

Chapter 2

Holomorphic Functions

2.1 Derivative of a Complex Function

Definition 2.1 *Suppose that a complex function f is defined in a neighborhood of z_0 . The derivative of f at z_0 , denoted by $f'(z_0)$, exists and is given by:*

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

In this case, the function f is said to be differentiable at z_0 .

Example 2.1 *Apply Definition 2.1 to find the derivative of the function*

$$f(z) = z^2 - 5z$$

Solution 2.1 *We compute the derivative using the definition:*

$$f'(z) = \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{(z + \Delta z)^2 - 5(z + \Delta z) - (z^2 - 5z)}{\Delta z}$$

Simplify the numerator:

$$(z + \Delta z)^2 - 5(z + \Delta z) - z^2 + 5z = z^2 + 2z\Delta z + (\Delta z)^2 - 5z - 5\Delta z - z^2 + 5z = 2z\Delta z + (\Delta z)^2 - 5\Delta z = \Delta z(2z + \Delta z - 5)$$

Divide by Δz :

$$\frac{\Delta z(2z + \Delta z - 5)}{\Delta z} = 2z + \Delta z - 5$$

Take the limit as $\Delta z \rightarrow 0$:

$$f'(z) = 2z - 5$$

2.1.1 Rules of Differentiation for Complex Functions

Definition 2.2 (Differentiable Functions) *Let $f(z)$ and $g(z)$ be two functions defined and differentiable at z . Then the following rules of differentiation hold:*

Theorem 2.1 (Rules of Differentiation) *$f(z)$ and $g(z)$: two functions defined and differentiable at z*

1. Constant Rule:

$$\frac{d}{dz}c = 0, \quad \frac{d}{dz}[cf(z)] = cf'(z), \quad c \in \mathbb{C}.$$

2. Sum Rule:

$$\frac{d}{dz}[f(z) \pm g(z)] = f'(z) \pm g'(z).$$

3. Product Rule:

$$\frac{d}{dz}[f(z)g(z)] = f'(z)g(z) + f(z)g'(z).$$

4. Quotient Rule:

$$\frac{d}{dz} \left[\frac{f(z)}{g(z)} \right] = \frac{f'(z)g(z) - f(z)g'(z)}{[g(z)]^2}, \quad g(z) \neq 0.$$

5. Chain Rule:

$$\frac{d}{dz}[f(g(z))] = f'(g(z))g'(z).$$

Example 2.2 Use the differentiation rules to compute the derivatives of the following functions:

(a) $f(z) = 3z^4 - 5z^3 + 2z$

(b) $f(z) = \frac{z^2}{4z + 1}$

Solution 2.2 (a) $f(z) = 3z^4 - 5z^3 + 2z$

Using the constant and power rules:

$$f'(z) = 3 \cdot 4z^3 - 5 \cdot 3z^2 + 2 = 12z^3 - 15z^2 + 2$$

(b) $f(z) = \frac{z^2}{4z + 1}$

Using the quotient rule:

$$f'(z) = \frac{(z^2)'(4z + 1) - (z^2)(4z + 1)'}{(4z + 1)^2} = \frac{2z(4z + 1) - z^2(4)}{(4z + 1)^2}$$

Simplify the numerator:

$$2z(4z + 1) - 4z^2 = 8z^2 + 2z - 4z^2 = 4z^2 + 2z$$

Factorize if desired:

$$f'(z) = \frac{2z(2z + 1)}{(4z + 1)^2}$$

2.2 Analytic Function

Definition 2.3 (Analyticity at a Point) *A complex function $w = f(z)$ is said to be analytic at a point z_0 if it is differentiable at z_0 and at every point in a neighborhood of z_0 .*

A complex function $f(z)$ is said to be analytic in a domain D if it is analytic at every point of this domain. In this case, the function is also called holomorphic or regular.

A function that is analytic on the entire complex plane \mathbb{C} is called an entire function.

Theorem 2.2 (Polynomial and Rational Functions) *1. A complex polynomial function*

$$p(z) = a_n z^n + a_{n-1} z^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 z + a_0,$$

where $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $a_n, a_{n-1}, \dots, a_1, a_0 \in \mathbb{C}$, is an entire function.

