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# Complex Numbers

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Learning outcomes or objectives:

On the completion of this chapter, the students will be enable to

- (i) Define a complex number.
  - (ii) Solve the problems related to algebra of complex numbers.
  - (iii) Represent complex numbers geometrically
  - (iv) Find conjugate and absolute value (modulus) of a complex numbers and verify their properties.
- .

## 1.7.1 Introduction

The equation of the form

$$x^2 + 1 = 0 \quad \text{or, } x^2 = -1 \quad \text{and}$$

$$x^2 + 4 = 0 \quad \text{or, } x^2 = -4 \quad \text{etc. are not solvable in } \mathbb{R}$$

because the square of a real number is never negative.

**Euler** was the first mathematician to introduce the symbol **i** (iota) for the square root of -1 with property  $\mathbf{i}^2 = -1$ . The symbol **i** is also called imaginary unit.

By introducing **i**, the set of real number is extended to new system of numbers, known as **complex numbers system**.

The set of all complex numbers is denoted by  $\mathbb{C}$ .

### Complex Number

An ordered pair (a, b) of two real numbers a and b can be considered as a complex number. A complex number is usually denoted by z or w.

The ordered pair  $(a, b)$  is expressed as  $a + ib$ , where  $i = \sqrt{-1}$ .

Also,  $i = 0 + 1 \cdot i = (0, 1)$

If  $z = (a, b) = a + ib$  is a complex number, then **a** is known as its real part and **b** is known as the imaginary part of the complex number  $z$ . They are denoted by  $\text{Re}(z)$  and  $\text{Im}(z)$  i.e.  $\text{Re}(z) = a$  and  $\text{Im}(z) = b$  but  $a$  and  $b$  both are real numbers.

**Note:** Any complex number  $z$  is said to be purely real if  $\text{Im}(z) = 0$  and purely imaginary if  $\text{Re}(z) = 0$

**Question:-** Is a real number a complex number?

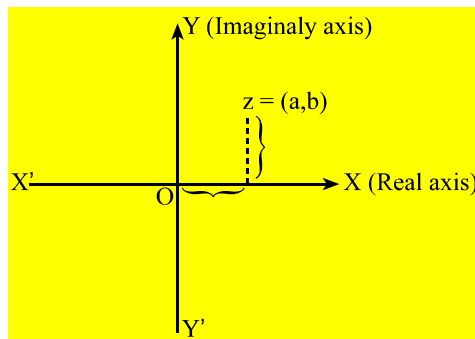
Eg:- Real number  $= 2 = 2 + 0 \cdot i = (2, 0) = \text{Complex number}$

Henc, a real number is also a complex number.

### Geometrical Representation

As we have already known in real number system that any ordered pair of real numbers can be represented as a point on carterian plane with **a** as abscissa and **b** as ordinate. Similarly, a complex number  $a + ib$  can be represented in the cartesian plane as a point.

The plane in which a complex number is plotted is known as Argand plane or complex plane. In the plane,  $x$ -axis is taken as real axis and  $y$ -axis is taken as imaginary axis as shown in the figure.



### Equality of Complex Numbers:

Two complex numbers are said to be equal if and only if their corresponding parts are equal. i.e.  $a + ib = c + id$  if only if  $a = c$  and  $b = d$ .

**Example:** Find  $x$  and  $y$  if  $x + iy = 5 - 3i$

**Solution:** Equating the corresponding real and imaginary parts, we get  $x = 5$  and  $y = -3$ .

**Integral Power of i:**

Any integral power of  $i$  can be equal to only one of the four quantities  $1, -1, i, -i$ .

Example: Compute (a)  $i^3$  (b)  $i^{20}$  (c)  $i^{25}$  (d)  $i^{-13}$

Solution:

$$(a) \quad i^3 = i^2 \cdot i = -1 \cdot i = -i \quad (b) \quad i^{20} = (i^2)^{10} = (-1)^{10} = 1$$

$$(c) \quad i^{25} = (i^2)^{12} \cdot i = (-1)^{12} \cdot i = i \quad (d) \quad i^{-13} = \frac{1}{i^{13}} = \frac{1}{(i^2)^6 \cdot i} = \frac{1}{i} = \frac{1}{i} \times \frac{i}{i} = \frac{i}{i^2} = -i$$

**1.7.2 Algebra of Complex Numbers****Addition of complex numbers**

Let  $z = a + ib$  and  $w = c + id$  be two complex numbers. Then their sum  $z + w$  is defined as the complex number  $(a + c) + i(b + d)$ .

i.e.  $z + w = (a + c) + i(b + d)$

**Example:** If  $z = 2 + 3i$  and  $w = 1 - 4i$  then  $z + w = (2 + 1) + (3 - 4)i = 3 - i$ .

**Properties of Addition of Complex Numbers:**

(i) **Commutative:** For any two complex number  $z_1$  and  $z_2$ ,  $z_1 + z_2 = z_2 + z_1$

