

CV6 Analytic Functions : Derivatives and Cauchy-Riemann Equations

Let the domain of $f(z)$ contain a neighborhood of z_0 , then the derivative of f at z_0 is defined as

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

The function f is said to be **differentiable** at z_0 when $f'(z_0)$ exists.

Example Suppose that $f(z) = z^2$, then

$$\begin{aligned} f'(z) &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(z + \Delta z) - f(z)}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{(z + \Delta z)^2 - z^2}{\Delta z} = \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} (2z + \Delta z) = 2z \end{aligned}$$

Example Suppose that $f(z) = |z|^2$, then

$$\begin{aligned} f'(z) &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{|z + \Delta z|^2 - |z|^2}{\Delta z} = \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{(z + \Delta z)(\bar{z} + \overline{\Delta z}) - z\bar{z}}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \left(\bar{z} + \overline{\Delta z} + z \frac{\overline{\Delta z}}{\Delta z} \right) = \bar{z} \pm z \end{aligned}$$

Clearly, it is not unique, unless $\bar{z} + z = \bar{z} - z$. That means $f'(z)$ exists only at $z=0$.

Based on the definition of derivative, we can determine the following derivatives:

$$\frac{d}{dz} c = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{dz} [c \cdot f(z)] = c \cdot f'(z)$$

$$\frac{d}{dz} z^n = n \cdot z^{n-1}, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$\frac{d}{dz} z^{-n} = -n \cdot z^{-(n+1)}, \quad \text{for } z \neq 0 \text{ and } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Moreover, let $g(z)$, $f(z)$ and $F(z)=g(f(z))$ be differentiable, then

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

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

$$\frac{d}{dz}\left[\frac{f(z)}{F(z)}\right] = \frac{f'(z)F(z) - f(z)F'(z)}{F^2(z)}$$

$$F'(z) = \frac{dg(f(z))}{dz} = \frac{dg(f(z))}{df(z)} \frac{df(z)}{dz} = g'(f(z)) f'(z)$$

which are similar to the derivatives of functions in the real number system.

Example

$$\frac{d}{dz}(2z^2+i)^5 = 5(2z^2+i)^4(4z) = 20z(2z^2+i)^4$$

Suppose that $g(z_0)=f(z_0)=0$ and that $g'(z_0)$ and $f'(z_0)$ exist, where $g'(z_0) \neq 0$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} \frac{f(z)}{g(z)} &= \lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} \frac{f(z) - f(z_0)}{g(z) - g(z_0)} = \lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} \frac{\left(\frac{f(z) - f(z_0)}{z - z_0}\right)}{\left(\frac{g(z) - g(z_0)}{z - z_0}\right)} \\ &= \frac{\lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} \frac{f(z) - f(z_0)}{z - z_0}}{\lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} \frac{g(z) - g(z_0)}{z - z_0}} = \frac{f'(z_0)}{g'(z_0)} \end{aligned}$$

Clearly, the L'Hopital rule is still available for complex functions.

Theorem:

Consider $f(z) = u(x, y) + i \cdot v(x, y)$. If $f'(z_0)$ exists where $z_0 = x_0 + i y_0$, then the first-order partial derivatives of u and v must exist at (x_0, y_0) and satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations

$$u_x(x_0, y_0) = v_y(x_0, y_0)$$

$$u_y(x_0, y_0) = -v_x(x_0, y_0).$$

Besides, $f'(z_0)$ can be written as

$$f'(z_0) = u_x(x_0, y_0) + i \cdot v_x(x_0, y_0)$$

or

$$f'(z_0) = v_y(x_0, y_0) - i \cdot u_y(x_0, y_0)$$

Proof:

Since $f'(z_0)$ exists, it can be evaluated as

$$\begin{aligned} f'(z_0) &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(z_0 + \Delta z) - f(z_0)}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\substack{\Delta x \rightarrow 0 \\ \Delta y \rightarrow 0}} \frac{u(x_0 + \Delta x, y_0 + \Delta y) - u(x_0, y_0)}{\Delta x + i \Delta y} \\ &\quad + i \left[\lim_{\substack{\Delta x \rightarrow 0 \\ \Delta y \rightarrow 0}} \frac{v(x_0 + \Delta x, y_0 + \Delta y) - v(x_0, y_0)}{\Delta x + i \Delta y} \right] \end{aligned}$$

for any $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$ and $\Delta y \rightarrow 0$. Assume $\Delta x \gg \Delta y \rightarrow 0$, i.e., $\Delta z = \Delta x$, then Δy is negligible and we can have

$$\begin{aligned} f'(z_0) &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x_0 + \Delta x, y_0) - u(x_0, y_0)}{\Delta x} \\ &\quad + i \left[\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{v(x_0 + \Delta x, y_0) - v(x_0, y_0)}{\Delta x} \right] \\ &= u_x(x_0, y_0) + i v_x(x_0, y_0) \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, in case that $\Delta y \gg \Delta x \rightarrow 0$, i.e., $\Delta z = i \Delta y$, then the derivative