2. A rational function

$$f(z) = \frac{p(z)}{q(z)}$$

is analytic in any domain D that does not contain any point z_0 for which $q(z_0) = 0$.

Here, $p(z)$ and $q(z)$ are two polynomial functions, and z_0 is called a singular point of $f(z)$.

2.2.1 Differentiability and Cauchy-Riemann Equations

Theorem 2.3 (Differentiability Implies Continuity) *If f is differentiable at a point z_0 in a domain D , then f is necessarily continuous at z_0 .*

Theorem 2.4 (L'Hôpital's Rule for Complex Functions) *Suppose f and g are two functions analytic at z_0 with $f(z_0) = 0$ and $g(z_0) = 0$ but $g'(z_0) \neq 0$. Then:*

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} \frac{f(z)}{g(z)} = \frac{f'(z_0)}{g'(z_0)}.$$

Example 2.3 *Use L'Hôpital's Rule to compute the following limit:*

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow 2+i} \frac{z^2 - 4z + 5}{z^3 - z - 10i}.$$

Solution 2.3 *Let $f(z) = z^2 - 4z + 5$ and $g(z) = z^3 - z - 10i$.*

$$f'(z) = 2z - 4, \quad g'(z) = 3z^2 - 1$$

Evaluate at $z_0 = 2 + i$:

$$f'(2 + i) = 2(2 + i) - 4 = 4 + 2i - 4 = 2i$$

$$g'(2+i) = 3(2+i)^2 - 1 = 3(4+4i-1) - 1 = 3(3+4i) - 1 = 9+12i-1 = 8+12i$$

Thus, using L'Hôpital's rule:

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow 2+i} \frac{z^2 - 4z + 5}{z^3 - z - 10i} = \frac{f'(2+i)}{g'(2+i)} = \frac{2i}{8+12i} = \frac{2i(8-12i)}{(8+12i)(8-12i)} = \frac{24+16i}{208} = \frac{3}{26} + \frac{2}{26}i = \frac{3}{26} + \frac{1}{13}i$$

Theorem 2.5 (Cauchy-Riemann Equations) *Let $f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$ be differentiable at a point $z = x + iy$. Then the first-order partial derivatives of u and v exist and satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations at z :*

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

Analyticity Criteria

Example 2.4 *Verify that the function*

$$f(z) = z^2 + z$$

satisfies the Cauchy-Riemann equations.

Solution 2.4 *Write $f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$ with $z = x + iy$:*

$$f(z) = (x + iy)^2 + (x + iy) = x^2 - y^2 + x + i(2xy + y)$$

So, $u(x, y) = x^2 - y^2 + x$ and $v(x, y) = 2xy + y$.

Compute the partial derivatives:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 2x + 1, \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -2y$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = 2y, \quad \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = 2x + 1$$

Check Cauchy-Riemann equations:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \Rightarrow 2x + 1 = 2x + 1 \quad ?$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \Rightarrow -2y = -2y \quad ?$$

Thus, the Cauchy-Riemann equations are satisfied everywhere, so $f(z)$ is analytic in \mathbb{C} .

Theorem 2.6 (Non-Analyticity Criterion) *If the Cauchy-Riemann equations are not satisfied at every point z in a domain D , then the function*

$$f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$$

cannot be analytic on D .

Example 2.5 Show that the function

$$f(z) = 2x^2 + i(y^2 - x)$$

is not analytic at any point.

Solution 2.5 Identify $u(x, y) = 2x^2$ and $v(x, y) = y^2 - x$.

Compute the partial derivatives:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 4x, \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = -1, \quad \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = 2y$$

Check Cauchy-Riemann equations:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \Rightarrow 4x = 2y \quad (\text{not true for all } x, y)$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \Rightarrow 0 = 1 \quad (\text{false})$$

Since the Cauchy-Riemann equations fail everywhere, $f(z)$ is not analytic at any point.

Theorem 2.7 (Analyticity Criterion) Suppose the real functions $u(x, y)$ and $v(x, y)$ are continuous and have first-order partial derivatives in a domain D .

If u and v satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations at every point of D , then the complex function

$$f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$$

is analytic in D .

