

SINGULARITIES – RESIDUES – RESIDUE THEOREM

Zeros of an analytic function

If a function $f(z)$ is analytic in a region R , is zero at a point $z = z_0$ in R , then z_0 is called a zero of $f(z)$.

Simple zero

If $f(z_0) = 0$ and $f'(z_0) \neq 0$, then $z = z_0$ is called a simple zero of $f(z)$ or a zero of the first order.

Zero of order n

If $f(z_0) = f'(z_0) = \dots = f^{n-1}(z_0) = 0$ and $f^n(z_0) \neq 0$, then z_0 is called zero of order n .

Problems based on zeros

Example: 4.27 Find the zeros of $f(z) = \frac{z^2+1}{1-z^2}$

Solution:

The zeros of $f(z)$ are given by $f(z) = 0$

$$(i.e.) f(z) = \frac{z^2+1}{1-z^2} = \frac{(z+i)(z-i)}{1-z^2} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (z+i)(z-i) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow z = i \text{ and } -i \text{ are simple zero.}$$

Example: 4.28 Find the zeros of $f(z) = \sin \frac{1}{z-a}$

Solution:

The zeros are given by $f(z) = 0$

$$(i.e.) \sin \frac{1}{z-a} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{z-a} = n\pi, n = \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

$$\Rightarrow (z-a)n\pi = 1$$

$\therefore$ The zeros are $z = a + \frac{1}{n\pi}, n = \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$

Example: 4.29 Find the zeros of $f(z) = \frac{\sin z - z}{z^3}$

Solution:

The zeros are given by $f(z) = 0$

$$(i.e.) \frac{\sin z - z}{z^3} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\left[z - \frac{z^3}{3!} + \frac{z^5}{5!} - \dots \right]}{z^3} - z = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{-\frac{z^3}{3!} + \frac{z^5}{5!} - \dots}{z^3} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{1}{3!} + \frac{z^2}{5!} - \dots = 0$$

$$\text{But } \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin z - z}{z^3} = -\frac{1}{3!} + 0$$

$\therefore f(z)$ has no zeros.

Example: 4.30 Find the zeros of $f(z) = \frac{1-e^{2z}}{z^4}$

Solution:

The zeros are given by $f(z) = 0$

$$(i.e.) \frac{1-e^{2z}}{z^4} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 - e^{2z} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow e^{2z} = e^{2in\pi}$$

$$(i.e.) 2z = 2in\pi$$

$$\Rightarrow z = in\pi, n = 0, \pm 1; \pm 2 \dots$$

Singular points

A point $z = z_0$ at which a function $f(z)$ fails to be analytic is called a singular point or singularity of $f(z)$.

Example: Consider $f(z) = \frac{1}{z-5}$

Here, $z = 5$, is a singular point of $f(z)$

Types of singularity

A point $z = z_0$ is said to be isolated singularity of $f(z)$ if

(i) $f(z)$ is not analytic at $z = z_0$

(ii) There exists a neighbourhood of $z = z_0$ containing no other singularity

Example: $f(z) = \frac{z}{z^2-1}$

This function is analytic everywhere except at $z = 1, -1$

$\therefore z = 1, -1$ are two isolated singular points.

When $z = z_0$ is an isolated singular point of $f(z)$, it can expand $f(z)$ as a Laurent's series about $z = z_0$

Thus

$$f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (z - z_0)^n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n (z - z_0)^{-n}$$

Note: If $z = z_0$ is an isolated singular point of a function $f(z)$, then the singularity is called

(i) a removable singularity (or)

(ii) a pole (or)

(iii) an essential singularity

According as the Laurent's series about $z = z_0$ of $f(z)$ has

(i) no negative powers (or)

(ii) a finite number of negative powers (or)

(iii) an infinite number of negative powers

Removable singularity

If the principal part of $f(z)$ in Laurent's series expansion contains no term (i.e.) $b_n = 0$ for all n , then the singularity $z = z_0$ is known as the removable singularity of $f(z)$

$$\therefore f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (z-z_0)^n$$

(OR)

A singular point $z = z_0$ is called a removable singularity of $f(z)$, if $\lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} f(z)$ exists finitely

Example: $f(z) = \frac{\sin z}{z}$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\sin z}{z} &= \frac{1}{z} \left[z - \frac{z^3}{3!} + \frac{z^5}{5!} \dots \right] \\ &= 1 - \frac{z^2}{3!} + \frac{z^4}{5!} \end{aligned}$$

There is no negative powers of z .

