, R \rightarrow \infty).$$

On  $\gamma_2$ :  $1/(1+z) \sim 1/z = O(1/R)$ . By ML, as on  $\gamma_2$   $1/(1+z) = O(1/R)$ ,  $z^{a-1} = O(R^{a-1})$ , and the length  $L(\gamma_2) = O(R)$ ,

$$\left| \int_{\gamma_2} f \right| = O(1/R) \cdot O(R^{a-1}) \cdot O(R) = O(R^{a-1}) \rightarrow 0 \quad (R \rightarrow \infty) \quad (a < 1).$$

On  $\gamma_3$ :  $\arg z = 2\pi$ ,  $z = xe^{2\pi i}$ ,  $z^{a-1} = x^{a-1} \cdot e^{2\pi ai}$ . So

$$\int_{\gamma_3} f \rightarrow \int_\infty^0 \frac{x^{a-1} e^{2\pi ai}}{1+x} dx = -e^{2\pi ai} \int_0^\infty \frac{x^{a-1}}{1+x} dx = -e^{2\pi ai} I.$$

On  $\gamma_4$ :  $f(z) \sim z^{a-1} = O(r^{a-1})$ . By ML,

$$\left| \int_{\gamma_4} f \right| = O(r^{a-1}) \cdot O(r) = O(r^a) \rightarrow 0 \quad (r \rightarrow 0) \quad (a > 0).$$