

IB Complex Analysis

Martin von Hodenberg (mjv43@cam.ac.uk)

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These are my notes¹ for the IB course Complex Analysis, which was lectured in Lent 2022 at Cambridge by Prof. N.Wickramasekera.

¹Notes are posted online on [my website](#).

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1 Basic notions

Recall definitions in \mathbb{C} from IA courses. Note that $d(z, w) = |z - w|$ defines a metric on \mathbb{C} (the standard metric). For $a \in \mathbb{C}$ and $r > 0$, we write $D(a, r) = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z - a| < r\}$ for the open ball with centre a and radius r .

Definition (Open subset of \mathbb{C})

A subset $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ is open wrt. the standard metric if for all $a \in U$, there exists an r such that $D(a, r) \subset U$.

Remark. This is equivalent to being open wrt. the Euclidean metric on \mathbb{R}^2 .

This course is about complex valued functions of a single variable, i.e functions

$$f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, \quad \text{where } A \subset \mathbb{C}.$$

Identifying \mathbb{C} with \mathbb{R}^2 in the usual way, we can write $f = u + iv$ for real functions u, v and thus define $u = \operatorname{Re}(f)$, $v = \operatorname{Im}(f)$. Almost exclusively we'll focus on differentiable functions f . But first let's recall continuity.

Definition (Continuous function on \mathbb{C})

The function f (as above) is continuous at a point $w \in A$ if

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0 \text{ such that } \forall z \in A, \quad |z - w| < \delta \implies |f(z) - f(w)| < \varepsilon.$$

Remark. This is equivalent to saying that $\lim_{z \rightarrow w} f(z) = f(w)$.

1.1 Complex differentiation

Let $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, where U is open.

Definition (Differentiability)

f is differentiable at $w \in U$ if the limit

$$f'(w) = \lim_{z \rightarrow w} \frac{f(z) - f(w)}{z - w}.$$

exists at a complex number.

Definition (Holomorphic function)

f is **holomorphic**² at $w \in U$ if there is $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $D(w, \varepsilon) \subset U$ and f is differentiable at every point in $D(w, \varepsilon)$.

Equivalently, f is holomorphic in U if f is holomorphic at every point in U , or equivalently, f is differentiable at every point in U .

Usual rules of differentiation of real functions of a real variable hold for complex functions. Derivatives of sums, products, quotients of functions are obtained in the same way (can easily be checked).

²Sometimes we use "analytic" to mean holomorphic.

Proposition 1.1

The chain rule for composite functions also holds: if $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, $g : V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ with $f(U) \subset V$, and $h = g \circ f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. If f is differentiable at $w \in U$ and g is differentiable at $f(w)$, then h is differentiable at w with

$$h'(w) = (g \circ f)'(w) = f'(w)(g' \circ f)(w).$$

Proof. Omitted; analogous to the proof for the real case. \square

We might ask ourselves a question:

Write $f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$, $z = x + iy$. Is differentiability of f at a point $w = c + id \in U$ the same as differentiability of u and v at (c, d) ?

Recall from IB Analysis & Topology that $u : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable at $(c, d) \in U$ if there is a "good linear approximation of u at (c, d) ". We can show that if u is differentiable at c, d then L (the derivative of u at (c, d)) is uniquely defined, and we write $L = Du(c, d)$; moreover, L is given by the partial derivatives of u , i.e

$$L(x, y) = \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(c, d) \right) x + \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial y}(c, d) \right) y.$$

The answer to the above question is **no** (otherwise complex analysis would be useless!). Now we want to characterise differentiability of f in terms of u and v .

Theorem 1.2 (Cauchy-Riemann equations)

This theorem states that $f = u + iv : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is differentiable at $w = c + id \in U$ if and only if

u, v are differentiable at $(c, d) \in U$ **and** u, v satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations at (c, d) :

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -\frac{\partial v}{\partial x}.$$

If f is differentiable at $w = c + id$, then

$$f'(w) = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(c, d) + i \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}(c, d).$$

There are three other such expressions following from the Cauchy-Riemann equations.

Proof. f is differentiable at w with derivative $f'(w) = p + iq$:

$$\begin{aligned} \iff \lim_{z \rightarrow w} \frac{f(z) - f(w)}{z - w} &= p + iq \\ \iff \lim_{z \rightarrow w} \frac{f(z) - f(w) - (z - w)(p + iq)}{|z - w|} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Writing $f = u + iv$ and separating real and imaginary parts, the above holds if and

only if

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (c,d)} \frac{u(x,y) - u(c,d) - p(x-c) + q(y-d)}{\sqrt{(x-c)^2 + (y-d)^2}} = 0$$

and

$$\lim_{(x,y) \rightarrow (c,d)} \frac{v(x,y) - v(c,d) - q(x-c) + p(y-d)}{\sqrt{(x-c)^2 + (y-d)^2}} = 0$$

This is precisely the statement that u is differentiable at (c, d) with $Du(c, d)(x, y) = px - qy$, and v is differentiable at (c, d) with $Dv(c, d)(x, y) = qx + py$.

So $\iff u, v$ are differentiable at (c, d) and $u_x(c, d) = p = v_y(c, d)$, $u_y(c, d) = -q = -v_x(c, d)$, i.e the Cauchy-Riemann equations hold at (c, d) .

We also get from the above that if f is differentiable at w , then $f'(w) = p + iq = u_x(c, d) + iv_x(c, d)$. \square

Remark. u, v satisfying the Cauchy-Riemann equations at a point does **not** guarantee differentiability of f on its own. We also can proceed in a more simple way if we simply want to show the reverse implication, by writing

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

and then choosing $h = t \in \mathbb{R}$ and $h = it$ (since we can choose any direction we want for h) in order to get that u_x, u_y, v_x, v_y exist and satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations.

Example (Differentiability (?) of conjugation map)

Let $f(z) = \bar{z} = x - iy$. For this, $u = x, v = -y$, so $u_x = 1, v_y = -1$ and so the C-R equations are not satisfied and f is not differentiable at any point.

Corollary 1.3

Let $f = u + iv : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. If u, v have continuous partial derivatives at $(c, d) \in U$ and satisfy the C-R equations there, then f is differentiable at $w = c + id$.

In particular, if u, v are \mathbb{C}^1 functions on U (i.e have continuous partial derivatives in U) satisfying the C-R equations in U , then f is holomorphic in U .

Proof. Continuity of partial derivatives of u implies that u is differentiable, and similarly for v (IB Analysis & Topology). So the corollary follows from the C-R theorem. \square

Complex differentiability is much more restrictive than real differentiability of real and imaginary parts (because of the additional requirement that the Cauchy-Riemann equations must hold). This leads to surprising theorems compared to the real case, for example

- (a) If $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is holomorphic and bounded, then f is constant! (Liouville's theorem). This is false for real functions; for example $\sin(x) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.
- (b) If $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is holomorphic, then f is infinitely differentiable on U .

We will prove these later on. Note that (b) implies that partial derivatives of u, v of all

orders exists. So we can differentiate the Cauchy-Riemann equations to get:

$$\begin{aligned}(u_x)_x &= (v_y)_x \implies u_{xx} = v_{yx} \text{ and} \\ (u_y)_y &= (-v_x)_y \implies u_{yy} = -v_{xy}.\end{aligned}$$

This gives $\nabla^2 u = u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 0$ in U . Similarly $\nabla^2 v = 0$ in U .

This means that real and imaginary parts of a holomorphic function are harmonic. This gives a deep connection between harmonic functions and complex analysis; some theorems can be viewed as giving results about harmonic functions.

Now we need some definitions before the next corollary.

- Definition**
1. A curve is a continuous map $\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, where $[a, b] \subset \mathbb{R}$ is a closed interval. We say γ is a C^1 curve if γ' exists and is continuous on $[a, b]$.
 2. An open set $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ is path-connected if for any two points $z, w \in U$, there is a curve $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow U$ such that $\gamma(0) = z$ and $\gamma(1) = w$.
 3. A domain is a non-empty, open, path-connected subset of \mathbb{C} .

Corollary 1.4

If $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ is a domain and $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is holomorphic with $f'(z) = 0$ for every $z \in U$, then f is constant.

Proof. Write $f = u + iv$. By the C-R equations, $f' = 0 \implies Du = Dv = 0$ in U . Since U is a domain, this means (IA Analysis and Topology) that u and v are constant, i.e f is constant. \square

Now we want to look at some examples of holomorphic functions other than polynomials on \mathbb{C} and rational functions on their domains. We now look at power series, which will give us a wealth of examples.

1.2 Power series

Recall the next theorem from IA Analysis:

Definition (Radius of convergence)

If $(c_n)_{n=0}^\infty$ is a sequence of complex numbers, then there is a unique number $R \in [0, \infty]$ such that the power series

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (z - a)^n \quad z, a \in \mathbb{C}.$$

converges absolutely if $|z - a| < R$ and diverges if $|z - a| > R$. If $0 < r < R$, then the series converges uniformly wrt z on the compact disk $D_r = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z - a| < R\}$.

