

An Introduction to Complex Numbers

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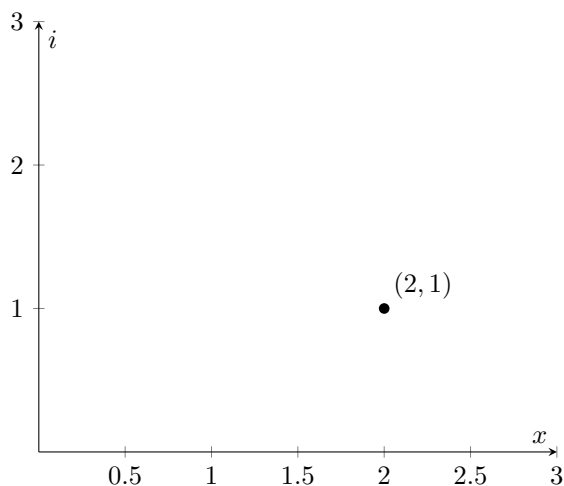
Contents

1	Introduction	2
1.1	Some Differences	2
1.1.1	Euler: $e^{ix} = \cos x + i \sin x$	2
1.1.2	Differentiability	2
1.1.3	Integration	3
1.2	Analytic Continuation	3
1.3	Complex Dynamics	5
2	Complex Arithmetic	6
2.1	The usual stuff	6
2.2	Division	6
2.2.1	Complex Conjugation	6
2.2.2	Absolute Value	7
2.2.3	Application for Complex Arithmetic	8
2.2.4	Hamilton Quaternions	9
3	Roots	10

1 Introduction

Complex Analysis is quite similar to real analysis, except it works with complex numbers of the form $x + iy$, where $x, y \in \mathbb{R}, i^2 = -1$. We represent real numbers on a line, we represent complex numbers as elements on a plane.

For example:



A lot of complex analysis is really similar to real analysis, we can do the usual $+$, $-$, \times , $/$, exponentials, trigonometric functions, differentiation, integration. Many of the rules for real analysis work for complex analysis. \lim , series and so on...

1.1 Some Differences

1.1.1 Euler: $e^{ix} = \cos x + i \sin x$

Trigonometric functions and exponential functions turn out to be almost the same. Using this we can write all trigonometric functions in terms of exponential functions for example, $\cos x = \frac{e^{ix} + e^{-ix}}{2}$. This saves a lot of labour because all the complicated identities for trigonometric functions are just special cases of identities of exponential functions. So there's a lot less to remember.

1.1.2 Differentiability

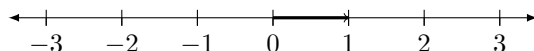
For the reals, some functions we can differentiate it once and twice, but not three times. But for a complex function $\mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, once it is differentiable once, it is automatically differentiable any number of times.

1.1.3 Integration

Suppose we want to integrate

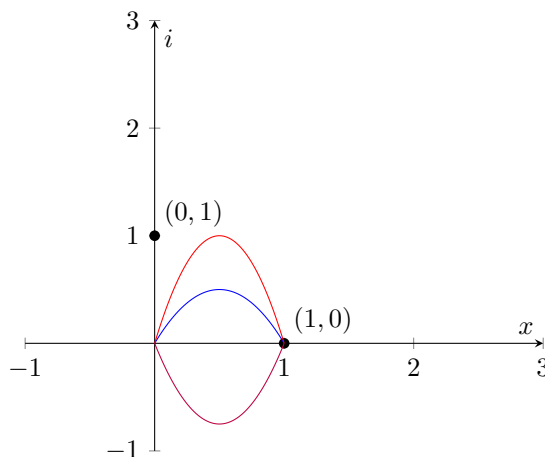
$$\int_0^1 f(x)dx$$

Suppose we want to integrate for real numbers, and there's only one way to go from 0 to 1.



So its quite clear what this integral is meant.

But if we are integrating in the complex plane,



There are many ways to go from 0 to 1. So the integral from 0 to 1 seems to depend on which path you take. Turns out that it almost doesn't. We have Cauch's theorem, that integrals are almost independent of the path we take from 0 to 1. This turns out to be extremely useful. For example in real analysis, there are some equations integrals and sums that we don't learn how to evaluate in ordinary introductory calculus classes. But you can work out these using complex integration.

