

## Chapter III: Applications

### 0. Preamble.

Recall (Sixth form, Calculus): differentiation is an automatic process – integration is not. One learns standard methods:

- (i) recognising standard forms;
- (ii) integration by substitution (*which* one?);
- (iii) integration by parts (which way), etc.

Here, we will use CRT to evaluate  $\int_{\gamma} f$ . Given an integral to evaluate, our first – and most important – task is to decide: *which*  $\gamma$ ?; *which*  $f$ ?

In what follows, we will learn a variety of standard ways of applying CRT. The exam – Q4 in particular – will involve similar examples.

### 1. Integration round the unit circle. For

$$I := \int_0^{2\pi} f(\cos \theta, \sin \theta) d\theta :$$

take  $\gamma$  the unit circle,  $z = e^{i\theta}$ ,  $\cos \theta = \frac{1}{2}(e^{i\theta} + e^{-i\theta}) = \frac{1}{2}(z + 1/z)$ ,  $\sin \theta = \frac{1}{2i}(z - 1/z)$ ,  $dz = ie^{i\theta} = iz d\theta$  to get  $I = \int_{\gamma} F(z) dz$ . Evaluate by CRT.

*Example 1.*

$$I := \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1}{1 + a \cos \theta} d\theta = \frac{2\pi}{\sqrt{1 - a^2}} \quad (-1 < a < 1).$$

*Proof.* 1. Real Analysis: Problems 3, Q2 (Weierstrass t-substitution).

2. Complex Analysis:

$$I := \int_{\gamma} \frac{1}{iz \left(1 + \frac{a}{2} \left(z + \frac{1}{z}\right)\right)} dz = - \int_{\gamma} \frac{1}{\frac{a}{2}(z^2 + 1) + z} dz = -\frac{2i}{a} \int_{\gamma} \frac{1}{z^2 + \frac{2z}{a} + 1}.$$

The integrand is  $1/((z - \alpha)(z - \beta))$ , where the roots  $\alpha, \beta$  are given by

$$\frac{-\frac{2}{a} \pm \sqrt{\frac{4}{a^2} - 4}}{2} = -\frac{1}{a} \pm \frac{1}{a} \sqrt{1 - a^2} = \frac{1}{a}(-1 \pm \sqrt{1 - a^2}).$$

Only  $+$  is inside  $\gamma$ . Integrand:  $\frac{1}{(z - \alpha)(z - \beta)}$ : Residue at  $\alpha$  is  $\frac{1}{\alpha - \beta}$  (directly by

expanding, or by the Cover-Up Rule, in the next lecture). So

$$\text{Res}\left(-\frac{1}{a} + \frac{\sqrt{1-a^2}}{a}\right) \frac{1}{z^2 + \frac{2z}{a} + 1} = \frac{1}{\frac{-1+\sqrt{1-a^2}}{a} - \left(\frac{-1-\sqrt{1-a^2}}{a}\right)} = \frac{1}{\frac{2\sqrt{1-a^2}}{a}} = \frac{a}{2\sqrt{1-a^2}}.$$

By CRT:

$$I = 2\pi i \left(-\frac{2i}{a}\right) \cdot \frac{a}{2\sqrt{1-a^2}} = \frac{2\pi}{\sqrt{1-a^2}}. \quad //$$

*Example 2.* For  $n = 1, 2, \dots, \alpha$  not a multiple of  $\pi$ ,

$$\int_0^\pi \frac{\cos n\theta - \cos n\alpha}{\cos \theta - \cos \alpha} d\theta = \frac{\pi \sin n\alpha}{\sin \alpha} \quad (\text{Problem 5, Q3}).$$

*Proof.* Since  $\cos(2\pi - \theta) = \cos \theta$ , it suffices to prove  $I := \int_0^{2\pi} \dots d\theta = 2\pi \sin n\alpha / \sin \alpha$ . Method as above:  $I$  is

$$\int_\gamma \frac{(z^n + z^{-n}) - (z_0^n + z_0^{-n})}{(z + \frac{1}{z}) - (z_0 + \frac{1}{z_0})} \frac{dz}{iz} = -i \int \frac{z^n + z^{-n} - z_0^n - z_0^{-n}}{z^n - z(z_0 + \frac{1}{z_0}) + 1} dz = -i \int \frac{z^n + z^{-n} - z_0^n - z_0^{-n}}{(z - z_0)(z - \frac{1}{z_0})} dz.$$

