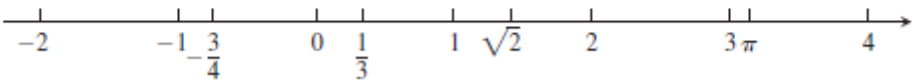# Real & Complex Number

Tuesday, 25 February 2025　　11:07 pm

Real Numbers

Much of calculus is based on properties of the real number system. **Real numbers** are numbers that can be expressed as decimals, such as

$$-\frac{3}{4} = -0.75000\ldots$$

$$\frac{1}{3} = 0.33333\ldots$$

$$\sqrt{2} = 1.4142\ldots$$

　　The real numbers can be represented geometrically as points on a number line called the **real line**.

1. The **natural numbers**, namely 1, 2, 3, 4, . . .
2. The **integers**, namely 0, ±1, ±2, ±3, . . .
3. The **rational numbers**, namely the numbers that can be expressed in the form of a fraction m/n, where m and n are integers and $n \neq 0$. Examples are

$$\frac{1}{3}, \quad -\frac{4}{9} = \frac{-4}{9} = \frac{4}{-9}, \quad \frac{200}{13}, \quad \text{and} \quad 57 = \frac{57}{1}.$$

TABLE A.1 Types of intervals

Notation	Set description	Type	Picture
(a, b)	$\{x \mid a < x < b\}$	Open	
$[a, b]$	$\{x \mid a \leq x \leq b\}$	Closed	
$[a, b)$	$\{x \mid a \leq x < b\}$	Half-open	
$(a, b]$	$\{x \mid a < x \leq b\}$	Half-open	
(a, ∞)	$\{x \mid x > a\}$	Open	
$[a, \infty)$	$\{x \mid x \geq a\}$	Closed	
$(-\infty, b)$	$\{x \mid x < b\}$	Open	
$(-\infty, b]$	$\{x \mid x \leq b\}$	Closed	
$(-\infty, \infty)$	$\mathbb{R}$ (set of all real numbers)	Both open and closed	

Absolute Value Properties

1. $|-a| = |a|$
   A number and its additive inverse or negative have the same absolute value.

2. $|ab| = |a||b|$
   The absolute value of a product is the product of the absolute values.

3. $\left|\dfrac{a}{b}\right| = \dfrac{|a|}{|b|}$
   The absolute value of a quotient is the quotient of the absolute values.

4. $|a + b| \le |a| + |b|$
   The **triangle inequality**. The absolute value of the sum of two numbers is less than or equal to the sum of their absolute values.

The Complex Numbers

Imagination was called upon at many stages during the development of the real number system. In fact, the art of invention was needed at least three times in constructing the systems we have discussed so far:

1. The *first invented* system: the set of *all integers* as constructed from the counting numbers.

2. The *second invented* system: the set of *rational numbers m/n* as constructed from the integers.

3. The *third invented* system: the set of all *real numbers x* as constructed from the rational numbers.

1. In the system of all integers, we can solve all equations of the form

$$x + a = 0, \tag{6}$$

where a can be any integer.

2. In the system of all rational numbers, we can solve all equations of the form

$$ax + b = 0, \tag{7}$$

provided a and b are rational numbers and $a \ne 0$.

3. In the system of all real numbers, we can solve all of Equations (6) and (7) and, in addition, all quadratic equations

$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0 \quad \text{having} \quad a \ne 0 \quad \text{and} \quad b^2 - 4ac \ge 0. \tag{8}$$

You are probably familiar with the formula that gives the solutions of Equation (8), namely,

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}, \tag{9}$$

and are familiar with the further fact that when the discriminant, $b^2 - 4ac$, is negative, the solutions in Equation (9) do *not* belong to any of the systems discussed above. In fact, the very simple quadratic equation

$$x^2 + 1 = 0$$

Equality

$a + ib = c + id$
if and only if
$a = c$ and $b = d$.