$\therefore z = 0$ is a removable singularity of $f(z)$.

Poles

If we can find the positive integer n such that $\lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} (z - z_0)^n f(z) \neq 0$, then $z = z_0$ is called a pole of order n for $f(z)$.

(or)

If $\lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} f(z) = \infty$, then $z = z_0$ is a pole of $f(z)$

Simple pole

A pole of order one is called a simple pole.

Example: $f(z) = \frac{1}{(z-1)^2(z+2)}$

Here $z = 1$ is a pole of order 2

$z = -2$ is a pole of order 1.

Essential singularity

If the principal part of $f(z)$ in Laurent's series expansion contains an infinite number of non zero terms, then $z = z_0$ is known as an essential singularity.

Example: $f(z) = e^{1/z} = 1 + \frac{1}{z} + \frac{\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)^2}{2!} + \dots$ has $z = 0$ as an essential singularity since, $f(z)$ is an infinite series of negative powers of z .

$f(z) = e^{\frac{1}{z}-4}$ has $z = 0$ an essential singularity

Note: The removable singularity and the poles are isolated singularities. But, the essential singularity is either an isolated or non-isolated singularity.

Entire function (or) Integral function

A function $f(z)$ which is analytic everywhere in the finite plane (except at infinity) is called an entire function or an integral function.

Example: $e^z, \sin z, \cos z$ are all entire functions.

Problems Based on Singularities

Example: 4.31 What is the nature of the singularity $z = 0$ of the function $f(z) = \frac{\sin z - z}{z^3}$

Solution:

$$\text{Given } f(z) = \frac{\sin z - z}{z^3}$$

The function $f(z)$ is not defined at $z = 0$

By L' Hospital's rule.

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin z - z}{z^3} &= \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos z - 1}{3z^2} \\ &= \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \frac{-\sin z}{6z} \\ &= \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} -\frac{\cos z}{6} = -\frac{1}{6}\end{aligned}$$

Since, the limit exists and is finite, the singularity at $z = 0$ is a removable singularity.

Example: 4.32 Classify the singularities for the function $f(z) = \frac{z - \sin z}{z}$

Solution:

$$\text{Given } f(z) = \frac{z - \sin z}{z}$$

The function $f(z)$ is not defined at $z = 0$

But by L' Hospital's rule.

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \frac{z - \sin z}{z} = \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} 1 - \cos z = 1 - 1 = 0$$

Since, the limit exists and is finite, the singularity at $z = 0$ is a removable singularity.

Example: 4.33 Find the singularity of $f(z) = \frac{e^{1/z}}{(z-a)^2}$

Solution:

$$\text{Given } f(z) = \frac{e^{1/z}}{(z-a)^2}$$

Poles of $f(z)$ are obtained by equating the denominator to zero.

$$(i.e.) (z - a)^2 = 0$$

$\Rightarrow z = a$ is a pole of order 2.

Now, Zeros of $f(z)$

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^{1/z}}{(z-a)^2} = \frac{\infty}{a^2} = \infty \neq 0$$

$\Rightarrow z = 0$ is a removable singularity.

$\therefore f(z)$ has no zeros.

Example: 4.34 Find the kind of singularity of the function $f(z) = \frac{\cot \pi z}{(z-a)^2}$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Given } f(z) &= \frac{\cot \pi z}{(z-a)^2} \\ &= \frac{\cos \pi z}{\sin \pi z (z-a)^2}\end{aligned}$$

Singular points are poles, are given by

$$\Rightarrow \sin \pi z (z - a)^2 = 0$$

$$(i.e.) \sin \pi z = 0, (z - a)^2 = 0$$

$\pi z = n\pi$, where $n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$

(i.e.) $z = n$

$z = a$ is a pole of order 2

Since $z = n, n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$

$z = \infty$ is a limit of these poles.

$\therefore z = \infty$ is non-isolated singularity.

Example: 4.35 Find the singular point of the function $f(z) = \sin z \frac{1}{z-a}$. State nature of singularity.

Solution:

$$\text{Given } f(z) = \sin z \frac{1}{z-a}$$

$z = a$ is the only singular point in the finite plane.

$$\sin z \frac{1}{z-a} = \frac{1}{z-a} - \frac{1}{3!(z-a)^3} + \frac{1}{5!(z-a)^5} - \dots$$

$z = a$ is an essential singularity

It is an isolated singularity.

