

Sheet 0: Revision of core complex analysis

Q1

(a) Treating $z = x + iy$ and $\bar{z} = x - iy$ as independent variables and using the chain rule, we find

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial \bar{z}}{\partial x} \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}}, \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial \bar{z}}{\partial y} \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} = i \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} \right)$$

giving

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} - i \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right), \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right).$$

(b) Hence, if $f = u + iv$, with u, v real, then

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \bar{z}} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) (u + iv) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{i}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right),$$

so that

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \bar{z}} = 0$$

if and only if

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

which are the Cauchy-Riemann equations. Since

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} - i \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) (u + iv) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{i}{2} \left(-\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right),$$

we obtain

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} - i \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -i \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$$

by the Cauchy-Riemann equations.

(c) Since $\overline{f(z)} = u - iv$,

$$\frac{\partial \overline{f(z)}}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} - i \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) (u - iv) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{i}{2} \left(-\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right) = 0,$$

again by the Cauchy-Riemann equations. By replacing z with \bar{z} , we find $\partial \overline{f(\bar{z})} / \partial \bar{z} = 0$ so that $\overline{f(z)} = \overline{f(\bar{z})}$ is holomorphic. Similarly,

$$\frac{\partial \overline{f(z)}}{\partial \bar{z}} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) (u - iv) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{i}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right) = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} - i \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = \overline{f'(z)}.$$

(d) It follows from (a) that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} &= \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} \right)^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} + 2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z \partial \bar{z}} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \bar{z}^2}, \\ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} &= i^2 \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} \right)^2 = -\frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} + 2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z \partial \bar{z}} - \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \bar{z}^2}, \end{aligned}$$

giving

$$0 = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 4 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z \partial \bar{z}}.$$

Integrating with respect to \bar{z} and z gives

$$u_z = g'(z), \quad u = g(z) + h(\bar{z}),$$

where g and h are arbitrary holomorphic functions of their arguments. Since u is real, $u \equiv \bar{u}$, leading to

$$\begin{aligned} g(z) + h(\bar{z}) &\equiv \overline{g(z) + h(\bar{z})} \\ \Rightarrow g(z) + h(\bar{z}) &\equiv \bar{g}(\bar{z}) + \bar{h}(z) \\ \Rightarrow g(z) - \bar{h}(z) &\equiv \bar{g}(\bar{z}) - h(\bar{z}), \end{aligned}$$

where we again use the definition of the conjugate function $\bar{f}(z) = \overline{f(\bar{z})}$. Since this has to hold for all z and \bar{z} , which are independent variables, it follows that the left- and right-hand sides must both be a real constant, C say. Therefore our equation for u becomes

$$u = g(z) + \bar{g}(\bar{z}) - C = f(z) + \overline{f(z)}, \quad \text{where } f(z) = g(z) - \frac{C}{2}.$$

Q2

(a) If $\zeta = Re^{i\Theta}$, with R and Θ real, then

$$R^2 e^{2i\Theta} = \zeta^2 = z^2 + 1 = (z - i)(z + i) = r_1 r_2 e^{i(\theta_1 + \theta_2)},$$

giving

$$R = (r_1 r_2)^{1/2}, \quad \Theta = \frac{1}{2}(\theta_1 + \theta_2) + \pi k i,$$

where $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. Thus

$$\zeta = \zeta_k = \pm (r_1 r_2)^{1/2} e^{i(\theta_1 + \theta_2)/2} \quad (k \in \mathbb{Z}),$$

where $\pm = (-1)^k$. Since the jumps

$$[\theta_1]_{|z-a|=R} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } a \neq i \\ 2\pi & \text{for } a = i, \end{cases} \quad [\theta_2]_{|z-a|=R} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } a \neq -i \\ 2\pi & \text{for } a = -i, \end{cases}$$

for all $R > 0$, ζ_k is continuous on $\partial D(a, \epsilon) := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z - a| = \epsilon\}$ as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ unless $a = \pm i$, which are the only branch points because ζ_k is continuous on $\partial D(0, R)$ as $R \rightarrow \infty$.