Example 2.6 Let

$$f(z) = \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2} - i\frac{y}{x^2 + y^2}, \quad z = x + iy$$

Determine the domain $D = \text{Dom}(f)$ and show that f is analytic on D .

Solution 2.6 We can write $f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$ with

$$u(x, y) = \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2}, \quad v(x, y) = -\frac{y}{x^2 + y^2}.$$

Domain: $x^2 + y^2 \neq 0 \Rightarrow D = \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$.

Compute partial derivatives:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = \frac{y^2 - x^2}{(x^2 + y^2)^2}, \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = \frac{-2xy}{(x^2 + y^2)^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = \frac{2xy}{(x^2 + y^2)^2}, \quad \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = \frac{y^2 - x^2}{(x^2 + y^2)^2}$$

Check Cauchy-Riemann equations:

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

Thus, $f(z)$ is analytic on $D = \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$.

2.3 Theorems on Differentiability and Harmonic Functions

2.3.1 Theorems on Differentiability

Theorem 2.8 *If the real functions $u(x, y)$ and $v(x, y)$ are continuous and have first-order partial derivatives in a neighborhood of a point z , and if they satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations at z , then the complex function*

$$f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$$

is differentiable at z , and its derivative is given by:

$$f'(z) = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} - i \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}.$$

Theorem 2.9 *Let $f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$ be an analytic function on a domain D . If $f'(z) = 0$ on D , then*

$$f(z) = c \quad \text{on } D,$$

where c is a complex constant.

When and Why We Use the Theorem $f'(z) = u_x + iv_x$?

Remark 2.1 *There are two different ways to compute or study the derivative of a complex function $f(z)$:*

- (a) *The direct (formal) method, which uses the usual differentiation rules (sum, product, chain rule, etc.);*
- (b) *The analytic (fundamental) method, which starts from the definition*

$$f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y), \quad z = x + iy,$$

and uses the theorem

$$f'(z) = u_x + iv_x,$$

under the condition that the Cauchy-Riemann equations

$$u_x = v_y, \quad u_y = -v_x$$

are satisfied.

Example 2.7 (a) *Direct Method (formal differentiation).*

When $f(z)$ is written only in terms of z (for example e^z , z^2 , z^3 , etc.), we can apply the usual differentiation rules, because such functions are known to be holomorphic everywhere.

For instance,

$$\frac{d}{dz}(z^2) = 2z.$$

In this case, there is no need to express $f(z)$ in terms of $u(x, y)$ and $v(x, y)$.

Example 2.8 (b) *Analytic Method (definition via partial derivatives).*

The theorem

$$f'(z) = u_x + iv_x$$

is fundamental, because it allows us to determine whether a function is actually complex differentiable. That is, it provides a test for holomorphy using the Cauchy-Riemann equations.

If u and v satisfy

$$u_x = v_y, \quad u_y = -v_x,$$

and u, v are continuous, then $f(z)$ is differentiable (holomorphic) at that point, and

$$f'(z) = u_x + iv_x.$$

Remark 2.2 *The theorem $f'(z) = u_x + iv_x$ is particularly useful in the following situations:*

(1) *When we do not know whether $f(z)$ is holomorphic or not.*

Example: $f(z) = \bar{z}$ or $f(z) = \bar{z}e^z$. These look simple, but they are not holomorphic. To check this, we must write $f = u+iv$ and verify the Cauchy-Riemann equations.

(2) *When we need to prove that a function is entire (holomorphic on all of \mathbb{C}).*

In such cases, we show that u, v satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations everywhere.

(3) *When we study the local geometric behavior of a complex function.*

The quantities u_x, v_x, u_y, v_y describe how f transforms small neighborhoods (rotations, dilations, conformality, etc.). This relies directly on $f'(z) = u_x + iv_x$.

Method	Purpose	Advantage	When to Use It
Usual rules (direct)	Compute $f'(z)$ quickly for known holomorphic functions	Simple and fast	When $f(z)$ is expressed only in terms of z , e.g. $e^z, z^n, \sin z, \cos z$
Analytic definition $f'(z) = u_x + iv_x$	Check if $f(z)$ is holomorphic (Cauchy-Riemann test)	Fundamental for analytic verification	When f depends on \bar{z} , or when one must prove holomorphy

Remark 2.3 *In short:*

The formula $f'(z) = u_x + iv_x$ is essential for proving holomorphy,

while direct rules are used to compute derivatives of already known entire functions.

