

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).

Example. We give a further example of translation of the line of integration.

$$I := \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{u^2 e^u}{1 + e^{2u}} du = \frac{\pi^3}{8}, \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{u e^u}{1 + e^{2u}} du = 0.$$

Take $f(z) := z^2 e^z / (1 + e^{2z})$: f has a singularity where $1 + e^{2z} = 0$, $e^{2z} = -1 = e^{(2n+1)i\pi}$, $z_n = (n + 1/2)i\pi$. For γ , take the rectangle with vertices $\pm R$, $\pm R + i\pi$, with $\gamma_1 := [-R, R]$, $\gamma_2 := [R, R + i\pi]$, $\gamma_3 := [R + i\pi, -R + i\pi]$, $\gamma_4 := [-R + i\pi, -R]$. The only singularity of f inside γ comes from $n = 0$, at $z = i\pi/2$.

To find the residue of f at this pole, put $z = \frac{i\pi}{2} + \zeta$: as $e^{i\pi/2} = i$, $e^{i\pi} = -1$,

$$\begin{aligned} f(z) &= \frac{(\frac{i\pi}{2} + \zeta)^2 \cdot i \cdot e^\zeta}{1 - e^{2\zeta}} = \frac{\frac{-i\pi^2}{4} \left(1 + \frac{2\zeta}{i\pi}\right)^2 (1 + \zeta + \frac{1}{2}\zeta^2 + \dots)}{1 - [1 + 2\zeta + \frac{4}{2}\zeta^2 + \dots]} = \frac{\frac{i\pi^2}{4} \left(1 - \frac{4i\zeta}{\pi} \dots\right) (1 + \zeta \dots)}{2\zeta(1 + \zeta + \dots)} \\ &= \frac{i\pi^2}{8\zeta} \left(1 - \frac{4i\zeta}{\pi} \dots\right) (1 + \zeta \dots) (1 - \zeta \dots). \end{aligned}$$

So $Res_{i\pi/2} f = \text{coefficient of } 1/\zeta \text{ on RHS} = i\pi^2/8$.

The contributions along $\gamma_2, \gamma_4 \rightarrow 0, (R \rightarrow \infty)$ (exponentially fast).

$$\int_{\gamma_1} = \int_{-R}^R \rightarrow \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{u^2 e^u}{1 + e^{2u}} du = I.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\gamma_3} &= \int_R^{-R} \frac{(u + i\pi)^2 \cdot (-) e^u}{1 + e^{2u}} du = \int_{-R}^R \frac{(u^2 + 2i\pi u - \pi^2) e^u}{1 + e^{2u}} du \\ &\rightarrow \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{u^2 e^u}{1 + e^{2u}} du + 2i\pi \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{u e^u}{1 + e^{2u}} du - \pi^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^u}{1 + e^{2u}} du. \end{aligned}$$

Now

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{u e^u}{1 + e^{2u}} du = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{u}{e^{-u} + e^u} du = 0$$

(odd integrand between symmetrical limits), and (substituting $t := e^u$)

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^u}{1 + e^{2u}} du = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d(e^u)}{1 + e^{2u}} = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{1}{1 + t^2} dt = [\tan^{-1} t]_0^{\infty} = \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

Combining,

$$\int_{\gamma_3} f = I + 2i\pi \cdot 0 - \pi^2 \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} = I - \frac{\pi^3}{2}.$$

(The fact that $\int \gamma_3 f$ involves the answer I motivates the choice of the vertices $\pm R + i\pi$. One can with hindsight see this in the form of f , since $(e^{u+i\pi})^2 = e^{2\pi i} \cdot e^{2u} = e^{2u}$.)

By CRT: $\int_{\gamma} f = 2\pi i Res_{i\pi/2} f$:

$$I + (I - \frac{\pi^3}{2}) = 2\pi i \cdot i\pi^2/8 = -\frac{\pi^3}{4} : \quad 2I = \frac{\pi^3}{2} - \frac{\pi^3}{4} = \frac{\pi^3}{4} : \quad I = \pi^3/8. //$$