Proof: Let  $z_1 = a_1 + ib_1$  and  $z_2 = a_2 + ib_2$ ,  $a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} z_1 + z_2 &= (a_1 + a_2) + i(b_1 + b_2) \\ &= (a_2 + a_1) + i(b_2 + b_1) \quad (\because \text{Addition is commutative in } \mathbb{R}) \\ &= z_2 + z_1 \end{aligned}$$

(ii) **Associative:** For any complex numbers  $z_1, z_2, z_3$ .

$$(z_1 + z_2) + z_3 = z_1 + (z_2 + z_3)$$

Proof: Let  $z_1 = a_1 + ib_1$ ,  $z_2 = a_2 + ib_2$  and  $z_3 = a_3 + ib_3$ ,  $a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2, a_3, b_3 \in \mathbb{R}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} (z_1 + z_2) + z_3 &= [(a_1 + a_2) + i(b_1 + b_2)] + (a_3 + ib_3) \\ &= [(a_1 + a_2) + a_3] + i[(b_1 + b_2) + b_3] \\ &= [a_1 + (a_2 + a_3)] + i[b_1 + (b_2 + b_3)] \quad (\because \text{Addition is associate in } \mathbb{R}) \\ &= (a_1 + ib_1) + [(a_2 + a_3) + i(b_2 + b_3)] \\ &= z_1 + (z_2 + z_3) \end{aligned}$$

Hence, addition of complex numbers is associate.

**(iii) Existence of additive identity:**

The complex number  $0 = 0 + i \cdot 0$  is the additive identity element i.e. for any complex number  $z$ ,  $0 + z = z = z + 0$ .

Proof: Let  $z = a + ib$

$$0 + z = (0 + a) + i(0 + b) = a + ib = z$$

$$\text{and } z + 0 = (a + 0) + i(b + 0) = a + ib = z$$

**(iv) Additive inverse:**  $-z$  is the additive inverse of any complex number  $z$ 

$$\text{i.e. } z + (-z) = 0 = (-z) + z$$

Proof: Let  $z = a + ib$  then  $-z = -(a + ib) = -a - ib$

$$\text{So, } z + (-z) = (a - a) + i(b - b) = 0 + i \cdot 0 = 0$$

$$\text{And } (-z) + z = (-a + a) + i(-b + b) = 0 + i \cdot 0 = 0$$

**Multiplication of complex numbers:**

Let  $z = a + ib$  and  $w = c + id$  be any two complex numbers. The product of  $z$  and  $w$  is denoted by  $zw$  and defined by  $zw = (ac - bd) + i(bc + ad)$ .

**Example:** if  $z = 2 + 3i$  and  $w = 5 - 3i$  the

$$zw = (2 + 3i)(5 - 3i) = \{2 \cdot 5 - 3 \cdot (-3)\} + i\{3 \cdot 5 + 2 \cdot (-3)\} = 19 + 9i$$

**Next Method:-**

$$\begin{aligned} zw &= (2 + 3i)(5 - 3i) = 2 \cdot 5 - 2 \cdot 3i + 3i \cdot 5 - 3i \cdot 3i = 10 - 6i + 15i - 9i^2 \\ &= 10 + 9i - 9 \cdot (-1) = 10 + 9i + 9 = 19 + 9i \end{aligned}$$

Note: The product  $zw$  can actually be computed as below:

$$\begin{aligned} zw &= (a + ib)(c + id) \\ &= a(c + id) + ib(c + id) \\ &= ac + iad + ibc + i^2 bd \\ &= (ac - bd) + i(ad + bc) \quad (\because i^2 = -1) \end{aligned}$$

**Properties of Multiplication**

i) **Commutative:** For any complex numbers  $z_1$  and  $z_2$ ,  $z_1 z_2 = z_2 z_1$

Proof: Let  $z_1 = a_1 + ib_1$  and  $z_2 = a_2 + ib_2$ ,  $a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
& z_1 z_2 = (a_1 + ib_1)(a_2 + ib_2) \\
= & (a_1 a_2 - b_1 b_2) + i(a_1 b_2 + b_1 a_2) \\
= & (a_2 a_1 - b_2 b_1) + i(b_2 a_1 + a_2 b_1) \quad (\because \text{Multiplication is commutative in } \mathbb{R}) \\
= & z_2 z_1.
\end{aligned}$$

ii) **Associative:** For any complex numbers  $z_1, z_2$  and  $z_3$ .

$$(z_1 z_2) z_3 = z_1 (z_2 z_3)$$

Proof: Let  $z_1 = a_1 + ib_1$ ,  $z_2 = a_2 + ib_2$  and  $z_3 = a_3 + ib_3$ ,  $a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2, a_3, b_3 \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\begin{aligned}
& (z_1 z_2) z_3 = [(a_1 + ib_1)(a_2 + ib_2)](a_3 + ib_3) \\
= & [(a_1 a_2 - b_1 b_2) + i(a_1 b_2 + a_2 b_1)](a_3 + ib_3) \\
= & [(a_1 a_2 - b_1 b_2)a_3 - (a_1 b_2 + a_2 b_1)b_3] + i[(a_1 a_2 - b_1 b_2)b_3 + (a_1 b_2 + a_2 b_1)a_3] \\
= & [a_1(a_2 a_3 - b_2 b_3) - b_1(a_2 b_3 + a_3 b_2)] + i[b_1(a_2 a_3 + a_2 b_3) + a_1(a_3 b_2 + a_2 b_3)] \\
= & (a_1 + ib_1)[(a_2 a_3 - b_2 b_3) + i(a_2 b_3 + a_3 b_2)] \\
= & z_1 (z_2 z_3)
\end{aligned}$$

