

Methods of Theoretical Physics

Complex Analysis

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These are my notes for the *complex analysis* part of the *methods of theoretical physics* course from the University of Edinburgh as part of the third year of the theoretical physics degree. When I took this course in the 2020/21 academic year it was taught by Dr Miguel Martinez-Canales¹. These notes are based on the lectures delivered as part of this course and the notes provided as part of this course. The content within is correct to the best of my knowledge but if you find a mistake or just disagree with something or think it could be improved please let me know.

These notes were produced using L^AT_EX². Graphs were plotted using Matplotlib³, NumPy⁴, and SciPy⁵. As well as Mathematica⁶. Diagrams were drawn with tikz⁷.

This is version 1.0 of these notes, which is up to date as of 23/02/2021.

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²<https://www.latex-project.org/>

³<https://matplotlib.org/>

⁴<https://numpy.org/>

⁵<https://scipy.org/scipylib/>

⁶<https://www.wolfram.com/mathematica/?source=nav>

⁷<https://www.ctan.org/pkg/pgf>

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Acronyms

MVT mean value theorem.

Part I

Complex Numbers

1 Complex Numbers

1.1 Complex Numbers Definition

The complex numbers, \mathbb{C} , are an algebraic extension to the real numbers, \mathbb{R} . That is the complex numbers are such that all complex numbers are the root of some complex polynomial with complex coefficients. Note that this is not true for real numbers, for example, -1 is not the root of some real polynomial with real coefficients.

Definition 1: Complex numbers

A **complex number**, z , is defined as an ordered pair of real numbers, $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$.

The set of all complex numbers is denoted \mathbb{C} . For all $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ $z = (x, y) \in \mathbb{C}$. Two complex numbers, $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$, such that $z_1 = (x_1, y_1)$ and $z_2 = (x_2, y_2)$, are equal if and only if $x_1 = x_2$ and $y_1 = y_2$. That is

$$z_1 = z_2 \iff [x_1 = x_2 \wedge y_1 = y_2].$$

If $z = (x, y) \in \mathbb{C}$ then we say that x is the **real part** of z and y is the **imaginary part** of z . We denote this

$$\operatorname{Re} z = \Re z = x, \quad \text{and} \quad \operatorname{Im} z = \Im z = y$$

respectively.

Definition 2: Addition and multiplication

Let $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $z_1 = (x_1, y_1)$ and $z_2 = (x_2, y_2)$. Then we define **addition** as

$$z_1 + z_2 = (x_1 + x_2, y_1 + y_2)$$

and **multiplication** as

$$z_1 z_2 = (x_1 x_2 - y_1 y_2, x_1 y_2 + x_2 y_1).$$

Lemma 1: Addition and multiplication properties

Addition and multiplication in \mathbb{C} are **associative**, that is

$$z_1 + (z_2 + z_3) = (z_1 + z_2) + z_3, \quad \text{and} \quad z_1(z_2 z_3) = (z_1 z_2) z_3$$

for all $z_1, z_2, z_3 \in \mathbb{C}$. Addition and multiplication in \mathbb{C} are **commutative**, that is

$$z_1 + z_2 = z_2 + z_1, \quad \text{and} \quad z_1 z_2 = z_2 z_1$$

for all $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$. Multiplication is **distributive** over addition, that is

$$z_1(z_2 + z_3) = z_1 z_2 + z_1 z_3.$$

Proof. Let $z_i \in \mathbb{C}$ be given by $z_i = (x_i, y_i)$ for arbitrary $x_i, y_i \in \mathbb{R}$. First we will show that addition is associative:

$$\begin{aligned} z_1 + (z_2 + z_3) &= (x_1, y_1) + (x_2 + x_3, y_1 + y_3) \\ &= (x_1 + (x_2 + x_3), y_1 + (y_2 + y_3)) \\ &= ((x_1 + x_2) + x_3, (y_1 + y_2) + y_3) \\ &= (x_1 + x_2, y_1 + y_2) + (x_3, y_3) \end{aligned}$$

$$= (z_1 + z_2) + z_3$$

assuming associativity of addition in \mathbb{R} . Next we will show that addition is commutative.

$$z_1 + z_2 = (x_1 + x_2, y_1 + y_2) = (x_2 + x_1, y_2 + y_1) = z_2 + z_1$$

assuming commutativity of addition in \mathbb{R} .

Next we will show that multiplication is associative:

$$\begin{aligned} z_1(z_2 z_3) &= (x_1, y_1)(x_2 x_3 - y_2 y_3, x_2 y_3 + x_3 y_2) \\ &= (x_1(x_2 x_3 - y_2 y_3) - y_1(x_2 y_3 + x_3 y_2), x_1(x_2 y_3 + x_3 y_2) + y_1(x_2 x_3 - y_2 y_3)) \\ &= ((x_1 x_2 - y_1 y_2)x_3 - (x_1 y_2 + x_2 y_1)y_3, (x_1 x_2 - y_1 y_2)y_3 + (x_1 y_2 + x_2 y_1)x_3) \\ &= (x_1 x_2 - y_1 y_2, x_1 y_2 + x_2 y_1)(x_3, y_3) \\ &= (z_1 z_2)z_3 \end{aligned}$$

assuming associativity and commutativity of multiplication in \mathbb{R} and distributivity of multiplication over addition in \mathbb{R} . Next we will show that multiplication is commutative:

$$z_1 z_2 = (x_1 x_2 - y_1 y_2, x_1 y_2 + x_2 y_1) = (x_2 x_1 - y_2 y_1, x_2 y_1 + x_1 y_2) = z_2 z_1$$

assuming commutativity of addition and multiplication in \mathbb{R} .

Finally we will show that multiplication distributes over addition:

$$\begin{aligned} z_1(z_2 + z_3) &= (x_1, y_1)(x_2 + x_3, y_2 + y_3) \\ &= (x_1(x_2 + x_3) - y_1(y_2 + y_3), x_1(y_2 + y_3) + (x_2 + x_3)y_1) \\ &= (x_1 x_2 - y_1 y_2 + x_1 x_3 - y_1 y_3, x_1 y_2 + x_2 y_1 + x_1 y_3 + x_3 y_1) \\ &= z_1 z_2 + z_1 z_3 \end{aligned}$$

assuming distributivity of multiplication over addition in \mathbb{R} . □

The element $0 = (0, 0) \in \mathbb{C}$ acts as an **additive identity** in that

$$0 + z = (x + 0, y + 0) = (x, y) = z = (0 + x, 0 + y) = (0, 0) + (x, y) = z + 0$$

for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$. Similarly $1 = (1, 0) \in \mathbb{C}$ acts as a **multiplicative identity** in that

$$1z = (1, 0)(x, y) = (1x - 0y, 1y + 0x) = (x, y) = z = (x1 - y0, y0 + x1) = z1$$

for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

For $z = (x, y) \in \mathbb{C}$ the element $-z = (-x, -y)$ acts as an **additive inverse** in that

$$z + (-z) = (x + (-x), y + (-y)) = (0, 0).$$

Similarly for $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ the element

$$z^{-1} = \frac{1}{z} = \left(\frac{x}{x^2 + y^2}, \frac{-y}{x^2 + y^2} \right)$$

acts as a **multiplicative inverse** in that

$$\begin{aligned} zz^{-1} &= (x, y) \left(\frac{x}{x^2 + y^2}, \frac{-y}{x^2 + y^2} \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{x^2}{x^2 + y^2} + \frac{y^2}{x^2 + y^2}, \frac{xy}{x^2 + y^2} - \frac{xy}{x^2 + y^2} \right) \\ &= (1, 0). \end{aligned}$$

This allows us to define subtraction and division as follows

Definition 3: Subtraction and division

Let $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $z_1 = (x_1, y_1)$ and $z_2 = (x_2, y_2)$. Then **subtraction** is defined as

$$z_1 - z_2 = z_1 + (-z_2) = (x_1, y_1) - (x_2, y_2) = (x_1, y_1) + (-x_2, -y_2) = (x_1 - x_2, y_1 - y_2)$$

and division is defined for $z_2 \neq 0$ as

$$\frac{z_1}{z_2} = z_1 z_2^{-1} = (x_1, y_1) \left(\frac{x_2}{x_2^2 + y_2^2}, \frac{-y_2}{x_2^2 + y_2^2} \right) = \left(\frac{x_1 x_2}{x_2^2 + y_2^2} + \frac{y_1 y_2}{x_2^2 + y_2^2}, \frac{-x_1 y_2}{x_2^2 + y_2^2} + \frac{x_2 y_1}{x_2^2 + y_2^2} \right).$$

With addition, multiplication, subtraction, and division defined like this the properties listed above make \mathbb{C} a field. What this means informally is that although in some ways \mathbb{C} is like \mathbb{R}^2 when it comes to operations they behave very similarly to operations in \mathbb{R} .

Note that with these definitions we have

$$(0, 1)^2 = (-1, 0).$$

We give the element $(0, 1)$ the special name i which we define to be such that $i^2 = -1$. We can then factor any generic complex number, $z = (x, y)$ as

$$z = (x, y) = (x, 0) + (0, 1)(y, 0) = x + iy.$$

From now on we will use the notation $z = x + iy$ to mean $z = (x, y)$.

1.2 Argand Diagrams

Since \mathbb{C} is in some ways \mathbb{R}^2 it is natural to represent \mathbb{C} geometrically with a plane. Diagrams that do this are called **Argand diagrams**. For example, see figure 1.1. In this Argand diagram we see the point

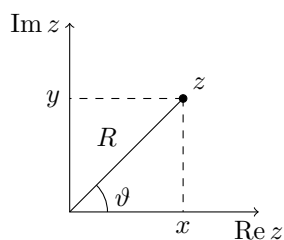


Figure 1.1: An Argand diagram showing the complex number $z = x + iy = Re^{i\vartheta}$.

$z \in \mathbb{C}$. This also gives us another natural way to represent z . A simple bit of geometry shows us that

$$z = x + iy = R(\cos \vartheta + i \sin \vartheta)$$

and that

$$R = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}, \quad \text{and} \quad \vartheta = \arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right).$$

Definition 4: Modulus and argument

We call $R = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ the **modulus** of z , denoted $|z|$. We call ϑ an **argument** of z , denoted $\arg z$. For each $z \in \mathbb{C}$ we have an infinite number of different values that ϑ can take. In general if ϑ is an argument of z then so is $\vartheta + 2n\pi$ for any $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. The set of all ϑ which satisfy $z = |z|(\cos \vartheta + i \sin \vartheta)$ for some specific point z is called *the argument* of z , denoted $\text{Arg } z$:

$$\text{Arg } z = \{\vartheta \mid z = |z|(\cos \vartheta + i \sin \vartheta)\}.$$

We often choose to restrict ϑ to be in $(-\pi, \pi]$ in which case we call ϑ the **principle argument** of z .

One fact that will become important later is that if we traverse around a closed curve in \mathbb{C} and zero is inside that curve then after we go around the entire curve we will come back to the same spot but the argument will be 2π greater than it was before (if we traverse in an anticlockwise direction).

1.3 Euler's Formula

Definition 5: Complex exponential

The **complex exponential** of a purely imaginary number, $i\vartheta$, for some $\vartheta \in \mathbb{R}$ is defined as

$$z = e^{i\vartheta} = \cos \vartheta + i \sin \vartheta.$$

This is called **Euler's formula**. In addition to this we also require that

$$e^{x+iy} = e^x e^{iy}$$

for all $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$.

The second requirement means that many of the expected properties of real exponentials carry over to the complex exponential. This is an extension of the real exponential in the sense that the real and complex exponential both give the same result when we exponentiate a real number. For this reason we don't usually make a distinction between the real and complex exponential.

We can use this to write z as

$$z = Re^{i\vartheta} = R(\cos \vartheta + i \sin \vartheta)$$

where $R = |z|$ and $\vartheta = \arg z$. While the complex exponential is defined in this way we can motivate the definition. We first assume that differentiation in \mathbb{C} is the same as it is in \mathbb{R} and we see that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \vartheta} [\cos \vartheta + i \sin \vartheta] = -\sin \vartheta + i \cos \vartheta$$

and also

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \vartheta} e^{i\vartheta} = ie^{i\vartheta} = i(\cos \vartheta + i \sin \vartheta) = i \cos \vartheta - \sin \vartheta.$$

Both $e^{i\vartheta}$ and $\cos \vartheta + i \sin \vartheta$ have the same derivative and therefore it is reasonable to conclude that they are the same.

Another way to motivate this definition is by extending the Taylor series to \mathbb{C} and noting that

$$\begin{aligned} \cos \vartheta + i \sin \vartheta &= \left[1 - \frac{\vartheta^2}{2!} + \frac{\vartheta^4}{4!} + \mathcal{O}(\vartheta^6) \right] + i \left[\vartheta - \frac{\vartheta^3}{3!} + \frac{\vartheta^5}{5!} + \mathcal{O}(\vartheta^7) \right] \\ &= 1 + i\vartheta + \frac{(i\vartheta)^2}{2!} + \frac{(i\vartheta)^3}{3!} + \frac{(i\vartheta)^4}{4!} + \frac{(i\vartheta)^5}{5!} + \mathcal{O}(\vartheta^6) \\ &= e^{i\vartheta}. \end{aligned}$$

Some useful values to remember are

$$e^0 = e^{2\pi i} = 1, \quad e^{-\pi} = -1, \quad e^{\pm\pi/2} = \pm i, \quad e^{\pm i\pi/4} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}(1 \pm i).$$

Also note that

$$e^{i\vartheta} = e^{i\vartheta + 2n\pi i} \quad \forall \vartheta \in \mathbb{R}, \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Theorem 1: De Moivre's Formula

Let $z \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $|z| = 1$, then

$$z^n = (\cos \vartheta + i \sin \vartheta)^n = \cos(n\vartheta) + i \sin(n\vartheta) \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

where $\vartheta = \arg z$.

Proof. We will prove this by induction for all natural numbers and later extend the result to negative numbers. The base case is $n = 0$ in which case

$$z^0 = 1 = \cos(0\vartheta) + i \sin(0\vartheta).$$

Suppose that this formula holds for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$. That is

$$z^k = (\cos \vartheta + i \sin \vartheta)^k = \cos(k\vartheta) + i \sin(k\vartheta).$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} z^{k+1} &= (\cos \vartheta + i \sin \vartheta)^{k+1} \\ &= (\cos \vartheta + i \sin \vartheta)^k (\cos \vartheta + i \sin \vartheta) \\ &= (\cos(k\vartheta) + i \sin(k\vartheta))(\cos \vartheta + i \sin \vartheta) \\ &= \cos(k\vartheta) \cos(\vartheta) - \sin(k\vartheta) \sin(\vartheta) + i(\cos(k\vartheta) \sin(\vartheta) + \sin(k\vartheta) \cos(\vartheta)) \\ &= \cos((k+1)\vartheta) + i \sin((k+1)\vartheta) \end{aligned}$$

using

$$\cos(A+B) = \cos(A)\cos(B) - \sin(A)\sin(B), \quad \text{and} \quad \sin(A+B) = \sin(A)\cos(B) + \sin(B)\cos(A).$$

Thus by mathematical induction the formula holds for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Now consider some specific $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

$$\begin{aligned} z^{-k} &= (\cos \vartheta + i \sin \vartheta)^{-k} \\ &= [(\cos \vartheta + i \sin \vartheta)^k]^{-1} \\ &= (\cos(k\vartheta) + i \sin(k\vartheta))^{-1} \\ &= \frac{\cos(k\vartheta) - i \sin(k\vartheta)}{\cos^2(k\vartheta) + \sin^2(k\vartheta)} \\ &= \cos(k\vartheta) - i \sin(k\vartheta) \\ &= \cos(-k\vartheta) + i \sin(-k\vartheta) \end{aligned}$$

using the trig identity

$$\cos^2(A) + \sin^2(A) = 1$$

and the fact that \cos and \sin are even and odd functions respectively so

$$\cos(-A) = \cos(A), \quad \text{and} \quad \sin(-A) = -\sin(A).$$

Hence the formula holds for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. □

1.4 Complex Conjugate

Definition 6: Complex conjugate

The complex conjugate of $z = x + iy = Re^{i\vartheta} \in \mathbb{C}$ is

$$z^* = \bar{z} = x - iy = Re^{-i\vartheta}.$$

Lemma 2: Conjugate properties

The following hold for all $z, z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$:

1. $(z_1 + z_2)^* = z_1^* + z_2^*$
2. $(z_1 z_2)^* = z_1^* z_2^*$
3. $(z^*)^* = z$
4. $\operatorname{Re} z = \frac{1}{2}(z + z^*)$
5. $\operatorname{Im} z = \frac{1}{2i}(z - z^*)$
6. $|z| = |z^*|$
7. $\arg z = -\arg(z^*)$
8. $|z|^2 = z z^* = x^2 + y^2$

Proof. We will prove these in the order provided:

1. Let $z_1 = x_1 + iy_1$ and $z_2 = x_2 + iy_2$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}(z_1 + z_2)^* &= (x_1 + iy_1 + x_2 + iy_2)^* = ((x_1 + x_2) + i(y_1 + y_2))^* \\ &= (x_1 + x_2) - i(y_1 + y_2) = x_1 - iy_1 + x_2 - iy_2 = z_1^* + z_2^*.\end{aligned}$$

2. Let $z_1 = R_1 e^{i\vartheta_1}$ and $z_2 = R_2 e^{i\vartheta_2}$. Then

$$(z_1 z_2)^* = (R_1 e^{i\vartheta_1} R_2 e^{i\vartheta_2})^* = (R_1 R_2 e^{i(\vartheta_1 + \vartheta_2)})^* = R_1 R_2 e^{-i(\vartheta_1 + \vartheta_2)} = R_1 e^{-i\vartheta_1} R_2 e^{-i\vartheta_2} = z_1^* z_2^*.$$

3. Let $z = x + iy$. Then

$$(z^*)^* = [(x + iy)^*]^* = [x - iy]^* = x + iy = z.$$

4. Let $z = x + iy$. Then

$$\frac{1}{2}(z + z^*) = \frac{1}{2}[x + iy + (x + iy)^*] = \frac{1}{2}(x + iy + x - iy) = \frac{1}{2}2x = x = \operatorname{Re} z.$$

5. Let $z = x + iy$. Then

$$\frac{1}{2i}(z - z^*) = \frac{1}{2i}[x + iy - (x + iy)^*] = \frac{1}{2i}(x + iy - (x - iy)) = \frac{1}{2i}(x + iy - x + iy) = \frac{1}{2i}2iy = y = \operatorname{Im} z.$$

6. Let $z = R e^{i\vartheta}$. Then

$$|z^*| = |(R e^{-i\vartheta})^*| = |R e^{-i\vartheta}| = R = |z|.$$

7. Let $z = R e^{i\vartheta}$. Then

$$-\arg(z^*) = -\arg([R e^{i\vartheta}]^*) = -\arg(R e^{-i\vartheta}) = -(-\vartheta) = \vartheta = \arg z.$$

8. Let $z = R e^{i\vartheta} = x + iy$. Then

$$z z^* = R e^{i\vartheta} (R e^{i\vartheta})^* = R e^{i\vartheta} R e^{-i\vartheta} = R^2 e^{i(\vartheta - \vartheta)} = R^2 e^0 = R^2 = |z|^2.$$

Also

$$z z^* = (x + iy)(x + iy)^* = (x + iy)(x - iy) = x^2 - ixy + ixy - i^2 y^2 = x^2 + y^2.$$

□

Using the complex conjugate we can see how the multiplicative inverse was found:

$$\frac{1}{z} = \frac{z^*}{z z^*} = \frac{x - iy}{x^2 + y^2}.$$

1.5 Inequalities

When we move from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{C} we lose the natural ordering that we have for real numbers. By this we mean that phrases like $z < w$ are not defined for $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$. To compare two complex numbers we instead compare their moduli and arguments.