$f'(z_0)$ can be obtained as

$$\begin{aligned} f'(z_0) &= -i \left[\lim_{\Delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x_0, y_0 + \Delta y) - u(x_0, y_0)}{\Delta y} \right] \\ &\quad + \lim_{\Delta y \rightarrow 0} \frac{v(x_0, y_0 + \Delta y) - v(x_0, y_0)}{\Delta y} \\ &= -i u_y(x_0, y_0) + v_y(x_0, y_0) = v_y(x_0, y_0) - i u_y(x_0, y_0) \end{aligned}$$

Clearly, the first partial derivatives $u_x(x_0, y_0)$, $u_y(x_0, y_0)$, $v_x(x_0, y_0)$

and $v_y(x_0, y_0)$ exist and satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations $u_x = v_y$

and $u_y = -v_x$ at (x_0, y_0) .

If $f(z)$ does not satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations at z_0 , then $f'(z_0)$ does not exist. However, when the Cauchy-Riemann equations for $f(z)$ are hold at z_0 , there is no guarantee that $f'(z_0)$ exists.

Example Consider the function

$$f(z) = \begin{cases} \bar{z}^2/z & \text{when } z \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{when } z = 0 \end{cases}$$

For $z = z_0 + \Delta z$, where $z_0 = 0$ and $\Delta z \rightarrow 0$, we have

$$\frac{f(z_0 + \Delta z) - f(z_0)}{\Delta z} = \frac{f(\Delta z) - f(0)}{\Delta z} = \frac{f(\Delta z)}{\Delta z} = \frac{(\Delta x - i\Delta y)^2}{(\Delta x + i\Delta y)^2}$$

If $\Delta z = \Delta x$ or $\Delta z = i\Delta y$, then

$$\left. \frac{f(z_0 + \Delta z) - f(z_0)}{\Delta z} \right|_{\substack{z_0=0 \\ \Delta z=\Delta x}} = \left(\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta x} \right)^2 = 1$$

$$\left. \frac{f(z_0 + \Delta z) - f(z_0)}{\Delta z} \right|_{\substack{z_0=0 \\ \Delta z=i\Delta y}} = \left(\frac{-i\Delta y}{i\Delta y} \right)^2 = 1$$

If $\Delta z = \Delta x + i\Delta x$, i.e., $\Delta y = \Delta x$, then

$$\left. \frac{f(z_0 + \Delta z) - f(z_0)}{\Delta z} \right|_{\substack{z_0=0 \\ \Delta z=\Delta x+i\Delta x}} = \left(\frac{(1-i)\Delta x}{(1+i)\Delta x} \right)^2 = -1$$

Clearly, $f'(0)$ doesn't exist.

Now, let's check Cauchy-Riemann equations at $z=0$. Rewrite $f(z)$ for $z \neq 0$ as

$$f(x+iy) = \frac{(x^3 - 3xy^2) + i(y^3 - 3x^2y)}{x^2 + y^2}$$

where $u(x,y) = \frac{x^3 - 3xy^2}{x^2 + y^2}$ and $v(x,y) = \frac{y^3 - 3x^2y}{x^2 + y^2}$. Hence, the first

partial derivatives at $z=0$ are

$$u_x(0,0) = 1, \quad u_y(0,0) = 0, \quad v_x(0,0) = 0, \quad v_y(0,0) = 1$$

which satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations $u_x = v_y$ and $u_y = -v_x$ at $(0,0)$, but $f'(0)$ doesn't exist.

Example For $f(z)=|z|^2$, it is known that only $f'(0)$ exists.

Since $f(x+iy)=x^2+y^2$, we have $u(x,y)=x^2+y^2$ and $v(x,y)=0$.

Clearly, $u_x(0,0)=2x=0$, $u_y(0,0)=2y=0$, $v_x(0,0)=0$ and $v_y(0,0)=0$, which satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations.

Theorem:

The function $f(z)=u(x,y)+i\cdot v(x,y)$ is defined throughout some ε neighborhood of $z_0=x_0+i y_0$ and the first-order partial derivatives of u and v exist everywhere in that neighborhood. If those partial derivatives are continuous at (x_0, y_0) and satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations $u_x = v_y$ and $u_y = -v_x$ at (x_0, y_0) , then $f'(z_0)$ exists.

Example Consider $f(z)=e^z=e^x e^{iy}=e^x \cos y + i e^x \sin y$.

