

Given any function $\alpha(x, y)$ which satisfies $\nabla^2\alpha = 0$, let's construct a function β as follows:

$$\beta = \int \frac{\partial\alpha}{\partial x} dy \quad (1)$$

So, differentiating (1) with respect to y gives:

$$\frac{\partial\beta}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial\alpha}{\partial x} \quad (2)$$

Differentiating (1) with respect to x gives:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial\beta}{\partial x} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \int \frac{\partial\alpha}{\partial x} dy, \text{ or} \\ \frac{\partial\beta}{\partial x} &= \int \frac{\partial^2\alpha}{\partial x^2} dy \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Now since $\nabla^2\alpha = 0$:

$$\frac{\partial^2\alpha}{\partial x^2} = \nabla^2\alpha - \frac{\partial^2\alpha}{\partial y^2}$$

and so (3) can be written as:

$$\frac{\partial\beta}{\partial x} = \int \frac{\partial^2\alpha}{\partial x^2} = \int (\nabla^2\alpha - \frac{\partial^2\alpha}{\partial y^2}) dy = - \int \frac{\partial^2\alpha}{\partial y^2} dy = - \frac{\partial\alpha}{\partial y} \quad (4)$$

And so (2) and (4) are the Cauchy-Riemann equations for a function

$\Phi = \alpha + i\beta$, where the functions α and β are as defined above.