

# Math H185 Notes

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January 18, 2024

These are notes taken from lectures on Complex Analysis delivered by Professor Tony Feng for UC Berkeley's Math H185 class in the Spring 2024 semester.

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# 1 January 17 - Introduction to Complex Numbers

## 1.1 Real Numbers

Before jumping into Complex Numbers, let's recall a property of Real Numbers - the set containing which is denoted  $\mathbb{R}$ .

**Note:** If  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  then  $a^2 \geq 0$ . So, in this number system negative real numbers do not have square roots in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

This is a limitation of  $\mathbb{R}$ , which we can fix by enlargening our field. (Similar to how the set of rationals was enlarged to the set of reals in Real Analysis).

## 1.2 Imaginary Numbers

We can introduce a new kind of object called an "Imaginary number" such that imaginary numbers square to negative ( $\leq 0$ ) real numbers.

We write  $i = \sqrt{-1}$ .

**Proposition:** Any imaginary number can be expressed as  $bi$ ,  $b \in \mathbb{R}$ .

**Proof:**

## 1.3 Complex Numbers

### Complex Numbers

- A complex number is an expression  $z = a + bi$  where  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$
- The set of complex numbers is denoted  $\mathbb{C}$

**Remark:**  $\mathbb{C}$  is the algebraic closure of  $\mathbb{R}$ .

In a sense, this is saying that there are no more "deficiencies" - Unlike polynomials in the reals, *every* complex polynomials is guaranteed to have some complex roots. We will return to this statement later in the course when studying the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra.

Let  $z = a + bi$  be a complex number. Then,

- The *real part* of  $z$  is  $Re(z) = a \in \mathbb{R}$  and the *imaginary part* of  $z$  is  $Im(z) = b \in \mathbb{R}$ .
- The *complex conjugate* of  $z$  is  $\bar{z} = a - bi$

## 1.4 Operations on Complex Numbers

"Addition is componentwise"

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Addition: } z &= a + bi \\ + w &= c + di \\ z + w &= (a + c) + (b + d)i\end{aligned}$$

"Multiplication distributes"

For  $z = (a + bi)$ ,  $w = (c + di)$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} z \cdot w &= (a + bi) \cdot (c + di) \\ &= a \cdot (c + di) + bi \cdot (c + di) \\ &= (ac - bd) + (ad + bc)i \end{aligned}$$

Addition and Multiplication satisfy the usual commutativity, associativity, and distributivity. However, Division is a bit more complicated.

**Division:** If  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $w \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ , then  $z/w \in \mathbb{C}$  is the unique complex number such that  $w \cdot (z/w) = z$ .

**Examples:** Write the following complex numbers as  $a + bi$  where  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$

1.  $(9 - 12i) + (12i - 16) = (9 - 16) + (-12i + 12i) = -7$
2.  $(3 + 4i) \cdot (3 - 4i) = 9 - 12i + 12i - 16i^2 = 25$
3.  $\frac{50+50i}{3-4i} = \frac{50+50i}{3-4i} \cdot \frac{3+4i}{3+4i} = \frac{150+200i+150i+200i^2}{25} = \frac{-50+350i}{25} = -2 + 14i$