Example: 4.36 Identify the type of singularity of the function $f(z) = \sin\left(\frac{1}{1-z}\right)$.

Solution:

$z = 1$ is the only singular point in the finite plane.

$z = 1$ is an essential singularity

It is an isolated singularity.

Example: 4.37 Find the singular points of the function $f(z) = \left(\frac{1}{\sin \frac{1}{z-a}}\right)$, state their nature.

Solution:

$f(z)$ has an infinite number of poles which are given by

$$\frac{1}{z-a} = n\pi, n = \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

$$(i.e.) z - a = \frac{1}{n\pi}; z = a + \frac{1}{n\pi}$$

But $z = a$ is also a singular point.

It is an essential singularity.

It is a limit point of the poles.

So, It is a non-isolated singularity.

Example: 4.38 Classify the singularity of $f(z) = \frac{\tan z}{z}$.

Solution:

$$\text{Given } f(z) = \frac{\tan z}{z}$$

$$= \frac{z + \frac{z^3}{3} + \frac{2z^5}{15} + \dots}{z}$$

$$= 1 + \frac{z^2}{3} + \frac{2z^4}{15} + \dots$$

$$\lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \frac{\tan z}{z} = 1 \neq 0$$

$\Rightarrow z = 0$ is a removable singularity of $f(z)$.

Example: 4.39 Find the residue of $\frac{1-e^z}{z^4}$ at $z = 0$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Given } f(z) = \frac{1-e^z}{z^4} &= \frac{1 - \left[1 + \frac{2z}{1!} + \frac{(2z)^2}{2!} + \frac{(2z)^3}{3!} + \frac{(2z)^4}{4!} + \dots \right]}{z^4} \\ &= \frac{- \left[\frac{2}{1!} + \frac{4z}{2!} + \frac{8z^2}{3!} + \frac{16z^3}{4!} + \dots \right]}{z^4} \end{aligned}$$

Here, $z = 0$ is a pole of order 3

$$\begin{aligned} [Res f(z), z = 0] &= \frac{1}{2!} \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \frac{d^2}{dz^2} [(z)^3 f(z)] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \frac{d^2}{dz^2} \left[- \left[\frac{2}{1!} + 2z + \frac{4z^2}{3} + \frac{2z^3}{3} + \dots \right] \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \frac{d}{dz} \left[- \left[2 + \frac{8}{3} z + \frac{6z^2}{3} + \dots \right] \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \left[- \left(\frac{8}{3} + \frac{12}{3} z + \dots \right) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{-8}{3} \right) = \frac{-4}{3} \end{aligned}$$

Example: 4.40 Find the residue of $f(z) = \tan z$ at $z = \frac{\pi}{2}$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} [Res f(z), z = \frac{\pi}{2}] &= \lim_{z \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}} \left(z - \frac{\pi}{2} \right) \tan z \\ &= \lim_{z \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{z - \frac{\pi}{2}}{\cot z} \quad \left[\frac{0}{0} \right] \text{ form} \\ &= \lim_{z \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{1}{-\operatorname{cosec}^2 z} = -1 \text{ [By L'Hospital rule]} \end{aligned}$$

Residue

The residue of $f(z)$ at $z = z_0$ is the coefficient of $\frac{1}{z-z_0}$ in the Laurent series of $f(z)$ about $z = z_0$

Evaluation of Residues

(i) If $z = z_0$ is a pole of order one (simple pole) for $f(z)$, then

$$[Res f(z), z = z_0] = \lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} (z - z_0) f(z).$$

(ii) If $z = z_0$ is a pole of order n for $f(z)$, then

$$[Res f(z), z = z_0] = \lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} \frac{1}{(n-1)!} \frac{d^{n-1}}{dz^{n-1}} (z - z_0)^n f(z)$$

Problems based on Residues

Example: 4.41 Calculate the residue of $f(z) = \frac{e^{2z}}{(z+1)^2}$ at its pole.

Solution:

Given $f(z) = \frac{e^{2z}}{(z+1)^2}$ Here, $z = -1$ is a pole of order 2.

