

Functional Calculus

By a functional calculus we mean, loosely speaking, a rule for associating with a functional $f: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and a matrix A , another matrix, written $f(A)$, in such a way as to preserve the algebra of functions i.e.

- (i) $(\lambda f)(A) = \lambda (f(A))$
- (ii) $(f+g)(A) = f(A) + g(A)$
- (iii) $(fg)(A) = f(A)g(A)$

It is natural to require in addition to (i) (ii) (iii),

the following.

- (iv) $1(A) = I$, and
- (v) $f(A) = A$ where $f(z) = z$.

Such a calculus, were it to exist, would clearly be very useful: e.g. consider the equation $Ax = b$. Then if we denote the map $z \mapsto 1/z$ by f , and if we could form $f(A)$, then clearly,

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(A)A &= f(A)g(A), \quad \text{where } g(z) = z \\
 &= (fg)(A) \\
 &= 1(A) \\
 &= I
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$x = f(A)Ax = f(A)b$$

In other words, the inverse of A , A^{-1} , can be thought of as a special case of the functional calculus.

If $f(z) = a_0 + a_1 z + \dots + a_n z^n$, a polynomial, then

it follows from (i)–(v) that

$$(63.0) \quad f(A) = a_0 + a_1 A + \dots + a_n A^n.$$

But what about more general functions f ? If f

is entire, so that $f(z)$ has a convergent power series

expansion, $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n$ for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$, then

we may define

$$(63.1) \quad f(A) \equiv \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n A^n$$

for any matrix A . Note that $f(A)$ in (63.1) is well-

defined. Indeed, consider the partial sums

$$f_n(A) = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i A^i$$

Then for $n > m$,

$$\|f_n(A) - f_m(A)\| = \left\| \sum_{k=m+1}^n a_k A^k \right\|$$

$$\leq \sum_{k=m+1}^n |a_k| \|A^k\|$$

$$\leq \sum_{k=m+1}^n |a_k| \|A\|^k \quad (\text{note: as usual}$$

$\|\cdot\|$ denotes the operator norm).

and it follows from the convergence of

the power series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n$ for $f(z)$ for all z , that $\{f_n\}$

is a Cauchy sequence and hence $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(A)$ exist. This

limit is what we mean by $f(A)$ in (63.1).

Exercise (63.1) defines a functional calculus for entire functions $f(z)$ for all A . Indeed, verify (i)-(vi) above.

Such a functional calculus for entire f 's is very useful.

For example, if $f_t(z) = e^{tz}$, we can form

$$f_t(A) = e^{tA} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^i}{i!} A^i$$

This function allows us to solve the differential equation

(64.1)

$$du/dt = Au, \quad u|_{t=0} = a$$

Indeed, consider the vector

$$v(t) = f_t(A)a = e^{tA}a$$

We have by (i)-(v)

$$\frac{v(t+h) - v(t)}{h} = \frac{(f_{t+h}(A) - f_t(A))a}{h}$$

$$= \frac{(f_h(A) f_t(A) - f_t(A))a}{h}$$

$$(as e^{tz} e^{hz} = e^{(t+h)z})$$

$$= \frac{(f_h(A) - I)}{h} f_t(A)a$$

$$= \left[A + \sum_{i=2}^{\infty} \frac{h^{i-1}}{i!} A^i \right] f_t(A)a$$

$$\rightarrow A v(t), \text{ as } h \rightarrow 0.$$

i.e. $dv/dt = Av$ and $v(0) = e^{0A}a = Ia = a$. Thus.

$v_t = e^{tA}a$ is the unique (why?) solution of the

differential equation (64.1). However this functional calculus

is too limited. For example, as \sqrt{z} and $\log z$ are

not entire, we are unable to define \sqrt{A} and $\log A$ by

this method.

