



## Why

We are regularly thinking of the set  $\mathbf{C}$  as identified with the plane.

## Definition

Since  $\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{R}^2$ , we can identify  $z \in \mathbf{C}$  with a point in the plane, as we did in **Real Plane**. In this case, if  $z = x + iy \in \mathbf{C}$  (i.e.,  $z = (x, y) \in \mathbf{R}^2$ ), we can visualize this identification in the following figure. We can identify the origin with the complex number  $(0, 0) = 0 \in \mathbf{C}$ . For this reason we call  $0 \in \mathbf{C}$  the *complex origin*. Likewise, the imaginary number  $(0, 1) = i \in \mathbf{C}$  corresponds to  $(0, 1)$ . Clearly, the horizontal axis corresponds to the purely real numbers and the vertical axis corresponds to the purely imaginary numbers. For these reasons, we refer to these axes as the *real axis* and *imaginar axis*, respectively.

## Modulus and argument

The *modulus* of  $z \in \mathbf{C}$  is the distance of  $z$  to the origin. If  $z \in \mathbf{C}$ , then the modulus of  $z$  is

$$\sqrt{\mathbf{Re} z^2 + \mathbf{Im} z^2}.$$

We denote the modulus of  $z$  by  $|z|$ .

The *argument* of  $z \in \mathbf{C}$  is  $\tan^{-1}(\mathbf{Im} z / \mathbf{Re} z)$ . We denote the argument of  $z$  by  $\arg z$ .<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Future editions will include the geometric interpretations.

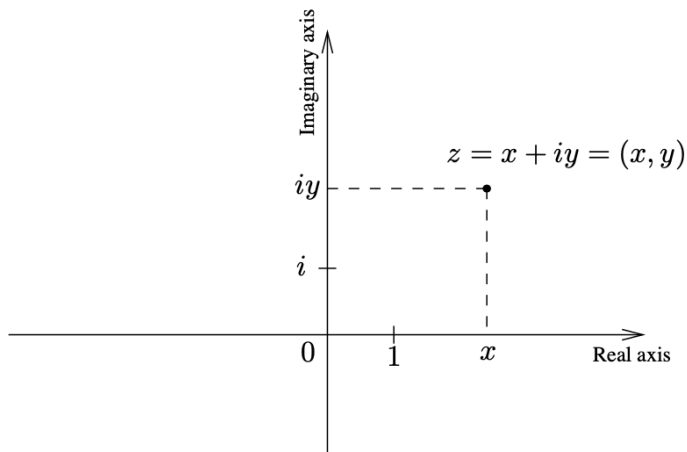


Figure 1: The complex plane

### Complex disc

The *complex disc* is the set  $\{z \in \mathbf{C} \mid |z| \leq 1\}$ . We denote it by  $\mathbf{D}$ , a mnemonic for disc. The *complex unit circle* is the set  $\{z \in \mathbf{C} \mid |z| = 1\}$ . We denote it by  $\mathbf{T}$ , a mnemonic for torus.



