Complex Numbers

Introduction to Engineering Mathematics

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Overview

- Motivation
- Number systems
- Graphical representation of complex numbers
- Modules, argument, complex conjugate
- Complex arithmetic

Motivation: solving quadratic equations

Find x so that $x^2 - 2x + 2 = 0$.

- As $D = -4 < 0$, there are **no real solutions**
- If we set $i = \sqrt{-1}$, then we find **two solutions**.

OK to calculate with i, as long as we remember

$$\boxed{i^2 = -1.}$$

Number systems

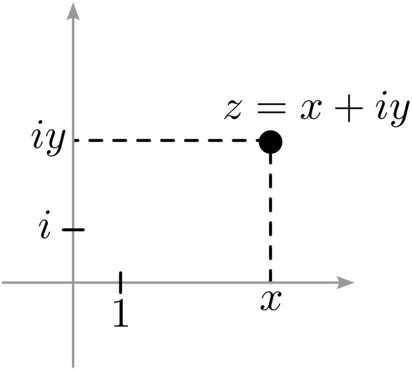
Symbol	Elements	Used for
$\mathbb{N}$	0, 1, 2, ...	Counting
$\mathbb{Z}$	..., -1, 0, 1, 2, ...	Adding/subtracting
$\mathbb{Q}$	Fractions n/m	Dividing
$\mathbb{R}$	$\mathbb{Q}$ and irrational numbers: e, π, ...	Limits
$\mathbb{C}$	$a + ib$, with $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$	Solving equations

Graphical representation of complex numbers

If $z = x + iy$ is a complex number, then

- $\mathrm{Re}(z) = x$ (the real part)
- $\mathrm{Im}(z) = y$ (the imaginary part)

are both real numbers and (x, y) determines a point in the plane.



Argand plane:

- x-axis: Real axis
- y-axis: Imaginary axis

Example

In the complex plane, find the location of:

- $z_1 = 1$
- $z_2 = 2 + 3i$
- $z_3 = -2i$
- $S = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \mathrm{Re}(z) \leq 1\}$

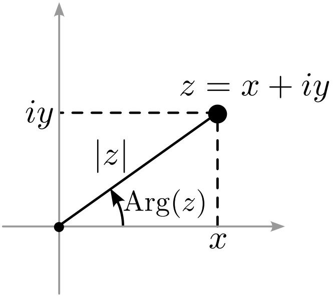
Modulus and argument

- **Modulus** (absolute value) of z: distance to the origin.

$$|z| = d(z, O) = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}.$$

- **Argument** of z: angle with positive x-axis.
$\mathrm{Arg}(z) = \theta \in (-\pi, \pi]$ if

$$\tan\theta = \frac{y}{x}.$$



Polar representation of complex numbers

If r is the modulus and θ the argument of $z = x + iy$, then

$$\begin{cases} x = r\cos\theta \\ y = r\sin\theta \end{cases}$$

This gives us the **polar representation of** z:

$$\begin{aligned} z &= x + iy \\ &= \boxed{r(\cos\theta + i\sin\theta)} \end{aligned}$$

Example

Find the polar representation of

- $z_1 = i$
- $z_2 = 1 + i$
- $z_3 = -\sqrt{3} - i$

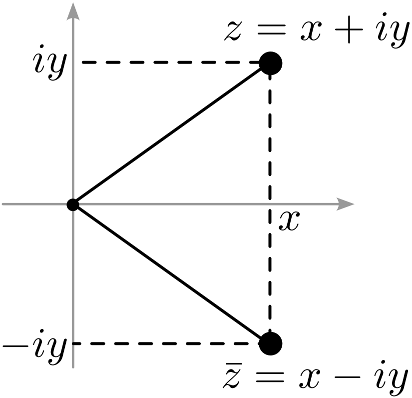
Complex conjugate

If $z = x + iy$, then the **complex conjugate** $\bar{z}$ is given by

$$\bar{z} = x - iy.$$

Properties:

1. $\mathrm{Re}(\bar{z}) = \mathrm{Re}(z)$
2. $\mathrm{Im}(\bar{z}) = -\mathrm{Im}(z)$
3. $|\bar{z}| = |z|$
4. $\mathrm{Arg}(\bar{z}) = -\mathrm{Arg}(z)$



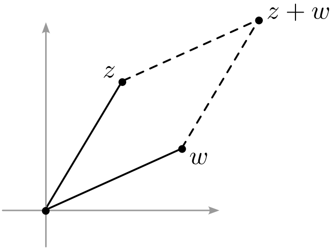
Adding and subtracting complex numbers

Complex numbers can be added/subtracted component-wise: if $z = x + iy$ and $w = a + ib$, then

$$\begin{aligned} z \pm w &= (x + iy) \pm (a + ib) \\ &= (x \pm a) + i(y \pm b) \end{aligned}$$