We make the following definition which associates to all matrices A with spectrum contained in a fixed

simply connected region $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}$, a matrix $f(A)$

whenever f is analytic in Ω . Of course, if $\Omega = \mathbb{C}$,

(cf, e.g. (22.2) below)

then $f(A)$ will/must coincide with (63.1). (Recall a region Ω in \mathbb{C} is an open connected set in \mathbb{C} .)

So suppose f is analytic in Ω and $\text{spec}(A) \subset \Omega$.

positively oriented

Choose a γ contour $\gamma \subset \Omega$ enclosing the spectrum of A

and set

$$(66.1) \quad f(A) \equiv \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{f(z)}{z-A} dz.$$

where $\frac{1}{z-A} = (z-A)^{-1}$ = resolvent of A

at z . Note that $(z-A)^{-1}$ exists and is

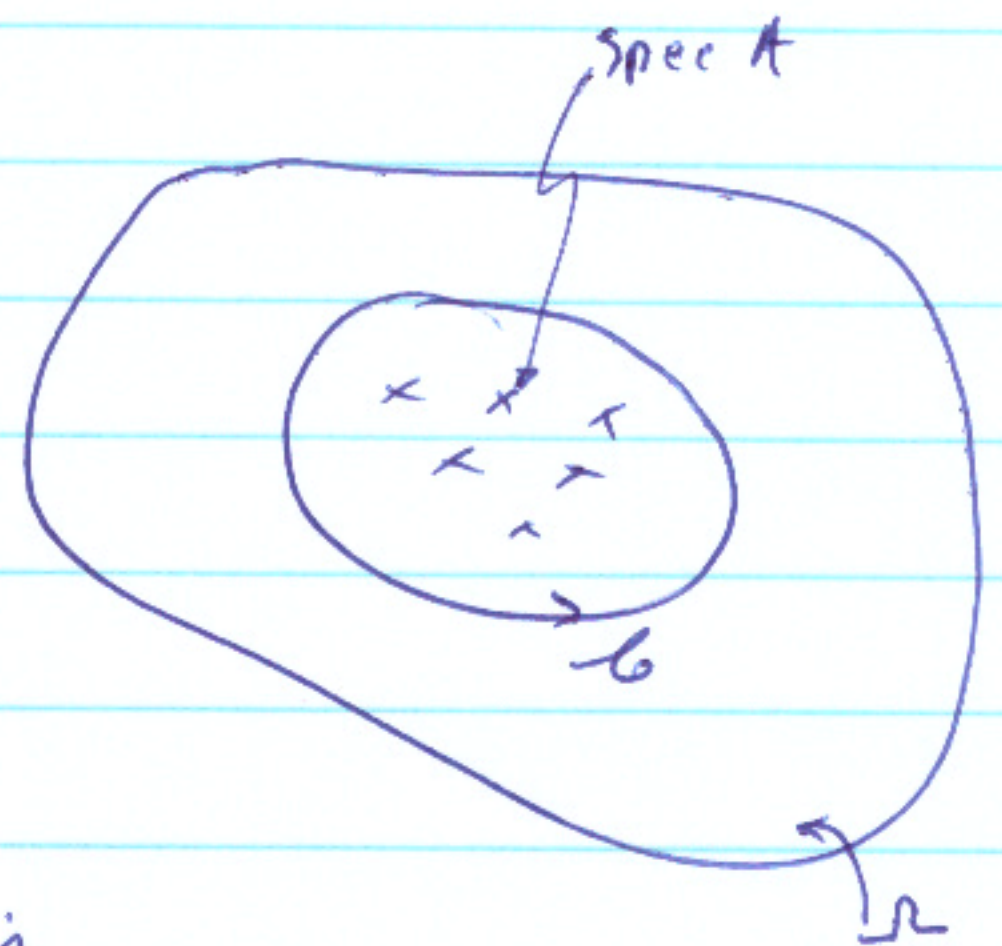
analytic on (a neighborhood) of γ , and hence is continuous

on γ . Thus the contour integral in (66.1) exists.