Then $u(x,y)=e^x \cos y$ and $v(x,y)=e^x \sin y$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} u_x(x,y) &= e^x \cos y & \text{and} & & v_x(x,y) &= e^x \sin y \\ u_y(x,y) &= -e^x \sin y & \text{and} & & v_y(x,y) &= e^x \cos y \end{aligned}$$

Clearly, these derivatives are everywhere continuous and satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations $u_x = v_y$ and $u_y = -v_x$ everywhere. Thus, $f'(z)=u_x+iv_x=e^x \cos y + i e^x \sin y = e^z$. Note that $f'(z)=f(z)$.

In addition to the coordinate (x,y) , let's consider the Cauchy-Riemann equation in polar coordinate (r,θ) . Since

$$z = x+iy = r e^{i\theta}$$

where $x = r \cos \theta$ and $y = r \sin \theta$, we have $\frac{\partial x}{\partial r} = \cos \theta$, $\frac{\partial y}{\partial r} = \sin \theta$,

$\frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} = -r \sin \theta$, and $\frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} = r \cos \theta$. Therefore,

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial r} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} \Leftrightarrow u_r = u_x \cos \theta + u_y \sin \theta$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} \Leftrightarrow u_{\theta} = -r u_x \sin \theta + r u_y \cos \theta$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial r} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} \Leftrightarrow v_r = v_x \cos \theta + v_y \sin \theta$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} \Leftrightarrow v_{\theta} = -r v_x \sin \theta + r v_y \cos \theta.$$

From the Cauchy-Riemann equations $u_x = v_y$ and $u_y = -v_x$, we have

$$u_r = u_x \cos \theta - v_x \sin \theta, \quad u_{\theta} = -r(u_x \sin \theta + v_x \cos \theta)$$

$$v_r = u_x \sin \theta + v_x \cos \theta, \quad v_{\theta} = r(u_x \cos \theta - v_x \sin \theta).$$

Clearly, the Cauchy-Riemann equations become

$$r u_r = v_{\theta} \quad \text{and} \quad u_{\theta} = -r v_r.$$

Theorem: The function $f(z) = u(r, \theta) + i \cdot v(r, \theta)$ is defined throughout some ε neighborhood of a nonzero point $z_0 = r_0 e^{i\theta_0}$ and the first-order partial derivatives of u and v exist everywhere in that neighborhood. If those partial derivatives are continuous at (r_0, θ_0) and satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations $r u_r = v_{\theta}$ and $u_{\theta} = -r v_r$ at (r_0, θ_0) , then $f'(z_0) = e^{-i\theta}(u_r + i v_r)$ exists.

Example Consider $f(z) = \frac{1}{z} = r^{-1}(\cos \theta - i \sin \theta)$ ($z \neq 0$).

Then $u(r, \theta) = r^{-1} \cos \theta$ and $v(r, \theta) = -r^{-1} \sin \theta$. We have

$$u_r(r, \theta) = -r^{-2} \cos \theta \quad \text{and} \quad v_r(r, \theta) = r^{-2} \sin \theta$$

$$u_{\theta}(r, \theta) = -r^{-1} \sin \theta \quad \text{and} \quad v_{\theta}(r, \theta) = -r^{-1} \cos \theta$$

Clearly, these derivatives are continuous at nonzero points and satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations $r u_r = v_{\theta}$ and $u_{\theta} = -r v_r$ at nonzero points.

Thus,

$$f'(z) = e^{-i\theta}(-r^{-2} \cos \theta + i r^{-2} \sin \theta) = -\frac{1}{z^2}.$$

Example Consider $f(z) = \sqrt[3]{r} e^{i\theta/3} = z^{1/3}$. Then

$$u(r, \theta) = \sqrt[3]{r} \cos(\theta/3) \quad \text{and} \quad v(r, \theta) = \sqrt[3]{r} \sin(\theta/3)$$

We have

$$r u_r = \frac{1}{3} \sqrt[3]{r} \cos(\theta/3) = v_\theta$$

$$u_\theta = -\frac{1}{3} \sqrt[3]{r} \sin(\theta/3) = -r v_r$$

Clearly, these derivatives are continuous at nonzero points and satisfy the Cauchy-Riemann equations at nonzero points.

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} f'(z) &= e^{-i\theta} \left(\frac{1}{3(\sqrt[3]{r})^2} \cos(\theta/3) + i \frac{1}{3(\sqrt[3]{r})^2} \sin(\theta/3) \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{3} z^{-2/3} \end{aligned}$$

Since $x = \frac{z+\bar{z}}{2}$ and $y = \frac{z-\bar{z}}{2i}$, we have $\frac{\partial x}{\partial \bar{z}} = \frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{\partial y}{\partial \bar{z}} = \frac{i}{2}$. The

partial derivative becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f(z)}{\partial \bar{z}} &= \frac{\partial f(z)}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial x}{\partial \bar{z}} \right) + \frac{\partial f(z)}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial \bar{z}} \right) \\ &= \frac{\partial f(z)}{\partial x} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) + \frac{\partial f(z)}{\partial y} \left(\frac{i}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) f(z) \end{aligned}$$

and thus, the partial operator with respect to $\bar{z}$ can be defined as

$\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right)$. Let $f(z) = u(x, y) + i v(x, y)$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f(z)}{\partial \bar{z}} &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right) (u(x, y) + i v(x, y)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} [(u_x - v_y) + i(u_y + v_x)] \end{aligned}$$

Clearly, if $f(z) = u(x, y) + i v(x, y)$ satisfies Cauchy-Riemann equations

$u_x = v_y$ and $u_y = -v_x$, then $\frac{\partial f(z)}{\partial \bar{z}} = 0$.