This has a nice geometric interpretation via the **parallellogram rule**:

- Draw a parallellogram with sides z and w
- $z + w$ is at the end of the diagonal



Multiplying complex numbers

If $z = x + iy$ and $w = a + ib$, then (using $i^2 = -1$)

$$\begin{aligned} zw &= (x + iy) \cdot (a + ib) \\ &= (xa - yb) + i(ya + xb) \end{aligned}$$

Properties:

1. $z\bar{z} = |z|^2$
2. $\overline{zw} = \bar{z} \cdot \bar{w}$

Product of complex numbers in polar form

Write

$$w = r(\cos\theta + i\sin\theta)$$
$$z = s(\cos\phi + i\sin\phi)$$

Then we get the following nice form for the complex product:

$$wz = \underbrace{rs}_{|wz|}(\cos(\underbrace{\theta+\phi}_{\mathrm{Arg}(wz)}) + i\sin(\theta+\phi))$$

In particular, we get

- $|wz| = rs = |w||z|$
- $\mathrm{Arg}(wz) = \theta + \phi = \mathrm{Arg}(w) + \mathrm{Arg}(z)$

De Moivre's theorem

From the product rule, we get

$$\begin{aligned} |z_1 z_2 \cdots z_n| &= |z_1||z_2| \cdots |z_n| \\ \mathrm{Arg}(z_1 z_2 \cdots z_n) &= \mathrm{Arg}(z_1) + \cdots + \mathrm{Arg}(z_n). \end{aligned}$$

Substituting $z_1 = ... = z_n = \cos\theta + i\sin\theta$ gives us **De Moivre's theorem**:

$$\boxed{(\cos\theta + i\sin\theta)^n = \cos(n\theta) + i\sin(n\theta).}$$

Division of complex numbers

We put

$$\frac{z}{w} = \frac{x + iy}{a + ib}.$$

- How can we make sense of this complex number?
- Multiply by the conjugate:

$$\frac{z}{w} = \frac{x + iy}{a + ib}\frac{a - ib}{a - ib} = \frac{ax + by}{a^2 + b^2} + i\frac{ay - bx}{a^2 + b^2}.$$

Properties:

$$|z/w| = |z|/|w| \quad \text{and} \quad \mathrm{Arg}(z/w) = \mathrm{Arg}(z) - \mathrm{Arg}(w).$$

Useful properties of complex numbers

- $\overline{z+w} = \bar{z} + \bar{w}$
- $\overline{zw} = \bar{z}\bar{w}$
- $\bar{\bar{z}} = z$
- $zw = 0$ iff $z = 0$ or $w = 0$

Property: to take the conjugate of a complicated expression, it suffices to take the conjugate of every term.

Example: Given $z = i\dfrac{Z-1}{Z+1}$, compute $\bar{z}$.

Examples

- Find the modulus and argument of $z = (3 + 5i)(4 - 2i)$.
- Simplify the complex number $z = \frac{7+3i}{4i}$.

Examples

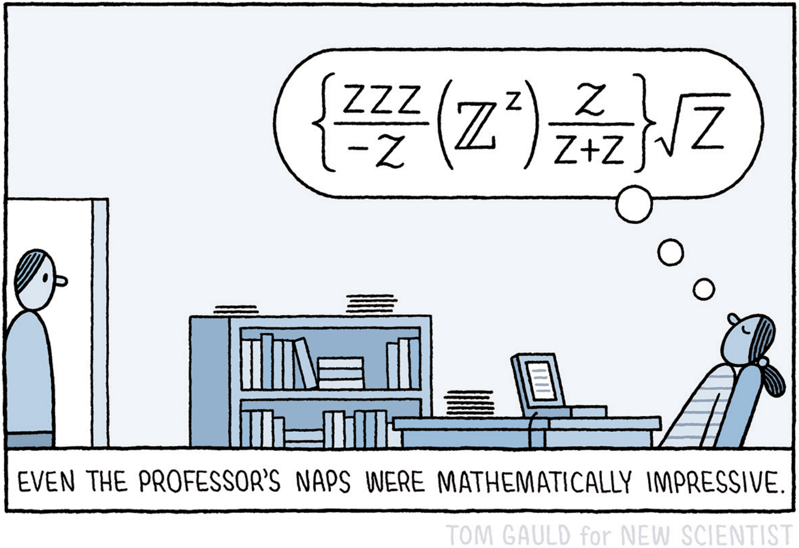
Simplify the following complex numbers as much as possible:

- $z = \frac{1+i}{1-i}$
- $z = i^{2022}$

Caveat

Keep in mind that, for complex numbers,

$$\sqrt{ab} \neq \sqrt{a}\sqrt{b}.$$



Source: Tom Gauld