As we are dealing with matrices, we can understand (66.1)

coordinate-wise, i.e.
$$(f(A))_{jk} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} f(z) \left(\frac{1}{z-A}\right)_{jk} dz$$

However (66.1) is a good definition also in the case that A is a bounded operator in a Banach space,



when $\text{spec}(A)$ is no longer a finite set, but is in

general a closed, compact set (c.f. the discussion at the

end of Lecture 4 on analytic maps from \mathbb{C} into a Banach space).

NB: By Cauchy's Theorem, $f(A)$ is independent of γ , as long as $\gamma \subset \Omega$ encloses the spectrum of A .

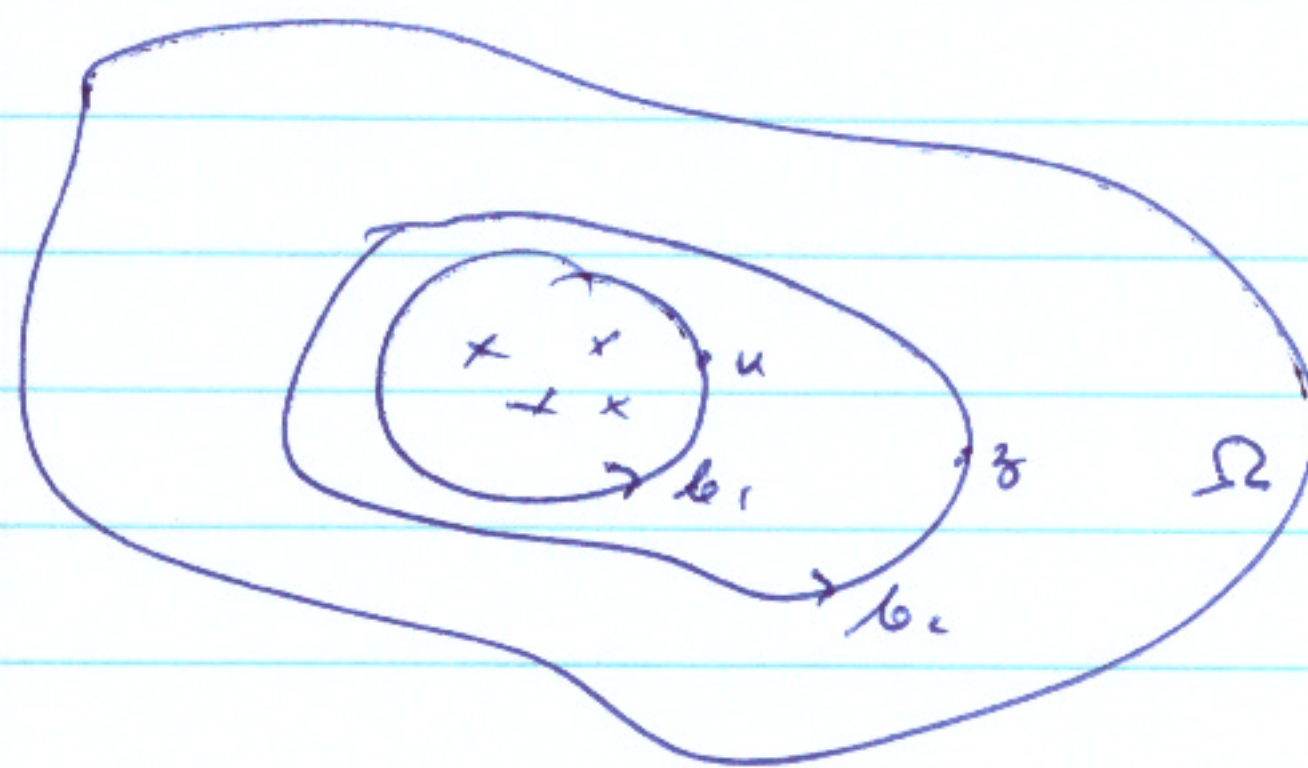
We now verify that $f \mapsto f(A)$ has properties