We call R the radius of convergence of the power series. Note that when $z = R$, we cannot say anything in general about convergence.

Theorem 1.5

Let $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(z-a)^n$ be a power series with radius of convergence $R > 0$. Fix $a \in \mathbb{C}$, and define $f : D(a, R) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ by $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(z-a)^n$. Then

1. f is holomorphic on $D(a, R)$.
2. The derived series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n c_n(z-a)^{n-1}$ also has radius of convergence R , and

$$f'(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n c_n(z-a)^{n-1} \quad \forall z \in D(a, R).$$

3. f has derivatives of all orders on $D(a, R)$, and $c_n = \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}$.
4. If f vanishes on $D(a, \varepsilon)$ for some $\varepsilon > 0$, then $f \equiv 0$ on $D(a, R)$.

Proof. Parts (i) and (ii): By considering $g(z) = f(z+a)$, we assume WLOG that $a = 0$. So $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n z^n$ for $z \in D(0, R)$.

The derived series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n c_n z^{n-1}$ will have some radius of convergence $R_1 \in [0, \infty]$. Now let $z \in D(0, R)$ be arbitrary. Choose ρ such that $|z| < \rho < R$. Then since $n|\frac{z}{\rho}|^{n-1} \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, we have

$$n|c_n||z|^{n-1} = n|c_n|\left|\frac{z}{\rho}\right|^{n-1}\rho^{n-1} \leq |c_n|\rho^{n-1}.$$

for sufficiently large n . Since $\sum |c_n|\rho^n$ converges, it follows that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n c_n z^{n-1}$ converges. Thus $D(0, R) \subset D(0, R_1)$, i.e. $R_1 \geq R$. Since

$$|c_n||z|^n \leq n|c_n||z|^n = |z|(|c_n||z|^{n-1}),$$

if $\sum n|c_n||z|^{n-1}$ converges then so does $\sum |c_n||z|^n$, so $R_1 \leq R$. So $R_1 = R$.

To prove that f is differentiable with $f'(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n c_n(z-a)^{n-1}$, fix $z \in D(0, R)$. The key idea is that this is equivalent to continuity at z of the function

$$g : D(0, R) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, \quad g(w) = \begin{cases} \frac{f(w)-f(z)}{w-z} & w \neq z \\ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n c_n z^{n-1} & w = z. \end{cases}$$

By subbing in f we can write $g(w) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} h_n(w)$ where

$$h_n(w) = \begin{cases} \frac{c_n(w^n - z^n)}{w-z} & w \neq z \\ n c_n z^{n-1} & w = z. \end{cases}$$

Now h_n is continuous on $D(0, R)$ (since $w \rightarrow w^n$ is differentiable with derivative nw^{n-1}). Using $\frac{w^n - z^n}{w-z} = \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} z^j w^{n-1-j}$, we get that for any r with $|z| < r < R$ and any $w \in D(0, r)$, $|h_n(w)| \leq n|c_n|r^{n-1} \equiv M_n$. Since $\sum M_n < \infty$, by the Weierstrass M-test that $\sum h_n$ converges uniformly on $D(0, r)$. But a uniform limit of continuous functions is continuous, so $g = \sum h_n$ is continuous in $D(0, r)$ and in particular at z .

Part (iii): Repeatedly apply (ii). The formula $c_n = \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}$ follows by differentiating the series n times and setting $z = a$.

Part (iv): If $f = 0$ in $D(a, \varepsilon)$, then $f^{(n)}(a) = 0$ for all n , so $c_n = 0$ for all n and hence $f = 0$ in $D(a, R)$. \square

If $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is holomorphic on all of \mathbb{C} , we say f is entire.

Proposition 1.6

The complex exponential function is defined by

$$e^z = \exp(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{n!}.$$

- (i) e^z is entire, with $(e^z)' = e^z$.
- (ii) $e^z \neq 0$ and $e^{z+w} = e^z e^w$ for all $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$.
- (iii) $e^{x+iy} = e^x(\cos(y) + i\sin(y))$ for $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$.
- (iv) $e^z = 1$ iff $z = 2n\pi i$ for some $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.
- (v) Let $z \in \mathbb{C}$. There exists $w \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $e^w = z$ iff $z \neq 0$.

Proof. **Part (i):** The r.o.c of the series is ∞ . To see $(e^z)' = e^z$, differentiate the series term by term using the previous theorem.

Part (ii): Fix any $w \in \mathbb{C}$ and set $F(z) = e^{z+w}e^{-z}$. Then $F'(z) = -e^{z+w}e^{-z} + e^{z+w}e^{-z} = 0$, so $F(z)$ is a constant. Thus $F(z) = F(0) = e^w$ for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$. Thus

$$e^{z+w}e^{-z} = e^w \quad \forall z, w \in \mathbb{C}.$$

Taking $w = 0$, $e^z e^{-z} = 1$. So $e^z \neq 0$. Multiplying by e^z , we get $e^{z+w} = e^z e^w$.

Part (iii): $e^{x+iy} = e^x e^{iy}$ by (ii). Now use the definition of e^{iy} , and the series for $\sin(y), \cos(y)$ for $y \in \mathbb{R}$.

Part (iv) and (v): Follow from (iii). (Exercise) \square

Definition (Logarithm)

Given $z \in \mathbb{C}$, we say a complex $w \in \mathbb{C}$ is a **logarithm** of z if $e^w = z$.

By Proposition 1.6(v), z has a logarithm iff $z \neq 0$. By (ii) and (iv), if $z \neq 0$ then z has infinitely many logarithms, with any two differing from each other by $2n\pi i$ for some integer n .

If w is a logarithm of z , then $e^{\operatorname{Re}(w)} = |z|$, so $\operatorname{Re}(w) = \log |z|$ (the real logarithm of the positive number $|z|$); in particular, this is well-defined.

Definition (Branch of a logarithm)

Let $U \subset \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ be open. Then a branch of logarithm on U is a continuous function $\lambda : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $e^{\lambda(z)} = z$ for each $z \in U$.

Proposition 1.7

If λ is a branch of log on U then λ is automatically holomorphic in U , with $\lambda'(z) = \frac{1}{z}$.

Proof. If $w \in U$ then

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{z \rightarrow w} \frac{\lambda(z) - \lambda(w)}{z - w} &= \lim_{z \rightarrow w} \frac{1}{\left(\frac{e^{\lambda(z)} - e^{\lambda(w)}}{\lambda(z) - \lambda(w)} \right)} \\ &= \frac{1}{e^{\lambda(w)}} \lim_{z \rightarrow w} \frac{1}{\left(\frac{e^{\lambda(z) - \lambda(w)} - 1}{\lambda(z) - \lambda(w)} \right)} \\ &= \frac{1}{e^{\lambda(w)}} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\left(\frac{e^h - 1}{h} \right)} \quad \text{since } \lambda \text{ is continuous} \\ &= \frac{1}{e^{\lambda(w)}} = \frac{1}{w}. \end{aligned}$$

□

Definition (Principal branch of logarithm)

The principal branch of logarithm is the function

$$\text{Log} : U_1 = \mathbb{C} \setminus \{x \in \mathbb{R} : x \leq 0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}.$$

defined by

$$\text{Log}(z) = \log |z| + i \arg(z).$$

where $\arg(z)$ is the unique argument of $z \in U_1$ in $(-\pi, \pi)$.

Remark. Log is a branch of logarithm in U_1 : to check continuity of Log, note that $z \mapsto \log |z|$ is continuous on $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ (by continuity of $z \mapsto |z|$ and continuity of $r \mapsto \log r$ for $r > 0$); also, $z \mapsto \arg(z)$ is continuous, since $\theta \mapsto e^{i\theta}$ is a homeomorphism $(-\pi, \pi) \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^1 \setminus \{-1\}$ (as can be checked directly, where $\mathbb{S}^1 = \{z : |z| = 1\}$), and $z \mapsto \frac{z}{|z|}$ is continuous on $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$. So $z \mapsto \log(z)$ is continuous on U_1 . We also have

$$e^{\text{Log}(z)} = e^{\ln |z| + i \arg(z)} = e^{\ln |z|} \cdot e^{i \arg(z)} = |z|(\cos \arg(z) + i \sin \arg(z)) = z.$$

So Log is a branch of logarithm in U_1 .

Remark. Log does not have a continuous extension to $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ since $\arg(z) \rightarrow \pi$ as $z \rightarrow -1$ with $\text{Im}(z) > 0$, and $\arg(z) \rightarrow -\pi$ as $z \rightarrow -1$ with $\text{Im}(z) < 0$.