(iii) **Existence of identity element:**

The complex number  $1 = 1 + i \cdot 0$  is the multiplicative identity element. i.e. for any complex number  $a$ ,  $1 \cdot z = z = z \cdot 1$

Proof: Let  $z = a + ib$  be a complex number.

$$1 \cdot z = (1 + i \cdot 0)(a + ib) = (1 \cdot a - 0 \cdot b) + i(0 \cdot a + 1 \cdot b) = a + ib = z$$

$$\text{and } a \cdot 1 = (a + ib)(1 + i \cdot 0) = (a \cdot 1 - b \cdot 0) + i(a \cdot 0 + b \cdot 1) = a + ib = z$$

iv) **Multiplicative inverse:**

$\frac{1}{z}$  or  $z^{-1}$  is the multiplicative inverse of any non-zero complex number  $z$ .

$$\text{i.e. } z \cdot z^{-1} = z \cdot \frac{1}{z} = 1 = \frac{1}{z} \cdot z$$

$$\text{If } z = a + ib \text{ and } \frac{1}{z} = x + iy$$

$$\text{Then } z \cdot \frac{1}{z} = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow (a + ib)(x + iy) = 1 + i \cdot 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (ax - by) + i(bx + ay) = 1 + i \cdot 0$$

Equating the real and imaginary parts, we get

$$ax - by = 1 \dots\dots\dots (i)$$

$$bx + ay = 0 \dots\dots\dots (ii)$$

Solving equation (i) and (ii) we get

$$x = \frac{a}{a^2 + b^2}, y = \frac{-b}{a^2 + b^2}$$

Thus, the multiplicative inverse of a non-zero complex number  $z = a + ib$  is

$$\frac{1}{z} = \frac{a}{a^2 + b^2} - i \frac{b}{a^2 + b^2}$$

**Note:** Multiplicative inverse of a complex number is denoted by  $z^{-1}$ . i.e.  $z^{-1} = \frac{1}{z}$ .

**Example:** The multiplicative inverse of  $z = 3 + 4i$  is

$$z^{-1} = \frac{3}{3^2 + 4^2} - i \frac{4}{3^2 + 4^2} = \frac{3}{25} - i \frac{4}{25}$$

**Next Method:-**

$$z^{-1} = \frac{1}{z} = \frac{1}{3 + 4i} = \frac{1}{3 + 4i} \times \frac{3 - 4i}{3 - 4i} = \frac{3 - 4i}{25} = \frac{3}{25} - i \frac{4}{25}$$

(v) Multiplication is **distributive** over addition:

For any complex number  $z_1, z_2, z_3$ .

(a) Left distribution:  $z_1 (z_2 + z_3) = z_1 z_2 + z_1 z_3$

(b) Right distribution:  $(z_1 + z_2)z_3 = z_1 z_3 + z_2 z_3$

**Proof:**

(a) Let  $z_1 = a_1 + ib_1$ ,  $z_2 = a_2 + ib_2$  and  $z_3 = a_3 + ib_3$ ,  $a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2, a_3, b_3 \in \mathbb{R}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} z_1 (z_2 + z_3) &= (a_1 + ib_1) [(a_2 + ib_2) + (a_3 + ib_3)] \\ &= (a_1 + ib_1) [(a_2 + a_3) + i(b_2 + b_3)] \\ &= [a_1(a_2 + a_3) - b_1(b_2 + b_3)] + i[a_1(b_2 + b_3) + b_1(a_2 + a_3)] \\ &= [a_1 a_2 + a_1 a_3 - b_1 b_2 - b_1 b_3] + i(a_1 b_2 + a_1 b_3 + b_1 a_2 + b_1 a_3) \\ &= [(a_1 a_2 - b_1 b_2) + i(a_1 b_2 + a_2 b_1)] + [(a_1 a_3 - b_1 b_3) + i(a_1 b_3 + a_3 b_1)] \\ &= z_1 z_2 + z_1 z_3 \end{aligned}$$

b) Similar as (a)

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### Worked out examples

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**Example 1:** Evaluate

(a)  $(1, 0)^5$       (b)  $(0, 1)^7$       (c)  $i^{100} + i^{101} + i^{102} + i^{103}$

Solution:

$$(a) \quad (1, 0)^5 = (1 + i \cdot 0)^5 = 1^5 = 1$$

$$(b) \quad (0, 1)^7 = (0 + i \cdot 1)^7 = i^7 = (i^2)^3 \cdot i = (-1)^3 \cdot i = -1$$

$$\begin{aligned} (c) \quad i^{100} + i^{101} + i^{102} + i^{103} &= i^{100} (1 + i + i^2 + i^3) \\ &= i^{100} (1 + i - 1 + i^2) &= i^{100} (1 + i - 1 + i^2) \\ &= i^{100} (1 + i - 1 - i) &= i^{100} \times 0 \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