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{\sin x}{x} dx = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^\infty \frac{1}{i^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \dots = \frac{\pi^2}{6}$$

1.2 Analytic Continuation

Suppose I give you a function from 0 to 1, and ask you to evaluate it at $x = -1$, that would be a completely stupid question. There's no way to evaluate it at

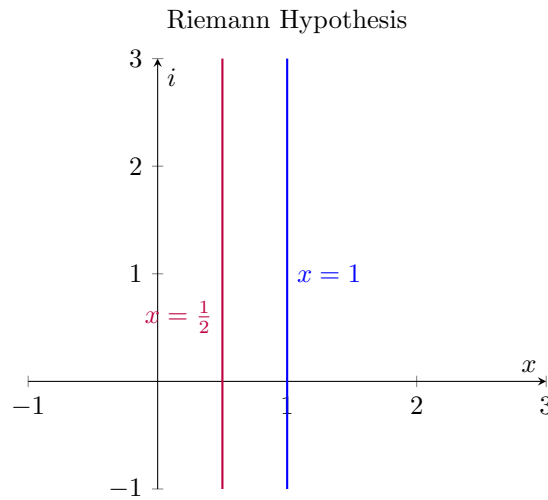
–1. There is no real information. However for complex functions, if I give you a function from 0 to 1, and it is differentiable, it is automatically determined in any connected region.

The function on (a, b) is determined uniquely on larger open connected set if it complex differentiable.

There is a very famous function of this. The Riemann Zeta Function

$$\zeta(s) = \frac{1}{1^s} + \frac{1}{2^s} + \frac{1}{3^s} + \cdots$$

This is probably the single most notorious function in mathematics, the Riemann hypothesis, which states that all zeros of $\zeta(s)$ are real or have real part of $\frac{1}{2}$



Well the Riemann Hypothesis makes no sense at all because if we try to evaluate it it only converges if $\text{Re}(s) > 1$

$$1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \cdots = \infty \tag{1}$$

And the function only converges on the right side of $x = 1$. Well it turns out the Riemann Zeta function can be analytically continued. In other words, there's only one differentiable complex function that extends the Riemann Zeta function to the whole complex plane, except well, 1 because it would not converge. Why should people care about the Riemann Zeta function? Well it seems to control prime numbers, if we draw prime numbers on a real line,



You can see that they are more dense in some regions, and in some regions they are less dense. Something like a sort of compression wave. Riemann

discovered that this waves in the primes happen at very precise frequencies, and the frequencies turn out to be the imaginary parts of the zeroes of the zeta function. The amplitude of each wave turn out to be the real part. So the Riemann Hypothesis seems to suggest that primes have a lot of waves going through them. And all these waves in some sense have the same loudness, or volume.

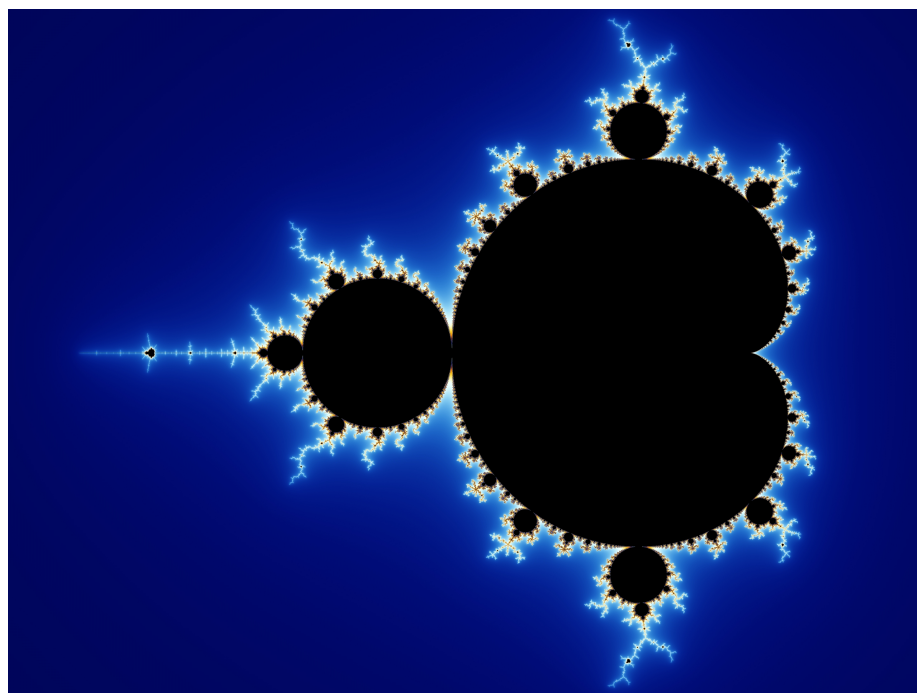
1.3 Complex Dynamics

This is related to a planar set called the Mandel Brot set. We can ask what is the Mandel Brot set?

You take a complex number, you keep on applying the transformation, while c is fixed

$$\begin{aligned} z &\rightarrow z^2 + c \\ 0 &\rightarrow 0^2 + c \rightarrow \dots \\ z_0 &\rightarrow z_1 \quad \rightarrow z_2 \\ &= z_0^2 + c \quad = z_1^2 + c \end{aligned}$$

And you can ask whether this sequence is **bounded**. And this obviously depends on c . So if this sequence is bounded, it is the same as saying c is in the Mandel Brot set. The thing is that the Mandel Brot set is incredibly intricate.