Proposition 1.8 (i) Log is holomorphic on U_1 with $\text{Log}'(z) = \frac{1}{z}$.

(ii) For $|z| < 1$, we have

$$\text{Log}(1+z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1} z^n}{n}.$$

Proof. (i) is the remark above.

(ii) To see this, note that the R.O.C of the series is 1, and $|z| < 1 \implies 1+z \in U_1$,

so both sides are defined on $|z| < 1$.

Let $F(z) = \text{Log}(1+z) - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1} z^n}{n}$ for $|z| < 1$. Then

$$F'(z) = \frac{1}{1+z} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-z)^{n-1} = 0.$$

So $F(z) = \text{constant} = F(0) = 0$.

□

Using exp and Log we can define further useful functions.

1. For any $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$, define

$$z^\alpha = e^{\alpha \text{Log}(z)}, \quad z \in U_1.$$

This is the principal branch of z^α . It's holomorphic on U_1 with derivative $\alpha z^{\alpha-1}$.

2. We can define the familiar functions

- $\cos(z) = \frac{e^{iz} + e^{-iz}}{2}$
- $\sin(z) = \frac{e^{iz} - e^{-iz}}{2i}$
- $\cosh(z) = \frac{e^z + e^{-z}}{2}$
- $\sinh(z) = \frac{e^z - e^{-z}}{2}$

These are all entire since exp is entire, with derivatives given by the familiar expressions from real variables.

1.3 Conformality

Let $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be holomorphic ($U \subset \mathbb{C}$ is open). Let $w \in U$ and suppose that $f'(w) \neq 0$. Take two C^1 curves $\gamma_1, \gamma_2 : [-1, 1] \rightarrow U$ such that $\gamma_1(0) = \gamma_2(0) = w$ and with nonzero derivative. Then $f \circ \gamma_i$ are C^1 curves passing through $f(w)$. Moreover, $(f \circ \gamma_i)'(0) = f'(w)\gamma_i'(0) \neq 0$. Thus

$$\frac{(f \circ \gamma_1)'(0)}{(f \circ \gamma_2)'(0)} = \frac{\gamma_1'(0)}{\gamma_2'(0)}.$$

Hence

$$\arg(f \circ \gamma_1)'(0) - \arg(f \circ \gamma_2)'(0) = \arg \gamma_1'(0) - \arg \gamma_2'(0).$$

This means that the angle that the curves γ_1, γ_2 make at w is the same as the angle their images make at $f(w)$. We say f is 'angle-preserving at w ', whenever $f'(w) \neq 0$.

Remark. If f is a C^1 map on U , the converse of this also holds. See Example Sheet 1.

Definition (Conformal map)

A holomorphic function $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ on an open set U is said to be **conformal** at a point $w \in U$ if $f'(w) \neq 0$.

Definition (Conformal equivalence)

Let U, \tilde{U} be domains in \mathbb{C} . A map $f : U \rightarrow \tilde{U}$ is said to be a conformal equivalence

between U and \tilde{U} if f is a bijective holomorphic map with $f'(z) \neq 0$ for every $z \in U$.

Remark. • If f is holomorphic and injective, then $f'(z) \neq 0$ for each z . We will prove this later. So in the above definition $f'(z) \neq 0$ is redundant.

- It is automatic that the inverse $f^{-1} : U \rightarrow \tilde{U}$ is holomorphic. This can be proved using the holomorphic inverse function theorem, which you will prove on Example Sheet 1.

Example

Let's look at some examples of conformal equivalence.

1. Möbius maps are defined for $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{C}$ with $ad - bc \neq 0$ (see IA Groups):

$$f(z) = \frac{az + b}{cz + d}.$$

Möbius maps sometimes serve as explicit conformal equivalences between subdomains of \mathbb{C} . For example, let \mathbb{H} be the open upper half plane. Then

$$\begin{aligned} z \in \mathbb{H} &\iff |z - i| < |z + i| \\ &\iff \left| \frac{z - i}{z + i} \right| < 1. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $g(z) = \frac{z-i}{z+i}$ maps \mathbb{H} onto $D(0, 1)$, so g is a conformal equivalence.

2. Consider $f : z \rightarrow z^n$ where $n \in \mathbb{N}$ where $f : \{z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\} : 0 < \arg(z) < \frac{\pi}{n}\} \rightarrow \mathbb{H}$. This is a conformal equivalence with inverse $f(z) = z^{1/n}$ (the principal branch).

3. We have that

$$\exp : \{z \in \mathbb{C} : -\pi < \operatorname{Im}(z) < \pi\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \setminus \{x \in \mathbb{R} : x \leq 0\}.$$

Aside:

Theorem 1.9 (Riemann Mapping Theorem)

Any simply connected domain $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ with $U \neq \mathbb{C}$ is conformally equivalent to $D(0, 1)$.

Proof. This is beyond the scope of the course.³

□

2 Complex integration: Part I

2.1 Definitions and basic properties

We aim to extend Riemann integration to complex functions $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ along curves in U . First we take a look at complex functions of a real variable.

³See Rudin's *Real and Complex Analysis*.

Definition

If $f : [a, b] \subset \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a complex function and if f is Riemann integrable, define

$$\int_a^b f(t) dt = \int_a^b \operatorname{Re} f(t) dt + i \int_a^b \operatorname{Im} f(t) dt.$$

In particular,

$$\int_a^b i f(t) dt = i \int_a^b f(t) dt.$$

We can then directly calculate for any $w \in \mathbb{C}$ that

$$\int_a^b w f(t) dt = w \int_a^b f(t) dt.$$

Proposition 2.1

If $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is continuous, then

$$\left| \int_a^b f(t) dt \right| \leq \int_a^b |f(t)| dt \leq (b-a) \sup_{t \in [a, b]} |f(t)|,$$

with equality iff f is constant.

Proof. If $\int_a^b f(t) dt$ then we are done. Else write $\int_a^b f(t) dt = r e^{i\theta}$ for some $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ and let $M = \sup_{t \in [a, b]} |f(t)|$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_a^b f(t) dt \right| &= r = e^{-i\theta} \int_a^b f(t) dt = \int_a^b e^{-i\theta} f(t) dt \\ &= \int_a^b \operatorname{Re}(e^{-i\theta} f(t)) dt + i \int_a^b \operatorname{Im}(e^{-i\theta} f(t)) dt. \end{aligned}$$

Since the LHS is real,

$$\left| \int_a^b f(t) dt \right| = \int_a^b \operatorname{Re} f(t) dt \leq \int_a^b |e^{-i\theta} f(t)| dt = \int_a^b |f(t)| dt \leq (b-a)M.$$

Equality holds iff $|f(t)| = M$ and $\operatorname{Re}(e^{-i\theta} f(t)) = M$ for all $t \in [a, b]$, i.e. iff $|f(t)| = M$ and $\arg f(t) = \theta$ for all t ; iff f constant. \square

Definition (Integral along a curve)

Let $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ be open and $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be continuous. Let $\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow U$ be a C^1 curve. Then the **integral of f along γ** is

$$\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = \int_a^b f(\gamma(t)) \gamma'(t) dt.$$

Proposition 2.2 (Basic properties of the integral)

If we have the integral of f along γ , we have the following properties:

1. Invariance under reparametrisation: Let $\varphi : [a_1, b_1] \rightarrow [a, b]$ be C^1 and injective with $\varphi(a_1) = a, \varphi(b_1) = b$. Let $\delta = \gamma \circ \varphi : [a_1, b_1] \rightarrow U$. Then we have

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

2. Linearity:

$$\int_{\gamma} c_1 f_1(z) + c_2 f_2(z) dz = c_1 \int_{\gamma} f_1(z) dz + c_2 \int_{\gamma} f_2(z) dz.$$

3. Additivity: If γ is our C^1 curve and $a < c < b$, then

$$\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = \int_{\gamma|_{[a, c]}} f(z) dz + \int_{\gamma|_{[c, b]}} f(z) dz.$$

4. Inverse path: Define the inverse path $(-\gamma) : [-b, -a] \rightarrow U$ by $(-\gamma)(t) = \gamma(-t)$ for $-b \leq t \leq -a$. Then

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

Proof. For 1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\delta} f(z) dz &= \int_{a_1}^{b_1} f(\varphi(t)) \gamma'(\varphi(t)) \varphi'(t) dt \\ &= \int_a^b f(\gamma(s)) \gamma'(s) ds = \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz \quad \text{by change of vars. } s = \varphi(t). \end{aligned}$$

2,3, and 4 are all easy to check from the definition. \square

Definition (Length of a curve)

Definition: Let $\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a C^1 curve. The length of γ is defined by

$$\text{length}(\gamma) = \int_a^b |\gamma'(t)| dt.$$

Definition

A **piecewise C^1 curve** is a continuous map $\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that there exists a finite subdivision

$$a = a_0 < a_1 < \dots < a_{n-1} < a_n = b$$

with the property that $\gamma_j = \gamma|_{[a_{j-1}, a_j]} : [a_{j-1}, a_j] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is C^1 for all $1 \leq j \leq n$. We define

$$\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\gamma_j} f(z) dz.$$

and

$$\text{length}(\gamma) = \sum_{j=1}^n \text{length}(\gamma_j) = \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{a_{j-1}}^{a_j} |\gamma'(t)| dt.$$

Remark. From now on, by a ‘curve’ we shall mean a piecewise C^1 curve.