2.3.2 Harmonic Functions

Definition 2.4 A real-valued function $\varphi(x, y)$ of two real variables is said to be harmonic in a domain D if it possesses continuous first and second partial derivatives in D and satisfies the Laplace equation:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial y^2} = 0.$$

2.3.3 Harmonic Functions and Their Conjugates

Theorem 2.10 Suppose the complex function

$$f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$$

is analytic on a domain D . Then, the real functions $u(x, y)$ and $v(x, y)$ are harmonic on D .

Example 2.9 For the entire function

$$f(z) = z^2,$$

find $u(x, y)$ and $v(x, y)$, and show that they are harmonic on \mathbb{C} .

Solution 2.7 Let $z = x + iy$. Then:

$$f(z) = (x + iy)^2 = x^2 - y^2 + 2ixy.$$

Hence,

$$u(x, y) = x^2 - y^2, \quad v(x, y) = 2xy.$$

Compute the second partial derivatives:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} &= 2, & \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} &= -2, \\ \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} &= 0, & \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} &= 2 - 2 = 0, \\ \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial y^2} &= 0 + 0 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, both u and v satisfy Laplace's equation and are harmonic on \mathbb{C} .

Definition 2.5 (Conjugate Harmonic Function) Suppose the real function $u(x, y)$ is harmonic on a domain D . Then, it is possible to find another real harmonic function $v(x, y)$ such that u and v satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations.

In this case, the complex function

$$f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$$

is analytic on D .

The function $v(x, y)$ is called the harmonic conjugate of $u(x, y)$.

Example 2.10 1. Verify that $u(x, y) = x^3 - 3xy^2 - 5y$ is harmonic.

2. Find the harmonic conjugate $v(x, y)$ of $u(x, y)$.

Solution 2.8 1. Compute the second partial derivatives:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = 3x^2 - 3y^2, \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = -6xy - 5.$$
$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = 6x, \quad \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = -6x.$$

Then:

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} = 6x - 6x = 0,$$

so $u(x, y)$ is harmonic. ?

2. To find $v(x, y)$, use the Cauchy-Riemann equations:

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

Substitute:

$$3x^2 - 3y^2 = \frac{\partial v}{\partial y}, \quad -6xy - 5 = -\frac{\partial v}{\partial x}.$$

Hence,

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = 6xy + 5, \quad \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = 3x^2 - 3y^2.$$

Integrate the first equation with respect to x :

$$v(x, y) = 3x^2y + 5x + h(y),$$

where $h(y)$ is a function of y only.

Differentiate with respect to y :

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = 3x^2 + h'(y).$$

Compare with $\frac{\partial v}{\partial y} = 3x^2 - 3y^2$:

$$h'(y) = -3y^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad h(y) = -y^3 + C.$$

Therefore:

$$v(x, y) = 3x^2y - y^3 + 5x + C.$$

Conclusion:

$$u(x, y) = x^3 - 3xy^2 - 5y, \quad v(x, y) = 3x^2y - y^3 + 5x + C,$$

and the analytic function is

$$f(z) = u + iv = (x^3 - 3xy^2 - 5y) + i(3x^2y - y^3 + 5x + C).$$

2.4 Solved Exercises

Exercise 2.1 *Continuity of a Complex Function at a Point*

Let the complex function

$$f(z) = \frac{z^2 - 1}{z - 1}.$$

1. Determine the domain of definition of $f(z)$.
2. Study the continuity of f at the point $z_0 = 1$.
3. Determine whether f can be made continuous at $z_0 = 1$ by defining a suitable value $f(1)$.

Solution 2.9 1. *Domain of definition.*

The function is given by:

$$f(z) = \frac{z^2 - 1}{z - 1}.$$

The denominator vanishes at $z = 1$, hence the function is not defined at this point.