Well that's the end of the summary.

2 Complex Arithmetic

Well if you were a computer, a complex number is nothing more than an ordered pair of numbers (x, y) . But if you were human you would write it as $x + iy$. But as a human, writing it as an ordered pair is good too because you could understand it as a plane. So you could represent each complex number as a point in a plane.

Definition 2.1 (Addition).

$$(a + ib) + (c + id) = a + c + ib + id$$

Definition 2.2 (Multiplication).

$$\begin{aligned}(a, b) \cdot (c, d) &= (ac - bd, ad + bc) \\ (a + ib)(c + id) &= ac + i^2bd + ibc + iad \\ \text{Since } i^2 &= -1, \\ &\Rightarrow ac - bd + i(bc + ad)\end{aligned}$$

That's why we remember complex numbers as $x + iy$ form, because it makes multiplication trivial to remember.

2.1 The usual stuff

Does it satisfy the usual rules:

$$a(b + c) = ab + ac \quad (ab)c = a(bc) \cdots$$

Well we could

1. Do a long check which we won't do because its long and tedious
2. Go to an abstract algebra course, and show that the definition of the complex numbers gives a ring with all the usual stuff

2.2 Division

Does $a + ib$ has an *inverse* if it is $\neq 0$.

2.2.1 Complex Conjugation

Denoted by:

$$x + iy \rightarrow x - iy = \overline{x + iy}$$

The reason this turns up a lot is we said $i^2 = -1$ but -1 actually has 2 square-roots because $(-i)^2 = -1$. So when we talk about a squareroot of -1 we don't really know which squareroot they are talking about and turns out, they

are completely equivalent. Anything you can say about 1 squareroot you can say about the other squareroot. So you can sort of flip them around without changing anything. Complex conjugation actually *preserves* all properties of the complex numbers. For example:

$$\begin{aligned}\overline{z_1 z_2} &= \overline{z_1} \cdot \overline{z_2} \\ \overline{z_1 + z_2} &= \overline{z_1} + \overline{z_2}\end{aligned}$$

In fact, complex conjugation $z \rightarrow \bar{z}$ is an *AUTOMORPHISM* of the complex numbers, \mathbb{C} . If you've done a Galois Theory course, another way of saying is this is the Galois group of the \mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R} is $\{1, \text{Complex Conjugation}\}$.

So using complex conjugation, we can find the inverse of any complex number as follows

$$\begin{aligned}z &= x + iy \\ z\bar{z} &= (x + iy)(x - iy) \\ &= x^2 + y^2 \\ \frac{1}{z} &= \frac{\bar{z}}{z\bar{z}} \\ \frac{1}{x + iy} &= \frac{x - iy}{(x + iy)(x - iy)} \\ &= \frac{x - iy}{x^2 + y^2} \\ &= \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2} - i \frac{y}{x^2 + y^2}\end{aligned}$$

What you should remember is to multiply the denominator by its complex conjugate. Division by complex numbers is also reasonably easy.

2.2.2 Absolute Value

The absolute distance of x from 0 is x if $x > 0$ and $-x$ if $(x < 0)$. Similarly, for any complex number z ,

$$\begin{aligned}z &= x + iy \\ |z| &= \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \\ &= \sqrt{z\bar{z}}\end{aligned}$$

From this, then the following also follows,

$$|z_1 z_2| = |z_1| |z_2|$$

All the rules of absolute value also applies,

$$|z_1 - z_2| \leq |z_1| + |z_2|$$

2.2.3 Application for Complex Arithmetic

Which integers are sums of 2 squares? Well we know that they are closed under multiplication. Meaning that if two integers are the sum of two squares then so is their product.

Proof. Let's say we have two integers that are the some of two squares, then

$$(a^2 + b^2)(c^2 + d^2) = (ac - bd)^2 + (ad + bc)^2$$

Well where on earth did this come from? It comes from complex numbers! We notice that

$$\begin{aligned} a^2 + b^2 &= |a + ib|^2 \\ c^2 + d^2 &= |c + id|^2 \\ (a^2 + b^2)(c^2 + d^2) &= |(a + ib)(c + id)|^2 \\ &= |ac - bd + i(ad + bc)|^2 \\ &= (ac - bd)^2 + (ad + bc)^2 \end{aligned}$$

□

The proof with reals doesn't really explain why it exists, it is explained with complex numbers.