Two complex numbers (a, b) and (c, d) are *equal* if and only if $a = c$ and $b = d$.

Addition

$(a + ib) + (c + id)$
$= (a + c) + i(b + d)$

The *sum* of the two complex numbers (a, b) and (c, d) is the complex number $(a + c, b + d)$.

Multiplication

$(a + ib)(c + id)$
$= (ac - bd) + i(ad + bc)$

The *product* of two complex numbers (a, b) and (c, d) is the complex number $(ac - bd, ad + bc)$.

$c(a + ib) = ac + i(bc)$

The product of a real number c and the complex number (a, b) is the complex number (ac, bc).

$$\frac{c + id}{a + ib} = \frac{(c + id)(a - ib)}{(a + ib)(a - ib)} = \frac{(ac + bd) + i(ad - bc)}{a^2 + b^2}.$$

The result is a complex number $x + iy$ with

$$x = \frac{ac + bd}{a^2 + b^2}, \qquad y = \frac{ad - bc}{a^2 + b^2},$$

and $a^2 + b^2 \neq 0$, since $a + ib = (a, b) \neq (0, 0)$.

The number $a - ib$ that is used as the multiplier to clear the i from the denominator is called the **complex conjugate** of $a + ib$. It is customary to use $\bar{z}$ (read "z bar") to denote the complex conjugate of z; thus

$$z = a + ib, \qquad \bar{z} = a - ib.$$

EXAMPLE 1   We give some illustrations of the arithmetic operations with complex numbers.

(a) $(2 + 3i) + (6 - 2i) = (2 + 6) + (3 - 2)i = 8 + i$

(b) $(2 + 3i) - (6 - 2i) = (2 - 6) + (3 - (-2))i = -4 + 5i$

(c) $(2 + 3i)(6 - 2i) = (2)(6) + (2)(-2i) + (3i)(6) + (3i)(-2i)$
$$= 12 - 4i + 18i - 6i^2 = 12 + 14i + 6 = 18 + 14i$$

(d) $\dfrac{2 + 3i}{6 - 2i} = \dfrac{2 + 3i}{6 - 2i}\dfrac{6 + 2i}{6 + 2i}$

$$= \frac{12 + 4i + 18i + 6i^2}{36 + 12i - 12i - 4i^2}$$
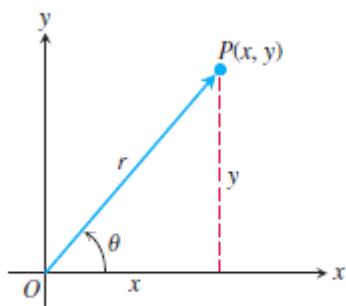
$$= \frac{6 + 22i}{40} = \frac{3}{20} + \frac{11}{20}i \qquad \blacksquare$$

FIGURE A.26 This Argand diagram represents $z = x + iy$ both as a point $P(x, y)$ and as a vector $\overrightarrow{OP}$.

Argand Diagrams

There are two geometric representations of the complex number $z = x + iy$:

1. as the point $P(x, y)$ in the xy-plane
2. as the vector $\overrightarrow{OP}$ from the origin to P.

In each representation, the x-axis is called the **real axis** and the y-axis is the **imaginary axis**. Both representations are **Argand diagrams** for $x + iy$ (Figure A.26).

In terms of the polar coordinates of x and y, we have

$$x = r\cos\theta, \qquad y = r\sin\theta,$$

and

$$z = x + iy = r(\cos\theta + i\sin\theta). \tag{10}$$

We define the **absolute value** of a complex number $x + iy$ to be the length r of a vector $\overrightarrow{OP}$ from the origin to $P(x, y)$. We denote the absolute value by vertical bars; thus,

$$|x + iy| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}.$$

If we always choose the polar coordinates r and θ so that r is nonnegative, then

$$r = |x + iy|.$$

The polar angle θ is called the **argument** of z and is written $\theta = \arg z$. Of course, any integer multiple of 2π may be added to θ to produce another appropriate angle.