No singularity at  $z_0$  or  $1/z_0$  (zeros in numerator and denominator cancel), but a singularity at 0 from  $z^{-n}$ . So (CRT):

$$I = 2\pi i(-i) \text{Res}_0 \frac{1}{z^n(z - z_0)(z - z_0^{-1})} = 2\pi \frac{\sin n\alpha}{\sin \alpha}.$$

*Note.* By Problems 6, Q5:

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1}{a^2 \cos^2 \theta + b^2 \sin^2 \theta} d\theta = \frac{2\pi}{ab}.$$

Proof: Use  $\gamma$  the ellipse  $x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 = 1$ ,  $z = x + iy$ ,  $x = a \cos \theta$ ,  $y = b \sin \theta$ . By CRT,

$$I := \int_\gamma \frac{dz}{z} = 2\pi i \text{Res}_0 1/z = 2\pi i.$$

The result now follows by multiplying top and bottom by  $\bar{z} = a \cos \theta - ib \sin \theta$  and taking imaginary parts (see Solutions 6 Q5). But this example is geared to the geometry of the *ellipse*. One can do it by the method above – which is geared instead to the geometry of the *circle*. But this is harder (unless  $a = b$ , when the ellipse is a circle – but then result is trivial and immediate). So *beware: think* about your method first, before plunging into calculation!

## 2. Translation of the line of integration.

Recall

$$I = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} dx = \sqrt{2\pi}.$$

*Proof.* Real Analysis:

$$\begin{aligned} I^2 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2/2} dx \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-y^2/2} dy = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-(x^2+y^2)/2} dx dy \\ &= \int \int e^{-r^2/2} r dr d\theta = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\frac{1}{2}r^2} \cdot r dr \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta = 2\pi \int_0^{\infty} e^{-u} du = 2\pi. \quad // \end{aligned}$$

Now take  $f(z) := e^{-z^2/2}$ . This is entire (has no singularities). So for any contour  $\gamma$ ,  $\int_{\gamma} f = 0$ , by CRT (or, use Cauchy's Theorem). Take  $\gamma$  the rectangle with vertices  $R, R+iy, -R+iy, -R$ , with sides  $\gamma_1$  the interval  $[-R, R]$ ,  $\gamma_2$  the vertical line from  $R$  to  $R+iy$ ,  $\gamma_3$  the horizontal line from  $R+iy$  to  $-R+iy$ ,  $\gamma_4$  the vertical line from  $-R+iy$  to  $-R$ . So  $\sum_1^4 \int_{\gamma_i} f = 0$ .

On  $\gamma_2, \gamma_4$ :  $z = \pm R + iuy$  ( $0 \leq u \leq 1$ ),

$$f(z) = \exp\{-(\pm R + iuy)^2/2\} = e^{-R^2/2} e^{u^2 y^2/2} e^{\pm iRuy} \rightarrow 0 \quad (R \rightarrow \infty),$$

as  $|e^{\pm iRuy}| = 1$ . So  $\int_{\gamma_2} f \rightarrow 0, \int_{\gamma_4} f \rightarrow 0$  ( $R \rightarrow \infty$ ). Also

$$\int_{\gamma_1} f \rightarrow \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2/2} dx = \sqrt{2\pi} \quad (R \rightarrow \infty).$$

Combining,

$$\int_{\gamma_3} f \rightarrow \int_{\infty}^{-\infty} e^{-x^2/2} \cdot e^{y^2/2} \cdot e^{-ixy} dx = -\sqrt{2\pi} \quad (R \rightarrow \infty).$$

So (dividing by  $\sqrt{2\pi}$  and by  $e^{y^2/2}$ , and reversing the direction of integration)

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-x^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot e^{-ixy} dx = e^{-y^2/2}.$$

The RHS is real, so the LHS is real. Take complex conjugates:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-x^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot e^{ixy} dx = e^{-y^2/2}.$$

This gives the characteristic function (CF) of the standard normal density  $\phi(x) := e^{-x^2/2}/\sqrt{2\pi}$ , as given in Lecture 1 (the CF is the *Fourier transform* of a probability density).