

Fractional Linear Transformations (FLT's)

You should be able to prove these and answer "why?" questions

General FLT: $f(z) = \frac{az+b}{cz+d}$, [Affine $f(z) = az+b$]
i.e., $c=0$

Special cases

a) Translation $f(z) = z+c = T_c(z)$

b) Dilation $f(z) = cz = M_c(z)$

c) Inversion $f(z) = \frac{1}{z} = I(z)$

Theorem Every FLT is a composition of special FLT's

Pf: a) Affine $f(z) = az+b$ is the composition

$$z \mapsto az \mapsto az+b$$

b) Non-affine, i.e., $c \neq 0$. We may assume $c=1$

(simply divide numerator & denominator by c). Thus

$$f(z) = \frac{az+b}{z+d} = \frac{az+ad}{z+d} + \frac{-ad+b}{z+d}$$

$$= a + \frac{-ad+b}{z+d}$$

hence f is given as a composition

$$z \xrightarrow{T_d} z+d \xrightarrow{I} \frac{1}{z+d} \xrightarrow{M_{\begin{pmatrix} -ad+b \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}}} \frac{-ad+b}{z+d} \xrightarrow{T_a} a + \frac{-ad+b}{z+d}$$

Theorem: f fractional linear $\Rightarrow f$ sends circles and lines to circles and lines

Pf: Lemma \mathbb{R}^2 notation

General Equation of circle, line:

(*) $\Gamma: Ax^2 + Ay^2 + Bx + Cy + D = 0$

Suffices to show each special FLT f has that property.

a) Let $c = a+ie = (a, b)$. Then

$$T_c(x, y) = (a, b) + (x, y) = (a+x, b+y)$$



1) $c = r > 0$ $M_r(x, y) = r(x, y) = (rx, ry)$

2) $c = e^{i\theta}$ $M_{e^{i\theta}}(x, y) = (c \cos \theta, \sin \theta)(rx, ry)$
 $= (\cos \theta x - \sin \theta y, \cos \theta y + \sin \theta x)$

Note: $yc = re^{i\theta}$, etc. $M_c = M_r M_{e^{i\theta}}$ ← why??

c) $I(z) = \frac{1}{z} = \frac{1}{x+iy} = \frac{x-iy}{x^2+y^2}$

$I(x, y) = \left(\frac{x}{x^2+y^2}, \frac{-y}{x^2+y^2} \right)$

a) The equation for $T_c(\Gamma)$

$(u, v) \in T_c(\Gamma) \Leftrightarrow T_c(u, v) \in \Gamma$

$\Leftrightarrow (u-a, v-b) \in \Gamma$

$\Leftrightarrow A(u-a)^2 + A(v-b)^2 + B(u-a) + C(v-b) + D = 0$

$\Leftrightarrow Au^2 + Av^2 + (-2a+B)u + (-2b+C)v + Aa^2 + Bb^2 - Ba - Cb + D = 0$

which again has the form (*)

b) The equation for $M_c(\Gamma)$

1) for $c = r > 0$.

$(u, v) \in M_r(\Gamma) \Leftrightarrow M_r^{-1}(u, v) \in \Gamma \Leftrightarrow (r^{-1}u, r^{-1}v) \in \Gamma$

$\Leftrightarrow A(r^{-1}u)^2 + A(r^{-1}v)^2 + B(r^{-1}u) + C(r^{-1}v) + D = 0$

$\Leftrightarrow (Ar^2)u^2 + (Ar^2)v^2 + (Br^{-1})u + (Cr^{-1})v + D = 0$

2) say that $c = e^{i\theta}$. Note $c^{-1} = e^{-i\theta}$

$(u, v) \in M_{e^{i\theta}}(\Gamma) \Leftrightarrow M_{e^{-i\theta}}(u, v) \in \Gamma$

$\Leftrightarrow (\cos(-\theta)u - \sin(-\theta)v, \cos(-\theta)v + \sin(-\theta)u) \in \Gamma$

$\Leftrightarrow A(\cos^2 \theta u^2 + 2 \cos \theta \sin \theta uv + \sin^2 \theta v^2)$

$+ A \cos^2 \theta v^2 - 2 \cos \theta \sin \theta uv + \sin^2 \theta u^2$

$+ B(\cos \theta u + \sin \theta v) + C(\cos \theta v - \sin \theta u) + D = 0$

$\Leftrightarrow Au^2 + Bv^2 + (B \cos \theta - C \sin \theta)u + (B \sin \theta + C \cos \theta)v + D = 0$

Note I = I c) The equation for $I(c)$. Note $I^{-1} \in \Gamma$ (why??)

$(u, v) \in I(\Gamma) \Leftrightarrow I(u, v) \in \Gamma \Leftrightarrow \left(\frac{u}{u^2+v^2}, \frac{-v}{u^2+v^2} \right) \in \Gamma$

$\Leftrightarrow \frac{Au^2}{(u^2+v^2)^2} + \frac{Av^2}{(u^2+v^2)^2} + \frac{Bu}{u^2+v^2} - \frac{Cv}{u^2+v^2} + D = 0$

MULTIPLY by u^2+v^2 $\Leftrightarrow A + Bu - Cv + D(u^2+v^2) = 0$