We know that,

$$[Res f(z), z = z_0] = \lim_{z \rightarrow z_0} \frac{1}{(m-1)!} \frac{d^{m-1}}{dz^{m-1}} (z - z_0)^m f(z)$$

Here, $m = 2$

$$\begin{aligned} [Res f(z), z = -1] &= \lim_{z \rightarrow -1} \frac{1}{1!} \frac{d}{dz} (z + 1)^2 \frac{e^{2z}}{(z+1)^2} \\ &= \lim_{z \rightarrow -1} \frac{d}{dz} [e^{2z}] = \lim_{z \rightarrow -1} 2[e^{2z}] = 2e^{-2} \end{aligned}$$

Example: 4.42 Find the residues at $z = 0$ of the function (i) $f(z) = e^{1/z}$ (ii) $f(z) = \frac{\sin z}{z^4}$

(iii) $f(z) = z \cos \frac{1}{z}$

Solution:

The residues are the coefficients of $\frac{1}{z}$ in the Laurent's expansions of $f(z)$ about $z = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(i) } e^{1/z} &= 1 + \frac{\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)}{1!} + \frac{\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)^2}{2!} + \dots \\ &= 1 + \frac{1}{1!} \left(\frac{1}{z}\right) + \frac{1}{2!} \left(\frac{1}{z}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{3!} \left(\frac{1}{z}\right)^3 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

$[Res f(z), 0] = \text{coefficient of } \frac{1}{z} \text{ in Laurent's expansion.}$

$$[Res f(z), 0] = \frac{1}{1!} = 1 \text{ by definition of residue.}$$

$$\text{(ii) } f(z) = \frac{\sin z}{z^4} = \frac{1}{z^4} \left[z - \frac{z^3}{3!} + \frac{z^5}{5!} - \dots \right] = \frac{1}{z^3} - \frac{1}{3!} \frac{1}{z} + \frac{z^5}{5!} - \dots$$

$[Res f(z), 0] = \text{coefficient of } \frac{1}{z} \text{ in Laurent's expansion.}$

$$[Res f(z), 0] = -\frac{1}{3!} = -\frac{1}{6} \text{ by definition of residue.}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(iii) } f(z) &= z \cos \frac{1}{z} = z \left[1 - \frac{1}{2!} \frac{1}{z^2} + \frac{1}{4!} \frac{1}{z^4} - \dots \right] \\ &= z - \frac{1}{2!} \frac{1}{z} + \frac{1}{4!} \frac{1}{z^3} - \dots \end{aligned}$$

$[Res f(z), 0] = \text{coefficient of } \frac{1}{z} \text{ in Laurent's expansion.}$

$$[Res f(z), 0] = -\frac{1}{2!} = -\frac{1}{2}$$

Example: 4.43 Find the residue of $z^2 \sin \left(\frac{1}{z}\right)$ at $z = 0$

Solution:

$$\text{Let } f(z) = z^2 \sin \left(\frac{1}{z}\right) = z^2 \left[\frac{\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)}{1!} - \frac{\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)^3}{3!} + \dots \right] = \frac{z}{1!} - \frac{1}{6z} + \dots$$

$[Res f(z), 0] = \text{coefficient of } \frac{1}{z} \text{ in Laurent's expansion.}$

$$= -\frac{1}{6}$$

Example: 4.44 Find the residue of the function $f(z) = \frac{4}{z^3(z-2)}$ at a simple pole.

Solution:

Here, $z = 2$ is a simple pole.

$$\begin{aligned}[Res f(z), z = 2] &= \lim_{z \rightarrow 2} (z - 2) \frac{4}{z^3(z-2)} \\ &= \lim_{z \rightarrow 2} \frac{4}{z^3} = \frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{2}\end{aligned}$$

Example: 4.45 Find the residue of $\frac{1-e^{-z}}{z^3}$ at $z = 0$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Given } f(z) = \frac{1-e^{-z}}{z^3} &= \frac{1 - \left[1 - \frac{z}{1!} + \frac{(z)^2}{2!} - \frac{(z)^3}{3!} + \frac{(z)^4}{4!} - \dots \right]}{z^3} \\ &= \frac{\left[1 - \frac{z}{2!} + \frac{z^2}{3!} - \frac{z^3}{4!} + \dots \right]}{z^2}\end{aligned}$$

Here, $z = 0$ is a pole of order 2.

$$\begin{aligned}[Res f(z), z = 0] &= \frac{1}{1!} \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \frac{d}{dz} [(z)^2 f(z)] \\ &= \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \frac{d}{dz} \left[1 - \frac{z}{2!} + \frac{z^2}{3!} - \frac{z^3}{4!} + \dots \right] \\ &= \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} \left[\frac{-1}{2!} + \frac{2z}{3!} - \frac{3z^2}{4!} + \dots \right] \\ &= \frac{-1}{2!} = -\frac{1}{2}\end{aligned}$$