Calculus II Definition of complex numbers

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Definition (Complex numbers)

The set of complex numbers $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$ is defined as the set

$$\{a + bi | a, b - \text{real numbers}\},\$$

where the number i is a number for which

$$i^2 = -1$$
.

The number *i* is called the imaginary unit. By definition, $\sqrt{-1} = i$.

Complex addition/subtraction

$$(a+bi)\pm(c+di)=(a\pm c)+(b\pm d)i \quad .$$

Complex multiplication

$$(a+bi)(c+di) = ac+adi+bci+bdi^2 = ac+adi+bci-bd$$

= $(ac-bd)+i(ad+bc)$

Review of the basic types of numbers

• An integer, or whole number, is one of the numbers:

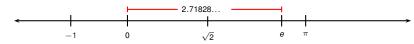
$$\ldots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \ldots$$

• A rational number is the quotient of two integers, for example:

$$\frac{1}{2}$$
, $\frac{2}{-3} = -\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{8}{12} = \frac{4}{6} = \frac{2}{3}$.

• A real number measures the location of a point on the real line:

$$\sqrt{2} = 1.414213562373095048801688724209698...$$
 $\pi = 3.141592653589793238462643383279502...$
 $e = 2.718281828459045235360287471352662...$



- A number is complex if it equals a + bi with a, b- real, $\sqrt{-1} = i$: 2 + 3i, -i, $1 + \sqrt{2}i$
- Geometric interpretation of complex numbers: beyond our scope.