Proof. Let's give an example of this

$$\begin{aligned} 5 &= 1^2 + 2^2 \\ 13 &= 2^2 + 3^2 \\ 5 \times 13 &= 65 \\ &= 8^2 + 1^2 \\ &= 4^2 + 7^2 \end{aligned}$$

So why are there two ways to write 65 as a sum of two squares?

$$\begin{aligned} 1^2 + 2^2 &= |1 + 2i|^2 \\ 2^2 + 3^2 &= |2 + 3i|^2 \\ (1 + 2i)(2 + 3i) &= -4 + 7i \end{aligned}$$

And you get the first solution, which is actually $(-4)^2 + 7^2$. There's another thing you can do which is change one of them to their complex conjugate

$$(1 + 2i)(2 - 3i) = 8 + i$$

And there are other things we could do like use the conjugate for the other complex number but it will just give variations of the two solutions. So we see that the two ways of writing 65 as a sum of two squares correspond to the two different products of complex numbers. \square

Next application, let's take a look at pythagoras' theorem, $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$. And we want to find solutions to this equation. How can we generate many solutions to this easily?

$$\begin{aligned}(a + ib) &= (x + iy)^2 \\ |a + ib| &= a^2 + b^2 \\ &= |(x + iy)^2|^2 \\ &= (x^2 + y^2)^2\end{aligned}$$

So now we can just sort of pick any random complex number for x and y ,

$$\begin{aligned}x + iy &= 2 + i \\ (x + iy)^2 &= (2 + i)^2 \\ &= 3 + 4i \\ &= a + ib \\ |a + ib|^2 &= a^2 + b^2 \\ &= 3^2 + 4^2 \\ |(x + iy)^2|^2 &= (|(x + iy)|^2)^2 \\ &= ((\sqrt{2^2 + 1^2})^2)^2 \\ &= 5^2\end{aligned}$$

2.2.4 Hamilton Quaternions

Quaternions means a collection of 4 things. so a quaternion is simply

$$\begin{aligned}a + bi + cj + dk \\ i^2 &= -1 \\ j^2 &= -1 \\ k^2 &= -1 \\ ij &= k = -ji \\ jk &= i = -kj \\ ki &= j = -ik\end{aligned}$$

Quaternions are not commutative! But they do behave very similarly to complex numbers. For example,

$$\begin{aligned} z &= a + bi + cj + dk \\ \overline{a + bi + cj + dk} &= a - bi - cj - dk \\ z\bar{z} &= a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2 \end{aligned}$$

So now we can work out the inverse of the quaternion,

$$\frac{1}{a + bi + cj + dk} = \frac{a - bi - cj - dk}{a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2}$$

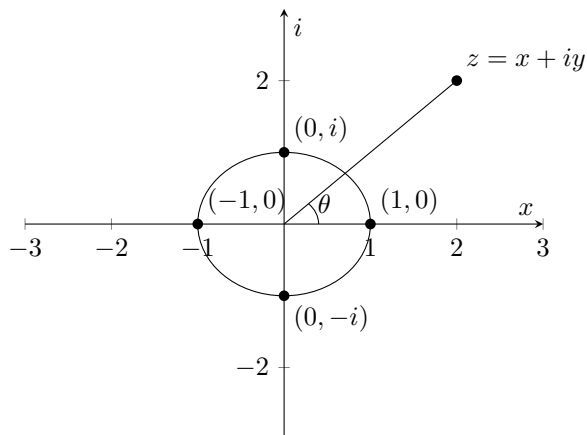
You realise that if the quaternion is non-zero, then the denominator would be non-zero, so all non-zero quaternions have inverses.

3 Roots

Do Complex Numbers have square roots? Can we find

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{2+i} \\ \sqrt[3]{2+i} \\ \dots \end{aligned}$$

The answer is YES! To understand this, we have to understand the geometric meaning of multiplication. To do this, we express multiplication in terms of polar coordinates.



We have the usual way to go about changing from cartesian to polar coordinates.

$$\begin{aligned} r &= |z| \\ \tan\theta &= \frac{y}{x} \\ x &= r\cos\theta \\ y &= r\sin\theta \end{aligned}$$

Now you notice if we take the values of absolute value one (the circle), these actually form a group. A **group** is a set that is closed under multiplication and inverses. For example,

$$\begin{aligned} |z_1| &= 1 \\ |z_2| &= 1 \\ |z_1 z_2| &= 1 \\ |z^{-1}| &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

So we can multiply and divide points on the circle group. We also see that any complex number z , can be written as a point on the circle group, times a positive real number.

Point on the circle group: $\cos\theta + i\sin\theta$

Any Complex Number: $z = r \cdot (\cos\theta + i\sin\theta)$

Every non-zero complex number z , can be written *uniquely* as $z = a \cdot b$ where a is a positive real, and b is in the circle group ($|b| = 1$). Another way of writing this is $\mathbb{C}^x := \mathbb{R}_{>0} \times \mathbb{S}^1$, where \mathbb{C}^x means take the complex numbers under multiplication and throw away the zero, positive reals, and the circle group where \mathbb{S} means sphere and the superscript means it is one-dimension.