(i)-(v). Properties (i) and (ii) are obvious. To prove

(iii), choose 2 positively oriented contours γ_1 and γ_2 in Ω such that

γ_1 contains $\sigma(A) = \text{spec } A$ in its interior and such

that γ_2 contains γ_1 in its interior



We have for f, g analytic in Ω ,

$$\begin{aligned} g(A)f(A) &= \left(\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma_2} \frac{g(z)}{z-A} dz \right) \left(\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma_1} \frac{f(u)}{u-A} du \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{2\pi i} \right)^2 \int_{\gamma_1} \int_{\gamma_2} dz du \, g(z)f(u) \frac{1}{z-A} \frac{1}{u-A} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{1}{(2\pi i)^2} \int_{b_1, b_2} dz du \frac{g(z) f(u)}{u-z} \left(\frac{1}{z-A} - \frac{1}{u-A} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{(2\pi i)^2} \int_{b_2} dz \frac{g(z)}{z-A} \int_{b_1} du \frac{f(u)}{u-z}$$

$$- \frac{1}{(2\pi i)^2} \int_{b_1} du \frac{f(u)}{u-A} \int_{b_2} \frac{g(z)}{u-z} dz$$

$$= 0 + \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{b_1} \frac{f(u) g(u)}{u-A} du$$

$$= (gf)(A)$$

which proves (ii)

On the other hand, for $f(z) = 1$

$$f(A) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_b \frac{1}{z-A} dz$$

But as $(z-A)^{-1}$ is analytic outside of $\sigma(A)$, we

can, by Cauchy's theorem, evaluate $f(A)$ as follows:

$$f(A) = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{|z|=R} \frac{dz}{z-A}$$

But for $|z|=R \gg 1$,

$$\frac{1}{z-A} = \frac{1}{z} + \frac{1}{z(z-A)}$$

Now $\frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{|z|=R} \frac{dz}{z} = I$, and as $|z| \gg R$

(69)

$$\left\| \frac{1}{z(z-A)} \right\| \leq \frac{C}{R^2} \quad (\text{prove this})$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \oint_{|z|=R} \frac{dz}{z(z-A)} \right\| &\leq \oint_{|z|=R} \frac{C}{R^2} |dz| \\ &= \frac{C}{R^2} \cdot 2\pi R \\ &\rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } R \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$f(A) = I$$

This proves (iv).

Finally for $f(z) = z$

$$\begin{aligned} f(A) &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{z}{z-A} dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{z-A+A}{z-A} dz \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \left(\int_{\gamma} I + \int_{\gamma} \frac{A}{z-A} dz \right) \\ &= 0 + A \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{dz}{z-A} \\ &= A \end{aligned}$$

which proves (v).

The above functional calculus has another important property:

(vi) For f analytic in Ω , and $\sigma(A_n), \sigma(A) \subset \Omega$,
if $A_n \rightarrow A$, then $f(A_n) \rightarrow f(A)$.

