

Multifunctions

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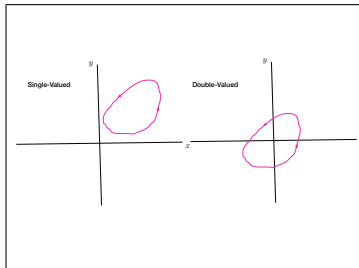
Complex Square Root

$$f(z) = z^{1/2}$$

Writing $z = r e^{i\theta}$, we get $z^{1/2} = r^{1/2} e^{i\theta/2}$. As θ changes from $0 \rightarrow 2\pi$, $z^{1/2}$ changes from $r^{1/2}$ to $-r^{1/2}$. Further change from $2\pi \rightarrow 4\pi$ restores it to $r^{1/2}$. Therefore $z^{1/2}$ is double-valued over \mathbb{C} , with 'branches'

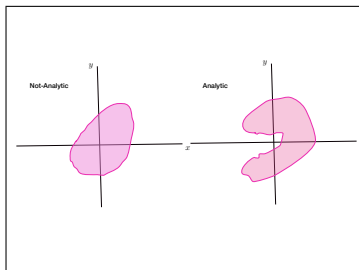
$$f_1(z) = r^{1/2} e^{i\theta/2}$$

$$f_2(z) = -r^{1/2} e^{i\theta/2}$$



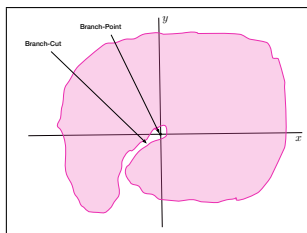
Branch-Point

As long as we do not go around the origin, the function is single-valued and analytic (Polar C.R. Equations are satisfied). The point $z = 0$ is a singular point (called 'Branch-Point') since the function is not single-valued in any region containing it.

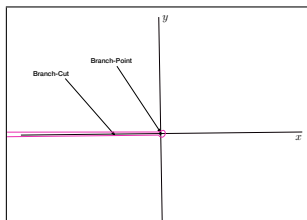


Branch-Cut

How do we maximize the region of analyticity of $f(z)$?



Convenient choice of Branch-Cut for $f(z) = z^{1/2}$



We can now define

$$z^{1/2} = r^{1/2} e^{i\theta/2}; \quad -\pi < \theta \leq \pi$$

Note that we can instead define

$$z^{1/2} = -r^{1/2} e^{i\theta/2}; \quad -\pi < \theta \leq \pi$$

Consider $f(z) = z^{1/n}$. Expressing $z = r e^{i(\theta+2n\pi)}$, we see that this has n branches:

$$z^{1/n} = r^{1/n} e^{i\theta/n} e^{i2\pi/n}$$

We can define a single-valued, analytic function (analytic everywhere except at the Branch-cut/Branch-Point)

$$z^{1/n} = r^{1/n} e^{i\theta/n}; \quad -\pi < \theta \leq \pi$$

Again, any other branch could have been taken.

Example

$f(z) = z^{1/3}$. We wish to calculate $f(-2i)$. Then we take the first branch and define

$$z^{1/3} = r^{1/3} e^{i\theta/3}; \quad -\pi < \theta \leq \pi$$

With this branch, $-i = e^{-i\pi/2}$. Then

$$f(-i) = e^{-i\pi/6}$$

If we were to take the 'third' branch

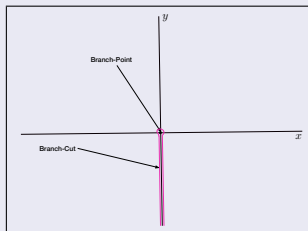
$$z^{1/3} = r^{1/3} e^{i\theta/3} e^{i2\pi/3}; \quad -\pi < \theta \leq \pi$$

then

$$\begin{aligned} f(-i) &= e^{-i\pi/6} e^{i2\pi/3} \\ &= e^{i\pi/2} \\ &= i \end{aligned}$$

Problem

Define the following branch-cut for the multifunction $f(z) = z^{1/n}$



Taking the first branch of $f(z) = z^{1/3}$, evaluate $f(-1 - i)$.