Lemma 3: Modulus inequalities

The following inequalities hold for all $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$:

1. $\operatorname{Re} z \leq |z|$ and $\operatorname{Im} z \leq |z|$.
2. $|z + w| \leq |z| + |w|$, this is known as the triangle inequality.
3. $|z - w| \geq |z| - |w|$.

Proof. First consider

$$|zw| = \sqrt{|zw|^2} = \sqrt{(zw)(zw)^*} = \sqrt{zwz^*w^*} = \sqrt{zz^*ww^*} = \sqrt{|z|^2|w|^2} = |z||w|.$$

Let $z = x + iy$, then

$$x^2 + y^2 = |z|^2 \implies x^2 = |z|^2 - y^2 \leq |z|^2 \implies x \leq |z|.$$

Similarly

$$x^2 + y^2 = |z|^2 \implies y^2 = |z|^2 - x^2 \leq |z|^2 \implies y \leq |z|.$$

This proves the first statement.

For the triangle inequality consider

$$\begin{aligned} |z + w|^2 &= (z + w)(z + w)^* \\ &= (z + w)(z^* + w^*) \\ &= zz^* + zw^* + z^*w + ww^* \\ &= |z|^2 + |w|^2 + zw^* + z^*w. \end{aligned}$$

Notice that

$$\operatorname{Re}(zw^*) = \frac{1}{2}(zw^* + (zw^*)^*) = \frac{1}{2}(zw^* + z^*w) \implies zw^* + z^*w = 2\operatorname{Re}(zw^*).$$

Hence

$$|z + w|^2 = |z|^2 + |w|^2 + 2\operatorname{Re}(zw^*).$$

We then use the first point to conclude that $2\operatorname{Re}(zw^*) \leq 2|zw^*| = 2|z||w|$ and so

$$|z + w|^2 \leq |z|^2 + |w|^2 + 2|z||w| = (|z| + |w|)^2 \implies |z + w| \leq |z| + |w|.$$

Finally note that

$$|z| = |z - w + w| \leq |z - w| + |w|$$

using the triangle inequality on the two complex number $z - w$ and w . Rearranging this we get

$$|z| - |w| \leq |z - w|.$$

□

The triangle inequality is called the triangle inequality for a geometrical reason. If we consider a triangle in the complex plane then we can think of each side as a complex number. The triangle inequality then states that the longest side is shorter than, or the same length as, the sum of the two shorter sides. Specifically equality holds when the two sides are co-linear which corresponds to both complex numbers having the same argument.

The triangle inequality generalises to the addition of n complex numbers as

$$\left| \sum_{i=1}^n z_i \right| \leq \sum_{i=1}^n |z_i|.$$

Note that these properties make $d: \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ defined by $d(z, w) = |z - w|$ a metric which makes (\mathbb{C}, d) a metric space.

1.6 Topology

We will regularly deal with subsets of \mathbb{C} . It will be useful to give some of them special names based on various properties. We start with some discs which are some combination of circles in the complex plane and the points inside them.

Definition 7: Open disc

The **open disc** centred on $a \in \mathbb{C}$ with radius $r \in \mathbb{R}$, $r > 0$, is

$$D(a; r) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z - a| < r\}.$$

That is all the points contained in the circle in the complex plane that is centred on a and has a radius of r but *not* the circle itself. This is the generalisation of an open interval, (a, b) , from the real line.

Definition 8: Closed disc

The **closed disc** centred on $a \in \mathbb{C}$ with radius $r \in \mathbb{R}$, $r > 0$, is

$$\bar{D}(a; r) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z - a| \leq r\}.$$

That is all the points contained in the circle in the complex plane that is centred on a and has a radius of r *and* the circle itself. This is the generalisation of a closed interval, $[a, b]$, from the real line.

Definition 9: Punctured disc

The **punctured disc** centred on $a \in \mathbb{C}$ with radius $r \in \mathbb{R}$, $r > 0$, is

$$D'(a; r) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid 0 < |z - a| < r\} = D(a; r) \setminus \{a\}.$$

That is the open disc centred on a with radius r with the centre of the disc removed.

See figure 1.2.

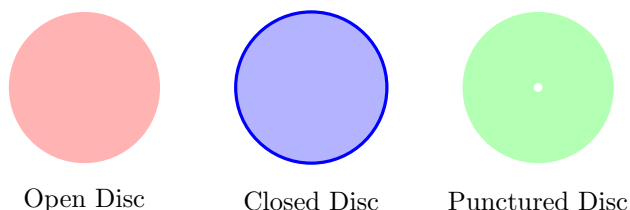


Figure 1.2: An open, closed, and punctured disc.

We now define some properties that a set can have:

Definition 10: Open set

A set, $S \subseteq \mathbb{C}$, is **open** if for all $z \in S$ there exists $r > 0$ such that $D(a; r) \subseteq S$.

We call $D(z; r)$ for an arbitrarily small (but non-zero) r the **neighbourhood** of z . What the definition above says is that S is open if for all points we can find sufficiently small r such that the neighbourhood of any point, $z \in S$, is entirely inside of S . This is a useful property as it allows us wiggle room as whatever point we pick in the set we can always get closer to the edge. Some examples of open sets are the open disc, $D(a; r)$, the complex numbers, \mathbb{C} , and (vacuously) the empty set, \emptyset .

Definition 11: Closed set

A set, $S \subseteq \mathbb{C}$, is **closed** if its **complement**, $\mathbb{C} \setminus S = S^c$, is open.

Intuitively a closed set has an edge that we can reach. Examples of closed sets includes the closed disc, $\bar{D}(a; r)$, the empty set as $\emptyset^c = \mathbb{C} \setminus \emptyset = \mathbb{C}$ is open, and the complex numbers as $\mathbb{C}^c = \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{C} = \emptyset$ is open. Notice how \mathbb{C} and \emptyset are both open and closed. In fact being open and closed are not mutually exclusive properties. Sometimes sets that are both open and closed are called **clopen** sets.

Definition 12: Isolated point

$z \in S \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ is an **isolated point** if the neighbourhood of z contains no points in S apart from z . That is there exists $r > 0$ such that $S \cap D'(z; r) = \emptyset$.

Intuitively an isolated point is not ‘touching’ any other points in S . For example consider the set $S = D(0; 1) \cup \{2\}$ has one isolated point, 2, as $S \cap D'(2; 0.5) = \emptyset$, see figure 1.3.

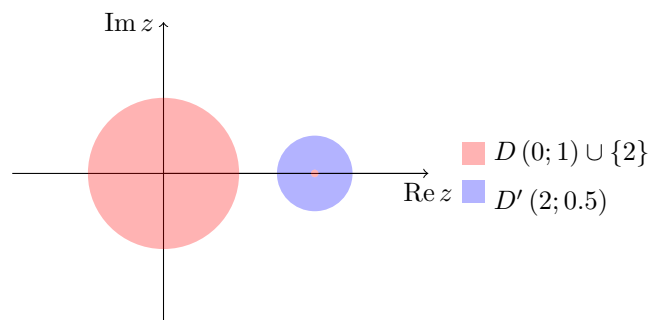


Figure 1.3: The set $S = D(0; 1) \cup \{2\}$ has 2 as an isolated point.

Definition 13: Limit point

$z \in \mathbb{C}$ is a **limit point** if for all $r > 0$ the punctured disc, $D'(a; r)$ has points both in S and in $\mathbb{C} \setminus S$, i.e. $D'(a; r) \cap S \neq \emptyset \neq D'(a; r) \cap S^c$.

Intuitively we can think of the limit points of a set as being the ‘boundary’ of the set as a small step in one direction takes us into the set and a small step in another direction takes us out of the set. Notice that the limit points of a set needn’t be in the set. For example all z with $|z| = 1$ are limit points of $D(0; 1)$ despite the fact that $z \notin D(0; 1)$. The fact that the definition specifies a punctured disc ensures that isolated points are not limit points. See figure 1.4.

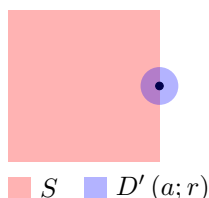


Figure 1.4: A limit point, a , of a set, S . Notice that no matter how small we make r the punctured disc $D'(a; r)$ will always overlap both S and S^c .

Definition 14: Connected set

A set S is **connected** if for all $z, w \in S$ there exists a continuous path from z to w .

Intuitively a set is connected if we can join any two points without a break. See figure 1.5. For example all discs form connected sets, as does the union of overlapping discs, e.g. $D(0; 1) \cup D(1 + i; 2)$ is a connected set. On the other hand if the discs don’t overlap then they aren’t a connected set, for example $D(0; 1) \cup D(1 + i; 0.1)$ is not a connected set.

Definition 15: Region

A **region**, R , is an open, connected set.

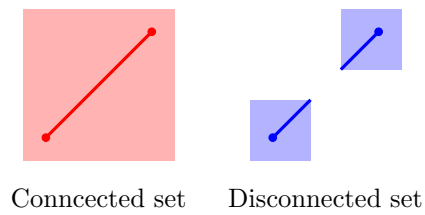


Figure 1.5: A connected set and an disconnected set. Both show an example of two points in the set which can be joined continuously in the connected case and not in the disconnected case.

Part II

Complex Functions

2 Complex Functions and Derivatives

2.1 Complex Functions

Definition 16: Complex function

A **complex function**, defined on a domain $S \subseteq \mathbb{C}$, is a mapping, $w: S \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, which assigns to each $z \in S$ a value $w(z) \in \mathbb{C}$.

Importantly a function, w , assigns to each z in its domain precisely one value. Sometimes it is necessary to restrict the codomain of w for this to be the case. As we did with complex numbers we can split complex functions into real and imaginary parts. Let

$$S' = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x + iy \in S\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$$

then we can define two functions, $u, v: S' \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$w(z) = w(x + iy) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y) = \operatorname{Re} w(z) + i \operatorname{Im} w(z).$$

Consider for example the function

$$\begin{aligned} w: \mathbb{C} &\rightarrow \mathbb{C} \\ z &\mapsto z^2. \end{aligned}$$

We can expand this in terms of x and y as

$$w(z) = z^2 = (x + iy)^2 = x^2 - y^2 + 2xyi.$$

We see that if we define $u(x, y) = x^2 - y^2$ and $v(x, y) = 2xy$ then w , u , and v will have the desired relationship.

Another example that we may consider is

$$\begin{aligned} w: \mathbb{C} &\rightarrow \mathbb{C} \\ z &\mapsto e^z. \end{aligned}$$

Expanding this in terms of x and y we have

$$\begin{aligned} w(z) &= e^z \\ &= e^{x+iy} \\ &= e^x e^{iy} \\ &= e^x (\cos y + i \sin y). \end{aligned}$$

If we define $u(x, y) = e^x \cos y$ and $v(x, y) = e^x \sin y$ then again we will have the desired relationship between w , u , and v . Notice that u and v are periodic in y with period 2π , which means w is periodic in z with period $2\pi i$. This corresponds to the argument moving once around the unit circle. This is fine for this definition but becomes an issue if we want to invert w .

Notation

In this course we will denote the natural log, that is the inverse of the exponential, by \log .

We define

$$\log z = \log |z| + i\vartheta = \frac{1}{2} \log(x^2 + y^2) + i \arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right).$$

Notice that since $\arctan: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$ has a restricted codomain the value of ϑ above is also restricted to be in $[-\pi/2, \pi/2]$ which guarantees that if $w(z) = \log z$ then w is single valued for all values in its domain.

2.2 Limits and Continuity

Definition 17: Limit

Let $w: S \subseteq \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a complex function. Then for $z_0 \in S$ we define

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} w(z) = w_0$$

for $z \in S$, to be the **limit** if for $\varepsilon > 0$

$$0 < |z - z_0| < \delta \implies |w(z) - w_0| < \varepsilon.$$

Intuitively what this definition means is that by making z and z_0 sufficiently close we can make $w(z)$ and w_0 arbitrarily close. Note that we use a punctured disc around z_0 because the value of $w(z_0)$ is not important to the definition of the limit, i.e. it needn't be the case that $w(z_0) = w_0$.

Definition 18: Continuity

Let $w: S \subseteq \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a complex function. Then for $z_0 \in S$ we say that w is **continuous** at z_0 if

1. w is defined at z_0 (which we already know it is as $z_0 \in S$)
2. The limit,

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} w(z)$$

exists.

3. The limit and the function evaluated at z_0 match:

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} w(z) = w(z_0).$$

We say that w is continuous if it is continuous at all $z_0 \in S$.

Viewing the limit as approaching a point and the evaluation, $w(z_0)$ as the evaluation at that point intuitively a function is continuous at z_0 if there isn't a sudden jump when we reach the point.

2.2.1 Infinity

We often see limits of the form

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x)$$

in real analysis. The natural question is is there an equivalent in complex analysis. In real analysis there are two disjoint points, $\pm\infty$, that get the title 'infinity'. These are not points in \mathbb{R} rather they are things that we consider values to tend to. These two points can be thought of as the 'ends' of the real numbers in the sense that $\mathbb{R} = (-\infty, \infty)$. When we expand to the complex numbers we don't have a line with ends any more we have a plane.

Definition 19: Extended complex plane

We define the **extended complex plane**, \mathbb{C}^* , to be the complex numbers and a symbol representing infinity, that is $\mathbb{C}^* = \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$.

Infinity in complex analysis is best viewed using the Riemann sphere.

Definition 20: Riemann sphere

Let S^2 be the unit sphere,

$$S^2 = \{(\xi, \eta, \zeta) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid \xi^2 + \eta^2 + \zeta^2 = 1\}.$$

The **Riemann sphere**, $P: \mathbb{C}^* \rightarrow S^2$, then defines a one to one mapping of the complex plane. This mapping is defined as follows. First embed \mathbb{C} in the (ξ, η) -plane by associating $z = x + iy$ with $(x, y, 0)$. Next define $P(\infty) = (0, 0, 1)$. Then define $P(z) = (\xi, \eta, \zeta)$ as the point on the sphere other than $(0, 0, 1)$ which intersects the line from $(0, 0, 1)$ to $(x, y, 0)$. It can be shown then

that

$$(x, y) = \left(\frac{\xi}{1 - \zeta}, \frac{\eta}{1 - \zeta} \right)$$

and

$$(\xi, \eta, \zeta) = \left(\frac{2x}{|z|^2 + 1}, \frac{2y}{|z|^2 + 1}, \frac{|z|^2 - 1}{|z|^2 + 1} \right).$$

Important points to consider are that $P(z = 0) = (0, 0, -1)$ and $\lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} P(x + iy) = \lim_{|y| \rightarrow \infty} P(x + iy) = (0, 0, 1)$. This justifies identifying $P(\infty) = (0, 0, 1)$. Intuitively we can view the Riemann sphere as wrapping the complex plane around a unit sphere so that all of the points we would consider to be ‘at infinity’ meet at the top of the sphere.

2.3 Derivatives

Definition 21: Derivative

Let $w: S \subseteq \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a complex function. Then for $z_0 \in \mathbb{C}$ the **derivative** of the w at z_0 , denoted $w'(z_0)$, is defined as

$$w'(z_0) = \lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} \frac{w(z) - w(z_0)}{z - z_0} = \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{w(z_0 + \Delta z) - w(z_0)}{\Delta z},$$

assuming that this limit exists and is independent of the direction of approach to z_0 . When this is the case we say that w is **differentiable** at z_0 .

This doesn’t, at first, appear to be that different to the derivative in real analysis. This means that derivatives of functions of z will appear similar to how they appear for the equivalent real function.

Example 2.1. Find the derivative of the complex function w defined by $w(z) = z^2$.

$$\begin{aligned} w'(z) &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{(z + \Delta z)^2 - z^2}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{z^2 + 2z\Delta z + (\Delta z)^2 - z^2}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{2z\Delta z + (\Delta z)^2}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} (2z + \Delta z) \\ &= 2z. \end{aligned}$$

Which is exactly what we would expect if $w(z) = z^2$ was a real function.

However the extra ‘room’ that we have in the complex numbers which allows us to approach a point not just from above and below but anywhere else in the plane means that many seemingly simple functions don’t have derivatives.

Example 2.2. Show that the complex function w , defined by $w(z) = z^$, is nowhere differentiable.*

First we consider the derivative at some $z \in \mathbb{C}$ approached along a line parallel to the real axis:

$$L_1 = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(z + \Delta x)^* - z^*}{\Delta x} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{z^* + \Delta x - z^*}{\Delta x} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta x} = 1.$$

Now consider the derivative at the same point but approached along a line perpendicular to the real axis:

$$L_2 = \lim_{\Delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{(z + i\Delta y)^* - z^*}{i\Delta y} = \lim_{\Delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{z^* - i\Delta y - z^*}{i\Delta y} = \lim_{\Delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{-i\Delta y}{i\Delta y} = -1.$$

More generally we can approach along a line at an angle ϑ to the real axis:

$$L_\vartheta = \lim_{\Delta R \rightarrow 0} \frac{(z + \Delta R e^{i\vartheta})^* - z^*}{\Delta R e^{i\vartheta}} = \lim_{\Delta R \rightarrow 0} \frac{z^* + \Delta R e^{-i\vartheta} - z^*}{\Delta R e^{i\vartheta}} = \lim_{\Delta R \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta R e^{-i\vartheta}}{\Delta R e^{i\vartheta}} = e^{-2i\vartheta}.$$

Since this is not independent of ϑ the direction of approach matters so w is not differentiable at any point in \mathbb{C} .