Definition

If $\gamma_1 : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and $\gamma_2 : [c, d] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ are curves with $\gamma_1(b) = \gamma_2(c)$, we define the sum of γ_1 and γ_2 to be the curve

$$(\gamma_1 + \gamma_2) : [a, b + d - c] \rightarrow \mathbb{C},$$

$$(\gamma_1 + \gamma_2)(t) = \begin{cases} \gamma_1(t) & a \leq t \leq b \\ \gamma_2(t - b + c) & b \leq t \leq b + d - c \end{cases}$$

Proposition 2.3

For any continuous function $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and any curve $\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, we have that

$$\left| \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz \right| \leq \text{length}(\gamma) \sup_{\gamma} |f|$$

where $\sup_{\gamma} |f| = \sup_{t \in [a, b]} |f(\gamma(t))|$.

Proof. If γ is C^1 , then

$$\left| \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz \right| = \left| \int_a^b f(\gamma(t)) \gamma'(t) dt \right| \leq \int_a^b |f(\gamma(t))| |\gamma'(t)| dt \leq \sup_{t \in [a, b]} |f(\gamma(t))| \text{length}(\gamma).$$

If γ is piecewise C^1 then the result follows from the definition $\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = \sum_{j=1}^n \int_{\gamma_j} f(z) dz$ where γ_j is C^1 , and the triangle inequality. \square

2.2 Fundamental theorem of calculus

We can now look at the complex version of the FTC.

Theorem 2.4 (Fundamental Theorem of Calculus)

Suppose that $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is continuous, $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ open. If there is a function $F : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $F'(z) = f(z)$ for all $z \in U$, then for any curve $\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow U$,

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

If additionally γ is a closed curve, i.e. $\gamma(b) = \gamma(a)$, then $\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = 0$.

Proof. This follows immediately:

$$\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = \int_a^b f(\gamma(t)) \gamma'(t) dt = \int_a^b \frac{d}{dt} F(\gamma(t)) dt = F(\gamma(b)) - F(\gamma(a)).$$

□

Remark. Such F as in Theorem 2.3 is called an **anti-derivative** of f .

We shall see later (by infinite differentiability of holomorphic functions) that if $F'(z) = f(z)$, then f is automatically continuous.

Example

Let $\int_{\gamma} z^n dz$ for $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, where $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, $\gamma(t) = Re^{2\pi it}$ for some $R > 0$. (The image of γ is the circle of radius R centred at 0).

For $n \neq -1$, $\frac{z^{n+1}}{n+1}$ is an antiderivative of z^n in $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$, so by the FTC, $\int_{\gamma} z^n dz = 0$ since γ is a closed curve.

For $n = -1$, use the definition of the integral:

$$\int_{\gamma} \frac{1}{z} dz = \int_0^1 \frac{\gamma'(t)}{\gamma(t)} dt = \int_0^1 \frac{2\pi i R e^{2\pi it}}{R e^{2\pi it}} dt = 2\pi i.$$

Since $\int_{\gamma} \frac{1}{z} dz \neq 0$, we can conclude that for any $R > 0$, $\frac{1}{z}$ has no anti-derivative in any open set containing the circle $\{|z| = R\}$.

In particular, since for any branch $\lambda(z)$ of logarithm the derivative $\lambda'(z) = \frac{1}{z}$, there is no branch of logarithm on $\mathbb{C}^* = \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$.

Theorem 2.5 (Converse to FTC)

Let $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a domain. If $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is continuous and if $\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = 0$ for every closed curve γ in U , then f has an antiderivative, i.e there is a holomorphic function $F : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $F'(z) = f(z)$ for each $z \in U$.

Proof. Fix $a_0 \in U$. For $w \in U$, define

$$F(w) = \int_{\gamma_w} f(z) dz.$$

where $\gamma_w : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a curve with $\gamma_w(0) = a_0$, $\gamma_w(1) = w$ (exists since U is path-connected). The definition of F is independent of the choice of γ_w by our hypothesis that $\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = 0$ for every closed curve γ in U . So $F : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is well-defined.

Fix $w \in U$. Since U is open, there is $r > 0$ such that $D(w, r) \subset U$. For $h \in \mathbb{C}$ with $0 < |h| < r$, let δ_h be the straight line path $t \mapsto w + th$ for $t \in [0, 1]$. Let

$$\gamma = \gamma_w + \delta_h + (-\gamma_{w+h}).$$

γ is closed so $\int_{\gamma} f \, dz = 0$. Thus

$$\int_{\gamma_{w+h}} f(z) \, dz = \int_{\gamma_w} f(z) \, dz + \int_{\delta_h} f(z) \, dz.$$

In terms of F , this says that

$$F(w+h) = F(w) + \int_{\delta_h} f(z) \, dz = F(w) + h f(w) + \int_{\delta_h} (f(z) - f(w)) \, dz.$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{F(w+h) - F(w)}{h} - f(w) \right| &= \frac{1}{|h|} \left| \int_{\delta_h} (f(z) - f(w)) \, dz \right| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{|h|} \text{length}(\delta_h) \sup_z |f(z) - f(w)| \\ &= \sup_z |f(z) - f(w)| \\ &\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } h \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{since } f \text{ is continuous.} \end{aligned}$$

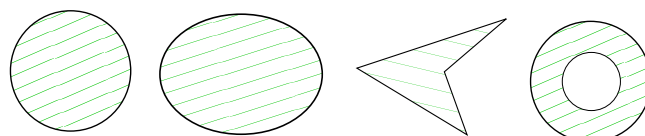
Therefore F is differentiable at w with $F'(w) = f(w)$. \square

The FTC is true for any domain, but next we restrict ourselves to a smaller subset of domains and prove some results for domains of certain shapes.

Definition (Star-shaped domain)

A domain U is **star-shaped** if there is $a_0 \in U$ such that for each $w \in U$, the straight-line segment $[a_0, w] \subset U$.

Remark. U is a disk $\implies U$ is convex $\implies U$ is star-shaped $\implies U$ is path-connected. None of the reverse implications hold.



Disk \implies convex \implies star-shaped \implies path-connected

Definition (Triangle)

A **triangle** in \mathbb{C} is the convex hull of three points in \mathbb{C} . The three points are the vertices of the triangle.

Notation. For a triangle T , we write $\int_{\partial T} f(z) \, dz$ to denote the integral of f along the piecewise affine closed curve $\gamma = \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 + \gamma_3$ where $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3$ parameterise the three straight lines that are the sides of T with the interior of T to the left of them.

Corollary 2.6 (of Theorem 2.5)

If U is star-shaped, $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is continuous and $\int_{\partial T} f(z) \, dz = 0$ for any triangle $T \subset U$, then f has an antiderivative in U .

Proof. Suppose U is star-shaped with respect to a point $a_0 \in U$ and let $w \in U$ be some point. Let γ_w be the function parameterising $[a_0, w]$ and let $F(w) = \int_{\gamma_w} f(z) dz$. With h, δ_h and γ as in the proof of Theorem 2.5, we then have that $\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = \pm \int_{\partial T} f(z) dz$ for a triangle $T \subset U$ (with the - sign if T lies to the right of the directed boundary segments). Since $\int_{\partial T} f(z) dz = 0$ by hypothesis, we have that $\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = 0$. We can now proceed exactly as in the proof of Theorem 2.5. \square

We will soon see that the validity of $\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = 0$ for any holomorphic f on U and any curve γ in U has important consequences.

One of our goals in the course will be to characterise these domains U . We are going to build towards Cauchy's theorem, which states that this is true for simply connected U .

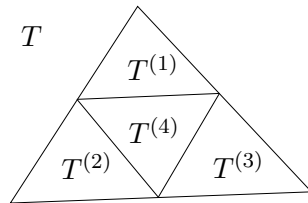
The next object of discussion is an elegant proof of Cauchy's theorem restricted to the special case of triangles in \mathbb{C} .

Theorem 2.7 (Cauchy's theorem for triangles)

Let $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ be open and $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be holomorphic. Then $\int_{\partial T} f(z) dz = 0$ for any triangle $T \subset U$.

Proof. Let $\eta(T) = \int_{\partial T} f(z) dz$.