To prove this we will need a

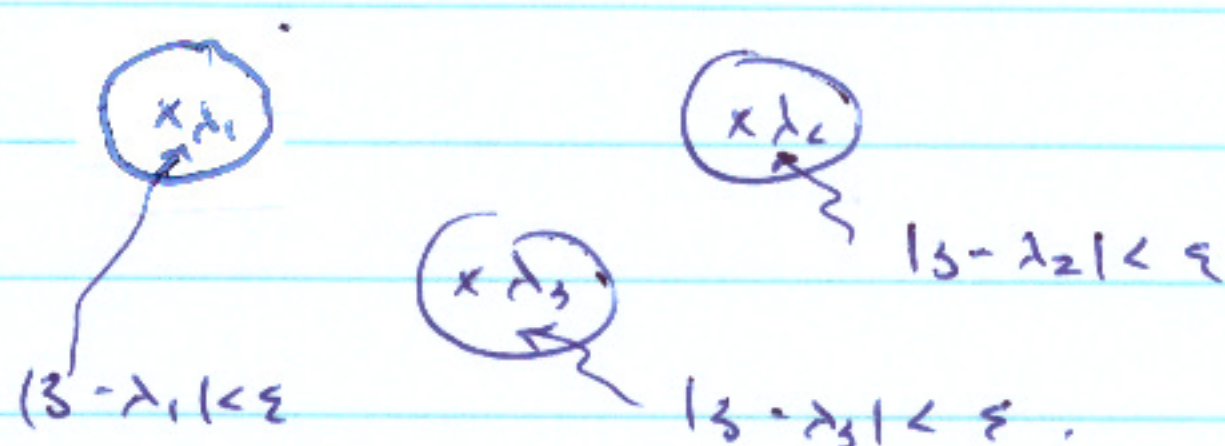
(70.1) Lemma

If $A_n \rightarrow A$, then $\sigma(A_n) \rightarrow \sigma(A)$ in the sense

that given any $\varepsilon > 0$, $\exists N$ st $n > N \Rightarrow$

$$\sigma(A_n) \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^m \{z : |z - \lambda_i| < \varepsilon\}$$

where $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m$ are the eigenvalues of A



Proof: For any $m \times m$ matrix B , $\det(z - B) = z^m + b_1 z^{m-1} + \dots + b_m$

is a polynomial and it is clear that $\exists R > 0$ st

$$|z| > R \Rightarrow |\det(z - B)| \geq 1$$

where R depends only on $\|B\|$. As $A_n \rightarrow A$, we see that for all n , $\|A_n\| \leq C$ for some C and hence $\exists R > 0$ st

$$|\det(z - A_n)| \geq 1 \quad \text{for all } |z| \geq R,$$

for all n , where R is independent of n . On the other hand, given $\eta > 0$, it is clear that for $|z| \leq R$, $\exists N$ st

$$n > N \Rightarrow |\det(z - A_n) - \det(z - A)| < \eta/2$$

Take $\eta = \inf \{ |\det(z - A)| : |z| \leq R, |z - \lambda_i| \geq \varepsilon, i=1, \dots, m \}$

As the roots of $\det(z - A)$ are the λ_i 's, we must have $\eta > 0$.

It follows then that $|\det(z - A_n)| > \eta/2$ for $|z| \leq R$ and $|z - \lambda_i| \geq \epsilon$, $i=1, \dots, m$.

But $|\det(z - A_n)| \geq 1$ for $|z| \geq R$. Thus

the roots of $\det(z - A_n)$ must lie in the set

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^m \{z - \lambda_i \mid |z - \lambda_i| < \epsilon\}$$

whenever $n \geq N$. \square .

We now return to the proof of (vi). As $\sigma(A) \subset \Omega$, by Lemma 70.1, $\sigma(A_n) \subset \Omega$ for sufficiently large n . Let $\gamma \subset \Omega$ be a fixed oriented contour with the property that $\sigma(A_n)$ and $\sigma(A)$ are contained in its interior for all sufficiently large n . We have

$$(71.1) \quad f(A_n) - f(A) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} f(z) \left(\frac{1}{z - A_n} - \frac{1}{z - A} \right) dz$$

But for each $z \in \gamma$, $\frac{1}{z - A_n} \rightarrow \frac{1}{z - A}$ and the convergence is uniform in z . To see this we use the second

resolvent identity for $z \in \gamma$

$$(71.2) \quad \frac{1}{z - A_n} = \frac{1}{z - A} + \frac{1}{z - A_n} (A_n - A) \frac{1}{z - A}.$$

Now from Lecture 4, $z \mapsto (z - A)^{-1}$ is continuous and hence $z \mapsto \|(z - A)^{-1}\|$ is continuous with $\sup_{z \in \gamma} \|(z - A)^{-1}\| = C < \infty$.

