

Question

Evaluate the following integrals using the method of residues.

$$\text{i) } \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\theta}{1 + a \cos \theta} \quad -1 < a < 1$$

$$\text{ii) } \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\cos bx dx}{(1 + x^2)^2} \quad b > 0.$$

In (ii) describe briefly any convergence properties that you use.

Answer

$$\text{i) Let } z = e^{i\theta}, \quad dz = iz d\theta$$

$$\cos \theta = \frac{1}{2} \left(z + \frac{1}{z} \right) \quad C - \text{the unit circle.}$$

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\theta}{1 + a \cos \theta} = \int_C \frac{dz}{iz \left(1 + \frac{a}{z} \left(z + \frac{1}{z} \right) \right)} \\ &= \frac{1}{i} \int_C \frac{dz}{z + \frac{a}{2} z^2 + \frac{a}{2}} = \frac{2}{ia} \int_C \frac{dz}{z^2 + \frac{2}{a} z + 1} \end{aligned}$$

The denominator has roots $-\frac{1}{a} \pm \frac{1}{a} \sqrt{1 - a^2}$, so the integrand has a simple pole inside C at $z = -\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{a} \sqrt{1 - a^2}$, with residue

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

$$\text{So } I = 2\pi i \frac{2}{ia} \frac{a}{2\sqrt{1 - a^2}} = \frac{2\pi}{\sqrt{1 - a^2}}$$

$$\text{ii) } I = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\cos bx}{(1 + x^2)^2} dx \quad \left| \frac{\cos bx}{(1 + x^2)^2} \right| \leq \frac{1}{x^4} \text{ and } \int_0^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^4} \text{ converges.}$$

$$\text{and } 2I = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\cos bx}{(1 + x^2)^2} dx.$$

Let $f(z) = \frac{e^{ibz}}{(1 + z^2)^2}$, then $f(z)$ has poles of order 2 at $z = \pm i$.

We integrate $f(z)$ round Γ

DIAGRAM

$$\operatorname{resi} = \frac{d}{dz}(z-i)^2 f(z) \Big|_{z=i} = \frac{d}{dz} \frac{e^{ibz}}{(z+i)^2} \Big|_{z=i} = \frac{-i(b+1)e^{-b}}{4}$$

On C , $z = Re^{it}$, and $|e^{ibz}| = |e^{-bR \sin t}| \leq 1$ and $|f(z)| \leq \frac{1}{(R^2-1)^2}$

so $\left| \int_C f(z) dz \right| \leq \frac{\pi R}{(R^2-1)^2} \rightarrow 0$ as $R \rightarrow \infty$

$$\text{So } \int_{\Gamma} f(z) dz = 2\pi i \frac{-i(b+1)e^{-b}}{4} = \frac{\pi(b+1)e^{-b}}{2}$$

letting $R \rightarrow \infty$ then gives $I = \frac{\pi(b+1)e^{-b}}{4}$