

**EXAMPLE 1.** For an equilateral triangle,  $k_1 = k_2 = k_3 = 2/3$ . It is convenient to write  $x_1 = -1$ ,  $x_2 = 1$ , and  $x_3 = \infty$  and to use equation (2), with  $z_0 = 1$ ,  $A = 1$ , and  $B = 0$ . The transformation then becomes

$$(3) \quad w = \int_1^z (s+1)^{-2/3} (s-1)^{-2/3} ds.$$

The image of the point  $z = 1$  is clearly  $w = 0$ ; that is,  $w_2 = 0$ . If  $z = -1$  in this integral, one can write  $s = x$ , where  $-1 < x < 1$ . Then

$$x + 1 > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \arg(x + 1) = 0,$$

while

$$|x - 1| = 1 - x \quad \text{and} \quad \arg(x - 1) = \pi.$$

Hence

$$(4) \quad \begin{aligned} w &= \int_1^{-1} (x+1)^{-2/3} (1-x)^{-2/3} \exp\left(-\frac{2\pi i}{3}\right) dx \\ &= \exp\left(\frac{\pi i}{3}\right) \int_0^1 \frac{2 dx}{(1-x^2)^{2/3}} \end{aligned}$$

when  $z = -1$ . With the substitution  $x = \sqrt{t}$ , the last integral here reduces to a special case of the one used in defining the beta function (Exercise 5, Sec. 91). Let  $b$  denote its value, which is positive:

$$(5) \quad b = \int_0^1 \frac{2 dx}{(1-x^2)^{2/3}} = \int_0^1 t^{-1/2} (1-t)^{-2/3} dt = B\left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}\right).$$

The vertex  $w_1$  is, therefore, the point (Fig. 182)

$$(6) \quad w_1 = b \exp \frac{\pi i}{3}.$$

The vertex  $w_3$  is on the positive  $u$  axis because

$$w_3 = \int_1^{\infty} (x+1)^{-2/3} (x-1)^{-2/3} dx = \int_1^{\infty} \frac{dx}{(x^2-1)^{2/3}}.$$

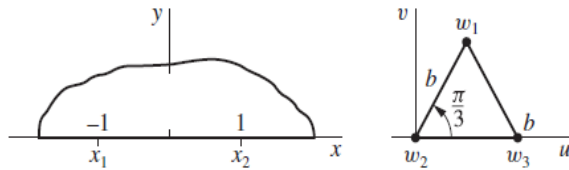


FIGURE 182

But the value of  $w_3$  is also represented by integral (3) when  $z$  tends to infinity along the negative  $x$  axis; that is,

$$w_3 = \int_1^{-1} (|x+1||x-1|)^{-2/3} \exp\left(-\frac{2\pi i}{3}\right) dx \\ + \int_{-1}^{-\infty} (|x+1||x-1|)^{-2/3} \exp\left(-\frac{4\pi i}{3}\right) dx.$$

In view of the first of expressions (4) for  $w_1$ , then,

$$w_3 = w_1 + \exp\left(-\frac{4\pi i}{3}\right) \int_{-1}^{-\infty} (|x+1||x-1|)^{-2/3} dx \\ = b \exp \frac{\pi i}{3} + \exp\left(-\frac{\pi i}{3}\right) \int_1^{\infty} \frac{dx}{(x^2-1)^{2/3}},$$

or

$$w_3 = b \exp \frac{\pi i}{3} + w_3 \exp\left(-\frac{\pi i}{3}\right).$$

Solving for  $w_3$ , we find that

$$(7) \quad w_3 = b.$$

We have thus verified that the image of the  $x$  axis is the equilateral triangle of side  $b$  shown in Fig. 182. We can also see that

$$w = \frac{b}{2} \exp \frac{\pi i}{3} \quad \text{when } z = 0.$$

When the polygon is a rectangle, each  $k_j = 1/2$ . If we choose  $\pm 1$  and  $\pm a$  as the points  $x_j$  whose images are the vertices and write

$$(8) \quad g(z) = (z+a)^{-1/2}(z+1)^{-1/2}(z-1)^{-1/2}(z-a)^{-1/2},$$

where  $0 \leq \arg(z-x_j) \leq \pi$ , the Schwarz-Christoffel transformation becomes

$$(9) \quad w = - \int_0^z g(s) ds,$$

except for a transformation  $W = Aw + B$  to adjust the size and position of the rectangle. Integral (9) is a constant times the elliptic integral

$$\int_0^z (1-s^2)^{-1/2}(1-k^2s^2)^{-1/2} ds \quad \left(k = \frac{1}{a}\right),$$

but the form (8) of the integrand indicates more clearly the appropriate branches of the power functions involved.