The following equation gives a useful formula connecting a complex number z, its conjugate $\bar{z}$, and its absolute value $|z|$, namely,

$$z \cdot \bar{z} = |z|^2.$$

Euler's Formula

The identity

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos\theta + i\sin\theta,$$

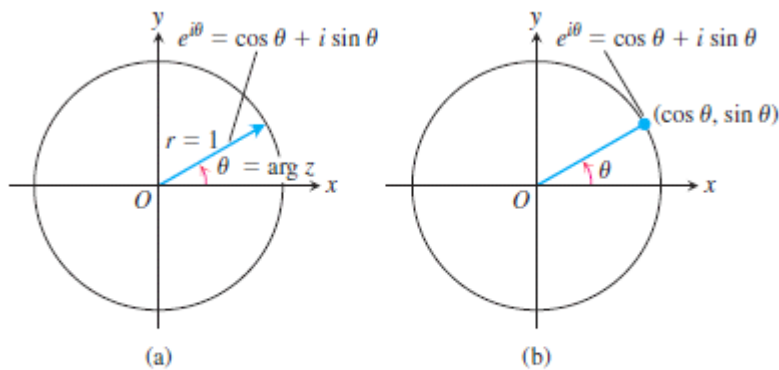called **Euler's formula**, enables us to rewrite Equation (10) as

$$z = re^{i\theta}.$$

FIGURE A.27 Argand diagrams for $e^{i\theta} = \cos\theta + i\sin\theta$ (a) as a vector and (b) as a point.
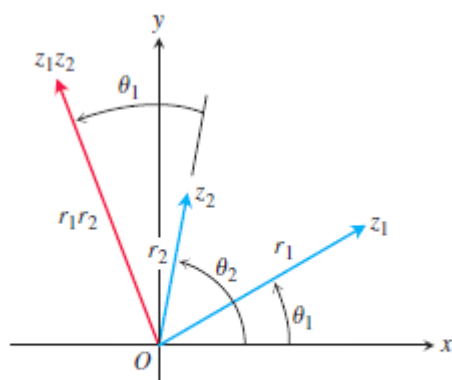

FIGURE A.28 When z_1 and z_2 are multiplied, $|z_1 z_2| = r_1 \cdot r_2$ and $\arg(z_1 z_2) = \theta_1 + \theta_2$.

EXAMPLE 2 Let $z_1 = 1 + i, z_2 = \sqrt{3} - i$. We plot these complex numbers in an Argand diagram (Figure A.29) from which we read off the polar representations

$$z_1 = \sqrt{2}e^{i\pi/4}, \qquad z_2 = 2e^{-i\pi/6}.$$

Then

$$z_1 z_2 = 2\sqrt{2} \exp\left(\frac{i\pi}{4} - \frac{i\pi}{6}\right) = 2\sqrt{2}\exp\left(\frac{i\pi}{12}\right)$$

$$= 2\sqrt{2}\left(\cos\frac{\pi}{12} + i\sin\frac{\pi}{12}\right) \approx 2.73 + 0.73i. \qquad \blacksquare$$

Quotients

Suppose $r_2 \neq 0$ in Equation (11). Then

$$\frac{z_1}{z_2} = \frac{r_1 e^{i\theta_1}}{r_2 e^{i\theta_2}} = \frac{r_1}{r_2} e^{i(\theta_1 - \theta_2)}.$$

EXAMPLE 3   Let $z_1 = 1 + i$ and $z_2 = \sqrt{3} - i$, as in Example 2. Then

$$\frac{1+i}{\sqrt{3}-i} = \frac{\sqrt{2}e^{i\pi/4}}{2e^{-i\pi/6}} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}e^{5\pi i/12} \approx 0.707\left(\cos\frac{5\pi}{12} + i\sin\frac{5\pi}{12}\right)$$

$$\approx 0.183 + 0.683i. \qquad\qquad \blacksquare$$