

Let $U \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ be a region and γ be a closed path in U satisfying $\text{Ind}_{\gamma}(z) = 0, \forall z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus U$.

Suppose that $f \in H(U)$. Assume that

(i) both γ and $f \circ \gamma$ have interiors, and

(ii) $f(\text{Int } \gamma) \cap (f \circ \gamma)^* = \emptyset$.

Then $f(\text{Int } \gamma) \subseteq \text{Int } f \circ \gamma$ and $f: \text{Int } \gamma \rightarrow \text{Int } f \circ \gamma$

is 1-1. Furthermore, if $\text{Int } f \circ \gamma$ is connected then f establishes a conformal equivalence between $\text{Int } \gamma$ & $\text{Int } f \circ \gamma$.

PROOF! - Let $z \in \text{Int } \gamma$. Then $f(z) \notin (f \circ \gamma)^*$ by (ii)

It is easy to see that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ind}_{f \circ \gamma}(f(z)) &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{f \circ \gamma} \frac{d\xi}{\xi - f(z)} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_a^b \frac{f'(\gamma(t)) \gamma'(t)}{f(\gamma(t)) - f(z)} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_a^b \frac{(g \circ \gamma)'(t)}{(g \circ \gamma)(t)} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \text{Ind}_{g \circ \gamma}(0) \geq 1, \end{aligned}$$

where $g(w) = f(w) - f(z), \forall w \in U$.

Since $f \circ \gamma$ has an interior and I , it follows that $\text{Ind}_{f \circ \gamma}(f(z)) = \text{Ind}_{g \circ \gamma}(0) = 1$. This shows that

$f(z) \in \text{Int } f \circ \gamma$, and $\forall w \in \text{Int } \gamma \setminus \{z\}$,
 $f(w) \neq f(z)$, otherwise no. of zeros of g in
 $\text{Int } \gamma = \text{Ind}_{\gamma \circ \gamma} (0) > 1$.

Assume now that $\text{Int } f \circ \gamma$ is connected.
 Since $f(\text{Int } \gamma) \neq \emptyset$ is an open subset of
 $\text{Int } f \circ \gamma$ by Open mapping theorem, it is
 enough to show that $f(\text{Int } \gamma)$ is closed
 in $\text{Int } f \circ \gamma$.

Let $\{z_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ be a seqn. in $\text{Int } \gamma$ s.t.

$\{f(z_n)\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converges to a point, say $w \in \text{Int } f \circ \gamma$.

Since $\text{Int } \gamma \cup \gamma^*$ is compact, $\{z_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ has a
 convergent subsequence, say $\{z_{n_k}\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$. Put
 $z_0 := \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} z_{n_k}$. From continuity, $f(z_{n_k}) \xrightarrow{k \rightarrow \infty} f(z_0)$,
 hence $w = f(z_0)$. As $w \in \text{Int } f \circ \gamma$, $w \notin (f \circ \gamma)^*$
 by definition. Hence $z_0 \notin \gamma^*$; so that
 $w = f(z_0) \in f(\text{Int } \gamma)$.