**EXAMPLE 2.** Let us locate the vertices of the rectangle when  $a > 1$ . As shown in Fig. 183,  $x_1 = -a$ ,  $x_2 = -1$ ,  $x_3 = 1$ , and  $x_4 = a$ . All four vertices can be described in terms of two positive numbers  $b$  and  $c$  that depend on the value of  $a$  in the following manner:

$$(10) \quad b = \int_0^1 |g(x)| dx = \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{\sqrt{(1-x^2)(a^2-x^2)}},$$

$$(11) \quad c = \int_1^a |g(x)| dx = \int_1^a \frac{dx}{\sqrt{(x^2-1)(a^2-x^2)}}.$$

If  $-1 < x < 0$ , then

$$\arg(x+a) = \arg(x+1) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \arg(x-1) = \arg(x-a) = \pi;$$

hence

$$g(x) = \left[ \exp\left(-\frac{\pi i}{2}\right) \right]^2 |g(x)| = -|g(x)|.$$

If  $-a < x < -1$ , then

$$g(x) = \left[ \exp\left(-\frac{\pi i}{2}\right) \right]^3 |g(x)| = i|g(x)|.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} w_1 &= -\int_0^{-a} g(x) dx = -\int_0^{-1} g(x) dx - \int_{-1}^{-a} g(x) dx \\ &= \int_0^{-1} |g(x)| dx - i \int_{-1}^{-a} |g(x)| dx = -b + ic. \end{aligned}$$

It is left to the exercises to show that

$$(12) \quad w_2 = -b, \quad w_3 = b, \quad w_4 = b + ic.$$

The position and dimensions of the rectangle are shown in Fig. 183.

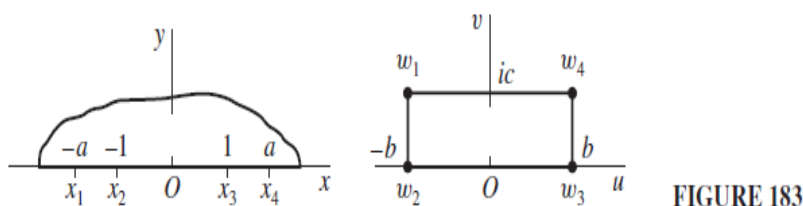


FIGURE 183

**EXAMPLE 1.** Let us map the half plane  $y \geq 0$  onto the semi-infinite strip

$$-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq u \leq \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad v \geq 0.$$

We consider the strip as the limiting form of a triangle with vertices  $w_1$ ,  $w_2$ , and  $w_3$  (Fig. 184) as the imaginary part of  $w_3$  tends to infinity.

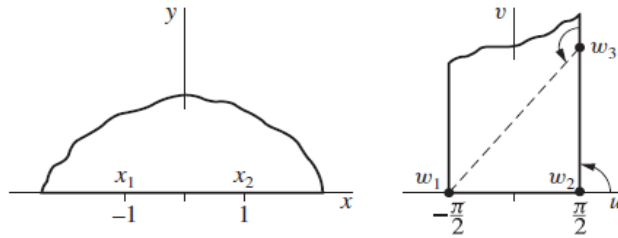


FIGURE 184

The limiting values of the exterior angles are

$$k_1\pi = k_2\pi = \frac{\pi}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad k_3\pi = \pi.$$

We choose the points  $x_1 = -1$ ,  $x_2 = 1$ , and  $x_3 = \infty$  as the points whose images are the vertices. Then the derivative of the mapping function can be written

$$\frac{dw}{dz} = A(z+1)^{-1/2}(z-1)^{-1/2} = A'(1-z^2)^{-1/2}.$$

Hence  $w = A' \sin^{-1} z + B$ . If we write  $A' = 1/a$  and  $B = b/a$ , it follows that

$$z = \sin(aw - b).$$

This transformation from the  $w$  to the  $z$  plane satisfies the conditions  $z = -1$  when  $w = -\pi/2$  and  $z = 1$  when  $w = \pi/2$  if  $a = 1$  and  $b = 0$ . The resulting transformation is

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## Schwarz–Christoffel Transformation

From 1-5

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