Since $z\bar{z} = r^2$, taking derivative with respect to $\bar{z}$ yields

$$z = \frac{\partial r^2}{\partial \bar{z}} = 2r \frac{\partial r}{\partial \bar{z}}. \text{ Then, } \frac{\partial r}{\partial \bar{z}} = \frac{z}{2r} = \frac{1}{2} e^{i\theta}.$$

Further taking derivative of $\bar{z} = r e^{-i\theta}$ with respect to $\bar{z}$ results in

$$1 = \frac{\partial r}{\partial \bar{z}} e^{-i\theta} - i r e^{-i\theta} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \bar{z}} = \frac{1}{2} - i r e^{-i\theta} \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \bar{z}} \quad \text{and then} \quad \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \bar{z}} = i \frac{1}{2r} e^{i\theta}. \quad \text{The}$$

partial derivative becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f(z)}{\partial \bar{z}} &= \frac{\partial f(z)}{\partial r} \left(\frac{\partial r}{\partial \bar{z}} \right) + \frac{\partial f(z)}{\partial \theta} \left(\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \bar{z}} \right) \\ &= \frac{\partial f(z)}{\partial r} \left(\frac{1}{2} e^{i\theta} \right) + \frac{\partial f(z)}{\partial \theta} \left(i \frac{1}{2r} e^{i\theta} \right) \\ &= \frac{e^{i\theta}}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial r} + i \frac{\partial}{r \partial \theta} \right) f(z) \end{aligned}$$

and thus, the partial operator with respect to $\bar{z}$ can be defined as

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} = \frac{e^{i\theta}}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial r} + i \frac{\partial}{r \partial \theta} \right). \quad \text{Let } f(z) = u(r, \theta) + i v(r, \theta), \text{ then}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f(z)}{\partial \bar{z}} &= \frac{e^{i\theta}}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial r} + i \frac{\partial}{r \partial \theta} \right) (u(r, \theta) + i v(r, \theta)) \\ &= \frac{e^{i\theta}}{2r} [(ru_r - v_\theta) + i(u_\theta + rv_r)] \end{aligned}$$

Clearly, if $f(z) = u(r, \theta) + i v(r, \theta)$ satisfies Cauchy-Riemann equations

$$r u_r = v_\theta \quad \text{and} \quad u_\theta = -r v_r, \text{ then } \frac{\partial f(z)}{\partial \bar{z}} = 0.$$

P6-1

Show that the derivative of $f(z) = \frac{1}{z}$ when $z \neq 0$ is $f'(z) = -\frac{1}{z^2}$.

P6-2

Find $f'(z)$ when

$$(a) \quad f(z) = 3z^2 - 2z + 4; \quad (b) \quad f(z) = (1 - 4z^2)^3$$

$$(c) \quad f(z) = \frac{z-1}{2z+1} \quad \left(z \neq -\frac{1}{2} \right); \quad (d) \quad f(z) = \frac{(1+z^2)^4}{z^2} \quad (z \neq 0)$$

P6-3

Show that $f'(z)$ doesn't exist at any point if

$$(a) \quad f(z) = \bar{z}; \quad (b) \quad f(z) = z - \bar{z};$$

$$(c) \quad f(z) = 2x + ixy^2; \quad (d) \quad f(z) = e^x e^{-iy}$$

P6-4

Determine where $f'(z)$ exist and find its value when

(a) $f(z) = \frac{1}{z}$; (b) $f(z) = x^2 + iy^2$; (c) $f(z) = z \cdot \operatorname{Im} z$

Ans: (a) $f'(z) = -\frac{1}{z^2}$ ($z \neq 0$), (b) $f'(x + ix) = 2x$, (c) $f'(0) = 0$

P6-5

Show that each of these functions is differentiable in the indicated domain of definition, and then find $f'(z)$

(a) $f(z) = \sqrt{r}e^{i\theta/2}$ ($r > 0, \alpha < \theta < \alpha + 2\pi$)

(b) $f(z) = e^{-\theta} \cos(\ln r) + ie^{-\theta} \sin(\ln r)$ ($r > 0, 0 < \theta < 2\pi$)