Therefore, the domain of definition is:

$$D = \mathbb{C} \setminus \{1\}.$$

2. *Continuity at $z_0 = 1$.*

To check continuity, we compute the limit of $f(z)$ as $z \rightarrow 1$.

We have:

$$f(z) = \frac{z^2 - 1}{z - 1} = \frac{(z - 1)(z + 1)}{z - 1} = z + 1, \quad \text{for } z \neq 1.$$

Then:

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow 1} f(z) = \lim_{z \rightarrow 1} (z + 1) = 2.$$

However, $f(1)$ is not defined.

Thus, f is discontinuous at $z_0 = 1$ because it is not defined there.

3. *Possible extension of continuity.*

If we define $f(1) = 2$, then for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$:

$$f(z) = \begin{cases} \frac{z^2 - 1}{z - 1}, & z \neq 1, \\ 2, & z = 1, \end{cases}$$

we obtain a continuous function on \mathbb{C} .

Indeed, the limit at $z_0 = 1$ equals the defined value:

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow 1} f(z) = 2 = f(1).$$

Hence, the extended function is continuous on the whole complex plane.

Exercise 2.2 Study of Differentiability at a Point

Let the complex function

$$f(z) = x^2 + iy^2, \quad \text{where } z = x + iy.$$

1. Write $f(z)$ in the form $f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$ and determine the functions $u(x, y)$ and $v(x, y)$.
2. Study whether f is differentiable at the point $z_0 = 0$ by using the definition:

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

3. Verify differentiability at $z_0 = 0$ by applying the Cauchy-Riemann equations.
4. Conclude whether f is analytic on any domain of \mathbb{C} .

Solution 2.10 1. We have:

$$f(z) = x^2 + iy^2,$$

hence

$$u(x, y) = x^2, \quad v(x, y) = y^2.$$

2. Differentiability by definition.

Let $z_0 = 0$, and consider the limit

$$f'(0) = \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(\Delta z) - f(0)}{\Delta z} = \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(\Delta z)}{\Delta z}.$$

Since $\Delta z = \Delta x + i\Delta y$,

$$f(\Delta z) = (\Delta x)^2 + i(\Delta y)^2.$$

Thus,

$$\frac{f(\Delta z)}{\Delta z} = \frac{(\Delta x)^2 + i(\Delta y)^2}{\Delta x + i\Delta y}.$$

We test the limit along two different paths:

- If we approach along the real axis: $\Delta y = 0 \Rightarrow \Delta z = \Delta x$,

$$\frac{f(\Delta z)}{\Delta z} = \frac{(\Delta x)^2}{\Delta x} = \Delta x \rightarrow 0.$$

- *If we approach along the imaginary axis: $\Delta x = 0 \Rightarrow \Delta z = i\Delta y$,*

$$\frac{f(\Delta z)}{\Delta z} = \frac{i(\Delta y)^2}{i\Delta y} = \Delta y \rightarrow 0.$$

Both give 0. However, to be sure the limit exists, let us take the general path $\Delta y = k\Delta x$:

$$\frac{f(\Delta z)}{\Delta z} = \frac{(\Delta x)^2 + i(k\Delta x)^2}{\Delta x(1 + ik)} = \Delta x \frac{1 + ik^2}{1 + ik}.$$

As $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$, the expression tends to 0 independently of k . Hence, the limit exists and

$$f'(0) = 0.$$

Therefore, f is differentiable at $z_0 = 0$.

3. Using the Cauchy-Riemann equations.

We have

$$u(x, y) = x^2, \quad v(x, y) = y^2.$$

Compute the partial derivatives:

$$u_x = 2x, \quad u_y = 0, \quad v_x = 0, \quad v_y = 2y.$$

At $z_0 = 0$ (i.e. $x = 0, y = 0$):

$$u_x = 0, \quad v_y = 0, \quad u_y = 0, \quad v_x = 0.$$

Then, at $z_0 = 0$, the Cauchy-Riemann equations

$$u_x = v_y \quad \text{and} \quad u_y = -v_x$$

are satisfied.

Thus, f is differentiable at $z_0 = 0$, and its derivative is

$$f'(0) = u_x + iv_x = 0 + i(0) = 0.$$

4. Analyticity on a domain.

For f to be analytic, the Cauchy-Riemann equations must hold at every point.

