

3. Analytic functions

3.1. Differentiability and analyticity.

Definition: Let the function $f(z)$ be well defined in a neighborhood \mathcal{G} of a point z_0 . We say that f is differentiable at z_0 , if the limit

$$\lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(z_0 + \Delta z) - f(z_0)}{\Delta z}$$

does exist whenever

$$\Delta z \rightarrow 0.$$

The expression $\lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(z_0 + \Delta z) - f(z_0)}{\Delta z}$, provided the limit exists, is called *the derivative at z_0* and is denoted by $f'(z_0)$: e.g.

$$\lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(z_0 + \Delta z) - f(z_0)}{\Delta z}; = f'(z_0) := \frac{df}{dz}. \quad (1)$$

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As we see, the definition is just the same as for the real-valued functions in real-analysis. Similarly to the real analysis, we have

Theorem 3.1. *If f and g are differentiable at z_0 , then so are $f \pm g$ and fg , and*

$$(f + g)'(z) = f'(z) + g'(z), (fg)'(z) = f'(z)g(z) + f(z)g'(z).$$

The function $\frac{f}{g}$ is differentiable if $g'(z_0) \neq 0$ and

$$\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)'(z_0) = \frac{f'g - fg'}{g^2}(z_0).$$

Definition: The complex valued function f is **analytic** in the open set \mathcal{D} , if it is differentiable at any point in \mathcal{D} . We will use the notation $f \in \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{D})$. ℵ

2.2. Geometric interpretation of the derivative. Let f be differentiable at z_0 and suppose that $f'(z_0) \neq 0$. We set $\Delta z := z - z_0$. From (1) we deduce that

$$\frac{|f(z) - f(z_0)|}{|z - z_0|} \rightarrow |f'(z_0)|$$

and

$$\text{Arg}(f(z) - f(z_0) - \text{Arg}(z - z_0)) \rightarrow \text{Arg}f'(z_0).$$

We rewrite as

$$\text{Arg}(f(z) - f(z_0) - \text{Arg}(z - z_0)) \approx \text{Arg}f'(z_0).$$

Setting $w := f(z)$, we see thanks to the condition $f'(z_0) \neq 0$ that in "the closure of z_0 " the mapping $f(z)$ is "similar" to the linear transformation

$$w = f(z_0) + f'(z_0)(z - z_0).$$

This mapping preserves the angles, and is, as it is easy to see, one-to-one mapping. Such mappings are called *conformal*.

Definition: The function f is called to be **entire**, if it is analytic in the entire complex plane \mathbf{C} . We write $f \in \mathcal{E}$.

3.3. Cauchy-Reimann equations.

Let (\mathcal{D}) be an open set in \mathbf{C} and $f \in \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{D})$.

We write down

$$f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y), z = x + iy, (x, y) \in \mathcal{G}$$

and

$$\Delta z = \Delta x + i\Delta y.$$

Let first $\Delta z \rightarrow 0$ horizontally, e.g. $\Delta y = 0$. The $\Delta z = \Delta x$ and by (1),

$$f'(z_0) = \frac{\partial u(x_0, y_0)}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial v(x_0, y_0)}{\partial x}. \quad (2)$$

On the other hand, if the approach is vertical, e.g. if $\Delta z = i\Delta y$, then

$$f'(z_0) = -i \frac{\partial u(x_0, y_0)}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v(x_0, y_0)}{\partial y}. \quad (3)$$

Since the limits are just the derivative $f'(z_0)$, we deduce that

$$u'_x(x_0, y_0) = v'_y(x_0, y_0), u'_y(x_0, y_0) = -v'_x(x_0, y_0) \quad (4)$$

Equations (4) are called *Cauchy-Riemann equations*.

Theorem 3.2 A necessary condition for a function $f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$ to be differentiable at z_0 is that the Cauchy-Riemann equations hold at z_0 .

Consequently, if $f \in \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{D})$ then the Cauchy-Riemann equations hold at every point of \mathcal{D} .

Definition: The functions $u(x, y)$ and $v(x, y)$ are called *harmonic conjugate*.

We now are going to establish the sufficient conditions for a function f to be analytic at some point z_0 . The story is given by the following theorem
Theorem 3.3. Let $f(z)$, $f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$, be defined in an neighborhood \mathcal{U} of z_0 , suppose that the real and imaginary components $u(x, y)$ and $v(x, y)$ satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations and are continuous in \mathcal{U} . Then f is differentiable at z_0 .

