

Lecture 1

We begin by trying to gain a deeper understanding of the Cauchy-Riemann equations.

Let $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, where $X \subset \mathbb{C}^n$. For now, let's say $X \subset \mathbb{C}$. In real analysis, we have a notion of differentiability for $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$. We can say that f is differentiable at a point $p \in X$ when

$$f(p+h) = f(p) + (df_p)h + \rho(h)$$

Where $(df)_p : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k$ is a linear map $\in \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}^k)$, and $\frac{|\rho(h)|}{|h|} \rightarrow 0$ as $h \rightarrow 0$. So we can think of the “real differential” as a linear map in $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{C}^n, \mathbb{C})$.

Definition 0.1. Let $X \subset \mathbb{C}$, and $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. Differentiability refers to the existence of a $(df)_p \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{C})$.

So, f is complex differentiable at $p \in X$ means that

$$f(p+h) = f(p) + f'(p)h + \rho(h)$$

Where $f'(p)$ is a complex number and $\frac{|\rho(h)|}{|h|} \rightarrow 0$.

If $A \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{C}) \cong \mathbb{C}$, $A(z) = \alpha z$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$.

So $(df)_p \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{C})$.

$\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{C})$ is a \mathbb{C} -vector space of dimension 1.

$\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{C}) \cong \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{R}^2)$ is a \mathbb{C} -vector space of dimension 2.

So where did the extra dimension go? What happened?

Consider an element of $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{C})$ given by $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \mapsto x - iy$.

We also have $\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} \mapsto x + iy$.

From the real analysis point of view, these two functions are equal to their differentials. The first is called $d\bar{z}$, and the second is called dz .

$$dz = dx + idy \text{ and } d\bar{z} = dx - idy$$

$$dx \begin{pmatrix} h_1 \\ h_2 \end{pmatrix} = h_1$$

$$dy \begin{pmatrix} h_1 \\ h_2 \end{pmatrix} = h_2$$

On a complex vector space, suppose $\phi \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{K}}(\mathbb{C}^n, \mathbb{C})$, we have $(\bar{\phi})(v) = \overline{\phi(v)}$. So $\overline{dz} = d\bar{z}$.

Now, \mathbb{C} -valued real differentiable functions are just pairs of \mathbb{R} -valued real differentiable functions.

Example 0.1. If $k, m \in \mathbb{N}$, then $z^k \bar{z}^m : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a real smooth function (when viewed as an element of $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{R}^2)$), with

$$d(z^k \bar{z}^m) = k z^{k-1} \bar{z}^m + m \bar{z}^{m-1} z^k d\bar{z}$$

We will study the differences between $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{C}^n, \mathbb{C})$ versus $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbb{C}^n, \mathbb{C})$, with complex dimensions 2 and 1, respectively.

Definition 0.2. Let V be a real vector space.

A complex structure on V is a $J \in \text{End}_{\mathbb{R}}(V)$ which satisfies $J^2 = -\text{Id}_V$

Proposition 1. Define $V_J = V$ as a set and group, with a \mathbb{C} -action $\mathbb{C} \times V_J \rightarrow V_J$ defined by $((\alpha + i\beta), x) \mapsto \alpha x + \beta Jx$.

Proof. Check $z(wx) = (zw)x$ for all $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$ and $x \in V_J$.

Proposition 2. If a vector space V admits a complex structure J , then $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} V = 2n$. Further, $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} V = 2 \dim_{\mathbb{C}} V_J$.

Proof. First, $\det(J^2) = \det(-\text{id}_V) = (-1)^{\dim_{\mathbb{R}} V}$, so the dimension must be even. Alternatively, if e_1, \dots, e_n is a basis of V_J , then check $e_1, \dots, e_n, Je_1, \dots, Je_n$ is a basis of V over \mathbb{R} .

Example 0.2. For \mathbb{R}^2 , let $J_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$. We see that $J_0 \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -y \\ x \end{pmatrix}$. This is like $i(x + iy) = ix - y$.

So $A : (\mathbb{R}^2)_{J_0} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is an isomorphism of \mathbb{C} -vector spaces.

Let W be a vector space over \mathbb{C} . Consider $W_{\mathbb{R}}$, a real vector space. We see $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} W_{\mathbb{R}} = 2 \dim_{\mathbb{C}} W$. Consider $J : W_{\mathbb{R}} \rightarrow W_{\mathbb{R}}$ given by $x \mapsto ix$. Then $J^2 = -\text{Id}_{W_{\mathbb{R}}}$.

Let V be a real vector space with complex structure J . Consider $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(V, \mathbb{C}) = \mathbb{C} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} V^*$.

$J^t : \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(V, \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(V, \mathbb{C})$, we can express $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(V, \mathbb{C}) \ni \phi = \phi_1 + \phi_2$, and by definition,

$$J^t \phi = \phi \circ J = \phi_1 \circ J + i \phi_2 \circ J$$

So $(J^t)^2 = -1$.

$J^t \in \text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(V, \mathbb{C}))$.