First key idea: subdivide T into four smaller triangles $T^{(1)}, T^{(2)}, T^{(3)}, T^{(4)}$ by joining the midpoints of the sides of T :



Note that

$$\eta(T) = \int_{\partial T^{(1)}} f(z) dz + \int_{\partial T^{(2)}} f(z) dz + \int_{\partial T^{(3)}} f(z) dz + \int_{\partial T^{(4)}} f(z) dz.$$

So by the triangle inequality,

$$\left| \int_{\partial T^{(j)}} f(z) dz \right| \geq \frac{|\eta(T)|}{4}$$

for some $j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$. Let $T_1 = T^{(j)}$ for this j , and write $T_0 = T$. So $|\eta(T_1)| \geq \frac{1}{4} |\eta(T_0)|$. Also, $\text{length}(\partial T_1) = \frac{1}{2} \text{length}(\partial T_0)$. Now repeat the process: subdivide T_1 and choose a new triangle $T_2 \subset T_1$ exactly the same way. Doing this indefinitely generates a sequence of triangles $T_0 \supset T_1 \supset T_2 \supset \dots$ satisfying, for $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$,

$$|\eta(T_n)| \geq \frac{1}{4} |\eta(T_{n-1})| \text{ and } \text{length}(\partial T_n) = \frac{1}{2} \text{length}(\partial T_{n-1}).$$

Iterating, we get

$$|\eta(T_n)| \geq \frac{1}{4^n} |\eta(T_0)| \text{ and } \text{length}(\partial T_n) = \frac{1}{2^n} \text{length}(\partial T_0).$$

Since T_n are non-empty, nested closed subsets with $\text{diam}(T_n) \rightarrow 0$ and \mathbb{C} is a complete metric space, we have that $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} T_n = \{z_0\}$ for some $z_0 \in \mathbb{C}$ (Analysis & Topology sheet 3).

Now let $\varepsilon > 0$. Since f is differentiable at z_0 , there is $\delta > 0$ such that for all $z \in U$,

$$|z - z_0| < \delta \implies |f(z) - f(z_0) - f'(z_0)(z - z_0)| < \varepsilon |z - z_0|.$$

Second key idea: observe that for any n ,

$$\int_{\partial T_n} f(z) dz = \int_{\partial T_n} (f(z) - f(z_0) - f'(z_0)(z - z_0)) dz$$

(since $\int_{\partial T_n} 1 dz = \int_{\partial T_n} z dz = 0$, by the FTC).

So choosing n with $T_n \subset D(z_0, \delta)$ (which is possible since $z_0 \in T_n$ for all n and $\text{diam}(T_n) \rightarrow 0$),

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{4^n} |\eta(T_0)| &\leq |\eta(T_n)| = \left| \int_{\partial T_n} f(z) dz \right| \\ &= \left| \int_{\partial T_n} (f(z) - f(z_0) - f'(z_0)(z - z_0)) dz \right| \\ &\leq \left(\sup_{z \in \partial T_n} |f(z) - f(z_0) - f'(z_0)(z - z_0)| \right) \text{length}(\partial T_n) \\ &= \leq \epsilon \left(\sup_{z \in \partial T_n} |z - z_0| \right) \text{length}(\partial T_n) \leq \epsilon (\text{length}(\partial T_n))^2 \\ &= \frac{\epsilon}{4^n} (\text{length}(\partial T_0))^2. \end{aligned}$$

Cancel $\frac{1}{4^n}$ on both sides and let $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$. This gives $\eta(T_0) = 0$. □

For later applications, we want to generalise this theorem to continuous functions which are assumed holomorphic *except at a finite number of points*.

Theorem 2.8

Let $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ be open and $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be continuous. Let $S \subset U$ be a finite set and suppose that f is holomorphic on $U \setminus S$. Then

$$\int_{\partial T} f(z) dz = 0 \quad \text{for every triangle } T \subset U.$$

Proof. Subdivide T into a total of $N = 4^n$ smaller triangles by the iterative procedure before, where at each step we join up the midpoints of the sides of the triangles at the previous step. This time we keep all the smaller triangles; call them T_1, T_2, \dots, T_N . (Note the notational difference from before.) Then since the integrals along the sides of the smaller triangles that are interior to T cancel, we

get that

$$\int_{\partial T} f(z) \, dz = \sum_{j=1}^N \int_{\partial T_j} f(z) \, dz.$$

Note by the previous theorem that $\int_{\partial T_j} f(z) \, dz = 0$ unless $T_j \cap S \neq \emptyset$. So letting $I = \{j : T_j \cap S \neq \emptyset\}$, we have that $\int_{\partial T} f(z) \, dz = \sum_{j \in I} \int_{\partial T_j} f(z) \, dz$. Since any point can be in at most 6 smaller triangles and $\text{length}(\partial T_j) = \frac{1}{2^n} \text{length}(\partial T)$, we get that

$$\left| \int_{\partial T} f(z) \, dz \right| \leq 6 |S| \left(\sup_{z \in T} |f(z)| \right) \frac{\text{length}(\partial T)}{2^n}.$$

Then let $n \rightarrow \infty$ and we are done. \square

Corollary 2.9

(Convex Cauchy) Let $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ be convex, or more generally, a star domain. Let $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be continuous and holomorphic in $U \setminus S$ where S is a finite set. Then $\int_{\gamma} f(z) \, dz = 0$ for any closed curve γ in U .

Proof. By Theorem 2.7, $\int_{\partial T} f(z) \, dz = 0$ for any triangle $T \subset U$. Since U is a star domain and f is continuous, this means that by Corollary 2.6 that f has an antiderivative in U . The result now follows from the FTC. \square

Now we are ready to draw a series of very nice corollaries of "convex Cauchy". The main corollary is a representation formula known as the *Cauchy integral formula*, from which the other results will follow.

2.3 Cauchy integral formula

Notation. For a disk $D(a, \rho)$ we will write $\int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} f(z) \, dz$ to mean $\int_{\gamma} f(z) \, dz$ where γ is the curve $\gamma(t) = a + \rho e^{2\pi i t}$ (which parameterises the boundary of the disk with positive orientation, i.e so that the disk lies to the left of the directed boundary circle).

Theorem 2.10 (Cauchy integral formula for a disk)

Let $D = D(a, r)$ and let $f : D \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be holomorphic. Then for any ρ with $0 < \rho < r$ and any $w \in D(a, \rho)$ we have that

$$f(w) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{f(z)}{z - w} \, dz.$$

In particular (taking $w = a$),

$$f(a) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{f(z)}{z - a} \, dz = \int_0^1 f(a + \rho e^{2\pi i t}) \, dt.$$

This is called the **mean value property** for holomorphic functions.

For the proof we will need the following fact:

Lemma 2.11

If $\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a curve and (f_n) is a sequence of continuous complex functions on image (γ) converging uniformly to a function f on image (γ) , then $\int_{\gamma} f_n(z) dz \rightarrow \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz$. This is true because

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{\gamma} f_n(z) dz - \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz \right| &= \left| \int_{\gamma} (f_n(z) - f(z)) dz \right| \\ &\leq \sup_{z \in \text{image}(\gamma)} |f_n(z) - f(z)| \text{length}(\gamma) \end{aligned}$$

Now let's prove the Cauchy integral formula.

Proof of 2.10. Fix $w \in D(a, \rho)$ and define $h : D \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ by

$$h(z) = \begin{cases} \frac{f(z) - f(w)}{z - w} & z \neq w \\ f'(w) & z = w \end{cases}$$

Then h is continuous on D and holomorphic in $D \setminus \{w\}$, so by “convex Cauchy”,

$$\int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} h(z) dz = 0.$$

Substituting for h , we get

$$f(w) \int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{1}{z - w} dz = \int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{f(z)}{z - w} dz.$$

Now we just have to show that $\int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{1}{z - w} dz = 2\pi i$. To do this, note that $\frac{1}{z - w} = \frac{1}{z - a + a - w} = \frac{1}{(z - a)(1 - \frac{w - a}{z - a})} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(w - a)^j}{(z - a)^{j+1}}$, where the convergence is uniform for $z \in \partial D(a, \rho)$ by the Weierstrass M -test (since $\left| \left(\frac{w - a}{z - a} \right)^j \right| = \left(\frac{|w - a|}{\rho} \right)^j \equiv M_j$, and $\sum M_j < \infty$.) Therefore, by the above fact, we can interchange summation and integration to get,

$$\int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{dz}{z - w} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (w - a)^j \int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{1}{(z - a)^{j+1}} dz$$

Now for $j \geq 1$, the function $\frac{1}{(z - a)^{j+1}}$ has an anti-derivative $\left(= -\frac{1}{j(z - a)^j} \right)$ in a neighbourhood of $\partial D(a, \rho)$, so by FTC, all integrals on the right for $j \geq 1$ are zero. For $j = 0$, by direct computation $\int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{1}{z - a} dz = 2\pi i$. So $\int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{1}{z - w} dz = 2\pi i$, which concludes the proof. \square

This finally gives us the tools to prove two very deep results: Liouville's theorem and the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra.