(b) By definition (alternatively sketch values on the imaginary axis in the z -plane)

$$\frac{\theta_1 + \theta_2}{2} = \begin{cases} \pi/2 & \text{for } z = \pm 0 + iy, y > 1, \\ 0 & \text{for } z = +0 + iy, |y| < 1, \\ \pi & \text{for } z = -0 + iy, |y| < 1, \\ -\pi/2 & \text{for } z = +0 + iy, y < -1, \\ 3\pi/2 & \text{for } z = -0 + iy, y < -1, \end{cases}$$

and $(r_1 r_2)^{1/2} = |y^2 - 1|^{1/2}$ on the imaginary axis, giving

$$f(\pm 0 + iy) = \begin{cases} i(y^2 - 1)^{1/2} & \text{for } y > 1, \\ \pm(1 - y^2)^{1/2} & \text{for } |y| < 1, \\ -i(y^2 - 1)^{1/2} & \text{for } y < -1. \end{cases}$$

Hence, this branch of $f(z)$ is continuous across the imaginary axis except across the branch cut $S = \{x + iy : x = 0, |y| \leq 1\}$. Note that this branch is holomorphic on $\mathbb{C} \setminus S$. Note that writing $(z^2 + 1)^{1/2} = (z - i)^{1/2} (z + i)^{1/2}$ shows that the selected branch is the same as choosing the branch

of $(z \mp i)^{1/2}$ that is real and positive on the positive real axis with a cut on the segment $(-\infty i, \pm i]$ of the imaginary axis: the branches cuts annihilate each other on the segment $(-\infty i, -i)$ of the imaginary axis in the sense that the product of $(z - i)^{1/2}$ and $(z + i)^{1/2}$ is continuous there.

For the behaviour at infinity, let $\theta = \arg(z)$ where we choose the range for θ according to $-\pi/2 < \theta \leq 3\pi/2$. As $r := |z| \rightarrow \infty$, $\theta_{1,2} \sim \theta$ and $r_{1,2} \sim r$, giving

$$f(z) \sim \sqrt{r^2} e^{\frac{i}{2}(\theta+\theta)} = r e^{\theta i} = z.$$

It follows that the image of $\mathbb{C} \setminus S$ under the map $\zeta = f(z)$ is the whole of the ζ -plane with the segment of the real axis from $\zeta = -1$ to $\zeta = 1$ removed (this segment is the image of the branch cut S under $\zeta = f(z)$).

(c) By definition (alternatively sketch values on the imaginary axis in the z -plane)

$$\frac{\theta_1 + \theta_2}{2} = \begin{cases} \pm\pi/2 & \text{for } z = \pm 0 + iy, y > 1, \\ 0 & \text{for } z = \pm 0 + iy, |y| < 1, \\ \mp\pi/2 & \text{for } z = \pm 0 + iy, y < -1, \end{cases}$$

and $(r_1 r_2)^{1/2} = |y^2 - 1|^{1/2}$ on the imaginary axis, giving

$$f(\pm 0 + iy) = \begin{cases} \pm i(y^2 - 1)^{1/2} & \text{for } y > 1, \\ (1 - y^2)^{1/2} & \text{for } |y| < 1, \\ \mp i(y^2 - 1)^{1/2} & \text{for } y < -1. \end{cases}$$

Hence, this branch of $f(z)$ is continuous across the imaginary axis except across the branch cut $T = \{x + iy : x = 0, |y| \geq 1\}$. Note that this branch is holomorphic on $\mathbb{C} \setminus T$. Note that writing $(z^2 + 1)^{1/2} = (z - i)^{1/2}(z + i)^{1/2}$ shows that the selected branch is the same as choosing the same branch for $(z + i)^{1/2}$ as in (b), but the branch of $(z - i)^{1/2}$ that is real and positive on the positive real axis with a cut on the segment $[i, i\infty)$ of the imaginary axis.

Since $\theta_1 + \theta_2 = 0$ and $(r_1 r_2)^{1/2} = (1 + x^2)^{1/2}$ on the real axis, it follows that $f(x) = (1 + x^2)^{1/2}$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

For the behaviour at infinity we proceed as (b). Let $\theta = \arg(z)$, where $-\pi/2 < \theta \leq 3\pi/2$ as before. As $|z| \rightarrow \infty$, $r_{1,2} \sim |z|$ as before. In the case that $\operatorname{Re}(z) > 0$, *i.e.* $-\pi/2 < \theta < \pi/2$, we again have $\theta_{1,2} \sim \theta$ as $|z| \rightarrow \infty$. Hence, $f(x) \sim z$ as $|z| \rightarrow \infty$ with $\operatorname{Re}(z) > 0$. As $|z| \rightarrow \infty$ with $\operatorname{Re}(z) < 0$, *i.e.* $\pi/2 < \theta < 3\pi/2$, we still have $\theta_2 \sim \theta$, but since we defined θ_1 to be in the range $-3\pi/2 < \theta_1 < \pi/2$, we now have $\theta_1 \sim \theta - 2\pi$. Hence, $f(z) \sim -z$ as $|z| \rightarrow \infty$ with $\operatorname{Re}(z) < 0$.

It follows that the image of both $\operatorname{Re}(z) > 0$ and $\operatorname{Re}(z) < 0$ under the map $\zeta = f(z)$ is the half plane $\operatorname{Re}(\zeta) > 0$ with the segment of the real axis from $\zeta = 0$ to $\zeta = 1$ removed (this segment is the image of S under $\zeta = f(z)$, while T is mapped onto the imaginary ζ -axis).

