

## MAPPING CIRCLES ONTO ELLIPSES

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Here's a quick example of mapping domains in the complex plane. We map the circle  $|z| = \rho$  using the mapping

$$w = z + \frac{1}{z} \quad (1)$$

We can write the circle as

$$z = \rho e^{i\theta} \quad (2)$$

for  $0 \leq \theta < 2\pi$ . Then using 1 we have

$$w = \rho e^{i\theta} + \frac{1}{\rho} e^{-i\theta} \quad (3)$$

$$= \rho (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta) + \frac{1}{\rho} (\cos \theta - i \sin \theta) \quad (4)$$

$$= \left( \rho + \frac{1}{\rho} \right) \cos \theta + i \left( \rho - \frac{1}{\rho} \right) \sin \theta \quad (5)$$

If we write  $w$  in terms of its real and imaginary parts as

$$w = u + iv \quad (6)$$

then

$$u = \left( \rho + \frac{1}{\rho} \right) \cos \theta \quad (7)$$

$$v = \left( \rho - \frac{1}{\rho} \right) \sin \theta$$

from which we get

$$\frac{u^2}{\left( \rho + \frac{1}{\rho} \right)^2} + \frac{v^2}{\left( \rho - \frac{1}{\rho} \right)^2} = 1 \quad (8)$$

which is the equation of an ellipse in the  $w$  plane, provided that  $\rho \neq 1$ . The semi-major axis is  $\rho + \frac{1}{\rho}$  and the semi-minor axis is  $\rho - \frac{1}{\rho}$ .