Asymptotic analysis of Airy Eqn 07-23-16

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Initialization: Be sure the files *NTGStylesheet2.nb* and *NTGUtilityFunctions.m* is are in the same directory as that from which this notebook was loaded. Then execute the cell immediately below by mousing left on the cell bar to the right of that cell and then typing "shift" + "enter". Respond "Yes" in response to the query to evaluate initialization cells.

```
In[5]:=
```

```
SetDirectory[NotebookDirectory[]];
(* set directory where source files are located *)
SetOptions[EvaluationNotebook[], (* load the StyleSheet *)
StyleDefinitions → Get["NTGStylesheet2.nb"]];
Get["NTGUtilityFunctions.m"]; (* Load utilities package *)
```

Original notebook Asymptotic Airy Eqn 10-10-15

Purpose

I work through an asymptotic analysis of the Airy equation. This is a classical problem and there are many references.

Airy's equation was analyzed by George Stokes in 1857. His struggles with it were even the amusing subject of one of his love letters to his bride-to-be.

"When the cat's away the mice may play. You are the cat and I am the poor little mouse. I have been doing what I guess you won't let me do when we are married, sitting up till 3 o'clock in the morning fighting hard against a mathematical difficulty. Some years ago I attacked an integral of Airy's, and after a severe trial reduced it to a readily calculable form. But there was one difficulty about it which, though I tried till I almost made myself ill, I could not get over, and at last I had to give it up and profess myself unable to master it. I took it up again a few days ago, and after a two or three days' fight, the last of which I sat up till 3, I at last mastered it. I don't say you won't let me work at such things, but you will keep me to more regular hours. A little out of the way now and then does not signify, but there should not be too much of it. It is not the mere sitting up but the hard thinking combined with it"

I Analysis

Airy's equation is

$$\frac{d^2 f(x)}{d x^2} + x f(x) = 0$$

IA Obtaining an integral representation

The function satisfying this differential equation can be expressed as a contour integral and useful asymptotic properties can be deduced using the method of steepest descent. Although the transformation into integral form can be quickly accomplished by a hand calculation, I persist in performing the required operations with Mathematica.

To work in the standard notation I use for such problems I write the differential equation using k as the independent variable

0

In[7]:=

$$w1A[1] = D[f[k], \{k, 2\}] + kf[k] =$$

Out[7]=

$$k f[k] + f''[k] = 0$$

Assume that the integral has the form of a contour integral

$$f(k) = \int_C \mathrm{d} z \, e^{k \, z} \, \mathcal{F}(z)$$

I represent this form with the structure

```
In[8]:=
```

```
w1A[2] = Int[Exp[kz] \mathcal{F}[z], C]
```

Out[8]=

```
Int \left[ e^{kz} \mathcal{F}[z], C \right]
```

Then

```
 \begin{aligned} & \texttt{w1A[3] =} \\ & \texttt{w1A[1] /. \{f[k] \rightarrow Int[Exp[kz] \mathcal{F}[z], C], f''[k] \rightarrow Int[D[Exp[kz], \{k, 2\}] \mathcal{F}[z], C] \}} \\ & \texttt{out[9]=} \quad \texttt{kInt}[e^{kz}\mathcal{F}[z], C] + Int[e^{kz}z^2\mathcal{F}[z], C] == 0 \end{aligned}
```

Integrate the first term by parts

w1A[4] = w1A[3] /.In[10]:= $\operatorname{Int}\left[\operatorname{e}^{k\,z}\mathcal{F}[z], C\right] \rightarrow \operatorname{BoundaryTerm}\left[\operatorname{e}^{k\,z}\mathcal{F}[z], C\right] - \operatorname{Int}\left[\frac{\operatorname{e}^{k\,z}}{k} D[\mathcal{F}[z], z], C\right] / / \operatorname{Expand}$ k BoundaryTerm $\left[e^{kz}\mathcal{F}[z], C\right] + Int \left[e^{kz}z^2\mathcal{F}[z], C\right] - k Int \left[\frac{e^{kz}\mathcal{F}'[z]}{k}, C\right] = 0$ Out[10]= where the "BoundaryTerm" term represents the value of the first argument at the end points of the contour C. Assume that the contour is C is chosen so that the boundary term vanishes. w1A[5] = w1A[4] /. BoundaryTerm[arg_, con_] $\rightarrow 0$ /. In[11]:= a_.Int[b_c_, d_] /; FreeQ[b, z] \rightarrow abInt[c, d] $\operatorname{Int}\left[\operatorname{e}^{\operatorname{k} z} z^{2} \mathcal{F}[z], C\right] - \operatorname{Int}\left[\operatorname{e}^{\operatorname{k} z} \mathcal{F}'[z], C\right] = 0$ Out[11]= I use a rewrite rule to combine the two terms $w1A[6] = w1A[5] /. c1_.Int[a_, con_] + c2_.Int[b_, con_] \rightarrow Int[c1a + c2b, con]$ In[12]:= $\operatorname{Int}\left[\operatorname{e}^{k\,z}\,z^{2}\mathcal{F}\left[z\right]-\operatorname{e}^{k\,z}\mathcal{F}'\left[z\right],\,\mathcal{C}\right]=0$ Out[12]= The integral only vanishes if the integrand vanishes w1A[7] = w1A[6][[1, 1]] == 0In[13]:= $\mathbb{e}^{k\,z}\,z^{2}\mathcal{F}\left[\,z\,\right]\,-\,\mathbb{e}^{k\,z}\,\mathcal{F}'\left[\,z\,\right]\,=\,0$ Out[13]= Solve this ode w1A[8] = DSolve[w1A[7], $\mathcal{F}[z]$, z] [1, 1] /. C[1] $\rightarrow \kappa$ // ER In[14]:= $\mathcal{F}[\mathbf{Z}] \rightarrow \mathbb{e}^{\frac{Z^3}{3}} \mathcal{K}$ Out[14]= where κ is a constant of integration. Thus, w1A[9] = w1A[2] /. w1A[8] /. Int[a_b_, c_] /; FreeQ[a, z] \rightarrow a Int[b, c] In[15]:= $\kappa \operatorname{Int} \left[e^{k z + \frac{z^3}{3}}, C \right]$ Out[15]=

