

Physics 3041 (Spring 2021) Solutions to Homework Set 3

1. (a) Problem 5.2.3. (5 points)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2+3i}{6+7i} + \frac{2}{x+iy} &= \frac{(2+3i)(6-7i)}{(6+7i)(6-7i)} + \frac{2}{x+iy} = \frac{33+4i}{85} + \frac{2}{x+iy} = 2+9i, \\ \frac{2}{x+iy} &= 2+9i - \frac{33+4i}{85} = \frac{85(2+9i) - (33+4i)}{85} = \frac{137+761i}{85}, \\ x+iy &= \frac{170}{137+761i} = \frac{170(137-761i)}{(137+761i)(137-761i)} = \frac{170(137-761i)}{137^2+761^2}, \end{aligned}$$

which gives

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \frac{170 \times 137}{137^2 + 761^2} = \frac{137}{3517}, \\ y &= -\frac{170 \times 761}{137^2 + 761^2} = -\frac{761}{3517}. \end{aligned}$$

(b) Problem 5.2.4.(iv). (5 points)

We first show that $|z_1/z_2| = |z_1|/|z_2|$.

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{z_1}{z_2} \right| &= \left| \frac{x_1 + iy_1}{x_2 + iy_2} \right| = \left| \frac{(x_1 + iy_1)(x_2 - iy_2)}{(x_2 + iy_2)(x_2 - iy_2)} \right| = \frac{|(x_1 + iy_1)(x_2 - iy_2)|}{x_2^2 + y_2^2} \\ &= \frac{|(x_1x_2 + y_1y_2) + i(x_2y_1 - x_1y_2)|}{x_2^2 + y_2^2} = \frac{\sqrt{(x_1x_2 + y_1y_2)^2 + (x_2y_1 - x_1y_2)^2}}{x_2^2 + y_2^2} \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{x_1^2x_2^2 + y_1^2y_2^2 + x_2^2y_1^2 + x_1^2y_2^2}}{x_2^2 + y_2^2} = \frac{\sqrt{(x_1^2 + y_1^2)(x_2^2 + y_2^2)}}{x_2^2 + y_2^2} = \frac{\sqrt{x_1^2 + y_1^2}}{\sqrt{x_2^2 + y_2^2}} = \frac{|z_1|}{|z_2|}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} z &= \frac{1+i\sqrt{2}}{1-i\sqrt{3}} = \frac{(1+i\sqrt{2})(1+i\sqrt{3})}{(1-i\sqrt{3})(1+i\sqrt{3})} = \frac{1-\sqrt{6}+i(\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{3})}{4} \Rightarrow \operatorname{Re}(z) = \frac{1-\sqrt{6}}{4}, \\ \operatorname{Im}(z) &= \frac{\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{3}}{4}, \quad |z| = \frac{|1+i\sqrt{2}|}{|1-i\sqrt{3}|} = \frac{\sqrt{1+2}}{\sqrt{1+3}} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} = \sqrt{[\operatorname{Re}(z)]^2 + [\operatorname{Im}(z)]^2}, \\ z^* &= \frac{1-\sqrt{6}-i(\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{3})}{4}, \quad \frac{1}{z} = \frac{z^*}{|z|^2} = \frac{1-\sqrt{6}-i(\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{3})}{4(\sqrt{3}/2)^2} = \frac{1-\sqrt{6}-i(\sqrt{2}+\sqrt{3})}{3}. \end{aligned}$$

(c) Problem 5.2.5. (10 points)

We first show that $(z_1z_2)^* = z_1^*z_2^*$.

$$\begin{aligned} (z_1z_2)^* &= [(x_1 + iy_1)(x_2 + iy_2)]^* = [x_1x_2 - y_1y_2 + i(x_1y_2 + y_1x_2)]^* = x_1x_2 - y_1y_2 - i(x_1y_2 + y_1x_2) \\ z_1^*z_2^* &= (x_1 + iy_1)^*(x_2 + iy_2)^* = (x_1 - iy_1)(x_2 - iy_2) = x_1x_2 - y_1y_2 - i(x_1y_2 + y_1x_2) = (z_1z_2)^* \end{aligned}$$

It is straightforward to generalize the above result to $(z^m)^* = (z^*)^m$ for integers of $m \geq 2$.

Now if z satisfies

$$a_0 + a_1z + a_2z^2 + \cdots + a_nz^n = 0,$$

where the coefficients a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n are real, then taking complex conjugation of both sides of the equation gives

$$a_0 + a_1z^* + a_2(z^2)^* + \cdots + a_n(z^n)^* = 0 \Rightarrow a_0 + a_1z^* + a_2(z^*)^2 + \cdots + a_n(z^*)^n = 0.$$

Therefore, both z and z^* are the roots of the above polynomial equation, which means the roots are either real ($z = z^*$) or pairs of complex conjugates.