2.4 Cauchy–Riemann Relations

It was quite a pain showing that a function as simple as $w(z) = z^*$ is nowhere differentiable. Fortunately there are other tests that we can use which are faster and easier than looking at the limit definition.

Notation

Suppose u is a function of the real variables x and y . Then we will use the notation

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = u_x, \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = u_y.$$

Theorem 2: Cauchy–Riemann relations

If $w = u + iv: S \subseteq \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is differentiable at a point $z = x + iy \in S$ then the **Cauchy–Riemann relations**,

$$u_x(x, y) = v_y(x, y), \quad \text{and} \quad u_y(x, y) = -v_x(x, y)$$

hold.

Proof. Let $w: S \subseteq \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a complex function which is differentiable at $z = x + iy \in S$. We can write $w(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$. Since w is differentiable the following limit exists and is independent of the direction of approach:

$$\begin{aligned} w'(z) &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{w(z + \Delta z) - w(z)}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x + \Delta x, y + \Delta y) + iv(x + \Delta x, y + \Delta y) - u(x, y) - iv(x, y)}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x + \Delta x, y + \Delta y) - u(x, y) + i[v(x + \Delta x, y + \Delta y) - v(x, y)]}{\Delta z}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.1)$$

We can approach this limit from any direction. If we approach it along a line parallel to the real axis, in particular choosing $\Delta z = \Delta x$, then we get

$$\begin{aligned} w'(z) &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x + \Delta x, y) - u(x, y) + i[v(x + \Delta x, y) - v(x, y)]}{\Delta x} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \left[\frac{u(x + \Delta x, y) - u(x, y)}{\Delta x} + i \frac{v(x + \Delta x, y) - v(x, y)}{\Delta x} \right] \\ &= \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \\ &= u_x(x, y) + iv_x(x, y). \end{aligned}$$

If instead we approach along a line perpendicular to the real axis, in particular choosing $\Delta z = i\Delta y$, then we get

$$\begin{aligned} w'(z) &= \lim_{\Delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x, y + \Delta y) - u(x, y) + i[v(x, y + \Delta y) - v(x, y)]}{i\Delta y} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta y \rightarrow 0} \left[\frac{1}{i} \frac{u(x, y + \Delta y) - u(x, y)}{\Delta y} + \frac{v(x, y + \Delta y) - v(x, y)}{\Delta y} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{i} \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \\ &= -iu_y(x, y) + v_y(x, y). \end{aligned}$$

Since w is differentiable the result of these two approaches must be equal. Equating real and imaginary parts we have

$$u_x = v_y, \quad \text{and} \quad u_y = -v_x.$$

These are known as the **Cauchy–Riemann relations**. □

We can use these to calculate the derivative of w as

$$w' = u_x + iv_x = v_y - iu_y.$$

We may be attempted to view w as a function $w: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ and then apply the chain rule

$$\frac{dw}{dz} = \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial z}$$

but this is *wrong*. We can apply the chain rule separately to u and v as these are functions of real values or we can apply the chain rule to functions of the form $w(f(z))$ but to the variable z , not to x and y .

Note that satisfying the Cauchy–Riemann relations is a necessary condition for differentiability, not a sufficient one. There are functions that satisfy the Cauchy–Riemann relations but *aren't* differentiable. However we can add a condition to get sufficient conditions.

Theorem 3: Sufficient conditions for differentiability

Let $w: S \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a complex function. Then w is differentiable at $z_0 = x_0 + iy_0$ if w satisfies the Cauchy–Riemann relations and u and v are differentiable at (x_0, y_0) .

Proof. If u and v are differentiable at (x_0, y_0) then we can write

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, y) &= u(x_0, y_0) + u_x(x_0, y_0)\Delta x + u_y(x_0, y_0)\Delta y + \varepsilon_1 \sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2} \\ v(x, y) &= v(x_0, y_0) + v_x(x_0, y_0)\Delta x + v_y(x_0, y_0)\Delta y + \varepsilon_2 \sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2} \end{aligned}$$

where ε_1 and ε_2 tend to 0 as we move toward (x_0, y_0) . We can substitute these into equation 2.1 and we find that

$$\begin{aligned} w'(x_0 + iy_0) &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \left[\frac{u_x(x_0, y_0)\Delta x + u_y(x_0, y_0)\Delta y + i[v_x(x_0, y_0)\Delta x + v_y(x_0, y_0)\Delta y]}{\Delta x + i\Delta y} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (\varepsilon_1 + i\varepsilon_2) \frac{\sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2}}{\Delta z} \right] \end{aligned}$$

where $\Delta z = \Delta x + i\Delta y$. Assuming that u and v satisfy the Cauchy–Riemann relations this becomes

$$\begin{aligned} w'(x_0 + iy_0) &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \left[\frac{u_x(x_0, y_0)\Delta x - v_x(x_0, y_0)\Delta y + i[u_x(x_0, y_0)\Delta x + u_y(x_0, y_0)\Delta y]}{\Delta x + i\Delta y} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (\varepsilon_1 + i\varepsilon_2) \frac{\sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2}}{\Delta z} \right] \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \left[\frac{u_x(x_0, y_0)(\Delta x + i\Delta y) + iv_x(x_0, y_0)(\Delta x + i\Delta y)}{\Delta x + i\Delta y} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (\varepsilon_1 + i\varepsilon_2) \frac{\sqrt{(\Delta x)^2 + (\Delta y)^2}}{\Delta z} \right] \\ &= u_x(x_0, y_0) + iv_x(x_0, y_0) + \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} (\varepsilon_1 + i\varepsilon_2) \frac{|\Delta z|}{\Delta z}. \end{aligned}$$

Notice now that $|\Delta z|/|\Delta z| = 1$ and therefore $|\Delta z|/\Delta z$ is bounded so the limit term vanishes as $\Delta z \rightarrow 0$ since $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2 \rightarrow 0$. Thus

$$w'(x_0 + iy_0) = u_x(x_0, y_0) + iv_x(x_0, y_0)$$

so w is differentiable at $x_0 + iy_0$. □

2.5 Properties of the Derivative

Lemma 4: Linearity of the derivative

The derivative is linear. By this we mean that if w and f are complex functions which are continuous and differentiable at z and $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ then

$$(\alpha w)'(z) = \alpha w'(z), \quad \text{and} \quad (w + f)'(z) = w'(z) + f'(z).$$

Proof. Let w , f , and α be as in the hypothesis. Then

$$\begin{aligned} (\alpha w)'(z) &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{(\alpha w)(z + \Delta z) - (\alpha w)(z)}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{\alpha w(z + \Delta z) - \alpha w(z)}{\Delta z} \\ &= \alpha \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{w(z + \Delta z) - w(z)}{\Delta z} \\ &= \alpha w'(z). \end{aligned}$$

Also

$$\begin{aligned} (w + f)'(z) &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{(w + f)(z + \Delta z) - (w + f)(z)}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{w(z + \Delta z) + f(z + \Delta z) - w(z) - f(z)}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{w(z + \Delta z) - w(z)}{\Delta z} + \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(z + \Delta z) - f(z)}{\Delta z} \\ &= w'(z) + f'(z). \end{aligned}$$

□

Lemma 5: Product rule

Let w and f be complex functions which are continuous and differentiable at z . Then

$$(wf)'(z) = w'(z)f(z) + w(z)f'(z).$$

Proof. Let w and f be as in the hypothesis. Then

$$\begin{aligned} (wf)' &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{(wf)(z + \Delta z) - (wf)(z)}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{w(z + \Delta z)f(z + \Delta z) - w(z)f(z)}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{w(z + \Delta z)f(z + \Delta z) - w(z + \Delta z)f(z) + w(z + \Delta z)f(z) - w(z)f(z)}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} w(z + \Delta z) \frac{f(z + \Delta z) - f(z)}{\Delta z} + \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} f(z) \frac{w(z + \Delta z) - w(z)}{\Delta z} \\ &= w(z)f'(z) + f(z)w'(z) \end{aligned}$$

□

Lemma 6: Chain rule

Let w and f be complex functions such that f is continuous and differentiable at z and w is continuous and differentiable at $f(z)$. Then

$$(w \circ f)'(z) = w'[f(z)]f'(z).$$

Proof. Let w and f be as in the hypothesis. Then

$$\begin{aligned}(w \circ f)'(z) &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{(w \circ f)(z + \Delta z) - (w \circ f)(z)}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{w[f(z + \Delta z)] - w[f(z)]}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{w[f(z + \Delta z)] - w[f(z)]}{f(z + \Delta z) - f(z)} \frac{f(z + \Delta z) - f(z)}{\Delta z} \\ &= w'[f(z)]f'(z).\end{aligned}$$

This assumes that $f(z + \Delta z) \neq f(z)$. If this isn't the case then clearly $f'(z) = 0$ and also $w[f(z + \Delta z)] - w[f(z)] = w[f(z)] - w[f(z)] = 0$ so $(w \circ f)'(z) = 0$ so the chain rule still holds. \square

3 Analytic Functions

3.1 Examples

Example 3.1. Where is $w(z) = z^2$ differentiable?

$$w(z) = w(x + iy) = x^2 - y^2 + 2ixy \implies u(x, y) = x^2 - y^2, \quad \text{and} \quad v(x, y) = 2xy.$$

The first derivatives of u and v are then

$$\begin{aligned}u_x &= 2x, & v_y &= 2x, \\ u_y &= -2y, & v_x &= 2y.\end{aligned}$$

Recall that the Cauchy–Riemann relations are $u_x = v_y$ and $u_y = -v_x$ we see that w satisfies these at all $z \in \mathbb{C}$. Further each u and v are differentiable on \mathbb{R}^2 so w is differentiable on \mathbb{C} .

Example 3.2. Where is $w(z) = |z|^2$ differentiable?

$$w(z) = w(x + iy) = x^2 + y^2 \implies u(x, y) = x^2 + y^2, \quad \text{and} \quad v(x, y) = 0.$$

The first derivatives of u and v are then

$$\begin{aligned}u_x &= 2x, & v_y &= 0, \\ u_y &= 2y, & v_x &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

The Cauchy–Riemann relations are thus only satisfied at $z = 0$. Both u and v are differentiable at $(0, 0)$ so w is differentiable at $z = 0$ only.

Example 3.3. Where is $w(z) = e^z$ differentiable?

$$w(z) = w(x + iy) = e^x(\cos y + i \sin y) \implies u(x, y) = e^x \cos y, \quad \text{and} \quad v(x, y) = e^x \sin y.$$

The first derivatives of u and v are then

$$\begin{aligned}u_x &= e^x \cos y, & v_y &= e^x \cos y, \\ u_y &= -e^x \sin y, & v_x &= e^x \sin y.\end{aligned}$$

The Cauchy–Riemann relations are satisfied at all $z \in \mathbb{C}$ and u and v are differentiable on \mathbb{R}^2 so w is differentiable on \mathbb{C} .

3.2 Analytic Functions

We have seen that it is easy to accidentally define innocent looking functions, such as $w(z) = z^*$, which are continuous everywhere but differentiable almost nowhere. The next definition defines a type of function which will behave very similarly to real functions when it comes to differentiability.

Definition 22: Analytic function

A function, $w: S \subseteq \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, is said to be **analytic** or **holomorphic** at $z_0 \in S$ if w is differentiable at z_0 and at every point in the neighbourhood of z_0 . We say that w is analytic on an open subset $S' \subseteq S$ if w is differentiable at all $z_0 \in S'$.

Notice that the neighbourhood of z_0 is a region of \mathbb{C} , that is an infinite, connected, open set. The *open* part of this requirement is important. If the set isn't open then we can take z_0 to be a limit point and then it is possible that $w(z_0 + \Delta z)$ won't be defined even as $\Delta z \rightarrow 0$.

Definition 23: Entire function

A function, $w: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is **entire** or **regular** if it is analytic on \mathbb{C} , that is it is analytic at all $z_0 \in \mathbb{C}$.

For example if $w(z) = z^2$ we have already seen that this is differentiable for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$. Therefore w is entire. Similarly if $w(z) = e^z$ then w is entire. It can also be shown that $w(z) = e^{\alpha z}$ for $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ is entire.

Lemma 7: z^n is entire

The function

$$\begin{aligned} w: \mathbb{C} &\rightarrow \mathbb{C} \\ z &\mapsto z^n \end{aligned}$$

for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ is entire.

Proof. First consider the case $n = 1$. That is

$$w(z) = w(x + iy) = z = x + iy \implies u(x, y) = x, \quad \text{and} \quad v(x, y) = y.$$

The derivatives of u and v are

$$\begin{aligned} u_x &= 1, & v_y &= 1 \\ u_y &= 0, & v_x &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Clearly u and v are differentiable and satisfy the Cauchy–Riemann relations for all $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$. Therefore w is differentiable for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$ so w is entire.

Now assume that the hypothesis is true for some specific $n = k$. That is that $w(z) = z^k$ is entire. Therefore w' exists everywhere. Using this we consider $f(z) = z^{k+1} = z z^k = z w(z)$. Note that

$$f(z) = z w(z) = (x + iy)(u + iv) = xu - yv + i(xv + yu).$$

Hence

$$f(z) = f(x + iy) = g(x, y) + ih(x, y) = xu(x, y) - yv(x, y) + i(xv(x, y) + yu(x, y)).$$

Where

$$g(x, y) = xu(x, y) - yv(x, y), \quad \text{and} \quad h(x, y) = xv(x, y) + yu(x, y).$$

Thus we can see if the Cauchy–Riemann relations hold for g and h :

$$\begin{aligned} g_x &= u + xu_x - yv_x, & h_y &= xv_y + u + yu_y, \\ g_y &= xu_y - v - yv_y, & h_x &= v + xv_x + yu_x. \end{aligned}$$

The derivatives of u and v are guaranteed to exist as w is differentiable. Using the Cauchy–Riemann relations for u and v we have

$$\begin{aligned} g_x &= u + xu_x + yu_y, & h_y &= xu_x + u + yu_y, \\ g_y &= xu_y - v - yu_x, & h_x &= v - xu_y + yu_x \end{aligned}$$

So we see that the Cauchy–Riemann relations are satisfied everywhere and that g and h are differentiable everywhere. Thus f is differentiable everywhere so is entire.

Hence by mathematical induction $w(z) = z^n$ is entire for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. □

Lemma 8: Sum of entire functions is entire

The sum of two entire functions is entire.

Proof. Let $w, f: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be entire functions and $u, v, g, h: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be such that $w = u + iv$ and $f = g + ih$. Then

$$w + f = (u + g) + i(v + h).$$

Checking the Cauchy–Riemann relations for these we see that

$$\begin{aligned} (u + g)_x &= u_x + g_x, & (v + h)_y &= v_y + h_y, \\ (u + g)_y &= u_y + g_y, & (v + h)_x &= v_x + h_x. \end{aligned}$$

Now using the Cauchy–Riemann relations for u, v, g , and h we have

$$\begin{aligned} (u + g)_x &= u_x + g_x, & (v + h)_y &= u_x + g_x, \\ (u + g)_y &= u_y + g_y, & (v + h)_x &= -u_y - g_y. \end{aligned}$$

So we see that $u + g$ and $v + h$ satisfy the Cauchy–Riemann relations and are differentiable everywhere meaning that $f + w$ is differentiable everywhere and therefore $f + w$ is entire. \square

Corollary 1: Polynomials are entire

All polynomials, $P_n \in \mathbb{C}[z]$,

$$P_n(z) = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k z^k$$

for $a_k \in \mathbb{C}$ are entire.

Proof. First if w is an entire function then by the linearity of the derivative aw for $a \in \mathbb{C}$ is also an entire function. By theorem ?? z^k is entire and therefore $a_k z^k$ is also entire. Considering the sum

$$P_n(z) = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k z^k = (a_0 + (a_1 z + (a_2 z^2 + (\cdots (a_{n-2} z^{n-2} + (a_{n-1} z^{n-1} + a_n z^n))))))$$

we see that we can take any finite sum and reduce it to repeatedly summing pairs of functions. Each function is entire and each of these sums of pairs of functions returns an entire function by theorem ??. Hence $P_n(z)$ is entire. \square

Definition 24: Complex trigonometric functions

We can define $\sin, \cos: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ as

$$\cos z = \frac{1}{2}(e^{iz} + e^{-iz}), \quad \text{and} \quad \sin z = \frac{1}{2i}(e^{iz} - e^{-iz}).$$

Importantly this means that these complex trig functions evaluate to the same value as their real counterparts with a real input. Notice the resemblance to the hyperbolic trig functions:

$$\cosh z = \frac{1}{2}(e^z + e^{-z}), \quad \text{and} \quad \sinh z = \frac{1}{2}(e^z - e^{-z}).$$

Corollary 2: Trigonometric functions are entire

Trig functions and hyperbolic trig functions are entire.

Proof. The trig functions and hyperbolic trig functions defined on \mathbb{C} are defined as a sum of two exponentials of the form $e^{\alpha z}$ with $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$. These exponentials are entire and therefore the trig and hyperbolic trig functions are entire. \square

Example 3.4. Where is $w(z) = |z|^2$ analytic?

Recall that $w(z) = |z|^2$ is differentiable only at $z = 0$. Therefore it is not analytic anywhere as it is differentiable at a point and not in its neighbourhood.

Similarly to above a function that is differentiable only along a line will not be analytic anywhere as the neighbourhood of any point on the line will contain points not on the line. This was the purpose of our definition, to exclude functions that are differentiable at a point or a few points but not in a region. This turns out to be a very strict requirement which allows us to prove some very strong results. As part of this we will consider functions analytic on a region apart from a few points inside. These points tend to require special consideration so we give them a name:

Definition 25: Isolated singular point

Let $w: S \subseteq \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. We say that z_0 is an **isolated singular point** of w if there exists an open domain $S \ni z_0$ such that w is analytic for all $z \in S, z \neq z_0$.

Definition 26: Stationary point

If $w: S \subseteq \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is analytic in an open domain, $D \subseteq S$, and $z_0 \in D$ then we say that z_0 is a **stationary point** if $w'(z_0) = 0$.