Theorem 2.12 (Liouville's theorem)

If $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is entire (holomorphic on \mathbb{C}) and bounded, then f is constant. More generally, if f is entire with sub-linear growth (i.e there are constants $K > 0$ and $\alpha < 1$ such that $|f(z)| \leq K(1 + |z|^\alpha)$ for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$), then f is constant.

Proof. For any given $w \in \mathbb{C}$ and any $\rho > |w|$, we have by CIF that $f(w) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial D(0, \rho)} \frac{f(z)}{z-w} dz$ and $f(0) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial D(0, \rho)} \left(\frac{f(z)}{z} \right) dz$. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} |f(w) - f(0)| &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \left| \int_{\partial D(0, \rho)} \frac{wf(z)}{z(z-w)} dz \right| \\ &\leq \frac{|w|}{2\pi} \sup_{z \in \partial D(0, \rho)} \frac{|f(z)|}{|z||z-w|} \text{length}(\partial D(0, \rho)) \\ &\leq \frac{|w|K(1+\rho^\alpha)}{2\pi\rho(\rho-|w|)} 2\pi\rho = \frac{|w|K(1+\rho^\alpha)}{\rho-|w|} \end{aligned}$$

Let $\rho \rightarrow \infty$ in this, keeping w fixed to conclude that $f(w) = f(0)$. So we are done. \square

Theorem 2.13 (Fundamental Theorem of Algebra)

Every non-constant polynomial with complex coefficients has a complex root.

Proof. Let $p(z) = a_n z^n + a_{n-1} z^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 z + a_0$ be a complex polynomial of degree $n \geq 1$. Then $a_n \neq 0$, and for $z \neq 0$ we can write $p(z) = z^n \left(a_n + \frac{a_{n-1}}{z} + \dots + \frac{a_0}{z^n} \right)$. So by the triangle inequality, $|p(z)| \geq \left(|z|^n \left(|a_n| - \frac{|a_{n-1}|}{|z|} - \dots - \frac{|a_0|}{|z|^n} \right) \right)$. This implies that we can find $R > 0$ such that $|p(z)| \geq 1$ for $|z| > R'$ (in fact $|p(z)| \rightarrow \infty$ as $|z| \rightarrow \infty$). Now if $p(z) \neq 0$ for all z , then $g(z) = \frac{1}{p(z)}$ is entire. By the above, $|g(z)| \leq 1$ for $|z| > R$. By continuity of g , we also have that $|g(z)|$ bounded from above on the compact set $\{|z| \leq R\}$. Thus g is a bounded entire function, so by Liouville's theorem g is constant. Since p is non-constant, this is impossible. So p must have a zero. \square

Theorem 2.14 (Local maximum modulus principle)

If $f : D(a, R) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is holomorphic and if $|f(z)| \leq |f(a)|$ for all $z \in D(a, R)$, then f is constant.

Proof. By the mean value property, for any $\rho \in (0, R)$ we have that

$$f(a) = \int_0^1 f(a + \rho e^{2\pi i t}) dt.$$

Therefore

$$|f(a)| = \left| \int_0^1 f(a + \rho e^{2\pi i t}) dt \right| \leq \sup_{t \in [0, 1]} |f(a + \rho e^{2\pi i t})| \leq |f(a)| \text{ by hypothesis.}$$

Thus both inequalities must be equality. Equality in the first implies that by Proposition 2.3, $f(a + \rho e^{2\pi i t}) = c_\rho$ for constant c_ρ and all $t \in [0, 1]$. But then by the first inequality $|c_\rho| = |f(a)|$ for each $\rho \in (0, R)$. Thus $|f(a + \rho e^{2\pi i t})| = |c_\rho|$ is constant for all $\rho \in (0, R)$ and $t \in [0, 1]$; i.e $|f(z)|$ is constant on $D(a, R)$. By the Cauchy-Riemann equations (see Example Sheet 1), it follows that f is constant. \square

In section 1.2, we saw that we could construct power series on disks to generate a large class of holomorphic functions. The next result in the course effectively shows us the

converse; that all holomorphic functions have a power series on a disk.

Theorem 2.15 (Taylor series)

Let $f : D(a, R) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be holomorphic. Then f has a convergent power series representation on $D(a, R)$. More precisely, there is a sequence of complex numbers c_0, c_1, \dots such that for all $w \in D(a, R)$,

$$f(w) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (w - a)^n.$$

The coefficient c_n is given by

$$c_n = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{f(z)}{(z - a)^{n+1}} dz,$$

for any $\rho \in (0, R)$.

Proof. Let $0 < \rho < R$. Then for any $w \in D(a, \rho)$, we have by the Cauchy integral formula that

$$\begin{aligned} f(w) &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{f(z)}{z - w} dz = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} f(z) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(w - a)^n}{(z - a)^{n+1}} dz \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2\pi i} (w - a)^n \int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{f(z)}{(z - a)^{n+1}} dz. \end{aligned}$$

The last equality is true by uniform convergence of the series for z in our disk. Write $c_n(\rho) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{f(z)}{(z - a)^{n+1}} dz$. Then we know that $f(w) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(\rho) (w - a)^n$ for all $w \in D(a, \rho)$.

So by Theorem 1.5, the function f (being given by a power series in $D(a, \rho)$) has derivatives of all orders in $D(a, \rho)$, and the coefficient $c_n(\rho) = \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}$. In particular $c_n(\rho)$ is independent of ρ , so call it c_n .

Since $\rho \in (0, R)$ is arbitrary, we then have that $f(w) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (w - a)^n$ for all $w \in D(a, R)$, where $c_n = \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{f(z)}{(z - a)^{n+1}} dz$ for any $\rho \in (0, R)$. \square

Corollary 2.16

If f is holomorphic on an open set $U \subset \mathbb{C}$, then f has derivatives of all orders in U which are themselves holomorphic on U .

Proof. f has a power series representation near every point, so its derivatives of all orders exist everywhere. This also of course means that the derivatives of all orders are holomorphic. \square

Remarks. 1. Suppose $D(a, R) \subset U$. In the proof of Theorem 2.13 we have established the formula

$$f^{(n)}(a) = \frac{n!}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{f(z) dz}{(z - a)^{n+1}}$$

valid for any $\rho \in (0, R)$. This is a special case of a Cauchy integral formula for derivatives.

2. Taking $n = 1$ in the above formula and estimating, we get

$$|f'(a)| \leq \frac{1}{\rho} \left(\sup_{z \in \partial D(a, \rho)} |f(z)| \right).$$

This estimate can be thought of as a “localisation of Liouville’s theorem”. and it directly implies Liouville’s theorem: if f is entire and bounded, we can choose any $a \in \mathbb{C}$, apply the estimate and let $\rho \rightarrow \infty$ to conclude that $f' = 0$ on \mathbb{C} and hence f is constant.

A function f (real or complex) is said to be **analytic** at a point a if f is given by a convergent power series about a in some neighbourhood of a . We know that f analytic at $a \implies f$ has derivatives of all orders near a .

Corollary 2.16 says that if f is a complex function, then:

$$\begin{aligned} & f \text{ is analytic at } a \\ \iff & f \text{ has complex derivatives of all orders in a neighborhood of } a \\ \iff & f \text{ is complex differentiable once in a neighborhood of } a \\ \iff & f \text{ is holomorphic at } a. \end{aligned}$$

For real functions, existence of derivatives of all orders does not imply analyticity. (e.g. $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $f(x) = e^{-1/x^2}$ for $x \neq 0$ and $f(0) = 0$; this function is differentiable to any order and has $f^{(n)}(0) = 0$ for all n , so f is not given by a convergent power series near 0.)

Notation. From now on we use “analytic” and “holomorphic” interchangeably.

- Remarks.* 1. Let $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ be open. We now have (from Corollary 2.14) that $f = u + iv$ is holomorphic in $U \iff u, v$ have continuous (first) partial derivatives in U (i.e. u, v are C^1 in U) and u, v satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations.
2. Corollary 2.14 provides C^2 regularity of u and v if $f = u + iv$ is holomorphic in U . So we now have fully justified that real and imaginary parts of a holomorphic function are harmonic functions.

Corollary 2.14 (higher order differentiability) leads to the following very useful integral criterion for holomorphicity of a continuous function.

Theorem 2.17 (Morera’s Theorem)

Let $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ be open. If $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is continuous and $\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = 0$ for every closed curve γ in U , then f is holomorphic in U .

Proof. By the FTC (Theorem 2.4), f has an antiderivative F on U . Such F is of course holomorphic. By Corollary 2.14 then F is twice differentiable in U . Since $F' = f$, this means that f is holomorphic. \square

Corollary 2.18

Let $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ be open. If $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is continuous and holomorphic in $U \setminus S$ where S is a finite set, then f is holomorphic in U .

