7.5 Green's Functions

$$u(z) = \frac{y}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{u(s)}{(x-s)^2 + y^2} \, ds \quad (z = x + iy),$$

which is Poisson's formula for the upper half-plane.

We give one more example of a Green's function.

**Example 7.5.6. (Green's function for a semi-infinite vertical strip)** Compute Green's function for a semi-infinite vertical strip.

We can map the strip  $\Omega$  in Figure 7.104 conformally onto the upper half-plane using the mapping  $w = \sin z$ . Composing the function (7.5.12) with this, we obtain a one-to-one analytic mapping of  $\Omega$  onto the unit disk, taking z in  $\Omega$ onto the origin. Thus the Green's function for  $\Omega$  is

$$G(z, \zeta) = \ln \left| \frac{\sin z - \sin \zeta}{\sin z - \sin \zeta} \right|. \quad \Box$$



**Fig. 7.104** A semi-infinite vertical strip.

Next we prove next some interesting properties of Green's functions.

**Theorem 7.5.7. (Properties of Green's Functions)** Suppose that  $\Omega$  is a simply connected region with boundary  $\Gamma$ , and let  $\phi$ ,  $\Phi(z, \zeta)$ , and  $G(z, \zeta)$  be as in Theorem 7.5.2. Then the Green's function G has the following properties: (i)  $G(z, \zeta) \leq 0$  for all z and  $\zeta$  in  $\Omega$ ; (ii)  $G(z, \zeta) = 0$  for all z in  $\Omega$  and  $\zeta$  on  $\Gamma$ ; (iii)  $G(z, \zeta) = G(\zeta, z)$  for all z and  $\zeta$  in  $\Omega$  (symmetric property); (iv) for each z in  $\Omega$ , there is a function  $\zeta \mapsto u_1(z, \zeta)$  such that  $u_1(z, \zeta)$  is harmonic for all  $\zeta$  in  $\Omega$ ,  $u_1(z, \zeta) = -\ln|z - \zeta|$  for all  $\zeta$  on the boundary  $\Gamma$ , and  $G(z, \zeta) = u_1(z, \zeta) + \ln|z - \zeta|$  for all  $\zeta \neq z$  in  $\Omega$ .

Properties (*i*) and (*ii*) could be verified on the graphs of the Green's functions in Figures 7.102 and 7.103. Before we prove the theorem, we illustrate the properties in Figure 7.105 for a typical case where  $\Omega$  is the upper half-plane and Green's function is anchored at z = 1 + i.

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