(d) Problem 5.3.2. (20 points)

$$(i) z_1 = \frac{1+i}{\sqrt{2}} = \cos \frac{\pi}{4} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{4} = e^{i\pi/4} \Rightarrow z_1^* = e^{-i\pi/4}, |z_1| = 1,$$

$$z_2 = \sqrt{3} - i = 2 \times \frac{\sqrt{3} - i}{2} = 2 \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{6} - i \sin \frac{\pi}{6} \right) = 2e^{-i\pi/6} \Rightarrow z_2^* = 2e^{i\pi/6}, |z_2| = 2,$$

$$z_1z_2 = e^{i\pi/4} \times 2e^{-i\pi/6} = 2e^{i\pi/12}, \quad \frac{z_1}{z_2} = \frac{e^{i\pi/4}}{2e^{-i\pi/6}} = \frac{1}{2}e^{5i\pi/12}, \quad \left(\frac{z_1}{z_2} \right)^* = \frac{1}{2}e^{-5i\pi/12}.$$

$$(ii) z_1 = \frac{3+4i}{3-4i} = \frac{5e^{i \tan^{-1}(4/3)}}{5e^{-i \tan^{-1}(4/3)}} = e^{2i \tan^{-1}(4/3)} \Rightarrow z_1^* = e^{-2i \tan^{-1}(4/3)}, |z_1| = 1,$$

$$z_2 = \left[\frac{1+2i}{1-3i} \right]^2 = \left[\frac{(1+2i)(1+3i)}{(1-3i)(1+3i)} \right]^2 = \left[\frac{1-6+5i}{10} \right]^2 = \left[\frac{-1+i}{2} \right]^2 = \frac{1-1-2i}{4} = -\frac{i}{2}$$

$$= \frac{e^{-i\pi/2}}{2} \Rightarrow z_2^* = \frac{e^{i\pi/2}}{2}, |z_2| = \frac{1}{2},$$

$$z_1z_2 = e^{2i \tan^{-1}(4/3)} \times \frac{e^{-i\pi/2}}{2} = \frac{e^{i[2 \tan^{-1}(4/3) - (\pi/2)]}}{2}, \quad \frac{z_1}{z_2} = \frac{e^{2i \tan^{-1}(4/3)}}{(1/2)e^{-i\pi/2}} = 2e^{i[2 \tan^{-1}(4/3) + (\pi/2)]},$$

$$\left(\frac{z_1}{z_2} \right)^* = 2e^{-i[2 \tan^{-1}(4/3) + (\pi/2)]}.$$

2. (a) Problem 5.3.5. (10 points)

$$S = e^{i\theta} + e^{3i\theta} + \cdots + e^{(2n-1)i\theta}, \quad e^{2i\theta}S = e^{3i\theta} + \cdots + e^{(2n-1)i\theta} + e^{(2n+1)i\theta}$$

$$(1 - e^{2i\theta})S = e^{i\theta} - e^{(2n+1)i\theta}$$

$$S = \frac{e^{i\theta} - e^{(2n+1)i\theta}}{1 - e^{2i\theta}} = \frac{1 - e^{2ni\theta}}{e^{-i\theta} - e^{i\theta}} = \frac{i(1 - e^{2ni\theta})}{2 \sin \theta} = \frac{i(1 - \cos 2n\theta) + \sin 2n\theta}{2 \sin \theta}$$

$$\operatorname{Re}(S) = \cos \theta + \cos 3\theta + \cdots + \cos(2n-1)\theta = \frac{\sin 2n\theta}{2 \sin \theta},$$

$$\operatorname{Im}(S) = \sin \theta + \sin 3\theta + \cdots + \sin(2n-1)\theta = \frac{1 - \cos 2n\theta}{2 \sin \theta} = \frac{\sin^2 n\theta}{\sin \theta}.$$

(b) Problem 5.3.6. (10 points)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \cos 4\theta + i \sin 4\theta &= (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^4 \\
 &= \cos^4 \theta + 4 \cos^3 \theta (i \sin \theta) + 6 \cos^2 \theta (i \sin \theta)^2 + 4 \cos \theta (i \sin \theta)^3 + (i \sin \theta)^4 \\
 &= \cos^4 \theta - 6 \cos^2 \theta \sin^2 \theta + \sin^4 \theta + 4i(\cos^3 \theta \sin \theta - \cos \theta \sin^3 \theta), \\
 \cos 4\theta &= \cos^4 \theta - 6 \cos^2 \theta \sin^2 \theta + \sin^4 \theta, \\
 \sin 4\theta &= 4(\cos^3 \theta \sin \theta - \cos \theta \sin^3 \theta).
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 e^{i(A+B)} &= \cos(A+B) + i \sin(A+B) \\
 &= e^{iA} e^{iB} = (\cos A + i \sin A)(\cos B + i \sin B) \\
 &= \cos A \cos B - \sin A \sin B + i(\sin A \cos B + \cos A \sin B), \\
 \cos(A+B) &= \cos A \cos B - \sin A \sin B, \\
 \sin(A+B) &= \sin A \cos B + \cos A \sin B.
 \end{aligned}$$

