

Q1 Contour Integration: Use the calculus of residues to evaluate the following integrals:

$$\begin{aligned} I_1 &= \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\theta}{(a + b \cos \theta)^2}, & 0 < b < a. \\ I_2 &= \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{\cos^2 3\theta}{1 - 2a \cos 2\theta + a^2} d\theta, & 0 < a < 1. \\ I_3 &= \int_0^\infty \frac{x^\alpha}{(1 + x^2)^2} dx, & -1 < \alpha < 2. \end{aligned}$$

(These are not meant to be easy! You will have to dig for the residues.)

Q2 Lattice Matsubara sums: Show that, for suitable functions $f(z)$, the sum

$$S = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\omega^N + 1 = 0} f(\omega)$$

of the values of $f(z)$ at the N -th roots of (-1) can be written as an integral

$$S = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_C \frac{dz}{z} \frac{z^N}{z^N + 1} f(z).$$

Here C consists of a pair of oppositely oriented concentric circles. The annulus formed by the circles should include all the roots of unity, but exclude all singularities of f . Use this result to show that, for N even,

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \frac{\sinh E}{\sinh^2 E + \sin^2 \frac{(2n+1)\pi}{N}} = \frac{1}{\cosh E} \tanh \frac{NE}{2}. \quad (\star)$$

Take the $N \rightarrow \infty$ limit while scaling $E \rightarrow 0$ in some suitable manner, and hence show that

$$\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{a}{a^2 + [(2n+1)\pi]^2} = \frac{1}{2} \tanh \frac{a}{2}. \quad (\star\star)$$

Take care not to get this last result wrong by a factor of two: it is *not* true that the limit of the finite sum (\star) is the infinite sum $(\star\star)$.

Q3 Plemelj and Neumann: The Legendre function of the second kind $Q_n(z)$ may be defined for positive integer n by the integral

$$Q_n(z) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 \frac{(1-t^2)^n}{2^n(z-t)^{n+1}} dt, \quad z \notin [-1, 1].$$

Show that for $x \in [-1, 1]$ we have

$$Q_n(x + i\epsilon) - Q_n(x - i\epsilon) = -i\pi P_n(x),$$

where $P_n(x)$ is the Legendre Polynomial. Deduce *Neumann's formula*

$$Q_n(z) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 \frac{P_n(t)}{z-t} dt, \quad z \notin [-1, 1].$$

Q4 Hilbert transforms: Suppose that $\varphi_1(x)$ and $\varphi_2(x)$ are real functions with finite $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ norms.

a) Use the Fourier transform result

$$\widetilde{(\mathcal{H}f)}(\omega) = i \operatorname{sgn}(\omega) \tilde{f}(\omega).$$

to show that

$$\langle \varphi_1 | \varphi_2 \rangle = \langle \mathcal{H}\varphi_1 | \mathcal{H}\varphi_2 \rangle.$$

Thus, \mathcal{H} is a unitary transformation from $L^2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R})$.

b) Use the fact that $\mathcal{H}^2 = -I$ to deduce that

$$\langle \mathcal{H}\varphi_1 | \varphi_2 \rangle = -\langle \varphi_1 | \mathcal{H}\varphi_2 \rangle$$

and so $\mathcal{H}^\dagger = -\mathcal{H}$.

c) Conclude from part b) that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \varphi_1(x) \left(P \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\varphi_2(y)}{x-y} dy \right) dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \varphi_2(y) \left(P \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\varphi_1(x)}{x-y} dx \right) dy,$$

i.e., for $L^2(\mathbb{R})$, functions, it is legitimate to interchange the order of “ P ” integration with ordinary integration.

d) By replacing $\varphi_1(x)$ by a constant, and $\varphi_2(x)$ by the Hilbert transform of a function f with $\int f dx \neq 0$, show that it is not *always* safe to interchange the order of “ P ” integration with ordinary integration

Q5 Advanced Hilbert transforms:

Suppose that are given real functions $u_1(x)$ and $u_2(x)$ and substitute their Hilbert transforms $v_1 = \mathcal{H}u_1$, $v_2 = \mathcal{H}u_2$ into (9.78) to construct analytic functions $f_1(z)$ and $f_2(z)$. Then the product $f_1(z)f_2(z) = F(z)$ has boundary value

$$F_R(x) + iF_I(x) = (u_1u_2 - v_1v_2) + i(u_1v_2 + u_2v_1).$$

a) By assuming that $F(z)$ satisfies the conditions for (9.77) to be applicable to this boundary value, deduce that

$$\mathcal{H}((\mathcal{H}u_1)u_2) + \mathcal{H}((\mathcal{H}u_2)u_1) - (\mathcal{H}u_1)(\mathcal{H}u_2) = -u_1u_2. \quad (\star)$$

This result¹ of part (a) sometimes appears in the physics literature² in the guise of the distributional identity

$$\frac{P}{x-y} \frac{P}{y-z} + \frac{P}{y-z} \frac{P}{z-x} + \frac{P}{z-x} \frac{P}{x-y} = -\pi^2 \delta(x-y) \delta(x-z),$$

where $P/(x-y)$ denotes the principal-part distribution $P(1/(x-y))$. This attractively symmetric form conceals the fact that x is being kept fixed, while y and z are being integrated over in a specific order. As the next part shows, were we to freely re-arrange the integration order we could use the identity

$$\frac{1}{x-y} \frac{1}{y-z} + \frac{1}{y-z} \frac{1}{z-x} + \frac{1}{z-x} \frac{1}{x-y} = 0 \quad x, y, z \text{ distinct}$$

to wrongly conclude that the right-hand side is zero.

b) Show that the identity (\star) can be written as

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\varphi_1(y) \varphi_2(z)}{(z-y)(y-x)} dz \right) dy = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\varphi_1(y) \varphi_2(z)}{(z-y)(y-x)} dy \right) dz - \pi^2 \varphi_1(x) \varphi_2(x),$$

principal-part integrals being understood where necessary. This is a special case of a more general change-of-integration-order formula

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{f(x, y, z)}{(z-y)(y-x)} dz \right) dy = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{f(x, y, z)}{(z-y)(y-x)} dy \right) dz - \pi^2 f(x, x, x),$$

which is due to G. H. Hardy (1908). It is usually called the *Poincaré-Bertrand theorem*.

¹F. G. Tricomi, *Quart. J. Math. (Oxford)*, (2) **2**, (1951) 199.

²For example, in R. Jackiw, A. Strominger, *Phys. Lett.* **99B** (1981) 133.