

Lecture Notes:

HARMONIC Functions

①

Definition: A real valued function $g(x, y)$ of two ^{real} variables is said to be harmonic in a domain D if it has first and second order partial derivatives in a domain D and satisfies the Laplace Equation

$$g_{xx} + g_{yy} = 0.$$

i.e.

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial y^2} = 0}$$

Ex: Show that the function $h(x, y) = 3x^2y - y^3 + 4$ is harmonic in C.

Soln.

$$h(x, y) = 3x^2y - y^3 + 4$$

$$h_x = 6xy \quad ; \quad h_y = 3x^2 - 3y^2$$

$$h_{xx} = 6y \quad ; \quad h_{yy} = -6y$$

It is obvious that h_x, h_y, h_{xx}, h_{yy} are continuous functions (as they are Polynomials).

Now

$$\frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial y^2} = 6y - 6y = 0$$

$\Rightarrow h(x, y)$ satisfies Laplace equation

$\Rightarrow h(x, y)$ is an harmonic function.

Harmonic Conjugate: If $u(x, y)$ is a given harmonic function in the domain D and if we can find another harmonic function $v(x, y)$, where the first order partial derivatives of $u(x, y)$ & $v(x, y)$ satisfy the Cauchy - Riemann Equations throughout D, then we say that $v(x, y)$ is the harmonic conjugate of $u(x, y)$.

Result 1: If a complex function $f(z) = u(x,y) + iv(x,y)$ is analytic in a domain D , Then the functions $u(x,y)$ and $v(x,y)$ are harmonic in D . (2)

Proof: $f(z) = u(x,y) + iv(x,y)$ is analytic $\Rightarrow u(x,y)$ & $v(x,y)$ satisfy C-R eqns. at every $z \in D$.

Now C-R equation.

$$u_x = v_y \quad + \quad u_y = -v_x$$

i.e.

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \quad + \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -\frac{\partial v}{\partial x}$$

\downarrow diff w.r.t (x) on both sides \downarrow diff w.r.t (y) on both sides

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y \partial x} \quad \text{--- (1)} \quad + \quad \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = -\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x \partial y} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

Now $f(z)$ is analytic in $D \Rightarrow$ the derivatives of all orders are analytic in D

$\Rightarrow u(x,y)$ & $v(x,y)$ have continuous partial derivatives of all orders in D .

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y \partial x} = \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x \partial y} \quad \text{also} \quad \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y \partial x}$$

Now adding equation (1) & (2) we get.

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 0$$

Similarly we can show that $\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} = 0$

$\Rightarrow u(x,y)$ & $v(x,y)$ both satisfies Laplace equation

$\Rightarrow \boxed{u(x,y) \text{ \& } v(x,y) \text{ are harmonic functions.}}$

Result 2: A function $f(z) = u(x,y) + iv(x,y)$ is analytic in $D \iff v(x,y)$ is a harmonic conjugate of $u(x,y)$.

Ex. 1 Given a function $u(x,y) = x^3 - 3xy^2 - 5y$

(a) verify that the function $u(x,y)$ is harmonic in the entire complex plane.

(b) find the harmonic conjugate of $u(x,y)$.

(a) $u(x,y) = x^3 - 3xy^2 - 5y \Rightarrow \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 3x^2 - 3y^2, \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -6xy - 5$
 $\Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = 6x, \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = -6x$

Now $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 6x - 6x = 0$

$\Rightarrow u(x,y)$ is a harmonic function.

(b) Since conjugate harmonic function $v(x,y)$ must satisfy C-R equation

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \quad \& \quad \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = -\frac{\partial u}{\partial y}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = 3x^2 - 3y^2 \text{ --- (1)} \quad \& \quad \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = 6xy + 5 \text{ --- (2)}$$

Integrating partially w.r.t. 'y' (x will be treated as a constant) here

$\therefore v(x,y) = 3x^2y - y^3 + h(x)$ Unknown Constant of integration

Now differentiating partially w.r.t 'x' we get

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = 6xy + h'(x) \text{ --- (3)}$$

Now comparing equation (3) & (2), we get $h'(x) = 5$

Integrating partially w.r.t 'x' on both sides, we get.