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
 (72.0) \quad \|(z - A_n)^{-1}\| &\leq \|(z - A)^{-1}\| + \|(z - A_n)^{-1}\| \|A_n - A\| \|(z - A)^{-1}\| \\
 &\leq C \left(1 + \|(z - A_n)^{-1}\| \|A_n - A\| \right) \\
 &\leq C + \frac{1}{2} \|(z - A_n)^{-1}\|
 \end{aligned}$$

for n sufficiently large. Thus

$$(72.1) \quad \|(z - A_n)^{-1}\| \leq 2C$$

for all $z \in b$ and n suff. large.

Thus from (71.1), using (71.2) and (72.0)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|f(A_n) - f(A)\| &\leq \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_b |f(z)| 2C^2 \|A_n - A\| |dz| \\
 &\leq \frac{\text{length of } b}{2\pi} \times \left(\max_{z \in b} |f(z)| \right) \times 2C^2 \|A_n - A\| \\
 &\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty. \quad \square
 \end{aligned}$$

We now show that the functional calculus

$$(f, A) \rightarrow f(A)$$

with f analytic in Ω and $\sigma(A) \subset \Omega$ gives the "right"

answer in certain cases.

$$(72.2) \quad \text{For example, suppose } f(z) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} a_j z^j \text{ is entire.}$$

So certainly f is analytic in b . By (66.1)

$$f(A) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_b \frac{f(z)}{z - A} dz = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_b \left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} a_j z^j \right) (z - A)^{-1} dz$$

$$(73.1) \quad = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} a_j \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} z^j (z-A)^{-1} dz$$

as $\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} a_j z^j$ converges uniformly.

Set $B = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} z (z-A)^{-1} dz$. Then by (ii)

$$B^j = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} z^j (z-A)^{-1} dz. \quad \text{On the other hand,}$$

by (v), $B = A$ and so $B^j = A^j$. It follows

then from (73.1) that $f(A) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} a_j A^j$ as desired

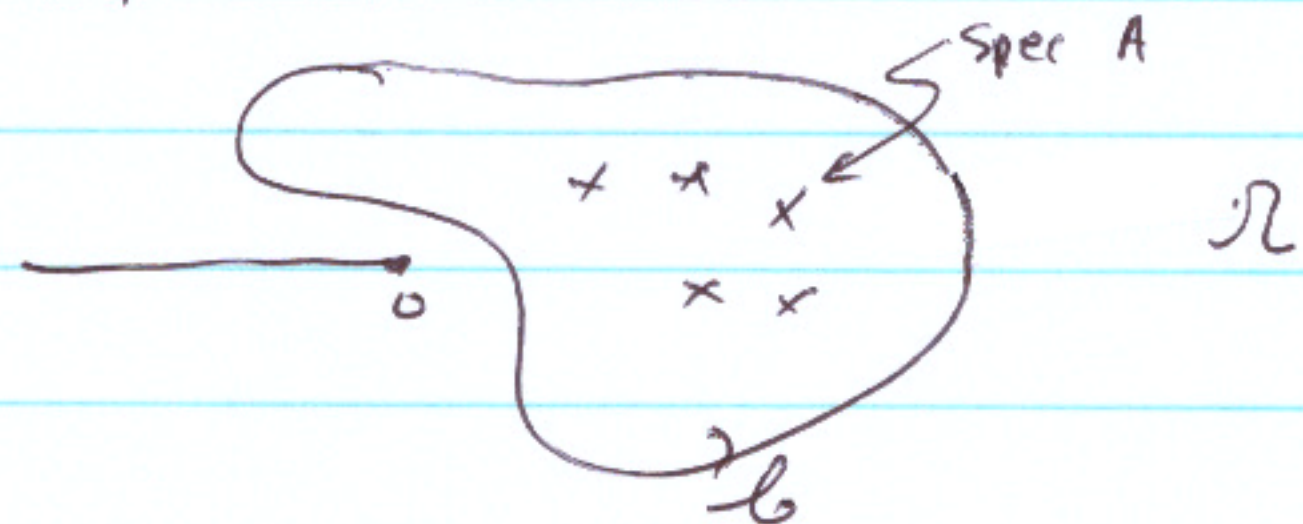
in (63.1) i.e. the new definition for $f(A)$ agrees with

the intuitive one when f is entire.