Analyticity of z^a ; $a \in \mathbb{R}$

Let $f(z) = z^a$, where a is a rational number. Clearly, it will have a finite number of branches, given by

$$z^a = r^a e^{ia\theta} e^{i2n\pi a}$$

Writing $a = p/q$, it can be seen that there will be q branches. If a is irrational, there will be an infinite number of branches. Within any one branch, expressing $z^a = u(r, \theta) + iv(r, \theta)$, we see that

$$u(r, \theta) = r^a \cos [a(\theta + 2n\pi)]$$

$$v(r, \theta) = r^a \sin [a(\theta + 2n\pi)]$$

Then

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial r} = a r^{a-1} \cos [a(\theta + 2n\pi)]$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial \theta} = -a r^a \sin [a(\theta + 2n\pi)]$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial r} = a r^{a-1} \sin [a(\theta + 2n\pi)]$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial \theta} = a r^a \cos [a(\theta + 2n\pi)]$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial v}{\partial \theta} &= r \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial \theta} &= -r \frac{\partial v}{\partial r}\end{aligned}$$

which shows that z^a is analytic for real a . The derivative is given by

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dz^a}{dz} &= e^{-i\theta} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + i \frac{\partial v}{\partial r} \right) \\ &= e^{-i\theta} ar^{a-1} [\cos [a(\theta + 2n\pi)] + i \sin [a(\theta + 2n\pi)]] \\ &= e^{-i\theta} ar^{a-1} e^{ia(\theta+2n\pi)} \\ &= az^{a-1}\end{aligned}$$

Derivative of z^a ; $a \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\frac{dz^a}{dz} = az^{a-1}$$

The complex logarithm $f(z) = \log(z)$ is defined through

$$e^{\log(z)} = z$$

Writing $\log(z) = u + iv$ and $z = |z| e^{i\theta}$

$$e^u e^{iv} = |z| e^{i\theta}$$

we get

$$u = \ln |z|$$

$$v = \theta + 2n\pi; \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Then

$$\log(z) = \ln |z| + i(\theta + 2n\pi); \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

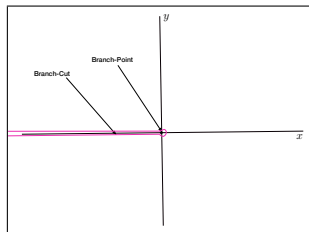
Clearly, $\log(z)$ is a multifunction with an infinite number of branches, labelled by n . Everytime we encircle the origin, we enter a new branch.

We can force $\log(z)$ to be single-valued by making a suitable branch cut. The 'Principal Branch' is defined by the following choice

$$\text{Log}(z) = \ln |z| + i\theta; \quad -\pi < \theta \leq \pi$$

Then all the branches are given by

$$\log(z) = \text{Log}(z) + i2n\pi$$



Example

We evaluate $\text{Log}(-1 - i\sqrt{3})$. Clearly, $\theta = -2\pi/3$ for the Principal Branch. Further, $|-1 - i\sqrt{3}| = 2$. Then

$$\text{Log}(-1 - i\sqrt{3}) = \ln 2 - i\frac{2\pi}{3}$$

Given a branch, the complex logarithm is an analytic function. Writing

$\log(z) = u(r, \theta) + iv(r, \theta)$, we get

$$u(r, \theta) = \ln(r)$$

$$v(r, \theta) = \theta + 2n\pi$$

Then

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial r} = \frac{1}{r}$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial \theta} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial r} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial \theta} = 1$$

Then

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial \theta} = r \frac{\partial u}{\partial r}$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial \theta} = -r \frac{\partial v}{\partial r}$$

The derivative of the log function is

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d \log z}{dz} &= e^{-i\theta} \left(\frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + i \frac{\partial v}{\partial r} \right) \\ &= e^{-i\theta} \frac{1}{r} \\ &= \frac{1}{z}\end{aligned}$$

Derivative of $\log z$

$$\frac{d \log z}{dz} = \frac{1}{z}$$

Properties of Complex Logarithm

1

$$\text{Log}(e^z) \neq z$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Log}(e^z) &= \ln|e^z| + i \text{Arg}(e^z) \\ &= \ln(e^x) + i y \quad \text{Only if } -\pi < y \leq \pi \end{aligned}$$

