

Arfken 6.4.4.

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The problem is to evaluate the integral

$$\oint_C \frac{dz}{(z^2 - 1)}$$

Where C is the circle

$$|z| = 2$$

that is a circle with radius 2 centered on origo in the complex plane.

Observe that this is a contour integral around a closed curve in the complex plane with a singularity at $z = 1$

This can be seen by expansion of the denominator with the conjugate rule.

$$\oint_C \frac{dz}{z^2 - 1} = \oint_C \frac{dz}{(z - 1)(z + 1)} = \oint_C \frac{\frac{dz}{z + 1}}{z - 1}$$

Cauchy's integral formula

$$\oint_C \frac{f(z) dz}{(z - a)} = 2\pi i f(a)$$

$$\oint_C \frac{dz}{z^2 - 1} = 2\pi i f(1) = 2\pi i \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \pi i$$

$$\text{Answer: } \oint_{|z|=2} \frac{dz}{z^2 - 1} = \pi i$$