**Example-2:** Find the value of  $x$  and  $y$  if  $(x + 2) + iy = (3 + i)(1 - 2i)$

Solution:  $(x + 2) + iy = (3 + i)(1 - 2i)$

$$= (3 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 2) + i(1 \cdot 1 - 3 \cdot 2) = 5 - 5i$$

Equating the real and imaginary parts, we get

$$x + 2 = 5 \text{ and } y = -5$$

i.e.  $x = 3$  and  $y = -5$

**Example-3:** Express the following complex numbers in the form of  $a + ib$  (a)  $\frac{1}{1 - i}$

$$(b) (1 - i)^9 \left(1 - \frac{1}{i^3}\right)$$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} (a) \quad \frac{1}{1 - i} &= \frac{1}{1 - i} \times \frac{1 + i}{1 + i} \\ &= \frac{1 + i}{1^2 - i^2} &= \frac{1 + i}{2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}i = a + ib \text{ where } a &= \frac{1}{2}, \quad b = \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (b) \quad (1 - i)^9 \left(1 - \frac{1}{i^3}\right) &= (1 - i)^9 \left(1 - \frac{1}{i^2 \cdot i}\right)^9 \\ &= (1 - i)^9 \left(1 + \frac{1}{i}\right)^9 (i^2 = -1) &= (1 - i)^9 \frac{(1 + i)^9}{i^9} \\ &= \frac{(1 - i^2)^9}{(i^2)^4 \cdot i} &= \frac{(1 + 1)^9}{(-1)^4 i} \\ &= \frac{512}{i} \times \frac{i}{i} &= -512i \\ &= 0 - 512i = a + ib, \text{ where } a = 0, b = -512. \end{aligned}$$

**Example-4:** If  $\sqrt{x - iy} = a - ib$ , prove that  $\sqrt{x + iy} = a + ib$ .

Solution: Given,  $\sqrt{x - iy} = a - ib$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Squaring both sides, } x - iy &= (a - ib)^2 = a^2 - 2abi + i^2b^2 \\ &= (a^2 - b^2) - 2abi \quad [\text{since } i^2 = -1]\end{aligned}$$

Equating the real and imaginary parts,

$$x = (a^2 - b^2) \text{ and } y = 2ab$$

$$\text{Then, } x + iy = (a^2 - b^2) + 2abi = a^2 + 2abi + i^2b^2$$

$$\Rightarrow x + iy = (a + ib)^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt{x + iy} = a + ib$$

**Example-5** Find the additive inverse of  $2+3i$ .

Solution: Let  $z = 2 + 3i$

Since, additive inverse of  $z$  is  $-z$  then

$$-z = -(2+3i) = -2-3i.$$

**Example-6** Find the multiplicative inverse of  $2+3i$ .

Solution: Let  $z = 2 + 3i$

Since, multiplicative inverse of  $z$  is  $z^{-1}$  or  $\frac{1}{z}$  then

$$\frac{1}{z} = \frac{1}{2+3i} = \frac{1}{2+3i} \times \frac{2-3i}{2-3i} = \frac{2-3i}{4-9i^2} = \frac{2-3i}{4+9} = \frac{2-3i}{13} = \frac{2}{13} - \frac{3}{13}i.$$

### Exercise

- Evaluate:  
(a)  $(1, 0)^7$  (b)  $(0, 1)^{99}$  (c)  $i^{49}$  (d)  $1 + i^{10} + i^{20} + i^{30}$
- Compute the following:  
(a)  $\sqrt{-49}$  (b)  $\sqrt{-4} \times \sqrt{-9}$  (c)  $\sqrt{-25} + \sqrt{-4} + 2\sqrt{-9}$
- Show that  $i^n + i^{n+1} + i^{n+2} + i^{n+3} = 0$
- Simplify:  
(a)  $\frac{1}{i} + \frac{1}{i^2} + \frac{1}{i^3} + \frac{1}{i^4}$  (b)  $(1+i)^4 \left(1 + \frac{1}{i}\right)^4$
- Express the following complex numbers in the form of  $a + ib$ :  
(a)  $(1+i)(4-3i)$  (b)  $\frac{3-2i}{3+2i}$  (c)  $\frac{2-\sqrt{-25}}{1-\sqrt{-16}}$  (d)  $\frac{3-\sqrt{-16}}{1-\sqrt{-9}}$



$$\text{e) } \frac{1}{(1+i)^3} \quad \text{f) } \sqrt{\frac{1+i}{1-i}} \quad \text{g) } (1-2i)^{-3} \quad \text{h) } (1-i)^9 \left(1-\frac{1}{i}\right)^9$$

