

Math 372 - Introductory Complex Variables

G.Pugh

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Recap of Last Day

Theorem: Let f be continuous on the directed smooth curve γ having admissible parametrization $z(t)$, $a \leq t \leq b$. Then

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

Proof: Let $\mathcal{P}_n = \{z(t_0), z(t_1), \dots, z(t_n)\}$ be a partition of γ and $\Delta z_k = z_k - z_{k-1}$, $\Delta t_k = t_k - t_{k-1}$.

Since $z(t)$ is differentiable,

$$z'(t_k) - \frac{\Delta z_k}{\Delta t_k} = \epsilon_k$$

where $\epsilon_k \rightarrow 0$ as $\Delta t_k \rightarrow 0$.

continued...

Recap of Last Day, continued

So

$$\Delta z_k = z'(t_k)\Delta t_k - \epsilon_k \Delta t_k$$

So

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{k=1}^n f(z_k)\Delta z_k &= \sum_{k=1}^n f(z(t_k))[z'(t_k)\Delta t_k - \epsilon_k \Delta t_k] \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n f(z(t_k))z'(t_k)\Delta t_k - \sum_{k=1}^n f(z(t_k))\epsilon_k \Delta t_k\end{aligned}$$

continued...

Recap of Last Day, continued

Now let $M_f = \max_{a \leq t \leq b} |f(z(t))|$ and $M_\epsilon = \max_{1 \leq k \leq n} |\epsilon_k|$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \sum_{k=1}^n f(z_k) \Delta z_k - \sum_{k=1}^n f(z(t_k)) z'(t_k) \Delta t_k \right| &= \left| \sum_{k=1}^n f(z(t_k)) \epsilon_k \Delta t_k \right| \\ &\leq M_f M_\epsilon \sum_{k=1}^n \Delta t_k \\ &= M_f M_\epsilon (b - a) \end{aligned}$$

Letting $n \rightarrow \infty$ and $\mu(\mathcal{P}_n) \rightarrow 0$, $M_\epsilon \rightarrow 0$, leaving

$$\left| \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz - \int_a^b f(z(t)) z'(t) dt \right| = 0$$

Also from 4.2:

Theorem: Let f be continuous on the contour Γ . Then

$$\left| \int_{\gamma} f(z) dz \right| \leq \left(\max_{z \in \Gamma} |f(z)| \right) \ell(\Gamma)$$

Proof: For any Riemann sum approximating the integral we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \sum_{k=1}^n f(c_k) \Delta z_k \right| &\leq \sum_{k=1}^n |f(c_k)| |\Delta z_k| \\ &\leq \max_{z \in \Gamma} |f(z)| \sum_{k=1}^n |\Delta z_k| \end{aligned}$$

Now let $n \rightarrow \infty$ and $\mu(\mathcal{P}_n) \rightarrow 0$.

4.3 - Independence of Path

The Main Result

- ▶ Under certain conditions $\int_{\Gamma} f(z) dz$ can be computed without parametrizing Γ .
- ▶ **Theorem:** Suppose that f is continuous and has antiderivative F throughout a domain D . Then for any contour Γ with initial point z_I and terminal point z_T ,

$$\int_{\Gamma} f(z) dz = F(z_T) - F(z_I)$$

That is, the value of the integral is **independent of the path** Γ joining the initial and terminal points.

Corollary to the main result

Corollary: Suppose that f is continuous and has antiderivative F throughout the domain D . Then for any **closed contour** Γ (so that $z_I = z_T$),

$$\int_{\Gamma} f(z) dz = F(z_T) - F(z_I) = 0$$

Proof of Main Result

Suppose that f is continuous and has antiderivative F throughout a domain D , and let Γ be a contour with initial point z_I and terminal point z_T .

Suppose $\Gamma = \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 + \cdots + \gamma_n$ where each γ_k is a smooth arc or smooth closed curve.

For each $j = 1, \dots, n$, let $z_k(t)$ be an admissible parametrization of γ_k , where $a_k \leq t \leq b_k$. Notice: $z_k(b_k) = z_{k+1}(a_{k+1})$.

continued...

Proof of Main Result, continued

Now, calculate:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\Gamma} f(z) dz &= \sum_{k=1}^n \int_{\gamma_k} f(z) dz \\&= \sum_{k=1}^n \int_{a_k}^{b_k} f(z_k(t)) z'_k(t) dt \\&= \sum_{k=1}^n [F(z_k(t))]_{a_k}^{b_k} \\&= \sum_{k=1}^n [F(z_k(b_k)) - F(z_k(a_k))]\end{aligned}$$

continued...

Proof of Main Result, continued

This is a **telescoping sum**:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=1}^n [F(z_k(b_k)) - F(z_k(a_k))] \\ &= [F(z_1(b_1)) - F(z_1(a_1))] + [F(z_2(b_2)) - F(z_2(a_2))] + \cdots \\ & \quad + [F(z_{n-1}(b_{n-1})) - F(z_{n-1}(a_{n-1}))] + [F(z_n(b_n)) - F(z_n(a_n))] \\ &= F(z_n(b_n)) - F(z_1(a_1)) \\ &= F(z_T) - F(z_I) \end{aligned}$$

Existence of Antiderivatives

Theorem: If f is continuous in a domain D and contour integrals of f are independent of path in D , then f has an antiderivative in D .

Proof: Let $z_0 \in D$ be fixed and consider

$$F(z) = \int_{\Gamma_1} f(w) dw$$

where Γ_1 is **any** contour from z_0 to z . We must show that $F'(z) = f(z)$

continued. . .

Existence of Antiderivatives, continued

Let Γ_2 be the line segment from z to $z + \Delta z$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} F'(z) &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{F(z + \Delta z) - F(z)}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta z} \left[\int_{\Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2} f(w) dw - \int_{\Gamma_1} f(w) dw \right] \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta z} \int_{\Gamma_2} f(w) dw \end{aligned}$$

continued...

Existence of Antiderivatives, continued

On Γ_2 , $w(t) = z + t\Delta z$, $w'(t) = \Delta z$, where $0 \leq t \leq 1$. So

$$\begin{aligned} F'(z) &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta z} \int_0^1 f(z + t\Delta z) \Delta z \, dt \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \int_0^1 f(z + t\Delta z) \, dt \\ &= f(z) \end{aligned}$$

by the continuity of f .

One last theorem

Theorem: If f is continuous in a domain D and $\int_{\Gamma} f(z) dz = 0$ for every **loop** (closed contour) Γ in D then contour integrals of f in D are independent of path.

Proof: Suppose Γ_1 and Γ_2 are two contours from point z_I to point z_T . Then $-\Gamma_2$ is a contour from z_T to z_I , so $\Gamma_1 + (-\Gamma_2)$ is a loop and

$$\int_{\Gamma_1 + (-\Gamma_2)} f(z) dz = 0$$

continued...

One last theorem, continued

Thus

$$\int_{\Gamma_1} f(z) dz + \int_{-\Gamma_2} f(z) dz = 0$$

so

$$\int_{\Gamma_1} f(z) dz = - \int_{-\Gamma_2} f(z) dz$$

so

$$\int_{\Gamma_1} f(z) dz = \int_{\Gamma_2} f(z) dz$$

In Summary

We have shown:

Theorem: Suppose f is continuous in a domain D . The following are equivalent (each statement implies the others):

- (i) $f(z)$ has an antiderivative in D
- (ii) $\int_{\Gamma} f(z) dz = 0$ for every loop in D
- (iii) Contour integrals are independent of path in D