or, the explicit integral representation of f(k) is

$$f(k) = \kappa \int_C \mathrm{d}z \, e^{k \, z + \frac{z^2}{3}}$$

provided that the contour C is chosen so that the integrand vanishes at the end points of C.

IB Choice of contour



Note: Such figures are generated in an Appendix

Choose a polar representation of z

$\ln[17] = w1B[1] = Exp[-z^3/3] / . z \rightarrow r Exp[I\theta]$

 $e^{-\frac{1}{3}}e^{3i\theta}r^3$

Out[17]=

The condition on *C* requires $\text{Re}[e^{z^3/3}] \rightarrow 0$ as $r \rightarrow \infty$ and the contour plot makes it clear that this can only occur in three wedge shaped segments of the complex plane.

In[18]:=

w1B[2] = ComplexExpand[w1B[1]]

Out[18]=

 $e^{-\frac{1}{3}r^{3}\cos[3\theta]} \operatorname{Cos}\left[\frac{1}{3}r^{3}\operatorname{Sin}[3\theta]\right] - i e^{-\frac{1}{3}r^{3}\operatorname{Cos}[3\theta]} \operatorname{Sin}\left[\frac{1}{3}r^{3}\operatorname{Sin}[3\theta]\right]$

The real part is

```
un[19]:= w1B[3] = Re[w1B[2][1]] // Simplify[#, {r \in Reals, \theta \in Reals}] \&
Out[19]= e^{-\frac{1}{3}r^{3} \cos[3\theta]} \cos\left[\frac{1}{3}r^{3} \sin[3\theta]\right]
```

The sign of the argument of the exponential term is controlled by θ





 $-\frac{\pi}{6} < \Theta < \frac{\pi}{6}, \quad \frac{\pi}{2} < \Theta < \frac{5\pi}{6}, \quad \frac{7\pi}{6} < \Theta < \frac{3\pi}{2}$

To satisfy the boundary condition, a contour must start at $r = \infty$ in one of the regions where the integrand is vanishingly small and end at $r = \infty$ in another such region. The case where a contour starts and ends in the same range is not allowed since the contour would constitute a closed path and, with no poles contained within the contour, the integral would have zero value. There are two independent solutions of the Airy equation, the Airy function and the BAiry function. By convention the contours associated with these solutions are



2 Asymptotic expansion of Ai(λ) for $\lambda > 0$

The integral representation of the Airy function is

$$A_i(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2 \pi i} \int_{C_1} dz \exp\left(-\frac{z^3}{3} + \lambda z\right)$$

where the $\frac{1}{2\pi i}$ is the value of the normalization constant κ chosen by convention. The first step is to recast this integral into the standard form convenient for asymptotic analysis using steepest descent method.

In[22]:=

w2[1] =
$$\frac{1}{2\pi I}$$
 Int [Exp[- $\frac{s^3}{3} + \lambda s$] ds, C_1]
i Int [ds $e^{-\frac{s^3}{3} + s\lambda}$, C_1]

Out[22]=

$$\frac{\text{iInt}\left[\text{ds } e^{-\frac{s}{2}}\right]}{2 \pi}$$

Rescale the integration variable

 $\int_C \mathrm{d}z \, e^{k \, \rho(z)} = \int_C \mathrm{d}z \, e^{k \, (\phi(z) + \mathrm{i} \psi(z))}$

Out[23]=

 $w2[2] = w2[1] /. s \rightarrow s[z] /. ds \rightarrow D[s[z], z]$ $\mathbb{i} \operatorname{Int} \left[e^{\lambda \, \mathbf{s} \, [\mathbf{z}] \, - \frac{\mathbf{s} \, [\mathbf{z}]^3}{3}} \, \mathbf{s}' \, [\, \mathbf{z} \,] \, \text{, } C_1 \right]$ **2** π

Out[24]=

_ _

$$\frac{\operatorname{i}\operatorname{Int}\left[\operatorname{e}^{z\,\lambda^{3/2}-\frac{1}{3}\,z^3\,\lambda^{3/2}}\,\sqrt{\lambda}\,,\,C_{1}\right]}{2\,\pi}$$

w2[3] = w2[2] /. s $\rightarrow \left(\left(\sqrt{\lambda} \#\right) \&\right)$

A change of parameter casts this into standard form

$$\ln[25]:= \ w2[4] = w2[3] /. \lambda \rightarrow k^{2/3} //. \text{ Int}[a_.b_, c_] /; \text{ FreeQ}[a, z] \rightarrow a \text{ Int}[b, c]$$

Out[25]=

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{k^{1/3} Int \left[e^{kz-\frac{kz^3}{3}}, C_1\right]}{2\pi}$$