2

$$\text{Log}(z_1 z_2) \neq \text{Log}(z_1) + \text{Log}(z_2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Log}(z_1 z_2) &= \ln|z_1 z_2| + i \text{Arg}(z_1 z_2) \\ &= \ln|z_1| + \ln|z_2| + i \text{Arg}(z_1) + i \text{Arg}(z_2) \end{aligned}$$

only if $-\pi < \text{Arg}(z_1) + \text{Arg}(z_2) \leq \pi$

3

$$\text{Log}\left(\frac{z_1}{z_2}\right) \neq \text{Log}(z_1) - \text{Log}(z_2)$$

4

$$\text{Log}(z^n) \neq n \text{Log}(z); \quad \text{Equality only if } -\pi < n \text{Arg}(z) \leq \pi$$

Generalized Power Function

Definition:

$$z^\alpha = e^{\alpha \ln(z)}; \quad \alpha \in \mathbb{C}$$

Since $\log(z)$ is multivalued, so is z^α . A single-valued function can be defined as

$$Z^\alpha = e^{\alpha \text{Log}(z)}$$

with a branch cut and a branch point at $z = 0$. Properties:

1

$$Z^a Z^b = Z^{a+b}$$

$$\begin{aligned} Z^a Z^b &= e^{a \text{Log}(z)} e^{b \text{Log}(z)} \\ &= e^{(a+b) \text{Log}(z)} \\ &= Z^{a+b} \end{aligned}$$

2

$$\frac{Z^a}{Z^b} = Z^{a-b}$$

3

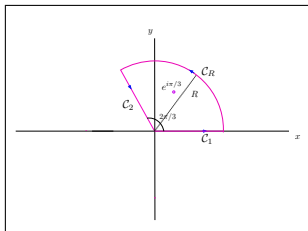
$$(Z^a)^b \neq Z^{ab}$$

$$I = \int_0^{\infty} dx \frac{\ln x}{x^3 + 1}$$

To evaluate this integral, we first evaluate

$$I_1 = \int_0^{\infty} dx \frac{1}{x^3 + 1}$$

Let $f(z) = 1/(z^3 + 1)$. This has poles at $z_1 = e^{i\pi/3}$, $z_2 = e^{i\pi}$ and $z_3 = e^{i5\pi/3}$.



Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \oint dz f(z) &= 2\pi i \operatorname{Res}_{z=z_1} f(z) \\
 &= 2\pi i \operatorname{Res}_{z=z_1} \frac{1}{(z-z_1)(z-z_2)(z-z_3)} \\
 &= 2\pi i \frac{1}{(z_1-z_2)(z_1-z_3)} \\
 &= \frac{2\pi i}{3} e^{-i2\pi/3}
 \end{aligned}$$

The integral along contour C_1 is

$$I_{C_1} = \int_0^R dr \frac{1}{r^3 + 1}$$

Along C_2 , $z = r e^{i2\pi/3}$; $r \in [R, 0]$. Then $dz = e^{i2\pi/3} dr$ so that

$$I_{C_2} = -e^{i2\pi/3} \int_0^R dr \frac{1}{r^3 + 1}$$

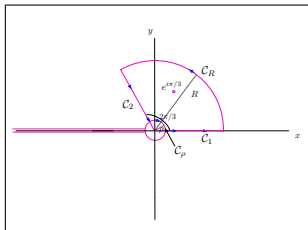
As $R \rightarrow \infty$, the integral along C_R goes to zero. Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
 (1 - e^{i2\pi/3}) \int_0^\infty dr \frac{1}{r^3 + 1} &= \frac{2\pi i}{3} e^{-i2\pi/3} \\
 \implies I_1 &= \frac{2\pi i}{3} \frac{e^{-i2\pi/3}}{(1 - e^{i2\pi/3})} \\
 &= \frac{2\pi}{3\sqrt{3}}
 \end{aligned}$$

We now evaluate

$$I = \int_0^{\infty} dx \frac{\ln x}{x^3 + 1}$$

We choose $f(z) = \frac{\text{Log}(z)}{z^3+1}$ with a branch cut for the Log function, and evaluate the following closed loop contour integral