In general,

$$u_x = 2x, \quad v_y = 2y,$$

so $u_x = v_y$ only when $x = y$. Therefore, the C-R equations are not satisfied everywhere in \mathbb{C} .

Hence f is not analytic on any domain of \mathbb{C} , but it is differentiable only at the single point $z_0 = 0$.

Exercise 2.3 Let $u(x, y) = x^2 - y^2$.

1. Verify that $u(x, y)$ is harmonic.
2. Find its harmonic conjugate $v(x, y)$.
3. Construct the analytic function $f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$.

Harmonic and Analytic Functions

Exercise 2.4 Let $f(z) = z^3$.

1. Write f in terms of x, y .

$$z^3 = (x + iy)^3 = x^3 + 3x^2(iy) + 3x(iy)^2 + (iy)^3 = x^3 - 3xy^2 + i(3x^2y - y^3).$$

So

$$u(x, y) = x^3 - 3xy^2, \quad v(x, y) = 3x^2y - y^3.$$

2. Show u and v are harmonic on \mathbb{C} .

Compute second partials for u :

$$u_{xx} = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}(x^3 - 3xy^2) = 6x, \quad u_{yy} = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}(x^3 - 3xy^2) = -6x.$$

Hence

$$u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 6x - 6x = 0.$$

For v :

$$v_{xx} = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}(3x^2y - y^3) = 6xy, \quad v_{yy} = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}(3x^2y - y^3) = -6xy,$$

so

$$v_{xx} + v_{yy} = 6xy - 6xy = 0.$$

Thus u and v satisfy Laplace's equation everywhere, so they are harmonic on \mathbb{C} .

Exercise 2.5 Let $u(x, y) = x^2 - y^2$.

1. Verify u is harmonic.

$$u_{xx} = 2, \quad u_{yy} = -2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 2 - 2 = 0.$$

So u is harmonic.

2. Find a harmonic conjugate $v(x, y)$.

We seek v such that the Cauchy-Riemann (C-R) equations hold:

$$u_x = 2x = v_y, \quad u_y = -2y = -v_x \Rightarrow v_x = 2y.$$

Integrate $v_y = 2x$ with respect to y :

$$v(x, y) = 2xy + h(x),$$

where $h(x)$ is an arbitrary function of x .

Differentiate this with respect to x :

$$v_x = 2y + h'(x),$$

but from C-R we need $v_x = 2y$. Hence $h'(x) = 0$ so h is constant. We may take constant 0 (it only changes f by an additive constant).

Thus one harmonic conjugate is

$$v(x, y) = 2xy + C.$$

3. Construct the analytic function $f(z) = u + iv$.

Choosing $C = 0$,

$$f(z) = x^2 - y^2 + i(2xy) = (x + iy)^2 = z^2,$$

which is analytic (indeed entire).

Exercise 2.6 Let $u(x, y) = e^x \cos y$.

1. Prove that $u(x, y)$ is harmonic.
2. Find its harmonic conjugate $v(x, y)$.
3. Write the corresponding analytic function $f(z)$.

Solution 2.11 Let $u(x, y) = e^x \cos y$.

1. Prove u is harmonic.

Compute second partials:

$$\begin{aligned} u_x &= e^x \cos y, & u_{xx} &= e^x \cos y, \\ u_y &= -e^x \sin y, & u_{yy} &= -e^x \cos y. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$u_{xx} + u_{yy} = e^x \cos y - e^x \cos y = 0.$$

So u is harmonic.

2. Find a harmonic conjugate $v(x, y)$.

We need v satisfying C-R:

$$u_x = e^x \cos y = v_y, \quad u_y = -e^x \sin y = -v_x \Rightarrow v_x = e^x \sin y.$$

Integrate $v_y = e^x \cos y$ with respect to y :

$$v(x, y) = e^x \sin y + h(x).$$

Differentiate this with respect to x :

$$v_x = e^x \sin y + h'(x).$$

Equate to required $v_x = e^x \sin y$ so $h'(x) = 0$. Thus h is constant. Take $h \equiv 0$.