The $\rho(z)$ for this problem is

Out[26]=

w2[5] =
$$\rho[z] = \left(kz - \frac{kz^3}{3}\right) / k$$
 // ExpandAll
 $\rho[z] = z - \frac{z^3}{3}$

I implement the function PropertiesOf to calculate some quantities useful for a steepest descent analysis

In[27]:=

```
Clear[PropertiesOfp];
PropertiesOfp[p_] :=
   Module[{saddlePoints, \phi, \psi, d2\rho, w},
     saddlePoints = Solve[D[\(\rho, z] == 0\)];
     w[1] = \rho /. z \rightarrow x + I y // ComplexExpand;
     \{\phi, \psi\} = w[\mathbf{1}] / \cdot \phi_- + \mathbf{I} \psi_- \rightarrow \{\phi, \psi\};
     d2\rho = D[\rho, \{z, 2\}];
     Association[
       \{"\rho" \rightarrow \rho, "saddlePoints" \rightarrow saddlePoints, "\phi" \rightarrow \phi, "\psi" \rightarrow \psi, "d2\rho" \rightarrow d2\rho\}]];
```

 $A\rho = PropertiesOf\rho[w2[5][2]]$ In[29]:=

$$\left\langle \left| \rho \rightarrow z - \frac{z^3}{3} \right\rangle$$
, saddlePoints $\rightarrow \{ \{z \rightarrow -1\}, \{z \rightarrow 1\} \}$,

$$\phi \rightarrow x - \frac{x^3}{3} + x \ y^2 \text{, } \psi \rightarrow y - x^2 \ y + \frac{y^3}{3} \text{, } d2 \rho \rightarrow -2 \ z \ \Big| \Big\rangle$$

In[30]:=

```
Out[30]= \rho \rightarrow z - \frac{z^3}{3}
saddlePoints \rightarrow \{\{z \rightarrow -1\}, \{z \rightarrow 1\}\}
\phi \rightarrow x - \frac{x^3}{3} + x y^2
```

Normal[Ap] // ColumnForm

There are two saddle points at -1 and 1. I determine the constant ψ curves passing through the saddle points.

The value of $\rho(-1)$ is

 $w2[6] = A\rho["\rho"] /. z \rightarrow -1$

 $\psi
ightarrow$ y - x² y + $rac{y^3}{3}$

In[31]:=

Out[31]=

2 3

which is real so $\psi(z = -1) = 0$ at the saddle point. The equation describing the steepest descent curves passing through the saddle point z = -1 is

In[32]:=

Out[32]=

 $y - x^2 y + \frac{y^3}{2} = 0$

 $w2[7] = A\rho["\psi"] = 0$

The constant ψ curves passing through the saddle point z = -1 are

In[33]:= Out[33]=

 $\{\{\mathbf{y} \rightarrow \mathbf{0}\}, \{\mathbf{y} \rightarrow -\sqrt{3}, \sqrt{-1+\mathbf{x}^2}\}, \{\mathbf{y} \rightarrow \sqrt{3}, \sqrt{-1+\mathbf{x}^2}\}\}$

Similarly, the value of $\rho(1)$ is

w2[8] = Solve[w2[7], y]

 $un[34]:= w2[9] = A\rho["\rho"] /. z → 1$ Out[34]= $\frac{2}{3}$

 $y - x^2 y + \frac{y^3}{2} = 0$

In[35]:=

 $w2[10] = A\rho["\psi"] = 0$

Out[35]=

which is the same equation as for saddle point 1

The next step is to examine the saddle points of the integrand and determine how to deform the contour C_1 so that will pass through a saddle point along curves of steepest descent.



From the figure it is obvious that the path \mathcal{D}_1 is a steepest descent path. The objective is to deform C_1 so that it passes through the saddle point at $z_{SP1} = -1$ along the steepest descent path \mathcal{D}_1 .

A strategy for distorting C_1 into \mathcal{D}_1 is to start at some point {0, -yMax} on C_1 , move along \mathcal{L}_1 to the steepest descent path \mathcal{D}_1 , follow \mathcal{D}_1 to y = yMax, then return along \mathcal{L}_2 to C_1 . If the contributions along \mathcal{L}_1 and \mathcal{L}_2 are negligible as yMax $\rightarrow \infty$, then the integration along \mathcal{D}_1 is equivalent to integration along C_1 . This is allowed since there are no intervening poles.



Since \mathcal{L}_1 and \mathcal{L}_2 are arbitrarily deep in the zones where $e^{k \rho(z)}$ is tending to zero, their contributions are clearly small with respect to the contribution near the saddle point. In a more formal sense, it is straightforward to calculate that the contributions along \mathcal{L}_1 and \mathcal{L}_2 are bounded and that those bounds tend to

zero as $Y_{max} \rightarrow \infty$.

3 Asymptotic approximation for Ai(λ) for $\lambda > 0$

So far,

2

$$A_{i}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2 \pi i} \int_{C_{1}} dz \exp\left(-\frac{z^{3}}{3} + \lambda z\right) = \frac{i k^{1/3}}{2 \pi i} \int_{C_{1}} dz e^{k\left(z - \frac{z^{3}}{3}\right)} \simeq \frac{i k^{1/3}}{2 \pi i} \int_{\mathcal{D}_{1}} dz e^{k\left(z - \frac{z^{3}}{3}\right)}$$