Theorem 4: Properties of an analytic function

Let $w: S \subseteq \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be analytic in $S' \subseteq S$ and let $w(x + iy) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$. Then u and v have the following properties in S' :

- (i) Both u and v are harmonic, that is they satisfy Laplace's equation, $\nabla^2 u = \nabla^2 v = 0$ where $\nabla^2 = \partial_x^2 + \partial_y^2$ is the two dimensional Laplacian.
- (ii) The level curves of u and v are orthogonal.
- (iii) A stationary point is always a saddle point.

Proof. We will prove these in the order stated.

- (i) Since w is analytic in the region of interest we know that they are continuous and differentiable. This means that we can change the order of partial derivatives. Thus

$$u_{xx} = \frac{\partial u_x}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial v_y}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y \partial x} = \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial y} = -\frac{\partial u_y}{\partial y} = -u_{yy}.$$

Hence

$$\nabla^2 u = u_{xx} + u_{yy} = u_{xx} - u_{xx} = 0.$$

Similarly

$$v_{xx} = \frac{\partial v_x}{\partial x} = -\frac{\partial u_y}{\partial x} = -\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} = -\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y \partial x} = -\frac{\partial u_x}{\partial y} = -\frac{\partial v_y}{\partial y} = -v_{yy}$$

so

$$\nabla^2 v = v_{xx} + v_{yy} = v_{xx} - v_{xx} = 0.$$

- (ii) The level curves of a function $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are perpendicular to $\nabla f = f_x \mathbf{e}_x + f_y \mathbf{e}_y$. Therefore if the curves of constant u and v are orthogonal we expect their gradients to be as well. This is easy to show:

$$(\nabla u) \cdot (\nabla v) = (u_x \mathbf{e}_x + u_y \mathbf{e}_y) \cdot (v_x \mathbf{e}_x + v_y \mathbf{e}_y) = u_x v_x + u_y v_y = u_x v_x - u_x v_x = 0.$$

So ∇u and ∇v are perpendicular so the level curves of u and v are perpendicular.

- (iii) A function $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a local maximum (or minimum) at (x, y) if $f'(x, y) = 0$ and the Hessian matrix, $H_{ij} = \partial_i \partial_j f$, is positive definite (or negative definite). If the Hessian is indefinite then (x, y) is a saddle point. Recall that a matrix, M , is positive (or negative) definite if all of its eigenvalues are positive (or negative) and indefinite if some of its eigenvalues are positive and some

are negative. So the third part of this theorem equates to stating that the Hessian matrices for u and v are indefinite, i.e. of their two eigenvalues one is positive and one is negative. The Hessian matrices for u and v are

$$H(u) = \begin{pmatrix} u_{xx} & u_{xy} \\ u_{yx} & u_{yy} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad H(v) = \begin{pmatrix} v_{xx} & v_{xy} \\ v_{yx} & v_{yy} \end{pmatrix}.$$

We know from the first part of this theorem that $u_{xx} = -u_{yy}$ and $v_{xx} = -v_{yy}$. Also applying the Cauchy–Riemann relations we have $u_{xy} = v_{yy} = -v_{xx}$ and $v_{xy} = -u_{yy} = u_{xx}$.

$$H(u) = \begin{pmatrix} u_{xx} & -v_{xx} \\ -v_{xx} & -u_{xx} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad H(v) = \begin{pmatrix} v_{xx} & u_{xx} \\ u_{xx} & -v_{xx} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Now notice that $|H(u)| = |H(v)| = -u_{xx}^2 - v_{xx}^2 \leq 0$. If the determinants are zero then H are indefinite. If the determinants are non-zero then it is possible to diagonalise the matrix. Then the determinant will be the product of the leading diagonal, which is all of the eigenvalues. For the determinant to be negative since there are two eigenvalues we need one eigenvalue to be negative and the other to be positive. This makes H an indefinite matrix. □

4 Consequences of Analyticity

Theorem 5: Constant analytic functions

Let $w: S \subseteq \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be analytic on S . Then

- (i) If $w'(z) = 0$ for all $z \in S$ then $w(z)$ is constant for all $z \in S$.
- (ii) If $|w(z)|$ is constant for all $z \in S$ then $w(z)$ is also constant for all $z \in S$.

Proof. We will prove these in the order stated.

- (i) The mean value theorem (MVT) for several variables states that for $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ there exists $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that

$$f(\mathbf{b}) - f(\mathbf{a}) = [\nabla f(\mathbf{c})] \cdot (\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}).$$

Specifically in the one dimensional case this takes the form

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}.$$

This theorem doesn't hold for complex functions, however we can apply it to the real and imaginary parts of w , u and v respectively.

Let $w: S \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be such that $w'(z) = 0$ for all $z \in S$ and $w(z) = w(x + iy) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$ where $u, v: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then for $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \in S' = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x + iy \in S\}$ we can say that there exists $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ such that

$$u(\mathbf{b}) - u(\mathbf{a}) = [\nabla u(\mathbf{c})] \cdot (\mathbf{b} - \mathbf{a}).$$

However in this case we are assuming $w'(z) = 0$ which necessitates that all partial derivatives are also zero. Thus $\nabla u(\mathbf{c}) = 0$ for all $\mathbf{c} \in S'$. This means that $u(\mathbf{b}) - u(\mathbf{a}) = 0$ hence $u(\mathbf{b}) = u(\mathbf{a})$. Since this holds for any pair of points, $\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \in S'$ we must have that $u(x, y)$ is constant for all $(x, y) \in S'$. By the same logic we must also have that $v(x, y)$ is constant for all $(x, y) \in S'$ and hence $w(z)$ is constant for all $z \in S$.

- (ii) Let $w: S \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be such that $|w(z)| = C$ is constant for all $z \in S$. Then $u^2 + v^2 = C^2$. Differentiating with respect to x and separately with respect to y we get

$$2uu_x + 2vv_x = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad 2uu_y + 2vv_y = 0.$$

Applying the Cauchy–Riemann relations we get

$$uu_x - vv_y = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad uu_y + vv_x = 0.$$

Since both equations hold simultaneously we can solve them and find that $(u^2 + v^2)u_y = C^2 u_y = 0$. If u and v are both zero then $C = 0$. If this is not the case then u_x and u_y must be zero. Similarly we can show that v_x and v_y must be zero and hence $w(z)$ is constant for all $z \in S$. □

4.1 Reconstruction

Definition 27: Harmonic conjugate

Let $u, v: S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. We say v is the **harmonic conjugate** of u if u and v are both harmonic and they satisfy the Cauchy–Riemann relations in an open subset, $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$.

Note that if v is the harmonic conjugate of u then $w(x + iy) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$ is analytic on S . For a given harmonic function $u: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ its harmonic conjugate, if it exists, is unique up to a constant. The process of finding the harmonic conjugate is best demonstrated with an example.

Example 4.1. Given the function $u(x, y) = y^3 - 3x^2y$ find its harmonic conjugate.

We start by computing the partial derivatives of u :

$$u_x = -6xy, \quad \text{and} \quad u_y = 3y^2 - 3x^2.$$

From the Cauchy–Riemann relations and the fundamental theorem of calculus we have that

$$v = \int v_y dy + f(x) = \int u_x dy + f(x) = -6x \int y dy + f(x) = -3xy^2 + h(x)$$

for some ‘constant’ of integration h . Hence

$$v_x = -3y^2 + h'(x).$$

We can also compute this value using the Cauchy–Riemann relations which gives

$$v_x = -u_y = 3x^2 - 3y^2.$$

For both of these to be equal we require

$$h'(x) = 3x^2 \implies h(x) = \int 3x^2 dx = x^3 + C$$

Finally

$$v(x, y) = -3xy^2 + x^3 + C.$$

Thus

$$w(z) = w(x + iy) = y^3 - 3x^2y + i(x^3 - 3xy^2 + C) = i(z^3 + C)$$

is entire, which we already know as w is a polynomial.

We made a decision at the start to integrate v_y , we could have instead integrated v_x and we will arrive at the same result:

$$v = \int v_x dx + f(y) = - \int u_y dx + f(y) = \int (3x^2 - 3y^2) dx + f(y) = x^3 - 3xy^2 + h(y).$$

Thus

$$v_y = -6xy + h'(y)$$

or by the Cauchy–Riemann relations

$$v_y = u_x = -6xy$$

so we see that this time $h'(y) = 0$ meaning that $h(y) = C$ is constant. Thus

$$v(x, y) = x^3 - 3xy^2 + C$$

which is the same result as we got the first time.

5 Branch Points

5.1 Elementary Functions

5.1.1 Polynomials

A polynomial of order n ,

$$P_n(z) = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k z^k,$$

is a linear combination of powers of z which are entire so P_n is entire. The fundamental theorem of algebra, which we will prove later, states that P_n has exactly n roots. For example $w(z) = z^4$ has roots at $z = 1, -1, i, -i$. z^4 will map any wedge covering $\pi/2$ rad of \mathbb{C} to the whole of \mathbb{C} . For example consider figure 5.1 which shows the complex plane divided into four wedges and the image⁸ of one of these wedges after the mapping $z \mapsto z^4$. The image of one of these wedges is \mathbb{C} . While this isn't particularly

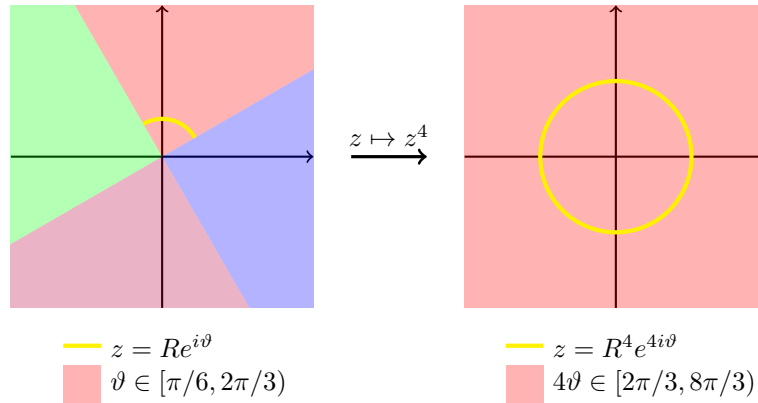


Figure 5.1: Four possible wedges that all map to \mathbb{C} under $z \mapsto z^4$. The red wedge is $\vartheta \in [\pi/6, 2\pi/3)$. The curve $Re^{i\vartheta}$ within this wedge maps to a circle of radius R^4 as $2\vartheta \in [4\pi/3, 8\pi/3)$ which is a 2π range.

interesting for the mapping $z \mapsto z^4$ it causes problems for the inverse mapping, $z \mapsto z^{1/4}$. We have to ask the question which of the four wedges that map to \mathbb{C} in the forward mapping should we map to in the reverse mapping. Or we could even map to a mixture of different wedges. In this and the next few sections we will discover the consequences of such choices.

One immediate choice is if we want $1^{1/3} = 1$ then we could choose the $\pi/3$ wedge given by $\vartheta \in [0, \pi/3]$. However this means that $(-1)^{1/3} \neq -1$ even though this is the value we would normally consider since $\arg(-1) = \pi \notin [0, \pi/3]$. Instead we have

$$(-1)^{1/3} = (e^{i\pi})^{1/3} = e^{i\pi/3} = \frac{1}{2} + i\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}.$$

We have even more of a problem if we consider irrational roots. For example the r th roots of z for some $r \in \mathbb{R}$ is

$$\sqrt[r]{z} = \sqrt[r]{|z|e^{i\vartheta+2\pi ki}} = \sqrt[r]{|z|} \exp\left[i\frac{\vartheta}{r} + \frac{2\pi ki}{r}\right]$$

for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. If $r \in \mathbb{Z}$ then eventually we will get to a point where the argument starts overlapping with previous values as we increase k however if, for example, $r = e$ then this doesn't happen and we will end up with an infinite number of different values.

5.1.2 Exponential and Logarithm

The exponential function has many of the expected properties, for example

$$e^{z_1+z_2} = e^{z_1}e^{z_2}, \quad e^z \neq 0 \forall z \in \mathbb{C}, \quad \text{and} \quad e^{x+iy} = e^x(\cos y + i \sin y).$$

⁸Recall that the image of a set, $A \subseteq S$, under the function $w: S \subseteq \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is the set $w(A) = \{w(z) \mid z \in A\}$.

Likewise the logarithm also has many of the expected properties, for example

$$\log(e^z) = z, \quad \log(z_1 z_2) = \log z_1 + \log z_2, \quad \log\left(\frac{1}{z}\right) = -\log z,$$

$$\text{and} \quad \log z = \log(|z|e^{i\vartheta}) = \log |z| + i\vartheta = \log |z| + i\vartheta.$$

However e^z is periodic with period $2\pi i$. This means that $z \mapsto e^z$ maps a strip of width 2π to $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$. See figure 5.2. In order for $\log z$ to be single valued we have to make a choice to restrict ϑ to some 2π

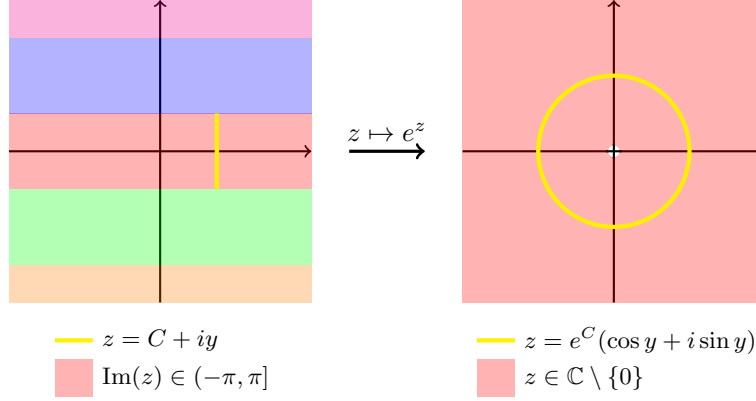


Figure 5.2: Stripes of width 2π which all map to $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ under $z \mapsto e^z$. The red stripe is $\text{Im}(z) \in (-\pi, \pi]$. The curve $z = C + iy$ for some constant $C \in \mathbb{R}$ maps to a circle of radius e^C .

interval. Common choices are $(-\pi, \pi]$ and $[0, 2\pi)$.

There is another problem however. Suppose we choose $\vartheta \in (-\pi, \pi]$. Now move smoothly around a circle of arbitrary radius, R . This corresponds to increasing ϑ smoothly and moving along the curve given by $Re^{i\vartheta}$. Most of the time $\text{Re}(\log z)$ and $\text{Im}(\log z)$ change smoothly as we move around the circle up until the point $\vartheta = \pi$. At this point if we move from above the real axis to just below, even if we do so by an arbitrarily small amount, there will be a jump in ϑ of 2π which means there will be a jump in $\text{Im}(\log z)$ of 2π .

5.1.3 Hyperbolic and Trigonometric Functions

Hyperbolic and trigonometric functions on \mathbb{C} are defined using complex exponentials as

$$\begin{aligned} \cosh z &= \frac{1}{2}(e^z + e^{-z}), & \sinh z &= \frac{1}{2}(e^z - e^{-z}), & \tanh z &= \frac{\sinh z}{\cosh z} = \frac{e^z - e^{-z}}{e^z + e^{-z}} = \frac{1 - e^{-2z}}{1 + e^{-2z}}, \\ \cos z &= \frac{1}{2}(e^{iz} + e^{-iz}), & \sin z &= \frac{1}{2i}(e^{iz} - e^{-iz}), \\ \text{and} \quad \tan z &= \frac{\sin z}{\cos z} = \frac{e^{iz} - e^{-iz}}{i(e^{iz} + e^{-iz})} = \frac{1 - e^{-2iz}}{i(1 + e^{-2iz})}. \end{aligned}$$

We can see from these formulas that the hyperbolic and trigonometric functions are inextricably linked by

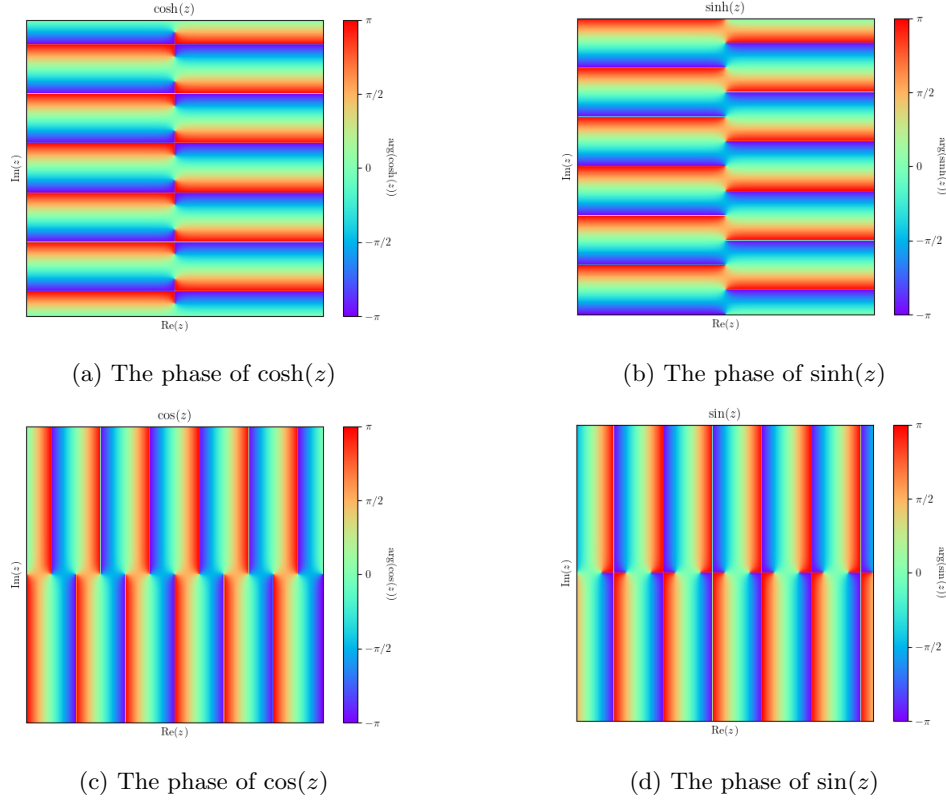
$$\cos z = \cosh(iz), \quad \text{and} \quad \sin z = -i \sinh(iz).$$

Note that multiplication by $\pm i$ is a rotation by $\pm\pi/2$ in the complex plane. Therefore we expect \sin to be a rotated version of \sinh with a phase shift. Similarly \cos is a phase shifted version of \cosh . The following trig identities still hold for the complex versions:

$$\begin{aligned} \sin(z_1 + z_2) &= \sin(z_1)\cos(z_2) + \cos(z_1)\sin(z_2) \\ \cos(z_1 + z_2) &= \cos(z_1)\cos(z_2) - \sin(z_1)\sin(z_2) \\ 1 &= \sin^2(z) + \cos^2(z) \end{aligned}$$

The inverse hyperbolic and trigonometric functions are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{arcosh}(z) &= \log\left(z + \sqrt{z^2 - 1}\right), & \text{arsinh}(z) &= \log\left(z + \sqrt{z^2 + 1}\right), \\ \arccos(z) &= \frac{1}{i} \log\left(z + \sqrt{1 - z^2}\right), & \arcsin(z) &= \frac{1}{i} \log\left(iz + \sqrt{1 - z^2}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Figure 5.3: The phases of $\cosh(z)$, $\sinh(z)$, $\cos(z)$, and $\sin(z)$.

