2.5 The Cauchy-Riemann Equations

Note that

$$|\varepsilon_1(x,y)| \le |\varepsilon(x,y)|, \qquad |\varepsilon_2(x,y)| \le |\varepsilon(x,y)|$$

and since $\varepsilon(x, y)$ tends to zero as $(x, y) \to (x_0, y_0)$, both $\varepsilon_1(x, y)$ and $\varepsilon_2(x, y)$ tend to zero as $(x, y) \to (x_0, y_0)$. Hence both *u* and *v* are differentiable at (x_0, y_0) . Consequently, the partial derivatives of *u* and *v* exist (Theorem 2.4.3) and we have

$$u_x(x_0, y_0) = A$$
 $u_y(x_0, y_0) = -B$
 $v_x(x_0, y_0) = B$ $v_y(x_0, y_0) = A.$

The Cauchy-Riemann equations (2.5.7) follow from this.

To prove the converse direction we assume that u and v are differentiable on U and satisfy (2.5.7). By the definition of differentiability (Definition 2.4.1) we write

$$u(x,y) - u(x_0,y_0) = u_x(x_0,y_0)(x-x_0) + u_y(x_0,y_0)(y-y_0) + \varepsilon_1(x,y)|(x-x_0,y-y_0)|$$

$$v(x,y) - v(x_0,y_0) = v_x(x_0,y_0)(x-x_0) + v_y(x_0,y_0)(y-y_0) + \varepsilon_2(x,y)|(x-x_0,y-y_0)|$$

where the $\varepsilon_1(x, y)$, $\varepsilon_2(x, y)$ are functions that tend to zero as $(x, y) \rightarrow (x_0, y_0)$. Adding the displayed expressions (after multiplying the second one by *i*), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} f(x+iy) - f(x_0 + iy_0) \\ &= (u_x(x_0, y_0) + iv_x(x_0, y_0))(x - x_0) + (u_y(x_0, y_0) + iv_y(x_0, y_0))(y - y_0) \\ &+ \varepsilon_1(x, y)|(x - x_0, y - y_0)| + i\varepsilon_2(x, y)|(x - x_0, y - y_0)| \\ &= (u_x(x_0, y_0) + iv_x(x_0, y_0))(x - x_0) + (-v_x(x_0, y_0) + iu_x(x_0, y_0))(y - y_0) \\ &+ \varepsilon_1(x, y)|(x - x_0, y - y_0)| + i\varepsilon_2(x, y)|(x - x_0, y - y_0)| \\ &= (u_x(x_0, y_0) + iv_x(x_0, y_0))(x - x_0 + i(y - y_0)) + E(x + iy)(x - x_0 + i(y - y_0)) \end{aligned}$$

where in the second equality we used assumption (2.5.7) and we set

$$E(x+iy) = \varepsilon_1(x,y) \frac{|(x-x_0,y-y_0)|}{x-x_0+i(y-y_0)} + i\varepsilon_2(x,y) \frac{|(x-x_0,y-y_0)|}{x-x_0+i(y-y_0)}.$$

Notice that

$$|E(x+iy)| \le |\varepsilon_1(x,y)| + |\varepsilon_2(x,y)|,$$

which tends to 0 as $(x, y) \rightarrow (x_0, y_0)$. We have now shown that

$$f(z) - f(z_0) = (u_x(z_0) + iv_x(z_0))(z - z_0) + E(z)(z - z_0)$$

which implies that *f* is analytic and that $f'(z_0) = u_x(z_0) + iv_x(z_0)$. This proves one identity in (2.5.8), while the other one is a consequence of this one and (2.5.7).

Corollary 2.5.2. If u, v are real-valued functions defined on an open subset U of \mathbb{R}^2 which have continuous partial derivatives that satisfy $u_x = v_y$, $u_y = -v_x$, then the complex-valued function f(x + iy) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y) is analytic on U.

Proof. Apply Theorems 2.4.4 and 2.5.1.