(9)

$h'(x) = 5$
Integrating w.r.t 'x' on both sides.

$$h(x) = 5x + C$$

Hence the harmonic conjugate of $u(x,y)$ is

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

$$v(x,y) = 3x^2y - y^3 + 5x + C$$

Ex-2

solⁿ

find an analytic function whose real part is $u(x,y) = 2xy + 2x$
 $f(z) = u + iv$ is analytic $\Rightarrow u + v$ satisfy C-R eqns
 $\Rightarrow u_x = v_y \quad \& \quad u_y = -v_x$

Now

$$u_x = v_y \Rightarrow v_y = 2x + 2 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$u_y = -v_x \Rightarrow v_x = -2x \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

Now Integrating equ (1) w.r.t 'y', treating x as Constant, we get

$$v = y^2 + 2y + \phi(x) \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

Now diff (3) w.r.t 'x'

$$v_x = \phi'(x) \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

Comparing equ (4) & (2), we have.

$$\phi'(x) = -2x$$

Now Integrating on both sides w.r.t 'x' we get

$$\phi(x) = -x^2 + C$$

Hence

$$v(x,y) = y^2 + 2y + \phi(x) = y^2 + 2y - x^2 + C$$

Ex-2 Contd... So desired analytic function is

$$f(z) = 2xy + 2x + i(-x^2 + y^2 + 2y + c) \text{ ch.}$$

Ex-3 (If V is given) : Find analytic function $f(z)$ whose imaginary part is given as: $V(x, y) = x^2 - y^2 + \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2}$, $[f(z) = u + iv]$

Sol?

$$v(x, y) = x^2 - y^2 + \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = 2x + \frac{y^2 - x^2}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -2y + \frac{(-2xy)}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

$f(z)$ is analytic $\Rightarrow u$ & v satisfy the C-R equations

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \quad \text{+} \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -\frac{\partial v}{\partial x}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -\left[2x + \frac{y^2 - x^2}{(x^2 + y^2)^2}\right] \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

$$\text{+} \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = -2y - \frac{2xy}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

Now integrating (4) partially w.r.t 'x', treating y as a constant. we get.

$$u = -2y \int dx - y \int \frac{2x}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} dx$$

$$u = -2xy + \frac{y}{(x^2 + y^2)} + f(y) \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

diff (5) w.r.t 'y' partially, we get.

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -2x - \frac{y^2 - x^2}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} + f'(y) \quad \text{--- (6)}$$

Now Comparing equations (3) & (6) we get

(6)

Ex. 1

$$f'(y) = 0 \Rightarrow f(y) = (K) \rightarrow \text{constant.}$$

Hence

$$u(x,y) = -2xy + \frac{y}{x^2+y^2} + f(y)$$

$$u(x,y) = -2xy + \frac{y}{x^2+y^2} + K$$

Hence desired Analytic function $f(z) = u + iv$ is

Answer | $f(z) = -2xy + \frac{y}{(x^2+y^2)} + K + i \left[x^2 - y^2 + \frac{x}{x^2+y^2} \right]$

derivative of $f(z)$, $f'(z) = u_x + iv_x$

Constructing $f(z)$ in terms of z \Rightarrow

1. MILNE-THOMSON'S METHOD To find $f(z) = u + iv$ in terms of z .

Case I: When real Part $u(x,y)$ is given.

Step 1: find u_x and u_y

Step 2:

As $f(z) = u + iv \Rightarrow f'(z) = u_x + iv_x$

$$\Rightarrow f'(z) = u_x - iu_y \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{C-R} \\ u_x = v_y \\ u_y = -v_x \end{array} \right]$$

So we have $f'(z)$ in terms of u_x & u_y .

i.e

$$f'(z) = u_x - iu_y \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Step 3: Put $x = z$ and $y = 0$ in $f'(z)$.

Step 4: Integrate $f'(z) = u_x(z, 0) - iu_y(z, 0)$ w.r.t z to obtain $f(z)$ in terms of z only.