6. Find the real number  $x$  and  $y$  if

$$\text{(i) } (x+3) + (1-y)i = 7-4i \quad \text{(ii) } (x-1)i + (y+1) = (1+i)(4-3i)$$

$$\text{(iii) } x+iy = (2-3i)(3-2i) \quad \text{(iv) } \frac{x-1}{3+i} + \frac{y-1}{3-i} = i$$

7. Find the multiplication inverse of the following complex numbers:

$$\text{(a) } 3-2i \quad \text{(b) } \frac{4+5i}{2+3i} \quad \text{(c) } (1+i\sqrt{3})^2$$

8. Prove that  $\frac{3+2i}{2-3i} + \frac{3-2i}{2+3i}$  is purely real.

**Answer:**

$$1. \quad \text{(a) } 1 \quad \text{(b) } -i \quad \text{(c) } i \quad \text{(d) } 0$$

$$2. \quad \text{(a) } 7i \quad \text{(b) } -6 \quad \text{(c) } 13i$$

$$4. \quad \text{(a) } 0 \quad \text{(b) } 16$$

$$5. \quad \text{(a) } 7+i \quad \text{(b) } \frac{5}{13} - \frac{12}{13}i \quad \text{(c) } \frac{22}{17} + \frac{3}{17}i \quad \text{(d) } \frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{2}i$$

$$\text{(e) } -\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4}i \quad \text{(f) } \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}i \quad \text{(g) } -\frac{11}{125} - \frac{2}{125}i \quad \text{(h) } -512i$$

$$6. \quad \text{(i) } x=4, y=5 \quad \text{(ii) } x=2, y=6, \quad \text{(iii) } x=3, y=-5 \quad \text{(iv) } x=-4, y=6.$$

$$7. \quad \text{(a) } \frac{3}{13} + \frac{2}{13}i \quad \text{(b) } \frac{23}{41} + \frac{2}{41}i \quad \text{(c) } -\frac{1}{8} - i\frac{\sqrt{3}}{8}$$

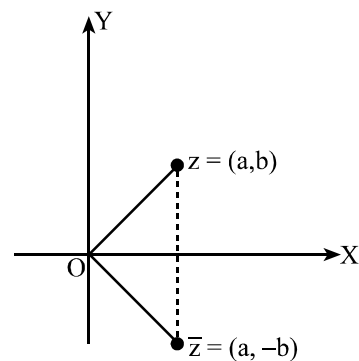
### 1.7.3 Conjugate of a Complex Number

The conjugate of a complex number  $z = a + ib$  is denoted by  $\bar{z}$  and defined by  $\bar{z} = a - ib$ .

The conjugate of a complex number is a complex number obtained by replacing  $i$  by  $-i$ .

Geometrically, it represents the reflection of the point represented by a complex number about real axis (x-axis).

**Example:** If  $z = 3 + 2i$  then its conjugate is  $\bar{z} = 3 - 2i$ .



**Properties of conjugate**

For any complex number  $z$ ,  $z_1$  and  $z_2$ ,

$$(i) \quad z + \bar{z} = 2\text{Re}(z)$$

$$(ii) \quad z - \bar{z} = 2i \text{Im}(z)$$

$$(iii) \quad \overline{\bar{z}} = z$$

$$(iv) \quad \overline{z_1 + z_2} = \bar{z}_1 + \bar{z}_2$$

$$(v) \quad \overline{z_1 z_2} = \bar{z}_1 \bar{z}_2$$

$$(vi) \quad \left( \frac{\bar{z}_1}{\bar{z}_2} \right) = \frac{\bar{z}_1}{\bar{z}_2}, z_2 \neq 0$$

$$(vii) \quad \overline{z^2} = (\bar{z})^2$$

Proofs:

Let  $z = a + ib$ ,  $z_1 = a_1 + ib_1$  and  $z_2 = a_2 + ib_2$ ,

$$(i) \quad z + \bar{z} = (a + ib) + (a - ib) = 2a = 2\text{Re}(z)$$

$$(ii) \quad z - \bar{z} = (a + ib) - (a - ib) = 2ib = 2i \text{Im}(z)$$

$$(iii) \quad z = a + ib \Rightarrow \bar{z} = a - ib \Rightarrow \overline{\bar{z}} = a + ib = z$$

$$\therefore \quad \overline{\bar{z}} = z$$

$$(iv) \quad \overline{z_1 + z_2} = \overline{(a_1 + a_2) + i(b_1 + b_2)} = (a_1 + a_2) - i(b_1 + b_2) = (a_1 - ib_1) + (a_2 - ib_2) \\ = \bar{z}_1 + \bar{z}_2$$

$$(v) \quad \overline{z_1 z_2} = \overline{(a_1 + ib_1)(a_2 + ib_2)} \\ = \overline{(a_1 a_2 - b_1 b_2) + i(a_1 b_2 + b_1 a_2)} \\ = (a_1 a_2 - b_1 b_2) - i(a_1 b_2 + b_1 a_2) \\ = a_1 a_2 + i^2 b_1 b_2 - ia_1 b_2 - ib_1 a_2 \\ = a_1(a_2 - ib_2) - ib_1(a_2 - ib_2) \\ = (a_1 - ib_1)(a_2 - ib_2) \\ = \bar{z}_1 \bar{z}_2$$