Further, for the purpose of calculating the leading order asymptotic expression, note that the steepest descent contour \mathcal{D}_1 is approximated by the straight line z = -1 + i y in the vicinity of the saddle point

$$[n[39]:= ||w3[1] = |w2[4] /. C_1 \rightarrow D_{approx}$$

$$-\frac{i k^{1/3} Int \left[e^{k z - \frac{k z^2}{3}}, D_{approx}\right]}{2 \pi}$$

$$[n[40]:= ||w3[2] = |w3[1] /. e^{k z - \frac{k z^2}{3}} \rightarrow e^{k \rho[z]}$$

$$-\frac{i k^{1/3} Int \left[e^{k \rho[z]}, D_{approx}\right]}{2 \pi}$$

$$Out[40]:= -\frac{i k^{1/3} Int \left[e^{k \rho[z]}, D_{approx}\right]}{2 \pi}$$

$$Approximate \rho by a Taylor expansion about the saddle point$$

$$[n[41]:= ||w3[3] = |w3[2] /. \rho[z] \rightarrow Normal@Series[\rho[z], \{z, z0, 2\}]$$

$$Out[41]:= -\frac{1}{2 \pi} i k^{1/3} Int \left[e^{k (\rho[z0] + (z-20) \rho'[z0] + \frac{1}{2} (z-z0)^2 \rho''[z0])}, D_{approx}\right]$$

$$\ln[42]:= \{w^{2}[5], D[\#, z] \& /@ w^{2}[5], D[\#, \{z, 2\}] \& /@ w^{2}[5]\} /. z \to z^{0}$$

}

$$\left\{ \rho [z0] = z0 - \frac{z0^3}{3}, \rho' [z0] = 1 - z0^2, \rho'' [z0] = -2 z0 \right\}$$

$$3[5] = w3[4] / . z0 \rightarrow -1 / / ER$$

Out[43]=
$$\left\{ \rho \left[-1 \right] \rightarrow -\frac{2}{3}, \rho' \left[-1 \right] \rightarrow 0, \rho'' \left[-1 \right] \rightarrow 2 \right\}$$

2 π

Out[44]=

Change variables in manner that takes into account the functional variation of the differential element

Out[45]=

w3[7] = w3[6] /. z → z[s] /. a_. Int[b_, c_] → a Int[bD[z[s], s], c]
-
$$\frac{1}{2\pi}$$
 i k^{1/3} Int[e^{k (-2+(1+z[s])²)} z'[s], D_{approx}]

Express the integrand in terms of the approximate contour $\mathcal{D}_{1 \text{ app}}$

w3[8] = w3[7] /.
$$z \rightarrow ((-1 + I \#) \&) // ExpandAll$$

Out[46]=

$$-\frac{i k^{1/3} \operatorname{Int} \left[i e^{-\frac{2k}{3}-k s^{2}}, \mathcal{D}_{approx}\right]}{2 \pi}$$

Since the integrand is peaked about the saddle point (the motivating reason for changing the contour of integration), the contour of integration can be extended to ∞

$$\ln[47]:= W3[9] = W3[8] / \cdot \mathcal{D}_{approx} \rightarrow \{s, -\infty, \infty\}$$

Out[47]=

$$\frac{\mathbb{i} k^{1/3} \operatorname{Int} \left[\mathbb{i} e^{-\frac{2k}{3} - k s^2}, \{s, -\infty, \infty\} \right]}{2 \pi}$$

Finally, I invoke Mathematica's Integration routine

In[48]:= w3[10] = w3[9] /. Int \rightarrow Integrate

Out[48]=

ConditionalExpression
$$\left[\frac{e^{-2 k/3}}{2 k^{1/6} \sqrt{\pi}}, \text{ Re}[k] > 0\right]$$

 $m[49]:= w3[11] = Simplify[w3[10], Assumptions \rightarrow Re[k] > 0]$

Out[49]=

$$\frac{e^{-2 k/3}}{2 k^{1/6} \sqrt{\pi}}$$

Returning to the original parameter

In[50]:=

w3[12] = w3[11] /. k $\rightarrow \lambda^{3/2}$ // PowerExpand

$$\frac{e^{-\frac{2\lambda^{3/2}}{3}}}{2\sqrt{\pi}\lambda^{1/4}}$$

Stating this result in standard asymptotic notation

$$A_i(\lambda) \sim \frac{e^{-\frac{2\lambda^{3/2}}{3}}}{2\sqrt{\pi}\sqrt[4]{\lambda}} \operatorname{as} (\lambda \to \infty)$$

I check this against Mathematica's implementation of the Airy function



4 Asymptotic expansion of Ai(λ) for $\lambda < 0$

For this case I write

$$A_i(\Lambda) = \frac{1}{2 \pi i} \int_{C_1} dz \exp\left(-\frac{z^3}{3} - \Lambda z\right)$$

where $\Lambda = -\lambda$ and is a positive quantity. Note the sign change in the argument of the exponential.

$$w4[1] = \frac{1}{2\pi I} \operatorname{Int}\left[\operatorname{Exp}\left[-\frac{s^{3}}{3} - \Lambda s\right] ds, C_{1}\right]$$
$$= -\frac{\operatorname{i} \operatorname{Int}\left[ds \, e^{-\frac{s^{3}}{3} - s \Lambda}, C_{1}\right]}{2\pi}$$