Along C_1 , $z = r$ so that

$$I_{C_1} = \int_{\rho}^R dr \frac{\ln r}{r^3 + 1}$$

Along C_2 , $z = r e^{i2\pi/3}$ so that $dz = e^{i2\pi/3} dr$. Further, $\text{Log}(z) = \ln r + i2\pi/3$. Then

$$I_{C_2} = -e^{i2\pi/3} \int_{\rho}^R dr \frac{\ln r}{r^3 + 1} - i \frac{2\pi}{3} e^{i2\pi/3} \int_{\rho}^R dr \frac{1}{r^3 + 1}$$

The integrand has poles at $z_1 = e^{i\pi/3}$, $z_2 = e^{i\pi}$ and $z_3 = e^{i5\pi/3}$ of which only z_1 is of interest. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \oint dz f(z) &= 2\pi i \text{Res}_{z=z_1} f(z) \\ &= 2\pi i \text{Res}_{z=z_1} \frac{\text{Log}(z)}{(z - z_1)(z - z_2)(z - z_3)} \\ &= 2\pi i \frac{\text{Log}(z_1)}{(z_1 - z_2)(z_1 - z_3)} \\ &= \left(\frac{2\pi i}{3}\right) \frac{i\pi}{3} e^{-i2\pi/3} \\ &= -\frac{2\pi^2}{9} e^{-i2\pi/3} \end{aligned}$$

In the limit $R \rightarrow \infty$, the integral along C_R goes to zero. Then substituting for $I_1 = 2\pi/3\sqrt{3}$, we finally get

$$\int_0^\infty dr \frac{\ln r}{r^3 + 1} = -\frac{2\pi^2}{27}$$

Quantum Propagation of a Relativistic Particle

In non-relativistic QM, the wavefunction of a particle at instant t if it is located at the origin (in a state of well-defined position) is given by

$$\psi(\vec{x}, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} e^{-iE_p t/\hbar} e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}/\hbar}$$

where $E_p = \vec{p}^2/2m$ and $d^3p = dp_x dp_y dp_z$. This expression is not Lorentz invariant. To construct a Lorentz invariant expression, we conjecture that

$$\psi(\vec{x}, t) = mc^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{E_p} e^{-iE_p t/\hbar} e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{x}/\hbar}$$

where $E_p = \sqrt{\vec{p}^2 c^2 + m^2 c^4}$.

To say this is Lorentz invariant is the same as saying that under $\vec{x} \rightarrow \vec{x}'$ and $t \rightarrow t'$, ψ should remain the same, where (choosing x to be the direction along the Lorentz boost and working in units with $\hbar = c = 1$)

$$x^{0'} = \gamma(v) (x^0 - vx)$$

$$x' = \gamma(v) (x - vx^0)$$

$$y' = y$$

$$z' = z$$

where $x^0 = ct \equiv t$. The wavefunction is

$$\psi(\vec{x}, t) = m \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dp_x dp_y dp_z}{(2\pi\hbar)^3 p_0} e^{-i(p_0 x^0 - p_x x - p_y y - p_z z)}$$

where $p_0 = E_p = \sqrt{p_x^2 + p_y^2 + p_z^2 + m^2}$.

Under $(x^0, x, y, z) \rightarrow (x^{0'}, x', y', z')$, the wavefunction changes to

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(\vec{x}, t) &\rightarrow m \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dp_x dp_y dp_z}{(2\pi\hbar)^3 p_0} e^{-i(p_0 x^{0'} - p_x x' - p_y y' - p_z z')} \\ &= m \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dp_x dp_y dp_z}{(2\pi\hbar)^3 p_0} e^{-i(p_0 [\gamma(v)(x^0 - vx)] - p_x [\gamma(v)(x - vx^0)] - p_y y - p_z z)} \\ &= m \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dp_x dp_y dp_z}{(2\pi\hbar)^3 p_0} e^{-i([\gamma(v)(p_0 + vp_x)]x^0 - [\gamma(v)(p_x + vp_0)]x - p_y y - p_z z)} \end{aligned}$$