(c) Find $\int_0^\infty x e^{-ax} \cos kx dx$ using Euler's formula. (10 points)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_0^\infty x e^{-ax} \cos kx dx &= \int_0^\infty (x e^{-ax}) \frac{e^{ikx} + e^{-ikx}}{2} dx = \int_0^\infty x \times \frac{e^{-(a-ik)x} + e^{-(a+ik)x}}{2} dx \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{1}{(a-ik)^2} + \frac{1}{(a+ik)^2} \right] = \frac{(a+ik)^2 + (a-ik)^2}{2(a-ik)^2(a+ik)^2} = \frac{a^2 - k^2}{(a^2 + k^2)^2},
 \end{aligned}$$

where we have made the substitutions $z = (a \pm ik)x$ and used $\int_0^\infty z e^{-z} dz = 1$ for $a > 0$.

3. Given the intensity pattern for the N -slit interference with separation d between adjacent slits, show that the pattern becomes that for the single-slit diffraction with slit width a when d goes to zero but with a fixed value of $Nd = a$. (10 points)

From the lectures, the intensity pattern for the N -slit interference is described by

$$\bar{I}(\theta) = \bar{I}(0) \left[\frac{\sin(N\pi d \sin \theta / \lambda)}{N \sin(\pi d \sin \theta / \lambda)} \right]^2.$$

In the limit of $d \rightarrow 0$, $\sin(\pi d \sin \theta / \lambda) \rightarrow \pi d \sin \theta / \lambda$, so we have

$$\bar{I}(\theta) \rightarrow \bar{I}(0) \left[\frac{\sin(N\pi d \sin \theta / \lambda)}{N\pi d \sin \theta / \lambda} \right]^2 = \bar{I}(0) \left[\frac{\sin(\pi a \sin \theta / \lambda)}{\pi a \sin \theta / \lambda} \right]^2,$$

where we have used $Nd = a$. The above limiting result is the intensity pattern for the single-slit diffraction.

4. (1) Find the roots z_n ($n = 1, 2, \dots, N$) of the complex equation $z^N = 1$. (5 points)

$$z^N = 1 = e^{i2k\pi}, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots \Rightarrow z = e^{i2k\pi/N}.$$

So we can take $z_n = e^{i2(n-1)\pi/N}$. Note that values of $n \geq N+1$ do not give new roots as $e^{i2k\pi} = 1$.

(2) Find $S_N = \sum_{n=1}^N z_n$ and give a geometric interpretation of the result. (10 points)

Let $\phi = 2\pi/N$. So $z_n = e^{i(n-1)\phi}$.

$$S_N = 1 + e^{i\phi} + e^{i2\phi} + \dots + e^{i(N-1)\phi}, \quad e^{i\phi} S_N = e^{i\phi} + e^{i2\phi} + \dots + e^{i(N-1)\phi} + e^{iN\phi}$$

$$(1 - e^{i\phi})S_N = 1 - e^{iN\phi} \Rightarrow S_N = \frac{1 - e^{iN\phi}}{1 - e^{i\phi}} = \frac{1 - e^{i2\pi}}{1 - e^{i2\pi/N}} = 0.$$

Recall that the complex number $e^{i\phi}$ corresponds to a unit vector making an angle ϕ with respect to the x -axis and that counterclockwise rotation of a vector by an angle ϕ corresponds to multiplication by $e^{i\phi}$. So S_N represents the sum of N unit vectors that form the sides of a regular polygon. This vectorial sum vanishes because the vectors form a closed figure.

(3) Note that $1 - z^N = (1 - z)(1 + z + z^2 + \dots + z^{N-1})$. Relate this result and the roots z_n to the conditions for destructive interference among N slits. (5 points)

The net electric field at a point on the observational screen for N -slit interference can be represented by a sum $1 + z + z^2 + \dots + z^{N-1}$, where $z = e^{i\phi'}$ with $\phi' = 2\pi d \sin \theta / \lambda$ being the phase difference between the contributions from adjacent slits. When $\phi' = 2k\pi/N$ or $d \sin \theta = k\lambda/N$ ($k = 1, 2, \dots, N-1$), z becomes the roots z_n ($n \geq 2$) and the sum vanishes because $1 - z^N = 0$ but $1 - z \neq 0$. For values of $k \geq N+1$ that are not integer multiples of N , the same roots are repeated due to $e^{i2\pi} = 1$.