Out[52]=

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathsf{W4}[2] = \mathsf{W4}[1] /. \ \mathsf{s} \to \mathsf{s}[z] /. \ \mathsf{ds} \to \mathsf{D}[\mathsf{s}[z], \ \mathsf{z}] \\ & - \frac{i \operatorname{Int}\left[e^{-\Lambda \,\mathsf{s}(z) - \frac{\mathsf{s}(z)^2}{3}} \,\mathsf{s}'(z), \ C_1\right]}{2 \,\pi} \\ & \mathsf{W4}[3] = \mathsf{W4}[2] /. \ \mathsf{s} \to \left(\left(\sqrt{\Lambda} \, \sharp\right) \,\mathsf{\&}\right) \\ & \mathsf{u}(\mathsf{sd}) = \\ & - \frac{i \operatorname{Int}\left[e^{-\mathsf{z} \,\Lambda^{3/2} - \frac{1}{3}} \,\mathsf{z}^{3} \,\Lambda^{3/2} \,\sqrt{\Lambda}, \ C_1\right]}{2 \,\pi} \\ & \mathsf{Out}(\mathsf{sd}) = \\ & - \frac{i \operatorname{Int}\left[e^{-\mathsf{z} \,\Lambda^{3/2} - \frac{1}{3}} \,\mathsf{z}^{3} \,\Lambda^{3/2} \,\sqrt{\Lambda}, \ C_1\right]}{2 \,\pi} \\ & \mathsf{Int}(\mathsf{se}) = \\ & \mathsf{W4}[4] = \mathsf{W4}[3] /. \ \Lambda \to \mathsf{k}^{2/3} \,//. \ \operatorname{Int}[\mathsf{a}_{-}, \mathsf{b}_{-}, \ \mathsf{c}_{-}] \,/; \ \mathsf{FreeQ}[\mathsf{a}, \ \mathsf{z}] \to \mathsf{a} \,\mathsf{Int}[\mathsf{b}, \ \mathsf{c}] \\ & - \frac{i \,\mathsf{k}^{1/3} \,\mathsf{Int}\left[e^{-\mathsf{k} \,z^{-\frac{\mathsf{k} \,z^3}{3}}}, \ C_{1}\right]}{2 \,\pi} \\ & \mathsf{Out}(\mathsf{se}) = \\ & \mathsf{Int} \,\mathsf{e}(\mathsf{z}) \,\mathsf{for} \,\mathsf{this} \,\mathsf{problem} \,\mathsf{is} \\ & \mathsf{Int}(\mathsf{se}) = \\ & \mathsf{W4}[\mathsf{s}] = \mathsf{p}[\mathsf{z}] = \mathsf{e}\left(-\mathsf{k} \,\mathsf{z} - \frac{\mathsf{k} \,z^3}{3}\right) / \mathsf{k} \,// \,\mathsf{ExpandAll} \\ & \mathsf{Out}(\mathsf{se}) = \\ & \mathsf{p}[\mathsf{z}] = -\mathsf{z} - \frac{\mathsf{z}^3}{3} \end{aligned}$$

Out[56]=

As before

```
A\rho 2 = PropertiesOf\rho[w4[5][2]];
 In[57]:=
                   Normal[Ap2] // ColumnForm

ho 
ightarrow - Z - rac{z^3}{3}
Out[58]=
                  saddlePoints \rightarrow { {z \rightarrow -i }, {z \rightarrow i }}
\phi \rightarrow -x - \frac{x^3}{3} + x y^2
                  \psi \rightarrow -\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}^2 \mathbf{y} + \frac{\mathbf{y}^3}{3}
                   d2\rho \rightarrow -2~z
```

w4[6] = A ρ 2[" ρ "] /. z \rightarrow -I

In this case, there are two saddle points at -i and i. The value of ρ (-i) is

In[59]:=

2 i

3

Out[59]=

The equation describing the steepest descent curves passing through the saddle point z = -i is

In[60]:=

Out[60]=

w4[7] = A
$$\rho$$
2[" ψ "] == 2/3
-y - x² y + $\frac{y^3}{3} = \frac{2}{3}$

In this case it is easier to solve for x(y).

In[61]:=

Out[61]=

$$\left\{\left\{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow -\frac{\sqrt{-2+\mathbf{y}}\left(\mathbf{1}+\mathbf{y}\right)}{\sqrt{3}\sqrt{\mathbf{y}}}\right\}, \left\{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \frac{\sqrt{-2+\mathbf{y}}\left(\mathbf{1}+\mathbf{y}\right)}{\sqrt{3}\sqrt{\mathbf{y}}}\right\}\right\}$$

Similarly, the value of $\rho(i)$ is

 $w4[9] = A\rho2["\rho"] /. z \to I$

w4[8] = Solve[w4[7], x]

In[62]:=

Out[62]=

2 i

3

The equation describing the steepest descent curves passing through the saddle point z = i is

In[63]:= $w4[10] = A\rho2["\psi"] = -2/3$ Out[63]:= $-y - x^2 y + \frac{y^3}{3} = -\frac{2}{3}$ In[64]:= w4[11] = Solve[w4[10], x]Out[64]:= $\left\{ \left\{ x \rightarrow -\frac{(-1+y)\sqrt{2+y}}{\sqrt{3}\sqrt{y}} \right\}, \left\{ x \rightarrow \frac{(-1+y)\sqrt{2+y}}{\sqrt{3}\sqrt{y}} \right\} \right\}$

The steepest descent paths passing through the two saddle points at z = -i and z = i are



The strategy for distorting the contour C_1 is to pull the midpoint of the contour to the right along the positive axis and adjust it to coincide with \mathcal{D}_1 and \mathcal{D}_2 . This is allowed since there are no intervening poles.