$$(vi) \quad \frac{\bar{z}_1}{\bar{z}_2} = \frac{a_1 + ib_1}{a_2 + ib_2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{a_1 + ib_1}{a_2 + ib_2} \times \frac{a_2 - ib_2}{a_2 - ib_2} \\
 &= \frac{a_1 a_2 + b_1 b_2}{a_2^2 + b_2^2} + i \frac{(b_1 a_2 - a_1 b_2)}{a_2^2 + b_2^2} \\
 \therefore \left( \frac{\bar{z}_1}{z_2} \right) &= \frac{a_1 a_2 + b_1 b_2}{a_2^2 + b_2^2} - i \frac{b_1 a_2 - a_1 b_2}{a_2^2 + b_2^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

Also,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\bar{z}_1}{z_2} &= \frac{a_1 - ib_1}{a_2 - ib_2} \\
 &= \frac{a_1 - ib_1}{a_2 - ib_2} \times \frac{a_2 + ib_2}{a_2 + ib_2} \\
 &= \frac{a_1 a_2 + b_1 b_2}{a_2^2 + b_2^2} - i \frac{b_1 a_2 - a_1 b_2}{a_2^2 + b_2^2} \\
 \therefore \left( \frac{\bar{z}_1}{z_2} \right) &= \frac{\bar{z}_1}{z_2}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(vii)} \quad \overline{z^2} &= \overline{(a + ib)^2} \\
 &= \overline{a^2 + 2aib + (ib)^2} \\
 &= \overline{a^2 - b^2 + 2abi} \\
 &= a^2 - b^2 - 2abi \\
 &= a^2 - 2aib + (ib)^2 \\
 &= (a - ib)^2 = \overline{(a + ib)^2} = (\bar{z})^2
 \end{aligned}$$

#### 1.7.4 Modulus (Absolute value) of a complex number:

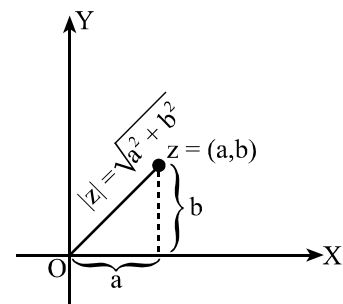
The modulus or absolute value of a complex number  $z = a + ib$  is denoted by  $|z|$  and defined by  $|z| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$ . Clearly,  $|z|$  is non-negative real number.

Geometrically, the absolute value of a complex number represents the length from the origin to the point represented by the complex number on the plane.

**Example:** If  $z = 3 + 4i$  then  $|z| = \sqrt{3^2 + 4^2} = \sqrt{25} = 5$

##### Properties of Absolute values:

For any complex numbers  $z, z_1, z_2$ ,



- (i)  $|z| = 0$  if and only if  $z = 0$
- (ii)  $|z| = |\bar{z}|$ , i.e. modulus of  $z$  and  $\bar{z}$  are equal.
- (iii)  $\operatorname{Re}(z) \leq |z|$ ,  $\operatorname{Im}(z) \leq |z|$
- (iv)  $z \bar{z} = |z|^2$
- (v)  $|z_1 z_2| = |z_1| |z_2|$
- (vi)  $\left| \frac{z_1}{z_2} \right| = \frac{|z_1|}{|z_2|}$ , ( $z_2 \neq 0$ )
- (vii)  $|z_1 + z_2| \leq |z_1| + |z_2|$  (Triangle inequality)

Proofs:

- (i) Let  $z = a + ib$ ,  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$   
 $|z| = 0 \Leftrightarrow \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} = 0$   
 $\Leftrightarrow a^2 + b^2 = 0$   
 $\Leftrightarrow a = 0$  and  $b = 0$   
 $\Leftrightarrow z = a + ib = 0 + 0i$   
 $\Leftrightarrow z = 0$   
 $\therefore |z| = 0$  if and only if  $z = 0$ .

- (ii) Let  $z = a + ib$  then  $\bar{z} = a - ib$ .  
 $\therefore |z| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$

And  $|\bar{z}| = \sqrt{a^2 + (-b)^2} = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$

$\therefore |z| = |\bar{z}|$ .

- iii) Let  $z = a + ib$ , then  $|z| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$

Since  $a^2 \leq a^2 + b^2$ ,  $a \leq \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$

$\Rightarrow \operatorname{Re}(z) \leq |z|$

Also,  $b^2 \leq a^2 + b^2 \Rightarrow b \leq \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$

$\Rightarrow \operatorname{Im}(z) \leq |z|$ .

$\therefore \operatorname{Re}(z) \leq |z|$  and  $\operatorname{Im}(z) \leq |z|$ .