Therefore a harmonic conjugate is

$$v(x, y) = e^x \sin y + C.$$

3. Write the analytic function $f(z)$.

Choosing $C = 0$,

$$f(z) = u + iv = e^x \cos y + ie^x \sin y = e^x(\cos y + i \sin y) = e^{x+iy} = e^z,$$

so $f(z) = e^z$ (analytic on \mathbb{C}).

Exercise 2.7 Let $f(z) = \frac{1}{z} = \frac{x-iy}{x^2+y^2}$.

1. Express $f(z) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y)$.
2. Verify that u and v satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations.
3. Show that u and v are harmonic on $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$.

Exercise 2.8 Let $u(x, y) = x^3 - 3xy^2 - 5y$.

1. Verify that $u(x, y)$ is harmonic.
2. Determine the harmonic conjugate $v(x, y)$.
3. Deduce the corresponding analytic function $f(z)$.

Solution 2.12 Let $f(z) = \frac{1}{z} = \frac{x-iy}{x^2+y^2}$.

1. Express f as $u + iv$.

$$f(z) = \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2} - i \frac{y}{x^2 + y^2}.$$

So

$$u(x, y) = \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2}, \quad v(x, y) = -\frac{y}{x^2 + y^2},$$

defined for $(x, y) \neq (0, 0)$, i.e. on $D = \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$.

2. Verify Cauchy-Riemann equations.

Compute partial derivatives (for $(x, y) \neq (0, 0)$):

$$u_x = \frac{(x^2 + y^2) - 2x^2}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} = \frac{y^2 - x^2}{(x^2 + y^2)^2},$$

$$u_y = \frac{-2xy}{(x^2 + y^2)^2},$$

$$v_x = \frac{2xy}{(x^2 + y^2)^2}, \quad v_y = \frac{y^2 - x^2}{(x^2 + y^2)^2}.$$

Thus

$$u_x = v_y, \quad u_y = -v_x,$$

so the C-R equations hold on D .

3. Show u and v are harmonic on D .

Compute Laplacians (one gives the idea; the other is analogous):

For u :

$$u_{xx} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{y^2 - x^2}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} \right), \quad u_{yy} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{-2xy}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} \right).$$

After simplification (algebraic but straightforward), one finds

$$u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 0 \quad \text{for } (x, y) \neq (0, 0).$$

Likewise for v , $v_{xx} + v_{yy} = 0$. Hence u and v are harmonic on $D = \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$.

(Alternatively: $1/z$ is analytic on $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$; therefore its real and imaginary parts are harmonic there.)

Exercise 2.9 Let $u(x, y) = x^3 - 3xy^2 - 5y$.

1. Verify u is harmonic.

Compute second partials:

$$u_x = 3x^2 - 3y^2, \quad u_{xx} = 6x,$$

$$u_y = -6xy - 5, \quad u_{yy} = -6x.$$

Thus

$$u_{xx} + u_{yy} = 6x - 6x = 0,$$

so u is harmonic.

2. Determine the harmonic conjugate $v(x, y)$.

Use C-R:

$$u_x = 3x^2 - 3y^2 = v_y, \quad u_y = -6xy - 5 = -v_x \Rightarrow v_x = 6xy + 5.$$

Integrate v_x w.r.t. x :

$$v(x, y) = 3x^2y + 5x + h(y),$$

where $h(y)$ is a function of y only.

Differentiate w.r.t. y :

$$v_y = 3x^2 + h'(y).$$

Compare with required $v_y = 3x^2 - 3y^2$ to get

$$h'(y) = -3y^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad h(y) = -y^3 + C.$$

Therefore a harmonic conjugate is

$$v(x, y) = 3x^2y - y^3 + 5x + C,$$

where C is an arbitrary real constant.

3. Deduce the analytic function $f(z) = u + iv$.

Taking $C = 0$ for simplicity,

$$f(z) = (x^3 - 3xy^2 - 5y) + i(3x^2y - y^3 + 5x).$$

One may check this f is analytic on the domain where u is defined (all \mathbb{C}).

Remark 2.4 In each exercise the harmonic conjugate is determined up to an additive real constant. When constructing the analytic function $f(z) = u + iv$, that constant adds an imaginary constant iC to f , which does not affect analyticity.