Ex.1 Find the analytic function $f(z) = u + iv$, whose real part is $u(x, y) = x^3 - 3xy^2 + 3x^2 - 3y^2$ by Milne Thomson method. (7)

Solⁿ

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

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 3x^2 - 3y^2 + 6x \quad ; \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -6xy - 6y$$

Now

$$f(z) = u + iv$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(z) = u_x + iv_x = u_x - iv_y$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{C-R eqn.} \\ u_x = -v_y \end{array} \right]$$

$$f'(z) = (3x^2 - 3y^2 + 6x) - i(-6xy - 6y)$$

Now Replace x by z and y by 0 , we get

$$f'(z) = 3z^2 + 6z - i(0)$$

$$f'(z) = 3z^2 + 6z$$

Integrating w.r.t, ' z ' on both sides, we get

$$f(z) = 3 \cdot \frac{z^3}{3} + 6 \cdot \frac{z^2}{2} + iC$$

$$\boxed{f(z) = z^3 + 3z^2 + iC} \quad \text{Answer } \checkmark$$

(8)

Case II: Finding $f(z)$ in terms of ' z ' when the imaginary part $v(x,y)$ is given:

Step 1: Find $v_x + v_y$

Step 2: As $f(z) = u + iv \Rightarrow f'(z) = u_x + i v_x$
 $\Rightarrow f'(z) = v_y + i v_x$ $\begin{cases} \text{C-Reqn} \\ u_x = v_y \\ u_y = -v_x \end{cases}$

So, we have $f'(z)$ in terms of v only

$$\boxed{f'(z) = v_y + i v_x} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Step 3: Replace x by z & y by 0 in (1) & we get

$$f'(z) = v_y(z, 0) + i v_x(z, 0) \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

Step 4: Integrating (2) w.r.t ' z ' only, we get

$f(z)$ in terms of ' z ' only.

Ex-1: Determine the analytic function $f(z) = u + iv$ whose imaginary part is $v(x,y) = 3x^2y - y^3$

Soln

$$v(x,y) = 3x^2y - y^3 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = 6xy, \quad \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = 3x^2 - 3y^2$$

Now

$$f(z) = u + iv$$

$$f'(z) = u_x + i v_x = v_y + i v_x = 3x^2 - 3y^2 + i 6xy$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(z) = 3x^2 - 3y^2 + i 6xy$$

Integration Replace $x = z$ & $y = 0$, we get

$$f'(z) = 3z^2$$

Integrating w.r.t, ' z ', we get

$$\boxed{f(z) = z^3 + C} \quad \text{Ans.}$$

Case III:- finding $f(z) = u+iv$, if $u+v$ is given instead of u or v . (9)

Ex. 1 If $u+v = \frac{2 \sin 2x}{e^{2y} + e^{-2y} - 2 \cos 2x}$, and $f(z) = u+iv$ is an analytic function of z , then find $f(z)$ in terms of z .

Sol?

$$u+v = \frac{2 \sin 2x}{e^{2y} + e^{-2y} - 2 \cos 2x}$$

As we know $f(z) = u+iv$ — (1)

$$if(z) = iu + i^2v = iu - v \text{ — (2)}$$

Adding (1) & (2), we get

$$f(z) + if(z) = (u-v) + i(u+v)$$

$$f(z)(1+i) = u-v + i(u+v) \text{ — (3)}$$

Now let $U = u-v$, $u+v = V$, $f(z) = f(z)(1+i)$

eqn (3) becomes,

$$f(z) = U + iV$$

as $V = u+v = \frac{2 \sin 2x}{e^{2y} + e^{-2y} - 2 \cos 2x}$ is given in the

Problem which is the imaginary part of analytic function $f(z)$. Now we can use Case-II of Milne Thomson method to find $f(z)$. and thus $f(z)$.

Now $V = \frac{2 \sin 2x}{e^{2y} + e^{-2y} - 2 \cos 2x} = \frac{2 \sin 2x}{2 \cosh 2y - 2 \cos 2x} = \frac{\sin 2x}{\cosh 2y - \cos 2x}$

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} = \frac{2 \cos 2x (\cosh 2y - \cos 2x) - 2 \sin^2 2x}{(\cosh 2y - \cos 2x)^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial y} = \frac{-\sin 2x (2 \sinh 2y)}{(\cosh 2y - \cos 2x)^2}$$

$$f(z) = u + iv$$

$$f'(z) = u_x + i v_x = v_y + i v_x$$

$$f'(z) = \frac{-\sin 2x (2 \sinh 2y)}{(\cosh 2y - \cos 2x)^2} + i \left[\frac{2 \cos 2x (\cosh 2y - \cos 2x) - 2 \sin^2 2x}{(\cosh 2y - \cos 2x)^2} \right]$$

