

The Poisson Integral Formula

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$$u(r, \theta) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{(r_0^2 - r^2)u(r_0, \phi)}{r_0^2 - 2r_0r \cos(\phi - \theta) + r^2} d\phi \quad (r < r_0)$$

- Motivation: The Heat Equation $\nabla^2 u = a^2 \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$
 - Determines temperature on the inside of a domain D given information at the boundary (boundary conditions) ∂D .
 - Of interest to engineering and other real world situations. Many of which can be modeled using similar equations.
- Dirichlet Problem
 - Note how in the earlier heat equation, the boundary conditions were known and from these we wanted to derive the function on its domain.
 - The Dirichlet Problem specifically requires two things: one, that we have a function harmonic in some domain and two, the value of the function at the boundary of the domain.
 - Initially used for real world problems, eventually became a field in and of itself.
- Poisson Integral Formula and Dirichlet Problem
 - Here is the Dirichlet Problem for the domain of a disk.
 - $\nabla^2 u(r, \theta) = 0$
 - $u(r_0, \theta) = f(\theta)$
 - Poisson Integral Formula uniquely solves all problems with this form.

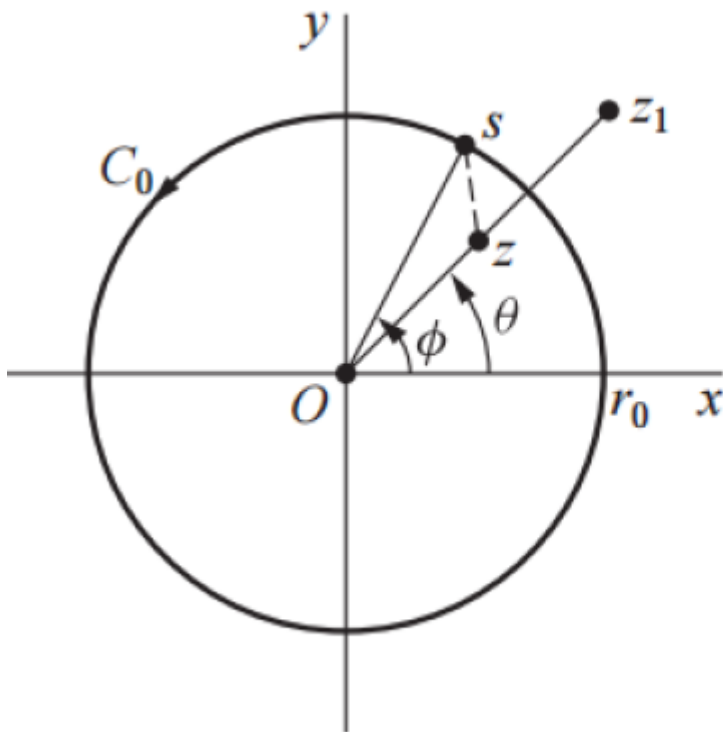


FIGURE 177

- Extra: If a solution exists, it must be unique by the Maximum Principle (for Dirichlet at least).
- Connections to Complex
 - Poisson Integral Formula can be derived from the familiar Cauchy Integral Formula
 - $f(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{C_0} \frac{f(s)}{s-z} ds$
 - Derivation involves concept of the “inverse with respect to the circle” as well as extracting the real part from a complex formula.