Complex Numbers

A complex number is an ordered pair of real numbers, $(a, b) = a + bi$. A vector in $\mathbb{R}^2$ is also an ordered pair, (a, b) of real numbers.

Indeed, vector addition and scalar multiplication on complex numbers are defined just as with $\mathbb{R}^2$. However, unlike vectors in $\mathbb{R}^2$, there is also an operation $\cdot$. We desire for $(0, 1) \cdot (0, 1) = (-1, 0)$; essentially, $i^2 = -1$. We say that i is a square foot of -1; every complex number except 0 has two square roots.

$$\begin{aligned}
(a, b) \cdot (c, d) &= (a + bi) + (c + di) \\
&:= a(c) + adi + bci + bd(i^2) \\
&:= (ac - bd) + (ad + bc)i \\
&= (ac - bd, ad + bc)
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\mathbb{R}^2$ with the operations $+$ and the above defined complex multiplication is known as $\mathbb{C}$. We write as $a + bi$ instead of (a, b).

Given $z = (a + bi) \in \mathbb{C}$, we write $\text{Re}(z) = a$ and $\text{Im}(z) = b$. If $\text{Im}(z) = 0$, then $z \in \mathbb{R} \times \{0\} \subset \mathbb{C}$. However, many people say that $\mathbb{R} \subseteq \mathbb{C}$, even if $\mathbb{C}$ isn't defined as such.

Reciprocals of Complex Numbers

Let $z \in \mathbb{C}$, where $z \neq 0$. Then, $\exists w \in C$ such that $zw = 1$.

Let $w = c + di$. We want to show that $zw = 1$.

$$(a + bi) + (c + di) = (ac - bd) + (ad + bc)i$$

with the condition that

$$\begin{aligned}
ac - bd &= 1 \\
ad + bc &= 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, let $w = c + di$, with $a, b \neq 0$

$$\begin{aligned}
c &= \frac{a}{a^2 + b^2} \\
d &= \frac{-b}{a^2 + b^2}
\end{aligned}$$

For every $z \neq 0$, with $z = a + bi$, the *reciprocal* of z is defined as $\frac{1}{z} = \frac{a}{a^2+b^2} + \frac{-b}{a^2+b^2}i$. Then, for $w \in \mathbb{C}$, we define

$$\frac{w}{z} := w\left(\frac{1}{z}\right).$$

Properties of Complex Numbers

Let $z = a + bi \in C$. Then, the (Euclidean) norm (or absolute value) of z is defined as

$$|z| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}.$$

The conjugate of $z = a + bi$ is $\overline{z} = a - bi$.

(i) $z\overline{z} = |z|^2$

(ii) $\overline{(\overline{z})} = z$

(iii) $\overline{(z+w)} = \overline{z} + \overline{w}$

(iv) $\overline{zw} = \overline{z} \cdot \overline{w}$

(v) $z + \overline{z} = 2\text{Re}(z)$, so $\text{Re}(z) = \frac{z+\overline{z}}{2}$

(vi) $z - \overline{z} = 2\text{Im}(z)i$, so $\text{Im}(z) = \frac{z-\overline{z}}{2i}$