Q3

Consider the function $f(z) = (z^2 - 1)^{1/2} / (z^2 + 1)$ for $z \in \mathbb{C}$. We choose the branch cut for $(z^2 - 1)^{1/2}$ from $z = -1$ to $z = 1$ along the real axis and we take the sign of the square root such that $\sqrt{z^2 - 1} > 0$ for $z = x > 1$. Thus, $f(z)$ is holomorphic on $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{-1, 1, \pm i\}$. Consider the integral of $f(z)$ over the closed contour Γ_2 illustrated in figure 1. By contour deformation and Cauchy's Residue Theorem, the contour Γ_2 may be deformed to a contour Γ_1 which just encloses the branch cut, provided we add the residues of the poles at $z = \pm i$, that is

$$\oint_{\Gamma_2} f(z) dz = \oint_{\Gamma_1} f(z) dz + 2\pi i \operatorname{Res}_{z=i}[f(z)] + 2\pi i \operatorname{Res}_{z=-i}[f(z)]. \quad (1)$$

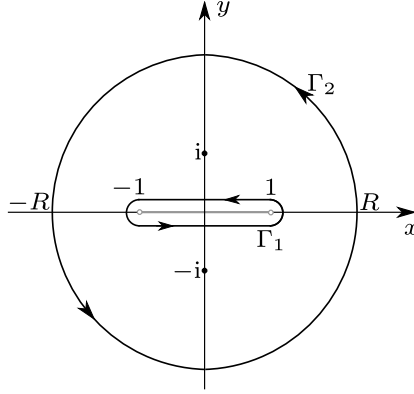


Figure 1: The two closed contours of integration

Note that our definition of the multifunction means that $(z^2 - 1)^{1/2} = \pm i\sqrt{2}$ at $z = \pm i$. Hence

$$\text{Res}_{z=i}[f(z)] = \text{Res}_{z=-i}[f(z)] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}.$$

As $z \rightarrow \infty$, our choice of branch means that $f(z) \sim 1/z + O(1/z^2)$, so that

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \oint_{\Gamma_2} f(z) dz \sim \oint_{\Gamma_2} \left(\frac{1}{z} + O(z^{-2}) \right) dz = 2\pi i.$$

The integral around Γ_1 is found by integrating along the top of the branch cut, where $(z^2 - 1)^{1/2} = i(1 - x^2)$, and then along the bottom of the branch cut, where $(z^2 - 1)^{1/2} = -i(1 - x^2)$. (It can easily be verified that there is no contribution from the branch points $z = \pm 1$ themselves.) Therefore

$$\int_{\Gamma_1} f(z) dz = \int_1^{-1} \frac{i\sqrt{1-x^2}}{x^2+1} dx + \int_{-1}^1 \frac{-i\sqrt{1-x^2}}{x^2+1} dx = -2i \int_{-1}^1 \frac{\sqrt{1-x^2}}{x^2+1} dx.$$

Finally plugging all the pieces into equation (1), we get

$$\int_{-1}^1 \frac{\sqrt{1-x^2}}{x^2+1} dx = \pi(\sqrt{2}-1).$$

Q4

(a) The Fourier transform of $e^{-|x|}$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}(e^{-|x|}) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-|x|} e^{ikx} dx = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-x+ikx} + e^{-x-ikx} dx \\ &= \left[\frac{e^{-x+ikx}}{-1+ik} + \frac{e^{-x-ikx}}{-1-ik} \right]_{x=0}^{\infty} = \frac{2}{1+k^2}. \end{aligned}$$

The integrals converge provided $\text{Re}(-1+ik) < 0$ and $\text{Re}(-1-ik) < 0$, *i.e.* $-1 < \text{Im}(k) < 1$. We may use analytic continuation to extend to domain of definition to $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{\pm i\}$. The inverse Fourier transform is given by

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}\left(\frac{2}{1+k^2}\right) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-ikx}}{1+k^2} dk.$$

We evaluate this integral by closing the contour as illustrated in figure 2 and using the residue theorem. We close the contour either in the upper or the lower half-plane depending on the sign of x .