5 Asymptotic approximation for Ai(λ) for $\lambda < 0$

So far,

$$A_{i}(\Lambda) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{C_{1}} dz \exp\left(-\frac{z^{3}}{3} - \Lambda z\right) = \frac{i k^{1/3}}{2\pi i} \int_{C_{1}} dz e^{k\left(-z - \frac{z^{3}}{3}\right)} \simeq \frac{i k^{1/3}}{2\pi i} \int_{\mathcal{D}_{1}} dz e^{k\left(-z - \frac{z^{3}}{3}\right)} + \frac{i k^{1/3}}{2\pi i} \int_{\mathcal{D}_{2}} dz e^{k\left(-z - \frac{z^{3}}{3}\right)}$$

In this case, there are contributions from both saddle points.

5A Contribution from steepest descent curve \mathcal{D}_1 passing through saddle point z

w5A[1] = w4[4] /.
$$G_1 \rightarrow D_1$$

i k^{1/3} Int [e^{-k z - \frac{kz^3}{3}, D_1]}

Out[66]=

$$\frac{i k^{1/3} Int \left[e^{-k z - \frac{k z^3}{3}} \right] }{2 \pi}$$

 $i k^{1/3} Int \left[e^{k \rho[z]}, \mathcal{D}_1 \right]$

2 π

In[67]:= w5A[2] = w5A[1] /. $e^{-k z - \frac{k z^3}{3}} \rightarrow e^{k \rho[z]}$

Out[67]=

Approximate ρ by a Taylor expansion about the saddle point

5B Contribution from steepest descent curve D_2 passing through saddle point z =

$$i$$

$$In[80]:= w5B[1] = w4[4] /. C_1 \rightarrow D_2$$

$$-\frac{i k^{1/3} Int[e^{-k z - \frac{k z^3}{3}}, D_2]}{2 \pi}$$

$$In[81]:= w5B[2] = w5B[1] /. e^{-k z - \frac{k z^3}{3}} \rightarrow e^{k \rho[z]}$$

$$-\frac{i k^{1/3} Int[e^{k \rho[z]}, D_2]}{2 \pi}$$

Approximate ρ by a Taylor expansion about the saddle point

 $\underline{\mathbb{C}}^{-\frac{1}{4}+\frac{2}{3}}$

 $2\sqrt{\pi} \Lambda^{1/4}$

Out[79]=

i ∧^{3/2}

$$\begin{split} & \mathsf{wSB}[3] = \mathsf{wSB}[2] /. \rho[\mathbf{Z}] \rightarrow \mathsf{NormaleSeries}[-\mathbf{z} - \frac{\mathbf{z}^3}{3}, \{\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{z}\theta, 2\}] \\ & -\frac{1}{2\pi} \pm k^{1/3} \operatorname{Int} \left[e^{k\left(-\pi\theta - (\mathbf{z} - \theta)^{-1} + \theta + \frac{2\theta^2}{2}, (\mathbf{z} - \theta)^{-1} + (-\pi + \theta^2)^2\right)}, g_2\right] \\ & \mathsf{wSB}[4] = \left(\mathsf{w4}[5], \mathsf{D}[\mathfrak{t}, \mathbf{z}] \& /e \; \mathsf{w4}[5], \mathsf{D}(\mathfrak{t}, \mathbf{z}, 2)] \& /e \; \mathsf{w4}[5] \right) /. \mathsf{z} \rightarrow \mathsf{z}\theta \\ & \{\rho[\mathbf{z}\theta] = -\mathbf{z}\theta - \frac{2\theta^3}{3}, \rho'[\mathbf{z}\theta] = -1 - \mathbf{z}\theta^2, \rho''[\mathbf{z}\theta] = -2 \cdot \mathbf{z}\theta \right] \\ & \mathsf{wSB}[5] = \mathsf{wSB}[4] /. \mathsf{z}\theta \rightarrow \mathsf{I} // \mathsf{ER} \\ & \{\rho[1] > \frac{21}{3}, \rho'[1] > \theta, \rho''[1] > 21^{\frac{1}{3}} \\ & \mathsf{wSB}[6] = \mathsf{wSB}[3] /. \mathsf{z}\theta \rightarrow \mathsf{I} /. \mathsf{wSB}[5] \\ & \mathsf{wSB}[6] = \mathsf{wSB}[3] /. \mathsf{z}\theta \rightarrow \mathsf{I} /. \mathsf{wSB}[5] \\ & \mathsf{v}Iter = \begin{bmatrix} \mathsf{wSB}[6] = \mathsf{wSB}[3] /. \mathsf{z}\theta \rightarrow \mathsf{I} /. \mathsf{wSB}[5] \\ & -\frac{1 + k^{1/2} \operatorname{Int} \left[e^{k\left(-\frac{2\pi}{3} + (-1 + \pi z)^2\right)}, \varrho_2\right]}{2 \, n} \\ & \mathsf{Change variables} \\ \\ & \mathsf{vSB}[7] = \mathsf{wSB}[6] /. \mathsf{z} \rightarrow \mathsf{z}[5] /. \mathsf{a}_{-}. \mathsf{Int}[\mathsf{b}_{-}, \mathsf{c}_{-}] \rightarrow \mathsf{aInt}[\mathsf{b}\mathsf{D}[\mathsf{z}[5], \mathsf{s}], \mathsf{c}] \\ & -\frac{1}{2\pi} \pm k^{1/3} \operatorname{Int} \left[e^{k\left(-\frac{2\pi}{3} + (-1 + \pi (2))/2}, 2\mu\right)} \\ & \mathsf{The straight line approximation for \mathcal{D}_2 in the vicinity of $\mathsf{z}_{\mathsf{SP2}}$ is \\ \\ & \mathsf{wSB}[8] = \mathsf{wSB}[7] /. \mathsf{z} \rightarrow ((\mathfrak{t} + \mathsf{I}(1 - \mathfrak{t}))) \&) // \mathsf{ExpandAll} \\ & -\frac{1 k^{1/3} \operatorname{Int} \left[(1 - 1) e^{-\frac{1 k^{1/2}}{2} - k^{1/2}}, 2\mu_2\right]}{2\pi} \\ \\ & \mathsf{wSB}[10] = \mathsf{wSB}[8] /. \mathsf{D}_2 \rightarrow (\mathsf{S}, - \varpi, \varpi) \\ & -\frac{1}{2\pi} \pm k^{1/3} \operatorname{Int} \left[(1 - 1) e^{-\frac{1 k^{1/2}}{2} - k^{1/2}}, g_{-} - \varpi, \varpi) \right] \\ \\ & \mathsf{vGH} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathsf{wSB}[10] = \mathsf{wSB}[9] /. \mathsf{Int} \rightarrow \mathsf{Integrate} \\ \mathsf{conditionalExpression}[-\frac{\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\right) e^{-\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}}}{k^{1/4} \sqrt{2\pi}}, \mathsf{R}(k) > 0 \right] \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \mathsf{vGH} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathsf{wSB}[10] = \mathsf{wSB}[9] /. \mathsf{Int} \rightarrow \mathsf{Integrate} \\ \mathsf{conditionalExpression}[-\frac{\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\right) e^{-\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}}}{k^{1/4} \sqrt{2\pi}}}, \mathsf{R}(k) > 0 \right] \\ \end{aligned}$$

