

Question

For each of the following functions, give a domain on which a continuous branch can be defined.

(i) $\text{Log}(1+z)$, (ii) $\log(1+z)$, (iii) $\text{Log}(1+z^2)$, (iv) $(z-1)^{\frac{1}{3}}$ (v) $(z^2-1)^{\frac{1}{3}}$.

Answer

(i) $\underline{\text{Log}}(1+z)$ has $\text{Arg}(1+z)$ i.e., $-\pi < \arg(1+z) \leq \pi$

so we need a branch cut from $z = -1$

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(ii) $\log(1+z) = \log|1+z| + i \underbrace{\arg(1+z)}$

what arg though?

We need to define the branch of arg. Let's choose $0 < \arg(1+z) \leq 2\pi$, then we have a branch point at $z = -1$ and a cut between $z = -1$ and $+\infty$.

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(iii) $\text{Log}(1 + z^2) = \log|1 + z^2| + i\text{Arg}(1 + z^2)$

Branch points where $1 + z^2 = 0 \Rightarrow z = \pm i$

Now for Arg we have a cut where

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(iv) $(z - 1)^{\frac{1}{3}} = e^{\frac{1}{3}\log(z-1)} = e^{\frac{1}{3}\log|z-1| + \frac{i\arg(z-1)}{3}}$

But again, we need to choose a branch. If we choose Arg we have $-\pi < \arg(z - 1) \leq \pi$ and we need a cut when $(z - 1) < 0$, i.e.,

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If we choose $0 < \arg(z) \leq 2\pi$ we need a cut when $z - 1 > 0$, i.e.,

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(v) $(z^2 - 1)^{\frac{1}{3}}$ has branch points where

$$z^2 - 1 = 0 \Rightarrow z = \pm 1$$

Again we have to choose the branch. If Arg we need cut where $(z^2 - 1) < 0$.

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If we choose $0 < \arg(z^2 - 1) \leq 2\pi$ then we need a cut where $(z^2 - 1) > 0$

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(Check this using the log-definitions.)