5.2 Branch Points

Recall that we mentioned earlier a discontinuity in $\log(z)$ when traversing a circle about the origin. This is because $z = 0$ is a branch point of $\log z$.

Definition 28: Branch point

Let $w: S \subseteq \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. We say that $z_0 \in \mathbb{C}^*$ is a **branch point** of w if the neighbourhood, $D'(z_0; \varepsilon)$, contains points where w is discontinuous for arbitrarily small $\varepsilon > 0$.

To show that a point is a branch point it suffices to show that a circle about that point with arbitrarily small radius contains a discontinuity. A branch point is *not* an isolated singularity as w is, by definition, continuous in the neighbourhood of an isolated singularity. Again notice that the value of w at z_0 is unimportant in the question of whether z_0 is a branch point of w . Notice that $z = \infty$ can be a branch point. We can check for this by considering the transformation $z \rightarrow 1/t$ as $t \rightarrow 0$.

Example 5.1. We have already seen that $w(z) = \log z$ has a branch point at $z = 0$. Does it have a branch point at $z = \infty$?

Make the transformation $z \rightarrow 1/t$:

$$\log z \rightarrow \log \frac{1}{t} = -\log t.$$

Since this has a factor of $\log t$ it will have a branch point at $t = 0$ and therefore $\log z$ has a branch point at $z = \infty$.

Example 5.2. Where are the branch points of $w(z) = \sqrt{z}$?

We can write an arbitrary real power of z as

$$z^\alpha = e^{\alpha \log z} = \exp[\alpha \log |z| + i\alpha(\vartheta + 2\pi n)].$$

We see that this contains a logarithm and therefore has a branch point at $z = 0, \infty$.

From these two examples if we have a function of square roots and logarithms we can find the branch points simply by looking for when the arguments of said logarithms and square roots are zero.

6 Branch Cuts

Example 6.1. Where are the branch points of $w(z) = \sqrt{z^2 - 1}$?

We can write

$$w(z) = \sqrt{z^2 - 1} = \sqrt{z - 1}\sqrt{z + 1}.$$

First we consider when the argument of the square roots may be 0, we see this happens at $z = \pm 1$. What about $z = \infty$? Again we make the transformation $z \rightarrow 1/t$:

$$\sqrt{z^2 - 1} \rightarrow \sqrt{\frac{1}{t^2} - 1} = \sqrt{\frac{1 - t^2}{t^2}} = \frac{\sqrt{1 - t^2}}{t}.$$

Now as $t \rightarrow 0$ this is a singularity, however that doesn't matter as the value of w is unimportant at a branch point. Since the argument of the square root is non-zero at $t = 0$ this is not a branch point. Therefore the branch points of w are $z = \pm 1$.

We will use this example to develop an important concept. A point in the plane can be expressed in polar coordinates centred at $z = \pm 1$, see figure 6.1. In these coordinates

$$z + 1 = R^- e^{i\vartheta^-}, \quad \text{and} \quad z - 1 = R^+ e^{i\vartheta^+}.$$

This allows us to express $w(z) = \sqrt{z^2 - 1}$ as

$$w(z) = \sqrt{z^2 - 1} = \sqrt{z + 1}\sqrt{z - 1} = \sqrt{R^+ R^-} \exp \left[i \frac{1}{2} (\vartheta^+ + \vartheta^-) \right].$$

We will use this form to investigate the discontinuities of w . What we will see is that there are discon-

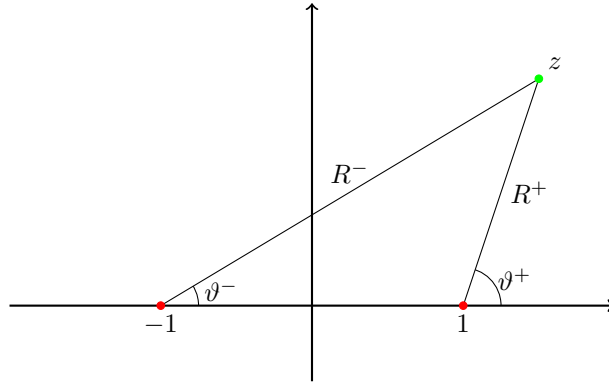


Figure 6.1: A point, z , can be thought of in two sets of polar coordinates centred at ± 1 .

tinuities regardless of how we restrict ϑ^\pm to have a single valued function. We consider three different paths across the real axis, each starting at a point $x + i\delta$ above the axis for some $\delta > 0$ and ending at $x + i\delta$ below the axis. If there is a discontinuity above the axis then even as $\delta \rightarrow 0$ there will be a non-zero jump in the value of w .

- The first choice we make is $\vartheta^\pm \in (-\pi, \pi]$.
 - The first path we consider has $x \in (1, \infty)$.

Above the axis in the limit $\delta \rightarrow 0$ we have $\vartheta^\pm = 0$. Hence

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} w(x + i\delta) = \sqrt{R^+ R^-} \exp \left[i \frac{1}{2} (0 + 0) \right] = \sqrt{R^+ R^-}.$$

Below the axis in the limit $\delta \rightarrow 0$ we have $\vartheta^\pm \rightarrow 0$. Hence

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} w(x - i\delta) = \sqrt{R^+ R^-} \exp \left[i \frac{1}{2} (0 + 0) \right] = \sqrt{R^+ R^-}.$$

Both of these are equal so there is no discontinuity in the $(1, \infty)$ interval of the real axis.

- The second path we consider has $x \in (-1, 1)$.

Above the axis in the limit $\delta \rightarrow 0$ we have $\vartheta^+ = \pi$ and $\vartheta^- = 0$. Hence

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} w(x + i\delta) = \sqrt{R^+ R^-} \exp \left[i \frac{1}{2} (\pi + 0) \right] = e^{i\pi/2} \sqrt{R^+ R^-} = i \sqrt{R^+ R^-}.$$

Below the axis in the limit $\delta \rightarrow 0$ we have $\vartheta^+ = -\pi$ and $\vartheta^- = 0$. Hence

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} w(x - i\delta) = \sqrt{R^+ R^-} \exp \left[i \frac{1}{2} (-\pi + 0) \right] = e^{-i\pi/2} \sqrt{R^+ R^-} = -i \sqrt{R^+ R^-}.$$

These are not equal so there is a discontinuity in the $(-1, 1)$ interval of the real axis.

- The third path we consider has $x \in (-\infty, -1)$.

Above the axis in the limit $\delta \rightarrow 0$ we have $\vartheta^\pm = \pi$. Hence

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} w(x + i\delta) = \sqrt{R^+ R^-} \exp \left[i \frac{1}{2} (\pi + \pi) \right] = e^{i\pi} \sqrt{R^+ R^-} = -\sqrt{R^+ R^-}.$$

Below the axis in the limit $\delta \rightarrow 0$ we have $\vartheta^\pm = -\pi$. Hence

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} w(x - i\delta) = \sqrt{R^+ R^-} \exp \left[i \frac{1}{2} (-\pi + -\pi) \right] = e^{-i\pi} \sqrt{R^+ R^-} = \sqrt{R^+ R^-}.$$

Both of these are equal so there is no discontinuity in the $(-\infty, -1)$ interval of the real axis.

We conclude that with the choice $\vartheta^\pm \in (-\pi, \pi]$ there is a discontinuity only crossing the interval $(-1, 1)$ of the real axis.

- The second choice we make is $\vartheta^+ \in (-\pi, \pi]$ and $\vartheta^- \in [0, 2\pi)$.

- The first path we consider has $x \in (1, \infty)$.

Above the axis in the limit $\delta \rightarrow 0$ we have $\vartheta^\pm = 0$. Hence

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} w(x + i\delta) = \sqrt{R^+ R^-} \exp \left[i \frac{1}{2} (0 + 0) \right] = \sqrt{R^+ R^-}.$$

Below the axis in the limit $\delta \rightarrow 0$ we have $\vartheta^+ = 0$ and $\vartheta^- = 2\pi$. Hence

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} w(x - i\delta) = \sqrt{R^+ R^-} \exp \left[i \frac{1}{2} (0 + 2\pi) \right] = e^{i\pi} \sqrt{R^+ R^-} = -\sqrt{R^+ R^-}.$$

These are not equal so there is a discontinuity in the $(1, \infty)$ interval of the real axis.

- The second path we consider has $x \in (-1, 1)$.

Above the axis in the limit $\delta \rightarrow 0$ we have $\vartheta^+ = -\pi$ and $\vartheta^- = 2\pi$. Hence

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} w(x + i\delta) = \sqrt{R^+ R^-} \exp \left[i \frac{1}{2} (2\pi - \pi) \right] = e^{i\pi/2} \sqrt{R^+ R^-} = i \sqrt{R^+ R^-}.$$

Below the axis in the limit $\delta \rightarrow 0$ we have $\vartheta^+ = -\pi$ and $\vartheta^- = 2\pi$. Hence

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} w(x - i\delta) = \sqrt{R^+ R^-} \exp \left[i \frac{1}{2} (-\pi + 2\pi) \right] = e^{i\pi/2} \sqrt{R^+ R^-} = i \sqrt{R^+ R^-}.$$

Both of these are equal so there is no discontinuity in the $(-1, 1)$ interval of the real axis.

- The third path we consider has $x \in (-\infty, -1)$.

Above the axis in the limit $\delta \rightarrow 0$ we have $\vartheta^\pm = \pi$. Hence

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} w(x + i\delta) = \sqrt{R^+ R^-} \exp \left[i \frac{1}{2} (\pi + \pi) \right] = e^{i\pi} \sqrt{R^+ R^-} = \sqrt{R^+ R^-}.$$

Below the axis in the limit $\delta \rightarrow 0$ we have $\vartheta^+ = -\pi$ and $\vartheta^- = \pi$. Hence

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} w(x - i\delta) = \sqrt{R^+ R^-} \exp \left[i \frac{1}{2} (-\pi + \pi) \right] = \sqrt{R^+ R^-}.$$

These are not equal so there is a discontinuity in the $(-\infty, 1)$ interval of the real axis.

We conclude that with the choice $\vartheta^+ \in (-\pi, \pi]$ and $\vartheta^- \in [0, 2\pi)$ there is a discontinuity crossing the real axis in either $(-\infty, -1)$ or $(1, \infty)$.

This demonstrates the importance of choosing the argument. In general it is possible to move discontinuities by changing the argument but we cannot get rid of them. There is no ‘right answer’, it is best to make a choice and write it down and be careful to stick with it.

Definition 29: Branch cut

A **branch cut** is an arbitrary path that joins two branch points and as a result of which the function in question becomes single valued.

Figure 6.2 shows a Riemann surface, which is a way of plotting complex functions. This one shows \sqrt{z} which we can see is multi valued. We can think of branch points as the points where multiple sheets coincide. Figure 6.3 shows the same Riemann surface after a branch cut along the negative real axis, which joins 0 and ∞ , the two branch points of \sqrt{z} . The function is now single valued and the discontinuity at the branch cut is fairly obvious.

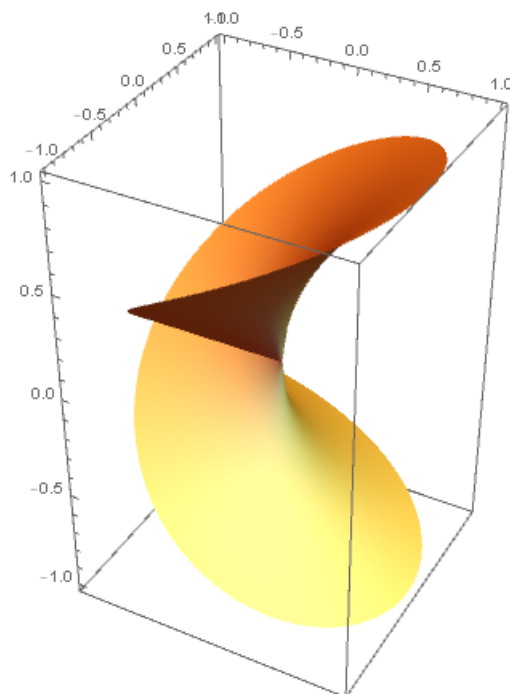


Figure 6.2: The Riemann surface of \sqrt{z} showing the real and imaginary parts in the bottom plane and $\text{Re}(\sqrt{z})$ in the vertical axis.

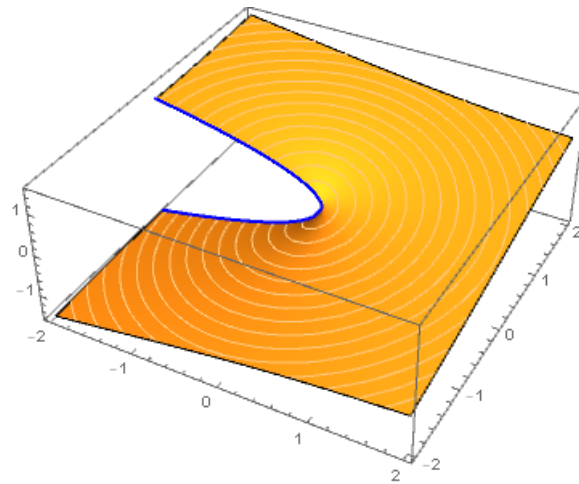


Figure 6.3: The Riemann surface of \sqrt{z} with a branch cut along the negative real axis in order to make the function single valued. The branch cut is shown in blue.

Part III

Integrals

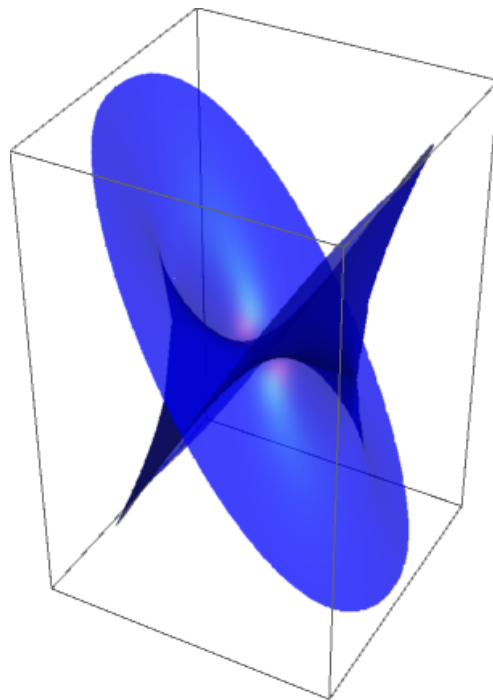


Figure 6.4: The Riemann surface of $\sqrt{z^2 - 1}$ with two branch points at $z = \pm 1$.

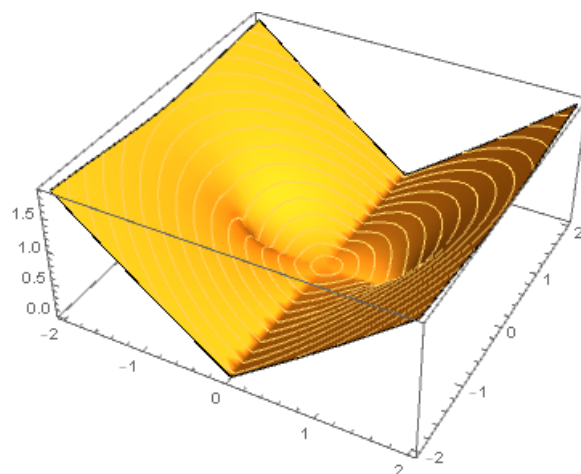


Figure 6.5: The Riemann surface of $\sqrt{z^2 - 1}$ with a branch point from $z = \infty$ to $z = \pm 1$. Essentially this cuts the bottom half off to make the function single valued.

7 Complex Integration

7.1 Integrating Functions From \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{C}

Before we define integration in the complex plane we consider a simpler case. Consider a function, $w: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. We can write this function as

$$w(t) = u(t) + iv(t)$$

where $u, v: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. If u and v are both piecewise continuous (that is contain a countable number of discontinuities) then we can integrate w the same way we would integrate a real integral. For example integrating over (a, b) we have

$$\int_a^b w(t) dt = \int_a^b u(t) dt + i \int_a^b v(t) dt = [U(t) + iV(t)]_a^b$$

where U and V are the antiderivatives of u and v . This simplified case of integrating only along \mathbb{R} actually turns out to be very close to the more common case of a function defined on a particular path in the complex plane. We simply need to parametrise the path with a real parameter and then complex integrals become remarkably similar to their real counterpart. For example the integral as defined above is linear, that is for $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$ and piecewise continuous functions $f, g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$

$$\int_a^b [\alpha f(t) + \beta g(t)] dt = \alpha \int_a^b f(t) dt + \beta \int_a^b g(t) dt.$$

7.2 Arcs and Contours

The main difference between integrating a function defined on \mathbb{R} and a function defined on \mathbb{C} is that in the second case there are multiple paths we can take to get from a to b . We have to define the path we are integrating along and in general it makes a difference which path we choose. This should be familiar from line integrals from multivariable calculus. In the complex plane we define a contour to integrate along. There are a few restraints on what paths we can choose as a contour.

Definition 30: Smooth arc

The set of points

$$\{\gamma(t) = x(t) + iy(t) \mid x, y: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \wedge t \in (a, b) \subseteq \mathbb{R}\}$$

is a **smooth arc** with end points $\{a, b\}$ if both $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ are continuous and differentiable and $\gamma'(t) = x'(t) + iy'(t) \neq 0$ for all $t \in (a, b)$.