Proof. For each $a \in U$ there is $r > 0$ such that $D = D(a, r) \subset U$. Since D is convex, we can apply Corollary 2.9 (convex Cauchy) to see that $\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = 0$ for any closed curve in D . By Morera's theorem f is holomorphic in D . \square

As a further application of Taylor series, we next show that zeros of a non-zero holomorphic function are isolated points.

Suppose f is a non-zero holomorphic function on a disk $D = D(a, R)$. Then by the Taylor series theorem, there are constants c_n such that

$$f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (z-a)^n \text{ for all } z \in D.$$

Since $f \not\equiv 0$ in D , there is n such that $c_n \neq 0$. Then

$$f(z) = (z-a)^m g(z),$$

where $g(z) = \sum_{n=m}^{\infty} c_n (z-a)^{n-m}$. The function g is holomorphic on D since it is given by a power series, and $g(a) = c_m \neq 0$.

Notation. If $m \geq 1$, we say that f has a **zero of order m** at $z = a$. From the formula $c_n = \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}$, it is clear that m is the smallest of the positive integers n such that $f^{(n)}(a) \neq 0$.

Recall that if $S \subset \mathbb{C}$, then a point $w \in S$ is an **isolated point** of S if there is $r > 0$ such that $S \cap D(w, r) = \{w\}$.

Theorem 2.19 (Principle of isolated zeros)

Let $f : D(a, R) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be holomorphic and not identically 0. Then there is r with $0 \leq r \leq R$ such that $f(z) \neq 0$ whenever $0 < |z-a| < r$.

Remark. If $f(a) = 0$, the theorem says that there exists r such that a is an isolated point of the zero set in some ball $D(a, r)$. So for example there is no non-zero holomorphic function vanishing on a line segment or a half-disk.

Proof. If $f(a) \neq 0$, then by continuity of f we can find $r > 0$ such that $f(z) \neq 0$ for $z \in D(a, r)$ and we are done.

If $f(a) = 0$, then by the preceding discussion there is an integer $m \geq 1$ such that $f(z) = (z-a)^m g(z)$ for $z \in D(a, R)$, where g is holomorphic with $g(a) \neq 0$. So again we can find $r > 0$ such that $g(z) \neq 0$ for $z \in D(a, r)$, and hence $f(z) \neq 0$ for $z \in D(a, r) \setminus \{a\}$. \square

Corollary 2.20

For all $z \in \mathbb{C}$, $\sin^2 z + \cos^2 z = 1$.

Proof. Consider $g(z) = \sin^2 z + \cos^2 z - 1$ is holomorphic, and vanishes on the real line. So $g \equiv 0$ by the principle of isolated zeros. \square

2.4 Unique continuation for analytic functions

Consider a holomorphic function $f : D(a, r) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ defined on a disk. We know that by the Taylor series theorem, f is uniquely determined by its values in any arbitrarily small disk $D(a, \rho) \subset D(a, r)$ (because the Taylor series coefficient $c_n = \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$).

This can be generalised to arbitrary domains.

Theorem 2.21 (Unique continuation for analytic functions)

Let U, V be domains such that $U \subset V$. If $g_1, g_2 : V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ are analytic and $g_1 = g_2$ on U , then $g_1 = g_2$ on V .

Equivalently, if $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is analytic, then there is at most one analytic function $g : V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $g = f$ on U .

Notation. We call g the **analytic continuation of f to V** .

Proof. Let g_1, g_2 be analytic with $g_1|_U = g_2|_U$. Then $h = g_1 - g_2$ is analytic and $h(z) = 0$ on U . We want to show that $h \equiv 0$ on V . Let

$$V_0 = \{z \in V : h \equiv 0 \text{ in some open disk } D(z, r) \text{ for some } r > 0\},$$

and

$$V_1 = \left\{z \in V : h^{(n)}(z) \neq 0 \text{ for some } n \geq 0\right\}.$$

Let $z \in V$ and suppose $z \notin V_0$. Then for any disk $D = D(z, r) \subseteq V$, we have that $h \not\equiv 0$ in D . Hence by Taylor series, $h^{(n)}(z) \neq 0$ for some n , so $z \in V_1$. Thus $V = V_0 \cup V_1$.

We also have that $V_0 \cap V_1 = \emptyset$. Moreover, V_0 is open by definition, and V_1 is open by continuity of the derivatives $h^{(n)}$. Hence by connectedness of V , one of V_0 or V_1 must be empty. But $U \subseteq V_0$, so $V_1 = \emptyset$. Hence $V = V_0$. Therefore $h \equiv 0$ on V . \square

Remark. The above proof only relies on analyticity of h , i.e the property of having a convergent Taylor series about every point. So the theorem holds for real analytic functions as well.

Given a holomorphic function f on a disk, we can ask for the largest domain containing the disk to which there is an analytic continuation of f . In general this is a hard question, but we can illustrate it with some easy examples.

Example

Some examples:

- $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^n$. The series has radius of convergence 1, so f is analytic in $D(0, 1)$ and there is no larger disk such that g has an analytic continuation to it (say $D(0, r)$). However, since $f(z) = \frac{1}{1-z}$ for $z \in D(0, 1)$, we can take an analytic continuation to some other domain that isn't a disk; i.e $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{1\}$.
- Take $f(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} z^n / n$. Again the ROC is 1, so f is analytic on $D(0, 1)$. It has the analytic continuation $\text{Log}(1+z)$ to the domain

$$\mathbb{C} \setminus \{x \in \mathbb{R} : x \leq -1\}.$$

Analytic continuation to a larger domain need not always exist.

- Take $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^{n!}$. The power series has ROC 1. So f is analytic in $D(0, 1)$. But f has no analytic continuation to *any* larger domain containing $D(0, 1)$ (see Example Sheet 2).

Remark. There is in fact a more general fact that this non-example illustrates: for any given domain $U \subset \mathbb{C}$, there is a holomorphic function $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ which has no analytic continuation to a domain properly containing U (see Example Sheet 2).

Corollary 2.22 (Identity principle)

Let $f, g : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be holomorphic in a domain U . If the set $S = \{z \in U : f(z) = g(z)\}$ contains a non-isolated point, then $f = g$ in U .

Proof. Let $h = f - g$ so that $S = \{z \in U : h(z) = 0\}$. Suppose S has a non-isolated point w . If for some $r > 0$ the function h is not identically zero in $D(w, r)$, then by the principle of isolated zeros we can find $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $f(z) \neq 0$ whenever $0 < |z - w| < \varepsilon$, i.e w is isolated. Contradiction. Therefore $h \equiv 0$ on $D(w, r)$ for every $D(w, r) \subseteq U$. This concludes the proof. \square

Corollary 2.23 (Global maximum principle)

Let U be a bounded open set. Let \bar{U} be the closure of U , and suppose that $f : \bar{U} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a continuous function such that f is holomorphic in U . Then $|f|$ attains its maximum on $\partial U = \bar{U} \setminus U$.

Proof. \bar{U} is a closed, bounded subset of \mathbb{R}^2 , and $|f|$ is continuous on \bar{U} . So there is a point $w \in \bar{U}$ such that $|f(w)| = \max_{z \in \bar{U}} |f(z)|$. If $w \notin U$ then $w \in \partial U$ and we are done. So suppose that $w \in U$, and choose a disk $D = D(w, r) \subseteq U$. Since $|f(z)| \leq |f(w)|$ for all $z \in D$, it follows from the local maximum principle that $f = c$ on D for some constant c . Hence by the identity principle applied to c , $f = c$ on the connected component of U containing D (since U doesn't have to be connected). If this component is U' , then by continuity we have that $f = c$ on \bar{U}' . In particular $f(z) = w$ for every $z \in \partial U'$, so the theorem holds. \square

2.5 Limits of holomorphic functions

Next we turn to the question of limits of sequences of holomorphic functions. We can consider limits in various topologies, but uniform limits are an important and natural first question to study.

Some estimates

We'd like to understand differentiability of the limits, so we start by deriving a representation formula for the derivatives.

Theorem 2.24 (CIF for derivatives and Cauchy estimates)

Let $f : D(a, R) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be holomorphic.

(i) For any $\rho \in (0, R)$ and any $w \in D(a, \rho)$ we have that

$$f^{(n)}(w) = \frac{n!}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{f(z)}{(z-w)^{n+1}} dz.$$

Remarks. 1. If we directly apply the CIF to $f^{(n)}$, we get a formula for $f^{(n)}(w)$ in terms of an integral involving $f^{(n)}$. The significance of this theorem is that the RHS involves only f , and not any of its derivatives.