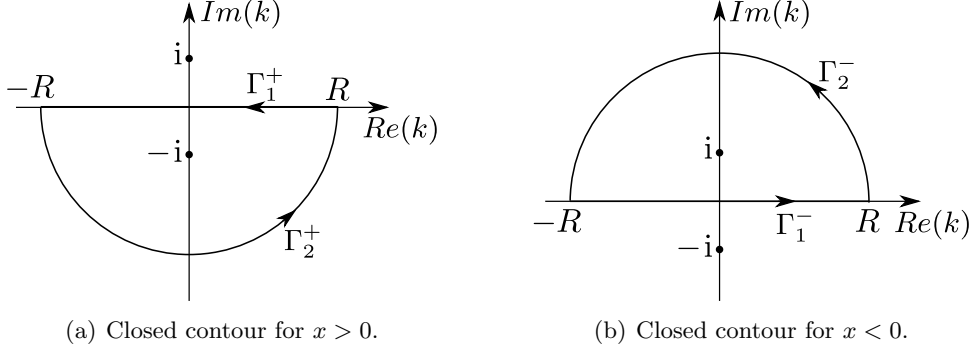


Figure 2: Closing the contour for the inversion of the Fourier transform.

If $x > 0$, close the contour in the lower half-plane as illustrated in figure 2(a). Since $\text{Re}(-ikx) = \text{Im}(k)x < 0$ for $k \in \Gamma_2^+$,

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Gamma_2^+} \frac{e^{-ikx}}{1+k^2} dk = 0$$

and the integral around $\Gamma^+ = \Gamma_1^+ \cup \Gamma_2^+$ becomes

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \oint_{\Gamma^+} \frac{e^{-ikx}}{1+k^2} dk = - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-ikx}}{1+k^2} dk.$$

The function $f(k) = e^{-ikx}/(1+k^2)$ has two single poles at $k = \pm i$. Only the pole at $k = -i$ lies inside the closed contour Γ^+ , so

$$\oint_{\Gamma^+} \frac{e^{-ikx}}{1+k^2} dk = 2\pi i \text{Res}_{k=-i} \left[\frac{e^{-ikx}}{1+k^2} \right] = -\pi e^{-x}.$$

Combining these results then gives

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-ikx}}{1+k^2} dk = e^{-x} \quad \text{for } x > 0.$$

If $x < 0$, close the contour in the upper half-plane as illustrated in figure 2(b). Then $f(z)$ has one simple pole inside $\Gamma^- = \Gamma_1^- \cup \Gamma_2^-$ at $z = i$, and $\text{Re}(-ikx) = \text{Im}(k)x < 0$ on Γ_2^- . Similarly to the case in which $x > 0$, we find

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-ikx}}{1+k^2} dk = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint_{\Gamma^-} \frac{e^{-ikx}}{1+k^2} dk = 2i \text{Res}_{k=i} \left[\frac{e^{-ikx}}{1+k^2} \right] = e^x \quad \text{for } x < 0.$$

Combining the results for $x > 0$ and $x < 0$, we deduce that $\mathcal{F}^{-1}(2/(k^2 + 1)) = e^{|x|}$, as required.

(b) The Fourier transform of $e^{-a^2 x^2}$, with $a > 0$, is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}(e^{-a^2 x^2}) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-a^2 x^2 + ikx} dx \\ &= e^{-k^2/(4a^2)} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-(ax - ik/(2a))^2} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{a} e^{-k^2/4a^2} \int_{-\infty - i\text{Re}(k)/2a}^{\infty - i\text{Re}(k)/2a} e^{-\xi^2} d\xi \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{a} e^{-k^2/4a^2}. \end{aligned}$$

The last equality is obtained by integrating the entire function $f(z) = e^{-z^2}$ around the rectangle for which the vertical edges are given by $\operatorname{Re}(z) = \pm R$, with $R \gg 1$, and the horizontal edges by $\operatorname{Im}(z) = 0$, and $\operatorname{Im}(z) = -\operatorname{Re}(k)/2a$; since $f(z)$ is holomorphic inside the rectangle, the contour integral around the rectangle of $f(z)$ is equal to 0. Also, since $e^{-z^2} \rightarrow 0$ as $\operatorname{Re}(z) \rightarrow \pm\infty$, the integrals of $f(z)$ along the vertical edges of the rectangle tend to 0 as $R \rightarrow \infty$. It follows that

$$\int_{-\infty - i\operatorname{Re}(k)/2a}^{\infty - i\operatorname{Re}(k)/2a} e^{-z^2} dz = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-z^2} dz = \sqrt{\pi}.$$

Since this argument holds for all $k \in \mathbb{C}$ and the transform is entire, it is not necessary to use analytic continuation to derive the inverse Fourier transform, which is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{a}e^{-k^2/4a^2}\right) &= \frac{1}{2a\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-k^2/4a^2} e^{-ikx} dk = \frac{1}{2a\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-a^2x^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-(k/2a+iax)^2} dk \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-a^2x^2} \int_{-\infty+iax}^{\infty+iax} e^{-\kappa^2} d\kappa = e^{-a^2x^2} \end{aligned}$$

using the same arguments as above.