Notation

We denote by $C^k(X)$ the set of all functions defined on X with at least k continuous derivatives (on some domain of interest). Often we write C^k when the domain is obvious. For example C^0 is the set of continuous functions which may or may not be differentiable and C^1 is the set of differentiable functions with continuous derivatives. Note that since we define $f \in C^k$ to have at least k continuous derivatives we also know that $f \in C^{k'}$ for all $k' \leq k$, for example the function defined by $f(z) = e^z$ is in C^∞ but it is also in C^k for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

Definition 31: Contour

A **contour**, γ , is a continuous chain of a finite number of smooth arcs. We say that γ is piecewise smooth.

The condition that the number of arcs is finite is important.

Example 7.1. Consider the path defined by

$$\gamma(t) = z_0 + te^{i\vartheta}, \quad t \in (0, 1)$$

for some constant ϑ . To see what this arc looks like consider $\gamma(0) = z_0$ and $\gamma(1) = z_0 + e^{i\vartheta}$. This arc corresponds to a straight line between these two points as can be seen in figure 7.1a. Notice that $\gamma'(t) = e^{i\vartheta}$ is non-zero for all finite ϑ so γ is a smooth arc.

Consider the path defined by

$$\gamma(t) = z_0 + Re^{it}, \quad t \in (0, \pi/2)$$

for some constant R . To see what this arc looks like consider $\gamma(0) = z_0 + R$ and $\gamma(1) = z_0 + iR$. This arc corresponds to an arc (in the part of a circle sense) centred on z_0 with radius R starting at 0 and going round to $\pi/2$ as can be seen in figure 7.1b. Notice that $\gamma'(t) = iRe^{it}$ is non-zero for all finite t so γ is a smooth arc.

Consider the path defined by

$$\gamma(t) = t + ie^{-it}, \quad t \in (0, 3\pi).$$

Notice that

$$\operatorname{Re}(z) = t + \cos t, \quad \text{and} \quad \operatorname{Im}(z) = 1 - \sin t$$

so

$$z'(t) = 1 - \sin t - i \cos t.$$

This is zero for $t = \pi/2 + 2n\pi$, $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Therefore this is *not* a smooth arc. However as we see in figure 7.1c we can decompose it into three smooth arcs which makes it a valid contour.

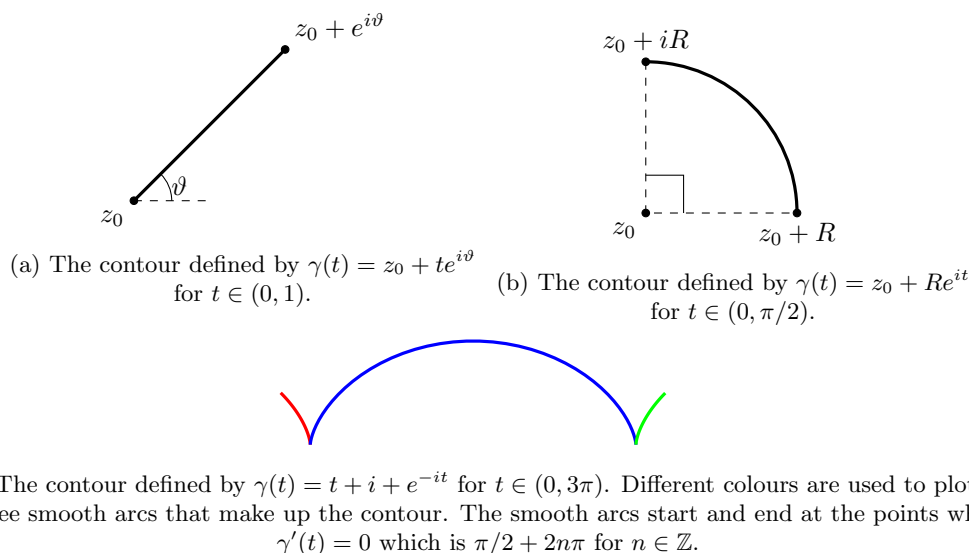


Figure 7.1: Various examples of contours.

7.3 The Integral

Definition 32: Integral

Let γ be a contour. We split γ into n sections and define $\{z_\alpha\}$ as the set of $n + 1$ end points of each section. Let $w: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a piecewise continuous complex function. Define the sum

$$S_n = \sum_{\alpha=1}^n w(z_\alpha)(z_\alpha - z_{\alpha-1}).$$

Now let $n \rightarrow \infty$ and let the length of each segment $|z_\alpha - z_{\alpha-1}| \rightarrow 0$. If this limit exists we say that w is **integrable** on γ . In this case the limit is called the **integral** of w on γ , or in the normal notation

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = \int_{\gamma} w(z) dz.$$

Lemma 9: Linearity of the integral

Let γ be a contour, let f and g be piecewise continuous functions on γ , and let $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$ be constants. Then

$$\int_{\gamma} (\alpha f(z) + \beta g(z)) dz = \alpha \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz + \beta \int_{\gamma} g(z) dz.$$

Proof. Split the contour γ , as in the definition of the integral, into n sections with end points z_i and length $|z_i - z_{i-1}|$ such that the of each interval vanishes as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\gamma} (\alpha f(z) + \beta g(z)) dz &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} [(\alpha f(z_i) + \beta g(z_i))(z_i - z_{i-1})] \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} [\alpha f(z_i)(z_i - z_{i-1}) + \beta g(z_i)(z_i - z_{i-1})] \\ &= \alpha \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(z_i)(z_i - z_{i-1}) + \beta \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g(z_i)(z_i - z_{i-1}) \\ &= \alpha \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz + \beta \int_{\gamma} g(z) dz. \end{aligned}$$

Here we have used the fact that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} [aA_n + bB_n] = a \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} A_n + b \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} B_n$$

for some convergent complex sequences (A_n) and (B_n) and complex constants a and b . \square

Definition 33: Closed contour

Let γ be a contour with endpoints a and b . If $a = b$ we say that the contour is **closed**.

Note that this sort of closed is not the same as the topological sort of closed (i.e. that the set contains its boundary).

Notation

If γ is a closed contour and w is integrable on γ then we denote the integral by

$$\oint_{\gamma} w(z) dz.$$

As a matter of convention when integrating along a closed contour we go anticlockwise.

7.4 Evaluating Integrals

Now that we have defined an integral we can start actually integrating things. Let $\{\gamma_k\}$ be smooth arcs which together form a contour, γ . Let γ_k be parametrised by some real variable $t \in (a, b)$. Under this parametrisation the points on γ_k can be written as $z = z[\gamma_k(t)] = x(t) + iy(t)$ where $x, y: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Differentiating we have

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = x'(t) + iy'(t) = \gamma'_k(t) \implies dz = [x'(t) + iy(t)] dt = \gamma'_k(t) dt.$$

Now let $w: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be integrable on γ and let $w(\gamma(t)) = u(t) + iv(t)$ where $u, v: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then the substitution $z \rightarrow \gamma_k$ gives us

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\gamma_k} w(z) dz &= \int_a^b w[\gamma_k(t)] \gamma'_k(t) dt \\ &= \int_a^b [u(t) + iv(t)][x'(t) + iy'(t)] dt \\ &= \int_a^b [u(t)x'(t) - v(t)y'(t)] dt + i \int_a^b [v(t)x'(t) + u(t)y'(t)] dt. \end{aligned}$$

These integrals can then be easily evaluated using techniques from real integral calculus.

Lemma 10: Integral properties

Let γ be a piecewise smooth contour and let f be a continuous function on γ . Then the following hold.

1. Inverting the contour inverts the integral:

$$\int_{-\gamma} f(z) dz = - \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz.$$

2. If γ can be decomposed into two smooth contours γ_1 and γ_2 then

$$\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = \int_{\gamma_1} f(z) dz + \int_{\gamma_2} f(z) dz.$$

3. Two different parametrisations of γ will yield the same result. That is if γ_1 and γ_2 are smooth arcs with endpoints $\{a, b\}$ and $\{a', b'\}$ respectively and $g: (a, b) \rightarrow (a', b')$ such that $g(\gamma_1) = \gamma_2$ then

$$\int_{\gamma_1} f(z) dz = \int_{\gamma_2} f(z) dz.$$

Proof.

1. Consider the definition of the integral over γ

$$\begin{aligned} - \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz &= - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{\alpha=1}^n f(z_{\alpha})(z_{\alpha} - z_{\alpha-1}) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{\alpha=1}^n f(z_{\alpha})(z_{\alpha-1} - z_{\alpha}) \\ &= \int_{-\gamma} f(z) dz. \end{aligned}$$

This proves the first statement.

An alternative proof of this statement can be given by parametrising the contour. Consider a parametrisation of γ by some real variable $t \in (0, 1)$ and notice that $-\gamma$ is then parametrised by the same parametrisation with $1 - t'$ where $t' \in (0, 1)$. The end points are inverted but it is the same set of points. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\gamma} f(z) dz &= - \int_{t'=0}^{t'=1} f[\gamma(1 - t')] \gamma'(1 - t') dt' \\ &= \int_{t'=1}^{t'=0} f[\gamma(1 - t')] \gamma'(1 - t') dt' \end{aligned}$$

now substituting $1 - t' = t$

$$\begin{aligned} &= - \int_{t=0}^{t=1} f[\gamma(t)] \gamma'(t) dt \\ &= - \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz. \end{aligned}$$

This proves the property also.

2. Let γ be parametrised by a real variable $t \in [a, b]$. Let c be such that $\gamma(t)$ corresponds to a point on γ_1 if $t \in (a, c)$ and a point on γ_2 if $t \in (c, b)$. The integrals of the real and imaginary parts of f behave like real integrals and we know for a real integral of some integrable function h on (a, b) that

$$\int_a^b h(t) dt = \int_a^c h(t) dt + \int_c^b h(t) dt$$

where $a \leq c \leq b$. Applying this to the real and complex parts of the integral of f we have

$$\int_a^b f[\gamma(t)]\gamma'(t) dt = \int_a^c f[\gamma_1(t)]\gamma'_1(t) dt + \int_c^b f[\gamma_1(t)]\gamma'_2(t) dt.$$

Hence

$$\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = \int_{\gamma_1} f(z) dz + \int_{\gamma_2} f(z) dz.$$

This proves the second property.

3. For the final property we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\gamma_2} f(z) dz &= \int_{a'}^{b'} f[\gamma_2(t)]\gamma'_2(t) dt \\ &= \int_{a'}^{b'} f\{g[\gamma_1(t)]\} \frac{dg[\gamma_1(t)]}{dt} dt \\ &= \int_{a'}^{b'} f\{g[\gamma_1(t)]\} dg[\gamma_1(t)] \end{aligned}$$

making the substitution $g[\gamma_2(t)] \rightarrow \gamma_1(t)$ we have $dt' = dg[\gamma_2]$ so we get

$$\begin{aligned} &= \int_a^b f[\gamma_1(t')]\gamma'_1(t') dt' \\ &= \int_{\gamma_1} f(z) dz. \end{aligned}$$

This proves the third property.

□

7.4.1 Evaluating Integrals Examples

With these properties we are finally ready for some examples.

Example 7.2. Let $f(z) = z^2$. Find the integral

$$\int_{\gamma} z^2 dz$$

where γ is one of the following contours:

1. a straight line segment from 0 to $1 + i$,
2. two straight line segments from 0 to 1 and from 1 to $1 + i$.

1. We can parametrise the first contour as $\gamma(t) = t(1 + i)$ with $t \in (0, 1)$. Then $\gamma'(t) = 1 + i$, which is non-zero as required. The integral is then

$$\int_{\gamma} z^2 dz = \int_0^1 [t(1 + i)]^2(1 + i) dt = (1 + i)^3 \int_0^1 t^2 dt = (1 + i)^3 \left[\frac{1}{3} t^3 \right]_0^1 = (1 + i)^3 \frac{1}{3} = \frac{-2 + 2i}{3}.$$

2. The second contour can be parametrised in two parts by $\gamma_1(t) = t$ for $t \in (0, 1)$ and $\gamma_2(t) = 1 + it$ for $t \in (0, 1)$. The derivatives of the contours are $\gamma'_1(t) = 1$ and $\gamma'_2(t) = i$ which are both non-zero as required. Integrating over these contours we have

$$\int_{\gamma_1} z^2 dz = \int_0^1 t^2 dt = \frac{1}{3}$$

and

$$\int_{\gamma_2} z^2 dz = \int_0^1 (1 + it)^2 i dt = i \int_0^1 (1 - t^2 + 2it) dt = -1 + \frac{2i}{3}.$$

Thus the integral along the whole contour is

$$\int_{\gamma_1} z^2 dz + \int_{\gamma_2} z^2 dz = \frac{-2 + 2i}{3}.$$

Notice that both contours gave the same result. This is not the case in general as we will see in the next example.

Example 7.3. Let $f(z) = 1/z$. Find the integral

$$\int_{\gamma} \frac{1}{z} dz$$

where γ is one of the following contours

1. γ_1 , the upper semicircle from -1 to 1 ,
2. γ_2 , the lower semicircle from -1 to 1 .

1. γ_1 can be parametrised as $\gamma_1(t) = e^{it}$ where $t \in (0, \pi)$. Note that for the direction to be from -1 to 1 we need to start at $t = \pi$. The derivative of this contour parametrisation is $\gamma'(t) = ie^{it}$ which is non-zero on $(0, \pi)$ as required. The integral is then

$$\int_{\gamma_1} \frac{1}{z} dz = \int_{\pi}^0 \frac{1}{e^{it}} ie^{it} dt = i \int_{\pi}^0 dt = -i\pi.$$

2. γ_2 can be parametrised as $\gamma_2(t) = e^{it}$ where $t \in (-\pi, 0)$. The derivative of this contour parametrisation is $\gamma'(t) = ie^{it}$ which is non-zero on $(-\pi, 0)$ as required. The integral is then

$$\int_{\gamma_2} \frac{1}{z} dz = \int_{-\pi}^0 \frac{1}{e^{it}} ie^{it} dt = i \int_{-\pi}^0 dt = i\pi.$$

We see that the value of the integral depends on the contour chosen.

Example 7.4. Let $f(z) = |z|^2$. Find the integral

$$\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz$$

where γ is one of the following contours

1. γ_1 , a straight segment from -1 to i ,
2. γ_2 , a $\pi/2$ circular arc of radius 1 from -1 to i .

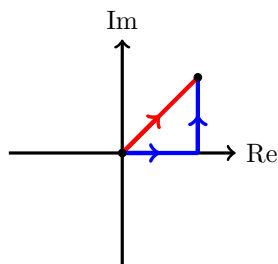
1. γ_1 can be parametrised as $\gamma_1(t) = -1 + (1+i)t$ with $t \in (0, 1)$. The derivative of this contour parametrisation is $\gamma'_1(t) = 1+i$ which is non-zero as required. The integral is then

$$\int_{\gamma_1} |z|^2 dz = \int_0^1 |t-1+it|(1+i) dt = (1+i) \int_0^1 [(t-1)^2 + t^2] dt = \frac{2}{3}(1+i).$$

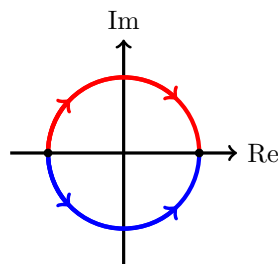
2. γ_2 can be parametrised as $\gamma_2(t) = e^{it}$ where $t \in (\pi/2, \pi)$. Note that for the direction to be from -1 to i we need to start at $t = \pi$. The derivative of this contour parametrisation is $\gamma'(t) = ie^{it}$ which is non-zero on $(\pi/2, \pi)$ as required. The integral is then

$$\int_{\gamma_2} |z|^2 dz = \int_{\pi}^{\pi/2} |e^{it}|^2 ie^{it} dt = \int_{\pi}^{\pi/2} ie^{it} dt = i + 1.$$

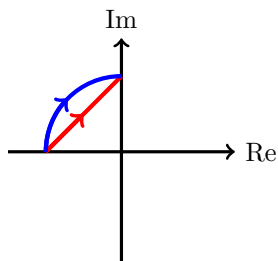
Again we see that the result depends on the contour.



(a) The contours in example 7.2



(b) The contours in example 7.3



(c) The contours in example 7.3

8 Cauchy's Integral Theorem

8.1 Bounding Integrals

Lemma 11: Integral bound

Let γ be a contour and let f be a piecewise continuous function on γ . Then

$$\left| \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz \right| \leq \int_{\gamma} |f(z)| |dz| = \int_{\gamma} |f(z)| |dz|.$$

Proof. Let

$$I = \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz.$$

Since this is a complex integral in general $I \in \mathbb{C}$. Therefore we can write I as $I = Re^{i\vartheta}$. This lemma is interested in providing a bound on $R = |I|$. Note that $e^{-i\vartheta} I = e^{-i\vartheta} Re^{i\vartheta} = R$ and that $|e^{i\vartheta}| = 1$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz \right| &= e^{i\vartheta} \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz \\ &= \int_{\gamma} e^{-i\vartheta} f(z) dz. \end{aligned}$$

The integral in the last step is real since it is equal to the absolute value of another integral. This means we can take the real part without changing anything so

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz \right| &= \operatorname{Re} \left[\int_{\gamma} e^{-i\vartheta} f(z) dz \right] \\ &= \int_{\gamma} \operatorname{Re}[e^{-i\vartheta} f(z) dz] \end{aligned}$$

Now we use $\operatorname{Re}(z) \leq |z|$ from the first point of theorem 3 and we get

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz \right| &\leq \int_{\gamma} |e^{-i\vartheta} f(z) dz| \\ &= \int_{\gamma} |f(z) dz| \end{aligned}$$

$$= \int_{\gamma} |f(z)| |dz|.$$

□

Note that we have to take the absolute value of the measure, dz , for this inequality to hold. This will be important in the next lemma. Consider

$$\int_{\gamma} |dz|$$

for some contour γ . Appealing to the definition of the integral this is simply

$$\int_{\gamma} |dz| = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^N |z_i - z_{i-1}|.$$

That is the sum of the length of all of the segments of the contour, which when summed just gives the length of the contour, L .

Lemma 12: ML lemma

Let γ be a contour on \mathbb{C} with length L . Let f be a function that is piecewise continuous on γ . Let M be a real constant that bounds $|f(z)|$ on γ . That is for all $z \in \gamma$ $M \geq |f(z)|$. Then

$$\left| \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz \right| \leq ML.$$

Proof. By lemma 11 we know that

$$\left| \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz \right| \leq \int_{\gamma} |f(z)| |dz|.$$

Clearly if we replace $|f(z)|$ with M the value of the integral can only increase. Therefore

$$\left| \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz \right| \leq \int_{\gamma} M |dz| = M \int_{\gamma} |dz| = ML.$$

□

Example 8.1. Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$. Show, using integral bounds, that $|\exp(2\pi\alpha i) - 1| \leq 2\pi|\alpha|$.