2. We already saw a special case $w = a$ of this formula, in a remark about the proof of Taylor series.

(ii) We have the **Cauchy estimates**

$$\sup_{z \in D(a, R/2)} |f^{(k)}(z)| \leq \frac{C}{R^k} \sup_{D(a, R)} |f(z)|.$$

Note $C = C(k)$ is a constant depending only on k . In fact we can take $C = k! \cdot 2^{k+1}$.

Proof of (i). Case $k = 0$ is the usual CIF. For the case $k = 1$, consider $g(z) = \frac{f(z)}{z-w}$. This is holomorphic in $D(a, R) \setminus \{w\}$, with derivative

$$g'(z) = \frac{f'(z)}{z-w} - \frac{f(z)}{(z-w)^2}.$$

Since $\partial D(a, \rho) \subseteq D(a, R) \setminus \{w\}$, we know $\int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} g'(z) dz = 0$ by the FTC. So

$$\int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{f'(z)}{z-w} dz = \int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{f(z)}{(z-w)^2} dz.$$

By the usual CIF formula applied to f' ,

$$f'(w) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{f'(z)}{z-w} dz.$$

Combining these two gives the result for $k = 1$.

For $k \geq 2$ use induction on k . Fix $k \geq 2$, and suppose the formula is valid for that k and all holomorphic $f : D(a, R) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. Given any holomorphic f , consider $g(z) = \frac{f(z)}{(z-w)^{k+1}}$. This has derivative

$$g'(z) = \frac{f'(z)}{(z-w)^{k+1}} - \frac{(k+1)f(z)}{(z-w)^{k+2}} \text{ in } D(a, R) \setminus \{w\}.$$

Since integrating g' over the boundary of D gives 0, we get

$$\int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{f'(z)}{(z-w)^{k+1}} dz = (k+1) \int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{f(z)}{(z-w)^{k+2}} dz.$$

But by the induction hypothesis with f' in place of f ,

$$f^{(k+1)}(w) = \frac{k!}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{f'(z)}{(z-w)^{k+1}} dz = \frac{(k+1)!}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{f(z)}{(z-w)^{k+2}} dz.$$

□

Proof of (ii). For part (ii), we may assume that $\sup_{z \in D(a, R)} |f(z)| < \infty$ (else there is nothing to prove). Pick any $\rho \in (R/2, R)$. Then by part (i), for any $w \in D(a, R/2)$ we have that

$$|f^{(k)}(w)| \leq \frac{k!}{2\pi} \sup_{z \in \partial D(a, \rho)} \frac{|f(z)|}{|z-w|^{k+1}} \cdot 2\pi\rho.$$

Since $|z-w| \geq \rho - R/2$ for any $z \in \partial D(a, \rho)$ for any $z \in \partial D(a, \rho)$ and any $w \in D(a, R/2)$, this implies that

$$\sup_{w \in D(a, R/2)} |f^{(k)}(w)| \leq \frac{k!\rho}{(\rho - R/2)^{k+1}} \sup_{z \in D(a, R)} |f(z)|.$$

Now let $\rho \rightarrow R$.

□

Uniform limits of holomorphic functions

Definition (Local uniform convergence)

Let $U \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ be open, and let $f_n : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a sequence of functions. We say that (f_n) converges **locally uniformly** on U if for each $a \in U$, there is an $r > 0$ such that (f_n) converges on $D(a, r)$.

Example

$f_n = z^n$. Then $f_n \rightarrow 0$ locally uniformly on $D(0, 1)$, but not uniformly on $D(0, 1)$. This is because $f_n \rightarrow 0$ uniformly on any disk $D(0, r)$ if $r < 1$. But the supremum of $|f|$ on $D(0, 1)$ is 1 for all n .

Proposition 2.25

(f_n) converges locally uniformly on U iff (f_n) converges uniformly on each compact subset $K \subset U$.

Proof. The forward implication is a simple exercise using the definition of compactness (every open cover has a finite subcover). The reverse implication is clear since for all $a \in U$ there exists a compact disk $\overline{D(a, r)} \subset U$. □

Theorem 2.26 (Uniform limits of holomorphic functions are holomorphic)

Let $U \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ be open, and $f_n : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be holomorphic for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$. If (f_n) converges locally uniformly on U to some function $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, then f is holomorphic. Moreover, $f'_n \rightarrow f'$ locally uniformly on U . (We can apply this iteratively we get that for each k , $f_n^{(k)} \rightarrow f^{(k)}$ locally uniformly on U as $n \rightarrow \infty$.)

Remark. This result fails for real analytic functions.⁴

Proof. The first part follows from convex Cauchy and Morera's theorem. Let $a \in U$, and choose $r > 0$ such that $\overline{D(a, r)} \subset U$ and $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on $D(a, r)$. Since the f_n are continuous, by a result from IB Analysis & Topology we have that f is continuous in $\overline{D(a, r)}$.

Let γ be a closed curve in $D(a, r)$. Since $D(a, r)$ is convex, by convex Cauchy $\int_{\gamma} f_n(z) dz = 0$. Since $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on $D(a, r)$ the limit behaves nicely in the integral:

$$\int_{\gamma} f(z) dz = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\gamma} f_n(z) dz = 0.$$

Since f is cts. and γ is an arbitrary closed curve, by Morera's theorem f is holomorphic in $D(a, r)$. Since a is arbitrary f is holomorphic on U .

To see that $f'_n \rightarrow f'$ locally uniformly on U , let $a \in U$ be arbitrary and choose $D(a, r)$ as above. Apply the Cauchy estimate with $k = 1$, $R = r$ and with $f_n - f$ in place of f . This gives

$$\sup_{z \in D(a, r/2)} |f'_n(z) - f'(z)| \leq \frac{4}{r} \sup_{z \in D(a, r)} |f_n - f(z)| \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

The claim follows. □

Aside: Links with the theory of harmonic functions

Some of the key results we have proved for holomorphic functions have direct analogues for (real) harmonic functions on domains not just in \mathbb{R}^2 but in \mathbb{R}^n for any n . For example:

- if $u : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a bounded harmonic function then \bar{u} is constant. (Liouville's theorem).
- if $u : D = D(a, r) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a C^2 harmonic function on an open ball $D(a, r) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \|x - a\| < r\}$ and if $u(x) \leq u(a)$ (or $u(x) \geq u(a)$) for all $x \in D$, then u is constant (local maximum principle, also known as the strong maximum principle).
- global maximum principle holds (also known as the weak maximum principle): a harmonic function on a bounded open set U that is continuous on \bar{U} attains its maximum (and its minimum) on the boundary $\partial U = \bar{U} \setminus U$.
- harmonic functions are real analytic.
- unique continuation principle holds (follows from analyticity exactly as in the case of holomorphic functions).
- uniform limits of harmonic functions are harmonic.
- derivative estimates hold: if $u : D(a, R) \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is harmonic, then

$$\sup_{D(a, R/2)} |D^k u| \leq CR^{-k} \sup_{D(a, R)} |u|, C = C(n, k).$$

⁴This is true by the *Weierstrass approximation theorem*, applied to a function which is continuous and nowhere differentiable (which we have seen in IB Analysis & Topology).

3 Complex integration: Part II

Recall we proved that if U is a star-shaped domain, then $\int_{\gamma} f(z) \, dz = 0$ for any holomorphic $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and any closed curve γ in U . (“convex Cauchy”)

There are domains for which the conclusion of Cauchy’s theorem fails for some holomorphic functions and close curve (recall $U = \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$, $f = \frac{1}{z}$).

Goal. We now want to characterise the class of domains for which Cauchy’s theorem holds for all holomorphic functions and all closed curves.

One of our tools for this will be the following notion:

Definition (Winding number)

Informally, we want to define the number of times a curve “winds around” a point. Let $\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a closed and piecewise C^1 curve, and let w be outside the image of γ . For each t , there is $r(t) > 0$ and $\theta(t) \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\gamma(t) = w + r(t)e^{i\theta(t)}$. This is true because $\gamma(t) \neq w$ for all t . Then the function $r : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is given by $r(t) = |\gamma(t) - w|$, so it is uniquely determined and piecewise C^1 .

Define the **winding number** or the **index** of γ about w as

$$I(\gamma; w) = \frac{\theta(b) - \theta(a)}{2\pi}.$$

Remark. $I(\gamma; w)$ is an integer since $\gamma(a) = \gamma(b)$, so $r(a) = r(b)$ and $e^{i(\theta(b) - \theta(a))} = 1$ which implies $\theta(b) - \theta(a) = 2\pi n$ for some $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Remark. $I(\gamma; w)$ is well-defined: if $\theta_1 : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is also a continuous function such that $\gamma(t) = w + r(t)e^{i\theta_1(t)}$ then $e^{i\theta(t) - \theta_1(t)} = 1$ so $\frac{\theta_1(t) - \theta(t)}{2\pi} \in \mathbb{Z}$. Since $\theta_1 - \theta$ is continuous, it must be constant.