But we have gained a lot. We can speak

about $\log A$ and \sqrt{A} . More precisely, let

Ω be the slit plane, $\Omega = \mathbb{C} \setminus \{x < 0\}$



Then $\log z$ and \sqrt{z} are certainly analytic in Ω . This means that we can construct $\log A$ and \sqrt{A} for matrices with spectrum in the slit plane.

eg for A with $\sigma(A) \subset \mathbb{C} \setminus \{\text{slits}\}$,

$$\log A = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \log z \frac{1}{z-A} dz.$$

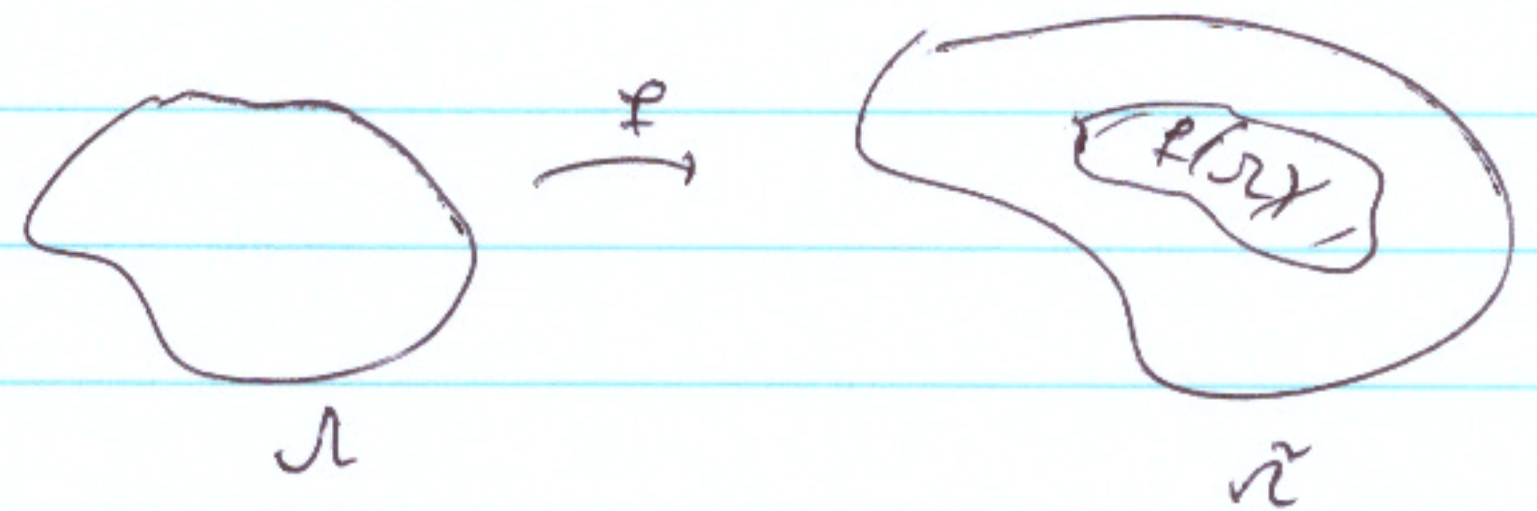
where γ is as above and $\log z$ is a branch of the logarithm analytic in Ω . Similarly for \sqrt{A} .

The functional calculus (f, A) also has the

following property

(vii) If $f(z)$ is analytic in Ω , $g(s)$ analytic in $\tilde{\Omega}$

and $f(\Omega) \subset \tilde{\Omega}$



then

$$(74.1) \quad g(f(A)) = g \circ f(A)$$

for all A with $\sigma(A) \subset \Omega$