If $\alpha = 0$ then equality holds. Therefore assume $\alpha \neq 0$. We consider

$$\int_{\gamma} e^{i\alpha z} dz$$

where γ is a straight line from 0 to 2π . Applying a bound to the integral we have

$$\left| \int_{\gamma} e^{i\alpha z} dz \right| \leq \int_{\gamma} |e^{-i\alpha z}| |dz| = \int_0^{2\pi} |e^{i\alpha t}| dt = \int_0^{2\pi} dt = 2\pi.$$

Evaluating the integral instead gives

$$\left| \int_{\gamma} e^{i\alpha z} dz \right| = \left| \int_0^{2\pi} e^{i\alpha t} dt \right| = \left| \left[\frac{1}{i\alpha} e^{i\alpha z} \right]_0^{2\pi} \right| = \left| \frac{1}{\alpha} \right| |e^{2\pi i\alpha} - 1|.$$

Comparing these we have

$$|e^{2i\alpha} - 1| \leq 2\pi|\alpha|.$$

Example 8.2. Let γ be a circle of radius R . Estimate the following limits:

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \oint_{\gamma} \frac{z^2}{z^4 + 1} dz, \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{R \rightarrow 0} \oint_{\gamma} \frac{z^2}{z^4 + 1} dz.$$

We can parametrise γ as $\gamma(t) = Re^{it}$ for $t \in (0, 2\pi)$. Therefore $\gamma'(t) = iRe^{it}$ which is non-zero as required. We will also need another result that we can derive from the third point of theorem 3 which states that for $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$

$$|\alpha - \beta| \geq ||\alpha| - |\beta||.$$

Inverting this we have

$$\frac{1}{|\alpha - \beta|} \leq \frac{1}{||\alpha| - |\beta||}.$$

We can now bound the integrals.

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \oint_{\gamma} \frac{z^2}{z^4 + 1} dz \right| &\leq \oint_{\gamma} \left| \frac{z^2}{z^4 + 1} dz \right| \\ &= \oint_{\gamma} \frac{|z^2|}{|z^4 + 1|} |dz| \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{R^2 e^{2it}}{|R^4 e^{4it} + 1|} |Re^{it} dt| \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{R^3}{|R^4 e^{4it} + 1|} dt. \end{aligned}$$

Considering the specific case $R \rightarrow \infty$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \left| \oint_{\gamma} \frac{z^2}{z^4 + 1} dz \right| &\leq \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{R^3}{|R^4 e^{4it} + 1|} dt \\ &\leq \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{R^3}{|R^4 e^{4it}| - |1|} dt \\ &= \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \frac{R^3}{R^4 - 1} \int_0^{2\pi} dt \\ &= \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2\pi R^3}{R^4 - 1} \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Here we have used $1 = -(-1)$ and the inequality we derived at the start of the example. Similarly considering $R \rightarrow 0$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{R \rightarrow 0} \left| \oint_{\gamma} \frac{z^2}{z^4 + 1} dz \right| &\leq \lim_{R \rightarrow 0} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{R^3}{|R^4 e^{4it} + 1|} dt \\ &\leq \lim_{R \rightarrow 0} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{R^3}{|1| - |R^4 e^{4it}|} dt \\ &= \lim_{R \rightarrow 0} \frac{R^3}{1 - R^3} \int_0^{2\pi} dt \\ &= \lim_{R \rightarrow 0} \frac{2\pi R^3}{1 - R^3} \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

8.2 The Fundamental Theorem of Calculus

Previously we saw that the value of an integral depends on the contour. We have also seen an example where this wasn't the case. In this section we will establish conditions on a function such that its integral between two points is independent of the contour.

Definition 34: Antiderivative

Let S be a region of \mathbb{C} and let f be a continuous function on S . We say that $F: S \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is the **antiderivative** of f if for all $z \in S$ $F'(z) = f(z)$.

Notice that this means that F must be differentiable on S which in turn means that F must be analytic inside S but not necessarily on the border.

For example $f(z) = z^2$ has as an antiderivative $F(z) = z^3/3$. The function $F(z) = \log z$ is in general *not* the antiderivative of $f(z) = 1/z$ as to make F single valued and therefore a valid function we have to make a branch cut. This means that F is only an antiderivative of $1/z$ on regions that don't surround the origin.

Theorem 6: Fundamental theorem of calculus

Let S be an open region in \mathbb{C} and let $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be continuous. Then the following statements are equivalent:

1. f has an antiderivative, F , on S .
2. Let γ and γ' be arbitrary contours in S such that both have the same endpoints. Then

$$\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = \int_{\gamma'} f(z) dz.$$

3. For any given closed contour γ in S

$$\oint_{\gamma} f(z) dz = 0.$$

Proof. We will start by proving that the first statement implies the second. Suppose there exists a function, F , such that F is the antiderivative of f . Let γ be a contour parametrised by some real variable, t and let γ have endpoints t_i and t_f . Applying the chain rule we have

$$[F(\gamma(t))]' = F'[\gamma(t)]\gamma'(t) = f(\gamma(t))\gamma'(t)$$

having used the definition $F'(z) = f(z)$. We can write $F(\gamma(t)) = U(t) + iV(t)$ where $U, V: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and satisfy the real fundamental theorem of calculus. Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz &= \int_{t_i}^{t_f} f[\gamma(t)]\gamma'(t) dt \\ &= \int_{t_i}^{t_f} [F(\gamma(t))]' dt \\ &= \int_{t_i}^{t_f} [U + iV(t)]' dt \\ &= [U(t) + iV(t)]_{t_i}^{t_f} \\ &= F[\gamma(t_f)] - F[\gamma(t_i)]. \end{aligned}$$

This depends only on the endpoints of γ proving that the existence of the antiderivative implies the equality of integrals over different contours.

Next we will prove that the second statement proves the third. Combining this with the first part of this proof this also proves that the first statement implies the third by transitivity of implication. Let γ_1 and γ_2 be contours joining points a and b in S . Then if we start at a and first traverse γ_1 we get to b and the traversing γ_2 backwards takes us back to a so $\gamma = \gamma_1 - \gamma_2$ is a closed contour. Assuming that the integral over any contour from a to b is the same we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \int_{\gamma_1} f(z) dz - \int_{\gamma_2} f(z) dz \\ &= \int_{\gamma_1} f(z) dz + \int_{-\gamma_2} f(z) dz \end{aligned}$$

$$= \oint_{\gamma} f(z) \, dz.$$

Hence independence of contours leads to all integrals over a closed contour being zero.

Next we will show that the third statement implies the second. Let γ be a closed contour and choose $a, b \in \gamma$ such that γ is split into two contours, γ_1 and $-\gamma_2$. Then by hypothesis the integral over γ is zero so

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \oint_{\gamma} f(z) \, dz \\ &= \int_{\gamma_1} f(z) \, dz + \int_{-\gamma_2} f(z) \, dz \\ &= \int_{\gamma_1} f(z) \, dz - \int_{\gamma_2} f(z) \, dz \end{aligned}$$

so

$$\int_{\gamma_1} f(z) \, dz = \int_{\gamma_2} f(z) \, dz.$$

Finally we need to prove that either of the second two statements implies the first. Let γ be some contour with endpoints z_0 and z . Parametrise γ with some real variable ζ . Assuming that the integral is independent of the contour chosen the following definition of a function, F , is well defined as it depends only on the endpoints of the contour.

$$F(z) = \int_{z_0}^z f(\zeta) \, d\zeta.$$

To show the first statement holds we need to show $F'(z) = f(z)$ for all $z \in S$. To do this we appeal to the definition of the derivative. First we write

$$\begin{aligned} F(z + \Delta z) - F(z) &= \int_{z_0}^{z+\Delta z} f(\zeta) \, d\zeta - \int_{z_0}^z f(\zeta) \, d\zeta \\ &= \int_z^{z+\Delta z} f(\zeta) \, d\zeta. \end{aligned}$$

We now use a trick of adding zero to get

$$\int_z^{z+\Delta z} f(\zeta) \, d\zeta = \int_z^{z+\Delta z} f(z) - f(z) + f(\zeta) \, d\zeta.$$

We now divide by Δz and get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{F(z + \Delta z) - F(z)}{\Delta z} &= \frac{1}{\Delta z} \int_z^{z+\Delta z} f(z) - f(z) + f(\zeta) \, d\zeta \\ &= \frac{f(z)}{\Delta z} \int_z^{z+\Delta z} d\zeta + \frac{1}{\Delta z} \int_z^{z+\Delta z} f(\zeta) - f(z) \, d\zeta \\ &= \frac{f(z)}{\Delta z} \Delta z + \frac{1}{\Delta z} \int_z^{z+\Delta z} f(\zeta) - f(z) \, d\zeta \\ &= f(z) + \frac{1}{\Delta z} \int_z^{z+\Delta z} f(\zeta) - f(z) \, d\zeta. \end{aligned}$$

We now take a limit as $\Delta z \rightarrow 0$ and we have

$$\lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{F(z + \Delta z) - F(z)}{\Delta z} = f(z) + \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta z} \int_z^{z+\Delta z} f(\zeta) - f(z) \, d\zeta.$$

We see that if the limit on the right hand side vanishes then we will be left with $F'(z) = f(z)$ which is what we want. To show that this integral does indeed vanish we use the ML lemma (lemma 12). Since S is open and $\Delta z \rightarrow 0$ we are safe to assume that $z + \Delta z \in D(z; \delta)$ for some $\delta > 0$ and that $D \subseteq S$. We are free to choose any contour as by hypothesis the integral does not depend on the contour. Therefore we choose a straight line from z to $z + \Delta z$. The length of this contour is $L = |\Delta z|$.

Since f is continuous in S , and therefore continuous in D , by definition of continuity if $|z - z_0| < \delta$ for some $\delta > 0$ then there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $|f(z) - f(z_0)| < \varepsilon$. Specifically if δ is allowed to be arbitrarily small then ε can become arbitrarily small. We choose a δ which is slightly bigger than $|\Delta z|$ and this means that $|f(\zeta) - f(z)| < \varepsilon$ for some ε . Let $M = \varepsilon$ as clearly this bounds $|f(\zeta) - f(z)|$. Then by the ML lemma

$$\left| \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta z} \int_z^{z+\Delta z} f(\zeta) - f(z) dz \right| \leq \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{\varepsilon |\Delta z|}{\Delta z} = \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \varepsilon = 0.$$

This proves that

$$f(z) = \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{F(z + \Delta z) - F(z)}{\Delta z} = F'(z).$$

□

8.3 Cauchy's Integral Theorem

The fundamental theorem of calculus (theorem ??) tells us that if $f: S \subseteq \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is continuous then it has an antiderivative if and only if all of its closed contour integrals vanish. However in general there are an infinite number closed contours and checking them all is not possible. Fortunately there is another theorem that we will prove in this section which tells us exactly when this is the case.

Definition 35: Simply connected region

Let $S \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ be an open region. We say that S is **simply connected** if any path between two points in S can be continuously transformed into any other path with the same endpoints without leaving S . Equivalently S is **simply connected** if any closed path inside S can be contracted into a point without leaving S .

Intuitively S is simply connected if it connected has no holes. This is because for us to deform a path to a path on the other side of a hole we would have to either jump over the hole, breaking the continuity condition, or leave S .

Definition 36: Simple contour

A contour, γ , is a **simple contour** if it does not intersect itself.

We are now ready for perhaps the most important theorem of this course.

Theorem 7: Cauchy's integral theorem

Let S be an open, simply connected region. Let $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be analytic in S and let $f'(z)$ be continuous in S . Then for any given closed contour γ

$$\oint_{\gamma} f(z) dz = 0.$$

Proof. We assume without loss of generality that γ is a simple contour. If this is not the case and γ has a finite number of self intersections then we can split γ at each self intersection into two separate contours and the following applies to each sub-contour individually. If γ intersects itself an infinite number of times then this theorem can be proven using an auxiliary contour that only intersects the original at its endpoints. This produces two simple contours and then by the fundamental theorem of calculus (theorem ??) it is possible to prove that Cauchy's theorem also holds for the original contour.

Any simple closed contour divides \mathbb{C} into two simply connected components⁹. Let S' be the interior of this curve. For this proof we will use the \mathbb{R}^2 version of Green's theorem which states that if $P, Q: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

⁹while stated here as an obvious fact this is actually known as the Jordan curve theorem and is actually not very easy to prove.

are C^1 functions on a simply connected region, \tilde{S} then on a simple closed contour, $\partial\tilde{S}$, bounding \tilde{S} we have

$$\begin{aligned}\oint_{\partial\tilde{S}} (P(\mathbf{r})\hat{\mathbf{x}} + Q(\mathbf{r})\hat{\mathbf{y}}) \cdot d\mathbf{r} &= \oint_{\partial\tilde{S}} [P(x, y) dx + Q(x, y) dy] \\ &= \iint_{\tilde{S}} \left[\frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} \right] dx dy.\end{aligned}$$

Since f' is continuous by hypothesis its real and imaginary parts, $u, v: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, individually are C^1 and satisfy the conditions for Green's theorem to apply. Thus

$$\begin{aligned}\oint_{\gamma} f(z) dz &= \oint_{\gamma} [u(x, y) + iv(x, y)](dx + i dy) \\ &= \oint_{\gamma} [u(x, y) dx - v(x, y) dy] + i \oint_{\gamma} [u(x, y) dy + v(x, y) dx].\end{aligned}$$

Applying Green's theorem to the real part of the integral and also the Cauchy–Riemann relations we have

$$\begin{aligned}\oint_{\gamma} [u(x, y) dx - v(x, y) dy] &= \iint_{S'} \left[-\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \right] dx dy \\ &= \iint_{S'} [-v_x - u_y] dx dy \\ &= \iint_{S'} [u_y - u_y] dx dy \\ &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

Applying Green's theorem to the imaginary part of the integral and also the Cauchy–Riemann relations we have

$$\begin{aligned}\oint_{\gamma} [v(x, y) dx + u(x, y) dy] &= \iint_{S'} \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right] dx dy \\ &= \iint_{S'} [u_x - v_y] dx dy \\ &= \iint_{S'} [u_x - u_x] dx dy \\ &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

So we find that

$$\oint_{\gamma} f(z) dz = 0.$$

□

This result is useful but the condition that f' is continuous is actually be dropped as analyticity is such a strict condition. The theorem then requires a different proof as we can no longer use Green's theorem directly. Instead the approach to proving this theorem is similar to the proof of Green's theorem. This version of the theorem is often called the Cauchy–Goursat theorem.

Theorem 8: Cauchy–Goursat theorem

Let S be an open simply connected region and let $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be analytic in S . Then for any given closed contour γ

$$\oint_{\gamma} f(z) dz = 0.$$

Proof. Again we assume without loss of generality that γ is a simple contour. We also assume that it is oriented anticlockwise. Let S' be the region bounded by γ . We split S into a grid of smaller square

regions each with a contour, γ_i , as a border. Where one of these squares intersects γ we take γ_i as the square border inside S' and the contour γ as the border where the square would leave S' .

We now consider the sum of the integrals over each γ_i . We use the fact that every edge of a square is traversed in both directions and so the contributions cancel. Since the number of squares is finite we have

$$\sum_i \oint_{\gamma_i} f(z) dz = \oint_{\gamma} f(z) dz.$$

For each square contour we now define the following function

$$\delta_i(z) = \begin{cases} [f(z) - f(z_i)]/[z - z_i] - f'(z_i), & z \neq z_i \\ 0, & z = z_i \end{cases}$$

where z_i is an arbitrary fixed point in γ_i . In the limit $z \rightarrow z_i$ the fraction in the definition of δ_i approaches $f'(z)$. Since f is analytic f' exists not only at z_i but in a neighbourhood of z_i . Therefore we can choose our square contours in such a way that

$$\left| \frac{f(z) - f(z_i)}{z - z_i} - f'(z_i) \right| \leq \varepsilon$$

for some arbitrarily small $\varepsilon > 0$ simply by choosing sufficiently small squares. From this we can write

$$f(z) = f(z_i) + f'(z_i)(z - z_i) + (z - z_i)\delta_i(z)$$

for some $z \in \gamma_i$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \oint_{\gamma_i} f(z) dz &= \oint_{\gamma_i} f(z_i) dz + \oint_{\gamma_i} f'(z_i)(z - z_i) dz + \oint_{\gamma_i} (z - z_i)\delta_i(z) dz \\ &= f(z_i) \oint_{\gamma_i} dz + f'(z_i) \oint_{\gamma_i} (z - z_i) dz + \oint_{\gamma_i} (z - z_i)\delta_i(z) dz. \end{aligned}$$

The first two integrals vanish as the integrands satisfy the conditions of Cauchy's integral theorem (theorem 7). The third integral can be bounded. If we take the side of one of the squares to be l_i then γ_i is at most as long as $4l_i$. Also $|z - z_i| < \sqrt{2}l_i$ as the furthest two points in a square can be is diagonally opposite. The length of γ_i is then less than $4l_i + L_i$ where L_i is the length of the portion of γ that is contained in γ_i for squares on the boundary. Therefore by the ML lemma.

$$\left| \oint_{\gamma_i} (z - z_i)\delta_i(z) dz \right| \leq \sqrt{2}l_i\varepsilon(4l_i + L_i).$$

This means that

$$\left| \oint_{\gamma} f(z) dz \right| = \left| \sum_i \oint_{\gamma_i} f(z) dz \right|$$

applying the triangle inequality for multiple summands this becomes

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq \sum_i \left| \oint_{\gamma_i} f(z) dz \right| \\ &\leq \sum_i \sqrt{2}l_i\varepsilon(4l_i + L_i). \end{aligned}$$

Now notice that

$$\sum_i l_i^2 = A$$

is the total area of the internal squares and that

$$\sum_i L_i = L$$

is the length of γ . Since L_i is zero for internal squares we can perform this sum only for external squares. Therefore

$$\sum_i l_i(4l_i + L_i) = 4 \sum_{\text{int } i} l_i^2 + \sum_{\text{ext } i} l_i L_i$$

$$= 4A + L\sqrt{A}.$$

Since we can make ε arbitrarily small and the length of a smooth contour is finite we have

$$\left| \oint_{\gamma} f(z) dz \right| \leq \sqrt{2}\varepsilon(4A + L\sqrt{A}) \rightarrow 0.$$

And since the absolute value must be non-negative we have

$$\oint_{\gamma} f(z) dz = 0.$$

□

This proof worked because analyticity is such a strict condition. While we lost the condition that f' be continuous we were able to use analyticity to construct δ_i which is continuous and plays the role of f' in this proof.