- (iv) Let  $z = a + ib$ , then  $|z| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$

Now,  $z \bar{z} = (a + ib)(a - ib) = a^2 - (ib)^2 = a^2 + b^2 = (\sqrt{a^2 + b^2})^2 = |z|^2$

$\therefore z \bar{z} = |z|^2$

(v) Let  $z_1 = a_1 + ib_1$  and  $z_2 = a_2 + ib_2$ ,  $a_1, b_1, a_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $z_1 z_2 = (a_1 a_2 - b_1 b_2) + i(a_1 b_2 + b_1 a_2)$

Now,  $|z_1 z_2| = \sqrt{(a_1 a_2 - b_1 b_2)^2 + (a_1 b_2 + b_1 a_2)^2}$

$$= \sqrt{a_1^2 a_2^2 + b_1^2 b_2^2 + a_1^2 b_2^2 + b_1^2 a_2^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{a_1^2 (a_2^2 + b_2^2) + b_1^2 (a_2^2 + b_2^2)}$$

$$= \sqrt{(a_1^2 + b_1^2) (a_2^2 + b_2^2)}$$

$$= |z_1| |z_2|$$

$$\therefore |z_1 z_2| = |z_1| |z_2|$$

We have,

$$\frac{z_1}{z_2} \cdot z_2 = z_1$$

$$\Rightarrow \left| \frac{z_1}{z_2} \cdot z_2 \right| = |z_1|$$

$$\Rightarrow \left| \frac{z_1}{z_2} \right| |z_2| = |z_1|$$

$$\Rightarrow \left| \frac{z_1}{z_2} \right| = \left| \frac{z_1}{z_2} \right|$$

(vi) we have to show  $|z_1 + z_2| \leq |z_1| + |z_2|$

Let  $z_1 = a_1 + ib_1$  and  $z_2 = a_2 + ib_2$ ,  $a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

Then  $|z_1| = \sqrt{a_1^2 + b_1^2}$ ,  $|z_2| = \sqrt{a_2^2 + b_2^2}$

and  $|z_1 + z_2| = |(a_1 + a_2) + i(b_1 + b_2)| = \sqrt{(a_1 + a_2)^2 + (b_1 + b_2)^2}$

Now,  $|z_1 + z_2| \leq |z_1| + |z_2|$  will be true

if  $\sqrt{(a_1 + a_2)^2 + (b_1 + b_2)^2} \leq \sqrt{a_1^2 + b_1^2} + \sqrt{a_2^2 + b_2^2}$

$$\text{i.e. } a_1^2 + 2a_1 a_2 + a_2^2 + b_1^2 + 2b_1 b_2 + b_2^2 \leq a_1^2 + b_1^2 + 2\sqrt{a_1^2 + b_1^2} \cdot \sqrt{a_2^2 + b_2^2} + a_2^2 + b_2^2$$

$$\text{i.e. } a_1 a_2 + b_1 b_2 \leq \sqrt{a_1^2 + b_1^2} \cdot \sqrt{a_2^2 + b_2^2}$$

$$\text{i.e. } a_1^2 a_2^2 + 2a_1 a_2 b_1 b_2 + b_1^2 b_2^2 \leq a_1^2 a_2^2 + a_1^2 b_2^2 + b_1^2 a_2^2 + b_1^2 b_2^2$$

$$\text{i.e. } 2a_1 a_2 b_1 b_2 \leq (a_1^2 b_1^2)^2 + (b_1 a_2)^2$$

$$\text{i.e. } (a_1 b_2 - b_1 a_2)^2 \geq 0$$

This is always true for all  $a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2 \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\therefore |z_1 + z_2| \leq |z_1| + |z_2|$$

Alternative method:

Since,  $|z_1 + z_2|^2 = (z_1 + z_2) \overline{(z_1 + z_2)} \quad (\because |z|^2 = z \overline{z})$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= (z_1 + z_2)(\bar{z}_1 + \bar{z}_2) \\
&= z_1\bar{z}_1 + z_1\bar{z}_2 + z_2\bar{z}_1 + z_2\bar{z}_2 \\
&= |z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2 + z_1\bar{z}_2 + \bar{z}_1z_2 (\because z = \bar{\bar{z}}) \\
&= |z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2 + z_1\bar{z}_2 + \overline{z_1\bar{z}_2} (\because \bar{z}_1\bar{z}_2 = \overline{z_1z_2}) \\
&= |z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2 + 2\operatorname{Re}(z\bar{z}_2) (\because z + \bar{z} = 2\operatorname{Re}(z)) \\
&\leq |z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2 + 2|z_1||\bar{z}_2| \\
&= |z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2 + 2|z_1||z_2| \\
&= |z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2 + 2|z_1||z_2| (\because |z| = |\bar{z}|) \\
&= (|z_1| + |z_2|)^2 \\
\therefore |z_1 + z_2| &\leq |z_1| + |z_2|.
\end{aligned}$$

### **Worked examples**

**Example 1:** Find the conjugate of the complex number  $\frac{5-7i}{5+8i}$ .

Solution:  $\frac{5-7i}{5+8i} = \frac{5-7i}{5+8i} \times \frac{5-8i}{5-8i}$

$$= \frac{(5.5-7.8) + i(5(-8)-7.5)}{5^2+8^2}$$

$$= \frac{-31-75i}{89}$$

$$= \frac{-31}{89} - \frac{75}{89}i, \text{ it is in } a+ib \text{ form.}$$

$$\therefore \text{Conjugate of } \frac{5-7i}{5+8i} \text{ is } \frac{-31}{89} + \frac{75}{89}i$$