Now, we change momentum integration variables to p'_x, p'_y, p'_z where

$$\begin{aligned} p'_x &= \gamma(v)(p_x + vp_0) \\ p'_y &= p_y \\ p'_z &= p_z \end{aligned}$$

while also defining

$$p'_0 = \gamma(v)(p_0 + vp_x)$$

Then it is easy to check that the exponent becomes $(p'_0 x^0 - p'_x x - p'_y y - p'_z z)$. We now need the Jacobian for the change in variables

$$dp'_x dp'_y dp'_z = \mathcal{J} \left(\frac{p'_x, p'_y, p'_z}{p_x, p_y, p_z} \right) dp_x dp_y dp_z$$

where

$$\mathcal{J} = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial p'_x}{\partial p_x} & \frac{\partial p'_x}{\partial p_y} & \frac{\partial p'_x}{\partial p_z} \\ \frac{\partial p'_y}{\partial p_x} & \frac{\partial p'_y}{\partial p_y} & \frac{\partial p'_y}{\partial p_z} \\ \frac{\partial p'_z}{\partial p_x} & \frac{\partial p'_z}{\partial p_y} & \frac{\partial p'_z}{\partial p_z} \end{vmatrix}$$

In evaluating the partial derivatives, it should be noted that p_0 is also a function of p_x, p_y, p_z through $p_0 = \sqrt{p_x^2 + p_y^2 + p_z^2 + m^2}$.

The Jacobian is calculated to be

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{J} &= \begin{vmatrix} \gamma(v) + v\gamma(v)p_x/p_0 & v\gamma(v)p_y/p_0 & v\gamma(v)p_z/p_0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \gamma(v) + v\gamma(v)p_x/p_0 \\ &= \frac{p'_0}{p_0} \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} dp'_x dp'_y dp'_z &= \frac{p'_0}{p_0} dp_x dp_y dp_z \\ \Rightarrow \frac{dp'_x dp'_y dp'_z}{p'_0} &= \frac{dp_x dp_y dp_z}{p_0} \end{aligned}$$

Finally, the wavefunction becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
 \psi(\vec{x}, t) &\rightarrow m \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dp'_x dp'_y dp'_z}{(2\pi\hbar)^3 p'_0} e^{-i(p'_0 x^0 - p'_x x - p'_y y - p'_z z)} \\
 &= \psi(\vec{x}, t)
 \end{aligned}$$

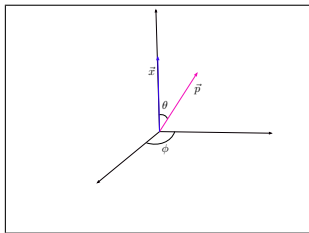
and so is invariant under a Lorentz transformation. It is easy to check that in the non-relativistic limit $c \rightarrow \infty$, the wavefunction reduces to the non-relativistic one (apart from an insignificant overall phase).

Evaluation of the Wavefunction

We now evaluate

$$\psi(\vec{x}, t) = m \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dp_x dp_y dp_z}{(2\pi\hbar)^3 p_0} e^{-i(p_0 x^0 - p_x x - p_y y - p_z z)}$$

For a given \vec{x} , the set (p_x, p_y, p_z) can be visualised as a vector \vec{p} . For a given (p_x, p_y, p_z) , this vector has length $p = \sqrt{p_x^2 + p_y^2 + p_z^2}$ and makes angle θ with \vec{x} . As (p_x, p_y, p_z) change in the integral, the length p and the angle θ change



Making a change of variables from (p_x, p_y, p_z) to (p, θ, ϕ) , we get

$$\begin{aligned}\psi(\vec{x}, t) &= \frac{m}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^\infty dp \frac{p^2}{\sqrt{p^2 + m^2}} \int_0^\infty d\theta \sin\theta e^{-ip_0x^0} e^{ip|\vec{x}|\cos\theta} \\ &= \frac{4\pi m}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{|\vec{x}|} \int_0^\infty dp \frac{p^2}{\sqrt{p^2 + m^2}} e^{-ip_0x^0} \frac{\sin(p|\vec{x}|)}{p}\end{aligned}$$