Proof: Set as before $\Delta z := \Delta x + i\Delta y$ and consider the quotient

$$\frac{f(z + \Delta z) - f(z)}{\Delta z} = \frac{u(x_0 + \Delta x, y_0 + \Delta y) - u(x_0, y_0) + i(v(x_0 + \Delta x, y_0 + \Delta y) - v(x_0, y_0))}{\Delta x + i\Delta y} := \mathcal{L}_\Delta.$$

We write the difference

$$u(x_0 + \Delta x, y_0 + \Delta y) - u(x_0, y_0)$$

as

$$[u(x_0 + \Delta x, y_0 + \Delta y) - u(x_0, y_0 + \Delta y)] + [u(x_0, y_0 + \Delta y) - u(x_0, y_0)].$$

Because of the continuity of u'_x, u'_y we may apply the mean valued theorem which yields

$$u(x_0 + \Delta x, y_0 + \Delta y) - u(x_0, y_0 + \Delta y) = \Delta x \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(x^*, y_0 + \Delta y),$$

where the point $x^* \in [x, x + \Delta x]$ is appropriate. Again by continuity, we may write

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(x^*, y_0 + \Delta y) = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0) + \varepsilon_1,$$

where $\varepsilon_1 \rightarrow 0$, $x^* \rightarrow x_0$ and $\Delta y \rightarrow 0$. Summarizing, we write

$$u(x_0 + \Delta x, y_0 + \Delta y) - u(x_0, y_0 + \Delta y) = \Delta x \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0) + \varepsilon_1 \right].$$

Treating the expression \mathcal{L}_Δ similarly, we get

$$\mathcal{L}_\Delta := \frac{\Delta x \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \varepsilon_1 + i \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + i\varepsilon_3 \right] + \Delta y \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + \varepsilon_2 + i \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + i\varepsilon_4 \right]}{\Delta x + i\Delta y}, \quad (5)$$

where the partial derivatives are taken at the point $z_0 = (x_0, y_0)$. Now we use the equations of Cauchy-Riemann:

$$\mathcal{L}_\Delta = \frac{\Delta x \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right] + i \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right]}{\Delta x + i\Delta y} + \frac{\lambda}{\Delta x + i\Delta y},$$

with $\lambda := \Delta x(\varepsilon_1 + i\varepsilon_3) + \Delta y(\varepsilon_2 + i\varepsilon_4)$. Since

$$\mathcal{L}_\Delta = \frac{\Delta x \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right] + i \left[\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \right]}{\Delta x + i\Delta y} + \frac{\lambda}{\Delta x + i\Delta y},$$

with $\lambda := \Delta x(\varepsilon_1 + i\varepsilon_3) + \Delta y(\varepsilon_2 + i\varepsilon_4)$, we see that (5) approaches the zero if $\Delta z \rightarrow 0$. Thus, f is differentiable at z_0 and

$$f'(z_0) = \lim \frac{f(z + \Delta z) - f(z)}{\Delta z} = \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \right)(x_0, y_0).$$

Q.E.D.

As a further applications of these techniques, let us prove the following theorem

Theorem 5.4 *Let \mathcal{U} be a domain and let $f \in \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{U})$. If $f'(z) = 0$ for every point of \mathcal{U} , then $f \equiv \text{Const}$.*

Before proceeding with the proof, we observe that the connectedness of the domain \mathcal{U} is essential. We illustrate this by an example. Let

$$f(z) = \begin{cases} 1, & |z| < 1 \\ 0, & |z| > 2 \end{cases}$$

Here $f'(z) = 0$ at every point of the domain of definition (which is not a domain), yet f is not constant.

Proof: From (2) and from (3) we get

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = 0.$$

Thus, f is constant.

Q.E.D.

Using previous theorems and the Cauchy-Riemann equations, one can show that $f \in \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{U})$ is constant if

$$\begin{aligned} u(x, y) &\equiv \text{Const}, \\ v(x, y) &\equiv \text{Const}, \\ |f(z)| &\equiv \text{Const}. \end{aligned}$$

Definition: The function h is said to be harmonic in \mathcal{D} , if $h \in C^2(\mathcal{D})$ and $\Delta h := h_{x,x} + h_{y,y} = 0$ in \mathcal{D} . The operator Δ is called *the Laplacian* \square .

Going back to our considerations, we see that we have established the following theorem

Theorem 5.5. *If $f(z) \in \mathcal{A}(D)$, D — an open set, then both u and v are harmonic and harmonic conjugate to each other.*

Exercises: 1. Show that the function

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{z}$$

is nowhere differentiable.

2. Do the same for $f(z) = \sqrt{|z^2 + z|}$. (or $f(z) \notin \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{C})$. \clubsuit .)
3. Suppose that $f \in \mathcal{A}(D)$ and $\bar{f} \in \mathcal{A}(D)$. Prove that $f \equiv \text{Const}$.
4. Given

$$f(z) := \begin{cases} \frac{x^{4/3}y^{5/3} + ix^{5/3}y^{4/3}}{x^2y^2}, & z \neq 0 \\ 0, & z = 0 \end{cases}$$

show that Cauchy-Riemann equations are satisfied at $z = 0$, but is not differentiable there.

5. $f(z) \in \mathcal{A}(D)$, $f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$. Write the functions u and v in polar coordinates (r, Θ) . Show that

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial r} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial v}{\partial \Theta}, \quad -\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \Theta} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial r}.$$