**Example 2:** If  $x + iy = \frac{a+ib}{c+id}$ , prove that  $x - iy = \frac{a-ib}{c-id}$

### **Solution:**

We have,

$$x + iy = \frac{a+ib}{c+id}$$

Taking conjugate, we get

$$\begin{aligned}\overline{x + iy} &= \overline{\left(\frac{a + ib}{c + id}\right)} \\ \Rightarrow x - iy &= \frac{\overline{a + ib}}{\overline{c + id}} \left[ \because \overline{\left(\frac{z_1}{z_2}\right)} = \frac{\bar{z}_1}{\bar{z}_2} \right] \\ \Rightarrow x - iy &= \frac{a - ib}{c - id}\end{aligned}$$

**Example 3:** If  $x + iy = \frac{a + ib}{a - ib}$ , prove that  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ .

Solution:

Here,  $x + iy = \frac{a + ib}{a - ib}$

Taking modulus, we get

$$\begin{aligned}|x + iy| &= \left| \frac{a + ib}{a - ib} \right| \\ \text{Or, } \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} &= \frac{|a + ib|}{|a - ib|} \left( \because \left| \frac{z_1}{z_2} \right| = \frac{|z_1|}{|z_2|} \right) \\ \text{Or, } \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} &= \frac{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}} \\ \text{Or, } \sqrt{x^2 + y^2} &= 1\end{aligned}$$

Squaring, we get,  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ .

**Example 4:** Find the modulus of  $\frac{1}{2+3i}$ .

Solution:-  $\frac{1}{2+3i} = \frac{1}{2+3i} \times \frac{2-3i}{2-3i} = \frac{2-3i}{4-9i^2} = \frac{2-3i}{4+9} = \frac{2-3i}{13} = \frac{2}{13} - \frac{3}{13}i$

Now, Required modulus =  $\left| \frac{2}{13} - \frac{3}{13}i \right| = \sqrt{\left(\frac{2}{13}\right)^2 + \left(-\frac{3}{13}\right)^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{13}}$

**Next Method:-**  $\left| \frac{1}{2+3i} \right| = \frac{|1|}{|2+3i|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2)^2 + (3)^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{13}}$

**Exercise**

1. Find the conjugate of the following complex numbers.
  - (a)  $(3 + 5i)(7 - 5i)$
  - (b)  $\frac{1}{1 + i}$
  - (c)  $\frac{3 + 4i}{3 - 4i}$
  - (d)  $\frac{(3 - i)^2}{2 + i}$
2. Find the modulus of the following complex numbers.
  - (a)  $(3 + 4i)(5 + 12i)$
  - (b)  $\frac{1}{3 + 5i}$
  - (c)  $\frac{2 + 3i}{2 - 3i}$
  - (d)  $\frac{(1 + i)(1 + \sqrt{3}i)}{1 - i}$
3. If  $z = 2 + 3i$  and  $w = 1 - i$ , verify that
  - (a)  $\overline{z \cdot w} = \overline{z} \cdot \overline{w}$
  - (b)  $\overline{\left(\frac{z}{w}\right)} = \frac{\overline{z}}{\overline{w}}$
  - (c)  $|zw| = |z| |w|$
  - (d)  $\left|\frac{z}{w}\right| = \frac{|z|}{|w|}$
  - (e)  $|z + w| \leq |z| + |w|$
4. (a) If  $x - iy = \frac{3 - 2i}{3 + 2i}$ . Prove that  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ .
  - (b) If  $\sqrt{x + iy} = a + ib$ , prove that  $\sqrt{x - iy} = a - ib$ .
  - (c) If  $(3 - 4i)(a + ib) = 3\sqrt{5}$ , prove that  $a^2 + b^2 = \frac{9}{5}$ .

Solution:- Given,  $(3 - 4i)(a + ib) = 3\sqrt{5}$

Taking modulus on both sides,

$$\begin{aligned}
 |(3 - 4i)(a + ib)| &= |3\sqrt{5}| \\
 \Rightarrow |(3 - 4i)||a + ib| &= 3\sqrt{5} \\
 \Rightarrow \sqrt{3^2 + (-4)^2} \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} &= 3\sqrt{5} \\
 \Rightarrow 5 \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} &= 3\sqrt{5} \\
 \Rightarrow \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} &= \frac{3\sqrt{5}}{5}
 \end{aligned}$$

Squaring both sides, we get

$$a^2 + b^2 = \frac{9}{5}$$

$$(d) \text{ If } x - iy = \sqrt{\frac{1 - i}{1 + i}}, \text{ prove that } x^2 + y^2 = 1$$

**Answers**



1. (a)  $46 - 20i$  (b)  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}i$  (c)  $\frac{-7}{25} - \frac{24}{25}i$  (d)  $2 + 4i$
- 2 (a) 65 (b)  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{34}}$  (c) 1 (d) 2

