Example 1 If $4x + i(3x - y) = 3 + i(-6)$, where x and y are real numbers, then find the values of x and y.

Solution We have

$$4x + i(3x - y) = 3 + i(-6) \qquad \ldots (1)$$

Equating the real and the imaginary parts of (1), we get

$$4x = 3,\ 3x - y = -6,$$

which, on solving simultaneously, give $x = \frac{3}{4}$ and $y = \frac{33}{4}$.

Example 2 Express the following in the form of $a + bi$:

(i) $(-5i)\left(\frac{1}{8}i\right)$ (ii) $(-i)(2i)\left(-\frac{1}{8}i\right)^3$

Solution (i) $(-5i)\left(\frac{1}{8}i\right) = \frac{-5}{8}i^2 = \frac{-5}{8}(-1) = \frac{5}{8} = \frac{5}{8} + i0$

(ii) $(-i)(2i)\left(-\frac{1}{8}i\right)^3 = 2 \times \frac{1}{8 \times 8 \times 8} \times i^5 = \frac{1}{256}\left(i^2\right)^2 i = \frac{1}{256}i$.

Example 3 Express $(5 - 3i)^3$ in the form $a + ib$.

Solution We have, $(5 - 3i)^3 = 5^3 - 3 \times 5^2 \times (3i) + 3 \times 5\,(3i)^2 - (3i)^3$

$$= 125 - 225i - 135 + 27i = -10 - 198i.$$

Example 4 Express $\left(-\sqrt{3}+\sqrt{-2}\right)\left(2\sqrt{3}-i\right)$ in the form of $a + ib$

Solution We have, $\left(-\sqrt{3}+\sqrt{-2}\right)\left(2\sqrt{3}-i\right) = \left(-\sqrt{3}+\sqrt{2}\,i\right)\left(2\sqrt{3}-i\right)$

$$= -6+\sqrt{3}i+2\sqrt{6}i-\sqrt{2}\,i^2 = \left(-6+\sqrt{2}\right)+\sqrt{3}\left(1+2\sqrt{2}\right)i$$

Example 5 Find the multiplicative inverse of 2 – 3*i*.

Solution Let $z = 2 - 3i$

Then $\bar{z} = 2 + 3i$ and $|z|^2 = 2^2 + (-3)^2 = 13$

Therefore, the multiplicative inverse of $2 - 3i$ is given by

$$z^{-1} = \frac{\bar{z}}{|z|^2} = \frac{2+3i}{13} = \frac{2}{13} + \frac{3}{13}i$$

The above working can be reproduced in the following manner also,

$$z^{-1} = \frac{1}{2-3i} = \frac{2+3i}{(2-3i)(2+3i)}$$

$$= \frac{2+3i}{2^2 - (3i)^2} = \frac{2+3i}{13} = \frac{2}{13} + \frac{3}{13}i$$

Example 6 Express the following in the form $a + ib$

(i) $\dfrac{5+\sqrt{2}i}{1-\sqrt{2}i}$ (ii) i^{-35}

Solution (i) We have, $\dfrac{5+\sqrt{2}i}{1-\sqrt{2}i} = \dfrac{5+\sqrt{2}i}{1-\sqrt{2}i} \times \dfrac{1+\sqrt{2}i}{1+\sqrt{2}i} = \dfrac{5+5\sqrt{2}i+\sqrt{2}i-2}{1-\left(\sqrt{2}i\right)^2}$

$$= \frac{3+6\sqrt{2}i}{1+2} = \frac{3(1+2\sqrt{2}i)}{3} = 1+2\sqrt{2}i.$$

(ii) $i^{-35} = \dfrac{1}{i^{35}} = \dfrac{1}{\left(i^2\right)^{17} i} = \dfrac{1}{-i} \times \dfrac{i}{i} = \dfrac{i}{-i^2} = i$

Example 7 Find the conjugate of $\dfrac{(3-2i)(2+3i)}{(1+2i)(2-i)}$.

Solution We have , $\dfrac{(3-2i)(2+3i)}{(1+2i)(2-i)}$

$$= \frac{6+9i-4i+6}{2-i+4i+2} = \frac{12+5i}{4+3i}\times\frac{4-3i}{4-3i}$$

$$= \frac{48-36i+20i+15}{16+9} = \frac{63-16i}{25} = \frac{63}{25}-\frac{16}{25}i$$

Therefore, conjugate of $\dfrac{(3-2i)(2+3i)}{(1+2i)(2-i)}$ is $\dfrac{63}{25}+\dfrac{16}{25}i$.

Example 8 If $x + iy = \dfrac{a+ib}{a-ib}$, prove that $x^2 + y^2 = 1$.

Solution We have,

$$x + iy = \frac{(a+ib)(a+ib)}{(a-ib)(a+ib)} = \frac{a^2-b^2+2abi}{a^2+b^2} = \frac{a^2-b^2}{a^2+b^2}+\frac{2ab}{a^2+b^2}i$$

So that, $x - iy = \dfrac{a^2-b^2}{a^2+b^2}-\dfrac{2ab}{a^2+b^2}i$

Therefore,

$$x^2 + y^2 = (x + iy)(x - iy) = \frac{(a^2-b^2)^2}{(a^2+b^2)^2}+\frac{4a^2b^2}{(a^2+b^2)^2} = \frac{(a^2+b^2)^2}{(a^2+b^2)^2} = 1$$