

**COMPLEX NUMBERS****1. INTRODUCTION:**

Solve the following equations for real  $x$ :

$$(i) x^2 - 4 = 0$$

$$(ii) x^2 + 9 = 0$$

$$(iii) x^2 + x + 1 = 0$$

Solution:

$$(i) x^2 - 4 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 = 4$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \pm 2$$

$$(ii) x^2 + 9 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 = -9$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \sqrt{-9} = \text{Not real}$$

$$(iii) x^2 + x + 1 = 0$$

Comparing it with the equation

$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0$$

We find

$$a = 1, \quad b = 1, \quad c = 1$$

$$\therefore D = b^2 - 4ac = 1^2 - 4.1.1 = 1 - 4 = -3$$

$$\text{Since, } D < 0$$

The roots of the given equation  $x^2 + x + 1 = 0$  are not real.

Thus, we fail to solve the equations (ii) and (iii) in the set of real numbers.

This shows the inadequacy of the real number system.

**Euler** was the first Mathematician to use the symbol  $i$  for  $\sqrt{-1}$  with the property  $i^2 = -1$ . The symbol  $i$  is called **iota**. The definition of  $i$  made us able to talk about the square root of negative real numbers.

$$\sqrt{-4} = \sqrt{-1 \times 4} = \sqrt{-1} \times \sqrt{4} = i \times 2 = 2i$$

$$\sqrt{-9} = \sqrt{-1 \times 9} = \sqrt{-1} \times \sqrt{9} = i \times 3 = 3i$$

$$\sqrt{-16} = \sqrt{-1 \times 16} = \sqrt{-1} \times \sqrt{16} = i \times 4 = 4i$$

$$\sqrt{-7} = \sqrt{-1 \times 7} = \sqrt{-1} \times \sqrt{7} = i \times \sqrt{7} = \sqrt{7} i$$

and so on.

**2. INTEGRAL POWERS OF  $i$** 

$$i = i, \quad i^2 = -1, \quad i^3 = -i, \quad i^4 = 1$$

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$$i^5 = i^4 \cdot i = 1 \cdot i = i, \quad i^6 = i^4 \cdot i^2 = 1 \cdot (-1) = -1$$

$$i^7 = i^4 \cdot i^3 = 1 \cdot (-i) = -i, \quad i^8 = (i^4)^2 = (1)^2 = 1$$

1. Find the value of  $i^9 + i^{19}$ .

Solution:

$$i^9 = i^{8+1} = i^8 \cdot i = (i^4)^2 \cdot i = 1^2 \cdot i = 1 \cdot i = i$$

$$i^{19} = i^{16+3} = i^{16} \cdot i^3 = (i^4)^4 \cdot (-i) = 1^4 \cdot (-i) = 1 \cdot (-i) = -i$$

$$\therefore i^9 + i^{19} = i - i = 0$$

2. Find the value of  $i^{-39}$ .

Solution:

$$i^{-39} = \frac{1}{i^{39}} \times \frac{i}{i} = \frac{i}{i^{40}} = \frac{i}{(i^4)^{10}} = \frac{i}{(1)^{10}} = \frac{i}{1} = i$$

3. Find the value of  $(1 - i)^4$ .

Solution:

$$(1 - i)^4 = [(1 - i)^2]^2$$

$$= [1 - 2i + i^2]^2$$

$$= [1 - 2i - 1]^2$$

$$= (-2i)^2$$

$$= 4i^2$$

$$= 4 \cdot (-i)$$

$$= -4i$$

4. Find the value of  $\left[i^{18} - \left(\frac{1}{i}\right)^{25}\right]^3$ .

**Solution:**

$$i^{18} = i^{16+2} = i^{16} \cdot i^2 = (i^4)^4 \cdot (-1) = 1^4 \cdot (-1) = 1 \cdot (-1) = -1$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{i}\right)^{25} = \frac{1}{i^{25}} = \frac{1}{i^{25}} \times \frac{i^3}{i^3} = \frac{i^3}{i^{28}} = \frac{-i}{(i^4)^7} = \frac{-i}{(1)^7} = \frac{-i}{1} = -i$$

$$\therefore \left[i^{18} - \left(\frac{1}{i}\right)^{25}\right]^3 = [-1 - i]^3$$

$$= [-(1 + i)]^3$$

$$= -(1 + i)^3$$

$$= -[1^3 + 3 \cdot 1^2 \cdot i + 3 \cdot 1 \cdot i^2 + i^3]$$

$$= -[1 + 3 \cdot 1 \cdot i + 3 \cdot (-1) + (-i)] \quad [\because i^2 = -1, i^3 = -i]$$

$$= -[1 + 3i - 3 - i]$$

$$= -[-2 + 2i]$$

$$= 2 - 2i$$

### **3. COMPLEX NUMBERS**

If  $a$  and  $b$  are any two real numbers, then the symbol  $a + ib$  is called a complex number. The set of complex number is denoted by  $C$ .

Thus,

$$C = \{(a + ib) : a, b \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and } i = \sqrt{-1}\}$$

Examples:

$$2 + 3i, \quad -4 + 5i, \quad 3 - 7i, \quad -4 - 5i, \quad 0 + 3i, \quad 6 + 0i, \quad 0 + 0i, \quad \sqrt{3} - 4i \text{ etc.}$$

Note: (i) A complex number is usually denoted by the letter  $z$ .

$$(ii) \quad a + ib = a + bi$$

### **4. REAL AND IMAGINARY PARTS OF A COMPLEX NUMBER**

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

Then,  $a$  is called real part of  $z$  and is written as  $\text{Re}(z)$  and  $b$  is called imaginary part of  $z$  and is written as  $\text{Im}(z)$ .

Thus,

$$\therefore \text{Re}(z) = a \text{ and } \text{Im}(z) = b$$

Examples:

Complex Number (z)	Re (z)	Im (z)
$2 + 3i$	2	3
$-2 + 3i$	-2	3
$2 - 3i$	2	-3
$-2 - 3i$	-2	-3
$-5i = 0 - 5i$	0	-5
$3 = 3 + 0i$	3	0
$0 = 0 + 0i$	0	0

### **5. PURELY REAL AND PURELY IMAGINARY COMPLEX NUMBERS**

A complex number  $z = a + ib$  is said to be purely real if  $\text{Im}(z) = 0$

Examples:

$$2 = 2 + 0i, \quad -4 = -4 + 0i, \quad 3 = 3 + 0i, \quad -2 = -2 + 0i \text{ etc.}$$

A complex number  $z = a + ib$  is said to be purely imaginary if  $\text{Re}(z) = 0$

Examples:

$$0 + 2i, \quad 0 - 3i, \quad 0 - 5i, \quad 0 - 6i, \quad 0 + 7i, \quad 0 + 9i \text{ etc.}$$

### **6. EQUALITY OF COMPLEX NUMBERS**

Two complex numbers are said to be equal if their real parts and imaginary parts are separately equal.

Thus,

$$a + ib = c + id \Leftrightarrow a = c, b = d$$

Example:

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

Solution:

Given,

$$4x + i(3x - y) = 3 + i(-6)$$

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

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{3}{4}, \quad y = 3x + 6$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{3}{4}, \quad y = 3 \cdot \frac{3}{4} + 6$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{3}{4}, \quad y = \frac{9}{4} + 6$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{3}{4}, \quad y = \frac{33}{4}$$