We now evaluate this at space-like point (t, \vec{x}) such that $-t^2 + |\vec{x}|^2 > 0$. Then it is possible to choose a Lorentz frame such that $t = 0$. With this choice, we get

$$\begin{aligned}\psi &= \frac{4\pi m}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{|\vec{x}|} \int_0^\infty dp \frac{p}{\sqrt{p^2 + m^2}} \sin(p|\vec{x}|) \\ &= \frac{2\pi m}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{|\vec{x}|} \int_{-\infty}^\infty dp \frac{p}{\sqrt{p^2 + m^2}} \sin(p|\vec{x}|) \\ &= \frac{2\pi m}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{|\vec{x}|^2} \int_{-\infty}^\infty du \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + a^2}} \sin u\end{aligned}$$

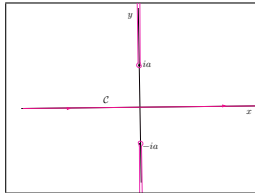
where $a = m|\vec{x}|$.

We now need to evaluate the integral

$$I = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} du \frac{u}{\sqrt{u^2 + a^2}} \sin u$$

We evaluate it in the complex plane. Let

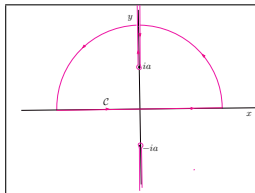
$$\begin{aligned} f(z) &= \frac{z}{\sqrt{z - ia} \sqrt{z + ia}} \sin z \\ &= \frac{1}{2i} \frac{z}{\sqrt{z - ia} \sqrt{z + ia}} (e^{iz} - e^{-iz}) \end{aligned}$$



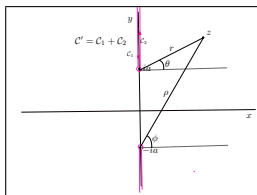
Then

$$I = \int_C dz f(z)$$

We evaluate the two exponential parts separately. For the first, we consider the following contour



In the limit the radius of the semicircle approaches infinity, the contour integral reduces to



Writing $z - ia = r e^{i\theta}$ and $z + ia = \rho e^{i\phi}$ such that $-3\pi/2 < \theta \leq \pi/2$, $-\pi/2 < \phi \leq 3\pi/2$, the first exponential term contributes to the function as

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{2i} \frac{z e^{iz}}{\sqrt{z - ia} \sqrt{z + ia}}$$

Along C_1 , $\theta = -3\pi/2$, $\phi = \pi/2$ so that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{C_1} dz f(z) &= -\frac{1}{2} \int_{\infty}^0 dr \frac{(a+r) e^{-(a+r)}}{r^{1/2} \rho^{1/2}} \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\infty} dr \frac{(a+r) e^{-(a+r)}}{r^{1/2} (2a+r)^{1/2}} \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \int_a^{\infty} du \frac{u e^{-u}}{\sqrt{u^2 - a^2}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Along C_2 , $\theta = \pi/2$, $\phi = \pi/2$ and it is easy to check that the integral gives the same contribution. For the second exponential term, we take a similar contour in the lower half complex plane. Again, the contribution is easily seen to be the same as for the upper half. Then, finally

$$I = 2 \int_a^{\infty} du \frac{u e^{-u}}{\sqrt{u^2 - a^2}}$$

The wavefunction is then

$$\psi = \frac{4\pi m}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{|\vec{x}|^2} \int_a^\infty du \frac{u e^{-u}}{\sqrt{u^2 - a^2}}$$

where (substituting back \hbar and c),

$$a = \frac{|\vec{x}|}{(\hbar/mc)}$$

Making a simple substitution gives

$$\psi = \frac{4\pi m}{(2\pi\hbar)^3} \frac{1}{|\vec{x}|^2} e^{-a} \int_0^\infty ds \frac{(s+a) e^{-s}}{\sqrt{s(s+2a)}}$$

The exponential factor $e^{-a} = e^{-\frac{|\vec{x}|}{(\hbar/mc)}}$ shows that the probability of detecting the particle outside the light-cone falls exponentially with distance with a characteristic length equal to the compton wavelength $\lambda_c = \hbar/mc$ of the particle.