9 Consequence's of the Cauchy–Goursat Theorem

9.1 Deformation Theorem

Theorem 9: Deformation theorem

Let S be an open region and let γ_1 and γ_2 be positively oriented closed contours in S . Let $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be analytic in the region between the two contours. Then

$$\oint_{\gamma_1} f(z) dz = \oint_{\gamma_2} f(z) dz.$$

Proof. Without loss of generality we can assume that the contours do not intersect. Consider the contours shown in figure 9.1. Choose two points, z_1 on γ_1 and z_2 on γ_2 . Take an arbitrary contour $\overline{z_1 z_2}$ from z_1 to z_2 such that this contour remains entirely in the region where f is analytic. Construct the auxiliary

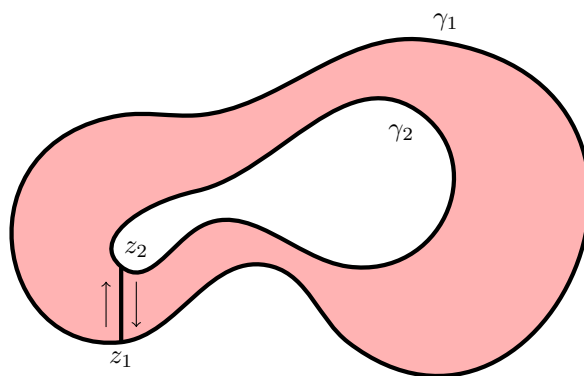


Figure 9.1: Two closed, non-intersecting contours with f analytic on the red region.

contour

$$\gamma = \gamma_1 + \overline{z_1 z_2} - \gamma_2 + \overline{z_2 z_1}.$$

Since γ encloses a region where f is analytic the integral along γ must be zero by the Cauchy–Goursat theorem (theorem 8). Hence

$$0 = \oint_{\gamma} f(z) dz$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \oint_{\gamma_1} f(z) dz + \int_{\overline{z_1 z_2}} f(z) dz + \oint_{-\gamma_2} f(z) dz + \int_{\overline{z_2 z_1}} f(z) dz \\
&= \oint_{\gamma_1} f(z) dz + \int_{\overline{z_1 z_2}} - \oint_{\gamma_2} f(z) dz - \int_{\overline{z_1 z_2}} f(z) dz \\
&= \oint_{\gamma_1} f(z) dz - \oint_{\gamma_2} f(z) dz.
\end{aligned}$$

So

$$\oint_{\gamma_1} f(z) dz = \oint_{\gamma_2} f(z) dz.$$

□

Example 9.1. Let $f(z) = 1/z$. Let γ_1 be the positively oriented unit circle, $|z| = 1$, and let γ_2 be any arbitrary contour containing the origin. Combining the two contours in example 7.3 we see that

$$\oint_{\gamma_1} \frac{1}{z} dz = 2\pi i.$$

Using the deformation theorem (theorem 9) since $1/z$ is analytic for all $z \neq 0$ and 0 is not between the two contours we have

$$\oint_{\gamma_2} \frac{1}{z} dz = \oint_{\gamma_1} \frac{1}{z} dz = 2\pi i.$$

9.2 Cauchy's Integral Formula

Theorem 10: Cauchy's Integral Formula

Let γ be a closed, positively oriented contour. Let S be an open, simply connected region containing γ . Let $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be analytic on S . Let z_0 be any point inside γ . Then

$$f(z_0) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{\gamma} \frac{f(z)}{z - z_0} dz.$$

Proof. Since f and $z - z_0$ are analytic on S the only point where $f(z)/(z - z_0)$ is not analytic is $z = z_0$. Let γ_ε be the contour consisting of the circle centred on z_0 with radius ε , that is $|z - z_0| = \varepsilon$. Since f is analytic in the region between γ and γ_ε we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{\gamma} \frac{f(z)}{z - z_0} dz &= \oint_{\gamma_\varepsilon} \frac{f(z)}{z - z_0} dz \\
&= \oint_{\gamma_\varepsilon} \frac{f(z_0) + f(z) - f(z_0)}{z - z_0} dz \\
&= \oint_{\gamma_\varepsilon} \frac{f(z_0)}{z - z_0} dz + \oint_{\gamma_\varepsilon} \frac{f(z) - f(z_0)}{z - z_0} dz.
\end{aligned}$$

Since $f(z_0)$ is a constant the first integral is

$$\begin{aligned}
\oint_{\gamma_\varepsilon} \frac{f(z_0)}{z - z_0} dz &= f(z_0) \oint_{\gamma_\varepsilon} \frac{1}{z - z_0} dz \\
&= f(z_0) 2\pi i.
\end{aligned}$$

We can bound the second integral. Consider the parametrisation $\gamma_\varepsilon(\vartheta) = z_0 + \varepsilon e^{i\vartheta}$ for $\vartheta \in [0, 2\pi]$. $\gamma'_\varepsilon(\vartheta) = i\varepsilon e^{i\vartheta} \neq 0$, therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
\left| \oint_{\gamma_\varepsilon} \frac{f(z) - f(z_0)}{z - z_0} dz \right| &\leq \oint_{\gamma_\varepsilon} \left| \frac{f(z) - f(z_0)}{z - z_0} \right| |dz| \\
&= \int_0^{2\pi} \left| \frac{f(z) - f(z_0)}{(z_0 + \varepsilon e^{i\vartheta}) - z_0} \right| |i\varepsilon e^{i\vartheta}| d\vartheta
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \int_0^{2\pi} \left| \frac{f(z) - f(z_0)}{\varepsilon e^{i\vartheta}} \right| |i\varepsilon e^{i\vartheta}| d\vartheta \\
&= \int_0^{2\pi} |f(z) - f(z_0)| |i| d\vartheta \\
&= \int_0^{2\pi} |f(z) - f(z_0)| d\vartheta.
\end{aligned}$$

Since f is analytic it is also continuous which means there exists arbitrarily small $\delta > 0$ such that by choosing a sufficiently small ε we have $|f(z) - f(z_0)| < \delta$. Thus

$$\left| \oint_{\gamma_\varepsilon} \frac{f(z) - f(z_0)}{z - z_0} dz \right| \leq \int_0^{2\pi} |f(z) - f(z_0)| d\vartheta \leq 2\pi\delta \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as} \quad \varepsilon \rightarrow 0.$$

Therefore

$$\oint_{\gamma} \frac{f(z)}{z - z_0} dz = 2\pi i f(z_0).$$

□

This is a very strong result. It tells us that the values of an analytic function inside a simply connected region are completely determined by the values of the function on the boundary no matter how large the region. We can use this result to compute many integrals without needing to integrate properly. The general process for this is as follows:

1. Plot the contour.
2. Find the singularities of f inside the contour.
3. Split the contour into smaller pieces each containing at most one singularity.
4. Evaluate each sub-contour separately by re-expressing $f(z)$ as

$$f(z) = \frac{g(z)}{z - z_0}.$$

5. Add the values of all contours being careful to consider directions so that the required parts cancel.

This will be demonstrated with the next few examples.

Example 9.2. Let $f(z) = \cos(z)/z$. Evaluate

$$\oint_{\gamma} f(z) dz$$

where γ is the circle $|z - 4| = 5$.

The only singularity that f has is $z = 0$ which is contained in γ . We can write f as

$$f(z) = \frac{\cos z}{z} = \frac{g(z)}{z}$$

where $g(z) = \cos(z)$. We can directly apply Cauchy's integral formula then:

$$\oint_{\gamma} \frac{\cos z}{z - 0} dz = 2\pi i g(0) = 2\pi i \cos(0) = 2\pi i.$$

Example 9.3. Let $f(z) = z^2/(z^2 + 1)$. Evaluate

$$\oint_{\gamma} f(z) dz$$

where γ is the circle $|z - i| = 1$.

First notice that

$$f(z) = \frac{z^2}{(z+i)(z-i)}$$

so $z = \pm i$ are the only singularities of f . Of these singularities $z = i$ is the only singularity inside the contour. Therefore

$$g(z) = \frac{z^2}{z+i}$$

is analytic inside γ . We can then directly apply Cauchy's integral formula:

$$\begin{aligned} \oint_{\gamma} \frac{z^2}{z^2+1} dz &= \oint_{\gamma} \frac{g(z)}{z-i} dz \\ &= 2\pi i g(i) \\ &= 2\pi i \frac{i^2}{i+i} \\ &= -\pi. \end{aligned}$$

Example 9.4. Let $f(z) = \cos(\pi z)/(z^2 - 1)$. Evaluate

$$\oint_{\gamma} f(z) dz$$

where γ is the circle $|z| = 2$.

f has two singularities, $z = \pm 1$. Both of these lie inside γ . We split γ into two parts, γ_1 and γ_2 such that $\gamma_1 + \gamma_2 = \gamma$. One way to do this is shown in figure 9.2. Notice that the part of the contour that

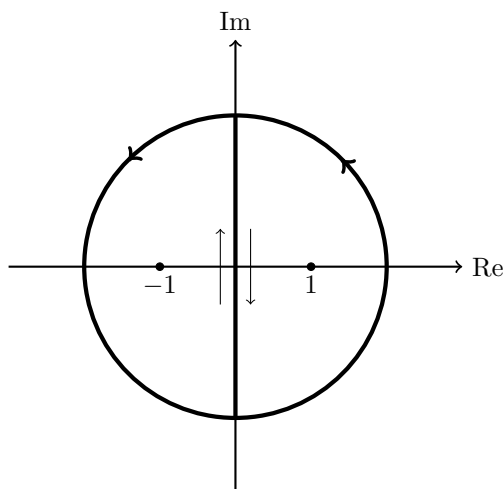


Figure 9.2: One possible way to split the contour into two parts.

appears in both sub-contours is in opposite directions and so that part of the integral cancels. We can now write

$$f(z) = \frac{\cos(\pi z)}{z^2 - 1} = \frac{\cos(\pi z)}{(z+1)(z-1)}.$$

Considering first the sub-contour, γ_+ , containing $z = 1$ we can write

$$f(z) = \frac{g_+(z)}{z-1}, \quad \text{where} \quad g_+(z) = \frac{\cos(\pi z)}{z+1}$$

and so using Cauchy's integral formula

$$\oint_{\gamma_+} \frac{\cos(\pi z)}{z^2 - 1} dz = \oint_{\gamma_+} \frac{g_+(z)}{z-1} dz = 2\pi i g_+(1) = 2\pi i \frac{\cos(\pi)}{1+1} = -\pi i.$$

Similarly considering the sub-contour, γ_- , containing $z = -1$ we can write

$$f(z) = \frac{g_-(z)}{z+1}, \quad \text{where} \quad g_-(z) = \frac{\cos(\pi z)}{z-1}.$$

Using Cauchy's integral formula we have

$$\oint_{\gamma_-} \frac{\cos(\pi z)}{z^2-1} dz = \oint_{\gamma_-} \frac{g_-(z)}{z+1} dz = 2\pi i g_-(-1) = 2\pi i \frac{\cos(-\pi)}{-1-1} = i\pi.$$

Hence

$$\oint_{\gamma} f(z) dz = \oint_{\gamma_+} f(z) dz + \oint_{\gamma_-} f(z) dz = -i\pi + i\pi = 0.$$

10 More Consequences of the Cauchy–Goursat Theorem

10.1 Generalised Cauchy's Integral Formula

Theorem 11: Generalised Cauchy's Integral Formula

Let γ be a closed, positively oriented contour. Let S be an open, simply connected region containing γ . Let $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be analytic on S . Let z_0 be any point inside γ . Then

$$f^{(n)}(z_0) = \frac{n!}{2\pi i} \oint_{\gamma} \frac{f(z)}{(z-z_0)^{n+1}} dz.$$

Proof. First consider the case of $n = 1$. Applying Cauchy's integral formula to the definition of the derivative we have

$$\begin{aligned} f'(z_0) &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(z_0 + \Delta z) - f(z_0)}{\Delta z} \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta z} \left[\oint_{\gamma} \frac{f(z)}{z - (z_0 + \Delta z)} dz - \oint_{\gamma} \frac{f(z)}{z - z_0} dz \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta z} \oint_{\gamma} \left[\frac{f(z)}{z - (z_0 + \Delta z)} - \frac{f(z)}{z - z_0} \right] dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta z} \oint_{\gamma} \frac{[z - z_0]f(z) - [z - (z_0 + \Delta z)]f(z)}{(z - (z_0 + \Delta z))(z - z_0)} dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta z} \oint_{\gamma} \frac{f(z)\Delta z}{(z - (z_0 + \Delta z))(z - z_0)} dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \oint_{\gamma} \frac{f(z)}{(z - (z_0 + \Delta z))(z - z_0)} dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{\gamma} \frac{f(z)}{(z - z_0)^2} dz. \end{aligned}$$

So Cauchy's generalised integral formula holds for $n = 1$.

This can be extended inductively to prove the theorem. □

Example 10.1. Let γ be a positively oriented closed contour and let a be a point inside γ . Then for $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ evaluate

$$\oint_{\gamma} (z-a)^{-n-1} dz.$$

If $n < 0$ then the integrand is analytic and so the integral vanishes by the Cauchy–Goursat theorem (theorem 8). If $n \geq 0$ we can use the generalised Cauchy integral formula for the n th derivative:

$$\oint_{\gamma} \frac{1}{(z-a)^{n+1}} dz = \frac{2\pi i}{n!} \left. \frac{d^n}{dz^n} (1) \right|_{z=a} = \begin{cases} 2\pi i, & \text{if } n = 0, \\ 0, & \text{if } n \neq 0. \end{cases}$$

Cauchy's integral formula leads to the following corollary:

Corollary 3

Let S be an open region and let $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be analytic on S . Then for all $z \in S$ the all derivatives at z exist and are analytic. We say that f is **smooth** or C^∞ .

Proof. This follows immediately from Cauchy's integral formula for derivatives which we can apply since f is analytic. Since S is open for any $z \in S$ there exists a simple closed contour satisfying the necessary conditions for Cauchy's integral formula to apply. By the hypothesis since f is analytic f' exists. We can then use Cauchy's integral formula for the second derivative to construct f'' in that neighbourhood. Therefore f' is analytic. Assume now that $f^{(k)}$ is analytic. Then this means that $f^{(k+1)}$ exists. Cauchy's integral formula then allows us to construct $f^{(k+2)}$ so $f^{(k+1)}$ is analytic. Thus by mathematical induction $f^{(n)}$ is analytic for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ which means that f is smooth. We can also conclude that all partial derivatives of $u = \operatorname{Re}(f)$ and $v = \operatorname{Im}(f)$ exists and are continuous. \square

10.2 Liouville's Theorem

Theorem 12: Liouville's Theorem

Let $f: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a bounded, entire function. Then f is constant

Proof. By hypothesis there exists $M \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ such that $|f(z)| \leq M$ for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$. We can use Cauchy's integral formula on a circular contour, γ , of radius R to bound f' :

$$\begin{aligned} |f'(z)| &= \left| \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{\gamma} \frac{f(\zeta)}{(\zeta - z)^2} d\zeta \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \left| \oint_{\gamma} \frac{f(\zeta)}{(\zeta - z)^2} d\zeta \right| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint_{\gamma} \left| \frac{f(\zeta)}{(\zeta - z)^2} d\zeta \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{|f(Re^{i\vartheta})|}{|Re^{i\vartheta} - z|^2} R d\vartheta \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{MR}{(R - |z|)^2} d\vartheta \\ &= \frac{MR}{(R - |z|)^2} \\ &\sim \frac{1}{R} \end{aligned}$$

This vanishes independently of z since we can take R to be arbitrarily large. Hence $f'(z) = 0$ which means $f(z)$ is constant. \square

The contrapositive¹⁰ of this theorem is often more useful:

Theorem 12: Liouville's Theorem (Contrapositive)

If f is non-constant, entire function then there exists $z \in \mathbb{C}^*$ such that $f(z)$ diverges.

We can use this to prove the fundamental theorem of algebra.

¹⁰If $P \implies Q$ then $\neg Q \implies \neg P$ is a logically equivalent statement called the contrapositive.

Theorem 13: Fundamental Theorem of Algebra

Let P_n be a polynomial of degree $n \geq 1$ with complex coefficients ($P_n \in \mathbb{C}[z]$). Then P_n has n roots, z_i , including repeated roots, for which $P_n(z_i) = 0$.

Proof. Suppose that P_n has no roots. Then $P_n(z) \neq 0 \forall z \in \mathbb{C}$. Hence $1/P_n(z)$ is entire since P_n is entire. Let $\zeta \in \mathbb{C}$ be the minimum of P_n . Then $|1/P_n(z)| \leq |1/P_n(\zeta)|$ for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$. Hence by Liouville's theorem (theorem 12) $1/P_n$ is constant which can only be the case if P_n is constant which it clearly isn't. Thus P_n has at least one root. Call this root z_1 . Then we can factorise P_n as

$$P_n(z) = (z - z_1)Q_{n-1}(z)$$

where $Q_{n-1} \in \mathbb{C}[z]$ is a polynomial of order $n - 1$.

Suppose now that $P_k \in \mathbb{C}[z]$ is a k th order polynomial for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and has k roots. Hence $P_{k+1} \in \mathbb{C}[z]$ is a polynomial of order $k + 1$ and has at least k roots. Consider

$$f(z) = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^k (z - z_i)}{P_{k+1}(z)}$$

where z_i are the k roots of P_k assumed to exist. The function above is analytic almost everywhere except at the point z where $f(z) \sim (a_{k+1}z)^{-1} \rightarrow 0$ as $z \rightarrow \infty$. The other singularities cancel with the numerator. Since $a_{k+1} \neq 0$ (as P_{k+1} must have a z^{k+1} term to be of order $k + 1$) we must have that P_{k+1} has another root meaning it has $k + 1$ roots. \square

Theorem 14: Morera's Theorem

Let S be an open region and let $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be continuous on S . Suppose that

$$\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = 0$$

for all contours γ contained in S . Then f is analytic.

Proof. The fundamental theorem of calculus (theorem 6) means that

$$\oint_{\gamma} f(z) dz = 0$$

for all γ is equivalent to f having an antiderivative, F , such that $f(z) = F'(z) \forall z \in S$. This is true for all z in S so F is analytic. By corollary 3 the derivative of an analytic function is also analytic so $f = F'$ is analytic. \square

This theorem is the converse of the Cauchy-Goursat theorem.