Complex Methods: Example Sheet 3
Part IB, Lent Term 2019
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Comments on or corrections to this example sheet are very welcome and may be sent to reh10@cam.ac.uk.
Starred questions are useful, but optional: they should not be attempted at the expense of other questions.

Fourier transforms

1. By using the relationship between the Fourier transform and its inverse, show that for real \( a \) and \( b \) with \( a > 0 \),

\[
\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\omega^2 + a^2} e^{i\omega t} \, d\omega = \frac{\pi}{a} e^{-a|t|}\quad \text{and} \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{b}{(i\omega + a)^2 + b^2} e^{i\omega t} \, d\omega = 2\pi e^{-at} \sin bt \, H(t)
\]

where \( H(t) \) is the Heaviside step function. What are the values of the integrals when \( a < 0 \)? What happens when \( a = 0 \)?

2. Show that the convolution of the function \( e^{-|x|} \) with itself is given by \( f(x) = (1 + |x|)e^{-|x|} \). Use the convolution theorem for Fourier transforms to show that

\[
f(x) = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{ikx}}{1 + k^2} \, dk
\]

and verify this result by contour integration.

3. Let

\[
f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & |x| < \frac{1}{2}a, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise;} \end{cases} \quad g(x) = \begin{cases} a - |x| & |x| < a, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}
\]

Show that

\[
\tilde{f}(k) = \frac{2}{k} \sin \frac{ak}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{g}(k) = \frac{4}{k^2} \sin^2 \frac{ak}{2}.
\]

What is the convolution of \( f \) with itself? Use Parseval’s identity to evaluate \( \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\sin^2 x)/x^2 \, dx \). Verify by contour integration the inversion formula for \( f(x) \) for all values of \( x \) except \( \pm \frac{1}{2}a \).

* Verify the inversion formula also at \( x = \pm \frac{1}{2}a \).

* 4. Suppose that \( f(x) \) has period \( 2\pi \). Let \( F(k) = \int_{0}^{2\pi} f(x)e^{-ikx} \, dx \) and \( g(x) = f(x)e^{-ax|x|} \) where \( a > 0 \). Show that the Fourier transform of \( g \) is given by

\[
\tilde{g}(k) = \frac{F(k - ia)}{1 - e^{-2\pi(k-ia)}} - \frac{F(k + ia)}{1 - e^{-2\pi(k+ia)}}.
\]

Assuming that \( F \) is analytic, sketch the locations of the singularities of \( \tilde{g} \) in the complex \( k \)-plane. Use a suitable contour to show that

\[
g(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} F(n)e^{i(n-a)x}
\]

for \( x > 0 \) and derive a similar result when \( x < 0 \). Deduce that

\[
f(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} F(n)e^{inx}.
\]

Justify briefly your choices of contour. (You may assume that \( F \) grows sufficiently slowly at infinity. In fact it is sufficient that \( F(k)e^{2\pi ik} \to 0 \) as \( |k| \to \infty \) in the upper half-plane, and \( F(k) \to 0 \) in the lower half-plane, but you are not expected to carry out detailed calculations.)

[This shows how the Fourier transform representation of a periodic function reduces to a Fourier series.]
Laplace transforms

5. Starting from the Laplace transform of 1 (namely $s^{-1}$), and using only standard properties of the Laplace transform (shifting, etc.), find the Laplace transforms of the following functions:
   (i) $e^{-2t}$;  (ii) $t^3 e^{-3t}$;  (iii) $e^{3t} \sin 4t$;  (iv) $e^{-4t} \cosh 4t$;  (v) $e^{-t} H(t - 1)$, where $H$ is the Heaviside step function.

6. Using partial fractions and expressions for the Laplace transforms of elementary functions, find the inverse Laplace transform of $f(s) = (s + 3)/\{(s - 2)(s^2 + 1)\}$. Verify this result using the Bromwich inversion formula.

7. Use Laplace transforms to solve the differential equation
   \[
   \frac{d^3y}{dt^3} - 3 \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + 3 \frac{dy}{dt} - y = t^2 e^t
   \]
   with initial conditions $y(0) = 1, \dot{y}(0) = 0, \ddot{y}(0) = -2$.

8. A damped simple harmonic oscillator $y(t)$ is at rest for $t < 0$ but receives a positive unit impulse at $t = 0$ and, subsequently, a negative one at $t = t_0 > 0$. It obeys the differential equation
   \[
   \ddot{y} + 2\dot{y} + 2y = \delta(t) - \delta(t - t_0).
   \]
   Find the Laplace transform of $y$ and, without inverting it, show that $y \to 0$ as $t \to \infty$. Now use the Bromwich inversion formula to find $y(t)$ for all $t$.

9. Solve the integral equation $f(t) + 4 \int_0^t (t - \tau) f(\tau) \, d\tau = t$ for the unknown function $f$. Verify your solution.

* 10. The zeroth order Bessel function $J_0(x)$ satisfies the differential equation
   \[
   x J''_0 + J'_0 + x J_0 = 0
   \]
   for $x > 0$, with $J_0(0) = 1$ (and $J'_0(0) = 0$ from the equation). Find the Laplace transform of $J_0$ and deduce that $\int_0^\infty J_0(x) \, dx = 1$. Find the convolution of $J_0$ with itself.

11. Use Laplace transforms to solve the heat equation $\partial T/\partial t = \partial^2 T/\partial x^2$ with boundary conditions $T(x, 0) = \sin^3 \pi x$ ($0 < x < 1$), $T(0, t) = T(1, t) = 0$ ($t > 0$). [Hint: $\sin 3\theta = 3 \sin \theta - 4 \sin^3 \theta$.]

12. Using the equality $\int_0^\infty e^{-x^2} \, dx = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\pi}$, find the Laplace transform of $f(t) = t^{-1/2}$. By integrating around a Bromwich keyhole contour, verify the inversion formula for $f(t)$. What is the Laplace transform of $t^{1/2}$?

* 13. The gamma and beta functions are defined for $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$ by
   \[
   \Gamma(z) = \int_0^\infty t^{z-1} e^{-t} \, dt \quad \text{and} \quad B(z, w) = \int_0^1 t^{z-1} (1 - t)^{w-1} \, dt
   \]
   when $\text{Re} \, z, \text{Re} \, w > 0$. Show that $\Gamma(z + 1) = z \Gamma(z)$ and hence that $\Gamma(n + 1) = n!$ if $n$ is a non-negative integer. Using the previous question, write down the value of $\Gamma(\frac{1}{2})$.

For a fixed value of $z$, find the Laplace transform of $f(t) = t^{z-1}$ in terms of $\Gamma(z)$. Find the Laplace transform of the convolution $t^{z-1} * t^{w-1}$. Hence establish that
   \[
   B(z, w) = \frac{\Gamma(z) \Gamma(w)}{\Gamma(z + w)}.
   \]
   The domain of $\Gamma$ and $B$ can be extended to the whole of $\mathbb{C}$, apart from isolated singularities, by analytic continuation. Does the relation $(\star)$ still hold?