Main observation: $\phi \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(V, \mathbb{C})$ is \mathbb{C} -linear in V_J , meaning $\phi(ix) = i\phi(x)$, which is equivalent to $\phi(Jx) = i\phi(x)$.

In other words, such a ϕ is only \mathbb{C} -linear if ϕ is an eigenfunction of J^t with eigenvalue i .

Definition 0.3. ϕ is \mathbb{C} -antilinear on V_J means

$$\phi((\alpha + i\beta)x) = \overline{(\alpha + i\beta)} \phi(x)$$

for all $x \in V$.

We denote the space of \mathbb{C} -antilinear functionals by $\overline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathbb{C}}(V_J, \mathbb{C})$.

In fact, there is an isomorphism between $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(V_J, \mathbb{C})$ and $\overline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathbb{C}}(V_J, \mathbb{C})$ as real vector spaces.

Theorem 0.1. *Let V be a real vector space with complex structure J . Then*

1. $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(V, \mathbb{C}) = \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(V_J, \mathbb{C}) \oplus \overline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathbb{C}}(V_J, \mathbb{C})$.
2. If $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{C}}(V_J, \mathbb{C}) := V^{1,0}$, and $\overline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathbb{C}}(V_J, \mathbb{C}) := V^{0,1}$, then $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(V, \mathbb{C}) = V^{1,0} \oplus_{\mathbb{C}} V^{0,1}$.
3. $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} V^{1,0} = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} V^{0,1} = \frac{\dim_{\mathbb{C}}(\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(V, \mathbb{C}))}{2}$

Proof. Observe that $\phi \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(V, \mathbb{C})$ can be written as

$$\phi = \frac{\phi - i\phi \circ J}{2} + \frac{\phi + i\phi \circ J}{2} = \frac{\phi(Jx) + i\phi(x)}{2} = i \frac{\phi - i\phi \circ J}{2}(x) = \phi$$

Further, $V^{1,0} \cap V^{0,1} = 0$ by the definitions, so we are done. ■

Thus, any differential can be split into a \mathbb{C} -linear and a \mathbb{C} -antilinear part.

Definition 0.4. $\pi^{1,0}$ is projection on the first factor, $\pi^{0,1}$ is projection onto the second. We have

$$\phi = \pi^{1,0}\phi + \pi^{0,1}\phi$$

Corollary 0.2. *If $\phi \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(V, \mathbb{C})$, then ϕ being \mathbb{C} -linear (i.e. $\phi \in V^{1,0}$) if and only if $\pi^{0,1}\phi = 0$.*

Definition 0.5. Applying to $(df)_p \in \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(V, \mathbb{C})$, then

$$(df)_p = \pi^{1,0}df_p + \pi^{0,1}df_p$$

$$\text{Say } \pi^{1,0}df_p = \underbrace{\partial f_p}_{\text{complex linear}} \quad \text{and } \pi^{0,1}df_p = \underbrace{\bar{\partial} df_p}_{\text{complex antilinear}}$$

Theorem 0.3. *A function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is \mathbb{C} -differentiable at $p \in X$ if and only if f is \mathbb{R} -differentiable at p and $df_p = \partial f_p$, which happens if and only if $\bar{\partial} f_p = 0$.*

Proof. We have $\mathbb{C} \cong \mathbb{R}_{J_0}^2$, which has standard basis $\mathbb{R}^2 = \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^2}$. This has a dual basis in $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{R})$ given by dx and dy . That is, $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{R}^2, \mathbb{C}) = \langle dx, dy \rangle_{\mathbb{C}}$. $J_0 e_1 = e_2$ and $J_0 e_2 = -e_1$, so $dx \circ J_0 = -dy$ and $dy \circ J_0 = dx$.

$$\begin{aligned} \pi^{0,1}dx &= \frac{1}{2}(dx - i dx \circ J_0) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(dx + idy) &:= dz \end{aligned}$$

Further,

$$\begin{aligned}\pi^{0,1}dx &= \frac{1}{2}d\bar{z} \\ \pi^{1,0}dy &= \frac{1}{2}dz\end{aligned}$$

So

$$df = f_x dx + f_y dy = \frac{f_x - if_y}{2} dz + \frac{f_x + if_y}{2} \bar{z} = \partial f + \bar{\partial} f$$

Definition 0.6.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial}{\partial z} &= \frac{\partial_x - i\partial_y}{2} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} &= \frac{\partial_x + i\partial_y}{2}\end{aligned}$$

So

$$df = \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} dz + \frac{\partial f}{\partial \bar{z}} d\bar{z}$$

So analyticity is equivalent to $df = \partial f$, meaning $\bar{\partial} f = 0$, which is equivalent to $\frac{\partial f}{\partial \bar{z}} = 0$, which means

$$\frac{\partial(u + iv)}{\partial \bar{z}} = 0$$

So $(\partial_x + i\partial_y)(u + iv) = 0$. Multiplying out, we get

$$\begin{aligned}u_x &= v_y \\ u_y &= -v_x\end{aligned}$$