In[90]:=

w5B[11] = Simplify[w5B[10], Assumptions \rightarrow Re[k] > 0] $\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{i}{2}\right) e^{-\frac{2ik}{3}}$

Out[90]=

k^{1/6} √2 π

Here, I had to look at the FullForm of w5B[11] to get the pattern matching to work

 $u_{191} = w_{5B[12]} = w_{5B[11]} / . Complex[Rational[-1, 2], Rational[-1, 2]] \rightarrow \frac{e^{\frac{i\pi}{4}}}{\sqrt{2}}$ $u_{191} = \frac{e^{-\frac{2ik}{3} + \frac{i\pi}{4}}}{2 k^{1/6} \sqrt{\pi}}$

Returning to the original parameter

 $u_{1}[92]:= w5B[13] = w5B[12] /. k \to \Lambda^{3/2} // PowerExpand$ $u_{1}[92]:= \frac{e^{\frac{i\pi}{4} - \frac{2}{3} \pm \Lambda^{3/2}}}{2\sqrt{\pi} \Lambda^{1/4}}$

5C Combining the contributions from the two saddle points

$$In[93]:= W5C[1] = W5A[13] + W5B[13]$$

$$\frac{e^{\frac{i\pi}{4} - \frac{2}{3}i\Lambda^{3/2}}}{2\sqrt{\pi}\Lambda^{1/4}} + \frac{e^{-\frac{i\pi}{4} + \frac{2}{3}i\Lambda^{3/2}}}{2\sqrt{\pi}\Lambda^{1/4}}$$

$$In[94]:= W5C[2] = W5C[1] // ExpToTrig$$

$$Out[94]:= \frac{\cos\left[\frac{\pi}{4} - \frac{2\Lambda^{3/2}}{3}\right]}{\sqrt{\pi}\Lambda^{1/4}}$$

$$In[95]:= W5C[3] = W5C[2] /. \Lambda \rightarrow -\lambda$$

$$Out[95]:= \frac{\cos\left[\frac{\pi}{4} - \frac{2}{3}(-\lambda)^{3/2}\right]}{\sqrt{\pi}(-\lambda)^{1/4}}$$

Stating this result in standard asymptotic notation

$$A_i(\lambda) \sim \frac{\operatorname{Cos}\left[\frac{\pi}{4} - \frac{2}{3} (-\lambda)^{3/2}\right]}{\sqrt{\pi} (-\lambda)^{1/4}} \operatorname{as} (\lambda \to -\infty)$$

I check this against Mathematica's implementation of the Airy function



Appendix A Detail of steepest descent curves for $\lambda < 0$

The equation for the steepest descent curves near the saddle point z = -i is

In[97]:

Г

$$A[1] = -y - x^{2}y + \frac{y^{3}}{3} = \frac{2}{3}$$

Out[97]:

3 3

I can solve this cubic

In[98]:=

Out[98]=
$$\begin{cases} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \left\{ \mathbf{y} \rightarrow \left(\mathbf{1} + \mathbf{x}^2 + \mathbf{y} \right) \right\} \\ \left\{ \mathbf{y} \rightarrow \left(\mathbf{i} \right) - \left(- \mathbf{y} \right) \right\} \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{split} \left\{ y \to \left(1 + x^2 + \left(1 + \sqrt{-x^2 \left(3 + 3 x^2 + x^4 \right)} \right)^{2/3} \right) \middle/ \left(1 + \sqrt{-x^2 \left(3 + 3 x^2 + x^4 \right)} \right)^{1/3} \right\}, \\ \left\{ y \to \left(\dot{\texttt{i}} \left(- \left(- \dot{\texttt{i}} + \sqrt{3} \right) \left(1 + x^2 \right) + \left(\dot{\texttt{i}} + \sqrt{3} \right) \left(1 + \sqrt{-x^2 \left(3 + 3 x^2 + x^4 \right)} \right)^{2/3} \right) \right) \middle/ \\ \left(2 \left(1 + \sqrt{-x^2 \left(3 + 3 x^2 + x^4 \right)} \right)^{1/3} \right) \right\}, \\ \left\{ y \to \left(9 \dot{\texttt{i}} \left(\dot{\texttt{i}} + \sqrt{3} \right) \left(1 + x^2 \right) - 9 \left(1 + \dot{\texttt{i}} \sqrt{3} \right) \left(1 + \sqrt{-x^2 \left(3 + 3 x^2 + x^4 \right)} \right)^{2/3} \right) \right) \middle/ \\ \left(18 \left(1 + \sqrt{-x^2 \left(3 + 3 x^2 + x^4 \right)} \right)^{1/3} \right) \right\} \right\} \end{split}$$

