



Exercise on simple connectivity

Consider a square  and an annulus  in the plane. Of course a square is simply connected, and an annulus is not. For each of the following properties, can you verify explicitly—without simply quoting a theorem—that a square has the property, and an annulus lacks the property?

Topological properties equivalent to simple connectivity

1. The complement of the domain with respect to the Riemann sphere is connected.
2. The fundamental group π_1 of the domain is trivial. (Every closed curve in the domain is homotopic to a constant curve.)
3. For every piecewise C^1 closed curve in the domain and every point in the complement of the domain, the winding number of the curve about the point is equal to 0. (Every piecewise C^1 closed curve in the domain is “homologous to zero”.)
4. The domain is homeomorphic to the open unit disc.

Analytic properties equivalent to simple connectivity

5. Every holomorphic function on the domain has a holomorphic anti-derivative on the domain.
6. Every holomorphic function on the domain that does not take the value 0 has a holomorphic logarithm on the domain.
7. Every holomorphic function on the domain that does not take the value 0 has a holomorphic square root on the domain.
8. Every harmonic function on the domain is the real part of a holomorphic function on the domain.
9. Every holomorphic function on the domain can be approximated uniformly on compact subsets of the domain by holomorphic polynomials.