Replace $x=z$, & $y=0$, we get

$$f'(z) = \frac{\sin 2z (2 \sinh 0)}{(\cosh 0 - \cos 2z)^2} + i \left[\frac{2 \cos 2z (\cosh 0 - \cos 2z) - 2 \sin^2 2z}{(\cosh 0 - \cos 2z)^2} \right]$$

$\sinh 0 = 0$
 $\cosh 0 = 1$

$$f'(z) = \sin 2z \cdot 0 + i \left[\frac{2 \cos 2z (1 - \cos 2z) - 2 \sin^2 2z}{(1 - \cos 2z)^2} \right]$$

$$(1+i) f'(z) = i \frac{(2 \cos 2z - 2)}{(1 - \cos 2z)^2} = \frac{-2i}{1 - \cos 2z} = -i \sec^2 z$$

Integration

$$(1+i) f'(z) = -i \sec^2 z$$

Integrating w.r.t. 'z' we get

$$(1+i) f(z) = -\int i \sec^2 z + C$$

$$(1+i) f(z) = i \cot z + C$$

$$f(z) = \frac{i}{(1+i)} \cot z + \frac{C}{(1+i)}$$

$$= \frac{i(1-i)}{2} \cot z + \frac{C}{(1+i)}$$

Answer $f(z) = \frac{1}{2} \cot z + \frac{i}{2} \cot z + A$

Case IV: finding $f(z) = u + iv$, if $u - v$ is given instead of u or v . (11)

Ex: Find the analytic function $f(z) = u + iv$, if

sol? $u - v = (x - y)(x^2 + 4xy + y^2)$

$$f(z) = u + iv \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$i f(z) = iu + i^2 v = iu - v \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

Adding (1) & (2), we get $f(z)(1+i) = (u-v) + i(u+v)$ --- (3)

let $(1+i)f(z) = F(z)$, $u-v = U$, $u+v = V$

Now eqn (3) becomes, $F(z) = U + iV$, where

$f(z)$ is an analytic fun of $U + V$ and here in the problem $U = u - v$ is given and we have to find $F(z)$ using Milne-Thomson's Case I

$$U = u - v = (x - y)(x^2 + 4xy + y^2)$$

$$U_x = x^2 + 4xy + y^2 + (x - y)(2x + 4y) = 3x^2 - 3y^2 - 6xy$$

$$U_y = -(x^2 + 4xy + y^2) + (x - y)(4x + 2y) = 3x^2 - 3y^2 - 6xy$$

Now

$$F(z) = U + iV \Rightarrow F'(z) = U_x + iV_y$$

$$\Rightarrow F'(z) = U_x - iU_y$$

So

$$F'(z) = 3x^2 - 3y^2 - 6xy - i[3x^2 - 3y^2 - 6xy]$$

$$\Rightarrow (1+i)f'(z) = 3x^2 - 3y^2 - 6xy - i[3x^2 - 3y^2 - 6xy]$$

Now, Replace $x = z$ & $y = 0$, we get

$$(1+i)f'(z) = 3z^2 - i3z^2 = 3(1-i)z^2$$

integrating on both sides w.r.t (z) , we get

(12)

$$(1+i)f(z) = 3(1-i)\frac{z^3}{3} + C$$

$$f(z) = \frac{(1-i)}{(1+i)} z^3 + C.$$

$$\boxed{f(z) = -iz^3 + C} \text{ Ans.}$$

Exercise 1

Verify that the given function

$u(x,y) = e^{-x}(x \sin y - y \cos y)$ is harmonic

(b) Find v such that $f(z) = u + iv$ is analytic

(c) Find $f(z)$ in terms of (z) only.

Ans (b): $v = e^{-x}(y \sin y + x \cos y) + C$

(c) $f(z) = iz e^{-z} + C$

(2) If $u = x^3 - 3xy^2$, then find v such that $f(z) = u + iv$ is analytic

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

(3) Given that $u = \frac{1}{2} \log(x^2 + y^2)$ is harmonic and find its harmonic conjugate.

Ans: $v = \tan^{-1}(y/x) + C$

(4) If $f(z) = u + iv$ is an analytic function of z , and

$$u - v = \frac{\cos x + \sin x - e^{-y}}{2 \cos x - e^y - e^{-y}}$$

find $f(z)$ subject to condition $f(\pi/2) = 0$

Ans: $f(z) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \cot \frac{z}{2}$