The solutions of interest are those that pass through the saddle point at z = -i, or for which y = -1 at x = 0

A[3] = A[2] /. $x \rightarrow 0$ // Simplify $\{\{y \rightarrow 2\}, \{y \rightarrow -1\}, \{y \rightarrow -1\}\}$

Discard the first solution

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{A}[4] &= \mathsf{A}[2][2;; 3] // \mathsf{Simplify} \\ &\left\{ \left\{ \mathbf{y} \rightarrow \left(i \left(-\left(-i + \sqrt{3}\right) \left(1 + \mathbf{x}^2 \right) + \left(i + \sqrt{3} \right) \left(1 + \sqrt{-\mathbf{x}^2 \left(3 + 3 \, \mathbf{x}^2 + \mathbf{x}^4 \right)} \right)^{2/3} \right) \right) \right/ \\ &\left(2 \left(1 + \sqrt{-\mathbf{x}^2 \left(3 + 3 \, \mathbf{x}^2 + \mathbf{x}^4 \right)} \right)^{1/3} \right) \right\}, \\ &\left\{ \mathbf{y} \rightarrow \left(9 \, i \left(i + \sqrt{3} \right) \left(1 + \mathbf{x}^2 \right) - 9 \left(1 + i \sqrt{3} \right) \left(1 + \sqrt{-\mathbf{x}^2 \left(3 + 3 \, \mathbf{x}^2 + \mathbf{x}^4 \right)} \right)^{2/3} \right) \right/ \\ &\left(18 \left(1 + \sqrt{-\mathbf{x}^2 \left(3 + 3 \, \mathbf{x}^2 + \mathbf{x}^4 \right)} \right)^{1/3} \right) \right\} \right\} \end{split}$$

Although not apparent from the form of the solution, these are real expressions

In[101]:=

Out[101]=

LGrid[Table[{x, A[4][1, 1, 2], A[4][2, 1, 2]]}, {x, -1, 1, 0.25}], "representative numerical values"]

| | • | |
|-------|--|---|
| -1. | -2.2618+0. <i>ī</i> | -0.339877 + 5.55112 × 10 ⁻¹⁷ i |
| -0.75 | -1.90764-1.11022×10 ⁻¹⁶ i | -0.445534+0. <i>i</i> |
| -0.5 | –1.5748+5.55112×10 ^{−17} i | -0.587373+1.11022×10 ⁻¹⁶ i |
| -0.25 | -1.26984 - 8.32667 × 10 ⁻¹⁷ ₫ | -0.771536+1.38778×10 ⁻¹⁶ i |
| 0. | -1.+0. <i>i</i> | −1.+0. <i>ī</i> |
| 0.25 | -1.26984-8.32667×10 ⁻¹⁷ i | -0.771536+1.38778×10 ⁻¹⁶ i |
| 0.5 | –1.5748+5.55112×10 ^{−17} i | -0.587373+1.11022×10 ⁻¹⁶ i |
| 0.75 | –1.90764–1.11022×10 ^{−16} ī | -0.445534+0. <i>i</i> |
| 1. | -2.2618+0. <i>i</i> | -0.339877 + 5.55112 × 10 ⁻¹⁷ i |

representative numerical values

with the small imaginary parts arising from finite machine accurate arithmetic. Mathematica provide the Chop function for eliminating such contributions.



To represent the steepest descent path, one must switch branches. The steepest descent curve through \mathcal{D}_1 is the red branch for x < 0 but the green branch for x ≥ 0.



Mathematica has the *Piecewise* function for handling such situations

In[104]:=

Clear [SteepestDescentCurveSP1];
SteepestDescentCurveSP1[x_] :=
Piecewise [{ {
$$\left(\frac{1}{2} \left(-\left(-\frac{1}{2} + \sqrt{3}\right) \left(1 + x^2 \right) + \left(\frac{1}{2} + \sqrt{3}\right) \left(1 + \sqrt{-x^2} \left(3 + 3 x^2 + x^4 \right) \right)^{2/3} \right) \right) /$$

 $\left(2 \left(1 + \sqrt{-x^2} \left(3 + 3 x^2 + x^4 \right) \right)^{1/3} \right), x < 0 \},$
{ $\left(9 \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \sqrt{3} \right) \left(1 + x^2 \right) - 9 \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{3} \right) \left(1 + \sqrt{-x^2} \left(3 + 3 x^2 + x^4 \right) \right)^{2/3} \right) /$
 $\left(18 \left(1 + \sqrt{-x^2} \left(3 + 3 x^2 + x^4 \right) \right)^{1/3} \right), x \ge 0 \} \}]$

But you still have to be careful. Note that a straight forward series expansion of the piecewise function gives the wrong answer.



Appendix: Graphics





In[37]:=





In[65]:=

