Complex Numbers and Quadratic Equations

Quadratic Equations

An equation of the form $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ is called a quadratic equation, where a, b and c are real or complex numbers such that $a \neq 0$ and x is a variable.

Roots of Quadratic Equation

A quadratic equation has exactly two roots, which can be real or imaginary.

- $x = \alpha$ and $x = \beta$ are the roots of the quadratic equation $f(x) = 0$ if $f(\alpha) = f(\beta) = 0$.

- If α and β are the roots of the quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$, then we have:

  Sum of roots, $\alpha + \beta = -\frac{b}{a}$,
  And,
  Product of roots, $\alpha\beta = \frac{c}{a}$

Solving Quadratic Equation Using Quadratic Formula

We can solve the quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ using the following quadratic formula:

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{D}}{2a}$$

Here, D is called the discriminant. It is given by:
$D = b^2 - 4ac$

Nature of Roots

The nature of roots of a quadratic equation depends on its discriminant (D), which can be observed as follows:

Nature of D	**Nature of roots of $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$**
If $D = 0$, then $b^2 = 4ac$.	Roots are real and each is equal to $-\frac{b}{2a}$.

If $D > 0$, then $b^2 > 4ac$.	Roots are distinct and real.
If $D < 0$, then $b^2 < 4ac$	Roots are imaginary and given by: $\alpha = \frac{-b + i\sqrt{4ac - b^2}}{2a}$ and $\beta = \frac{-b - i\sqrt{4ac - b^2}}{2a}$

- Imaginary roots of a quadratic equation are complex conjugates of each other; i.e., $\alpha = \overline{\beta}$ *and* $\overline{\alpha} = \beta$.

Roots of Unity

Roots of unity are used in many branches of mathematics, especially in number theory and field theory. Let us study about the cube roots and *n*th roots of unity in detail.

- **Cube roots of unity**

Consider the equation $x^3 = 1$.

$$\Rightarrow x^3 - 1 = 0$$
$$\Rightarrow (x-1)(x^2 + x + 1) = 0$$
$$\Rightarrow x - 1 = 0 \text{ or } x^2 + x + 1 = 0$$
$$\Rightarrow x = 1 \text{ or } x = \frac{-1 + i\sqrt{3}}{2} \text{ or } x = \frac{-1 - i\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

$$\text{If } \omega = \frac{-1 + i\sqrt{3}}{2} \text{ then } \omega^2 = \frac{-1 - i\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

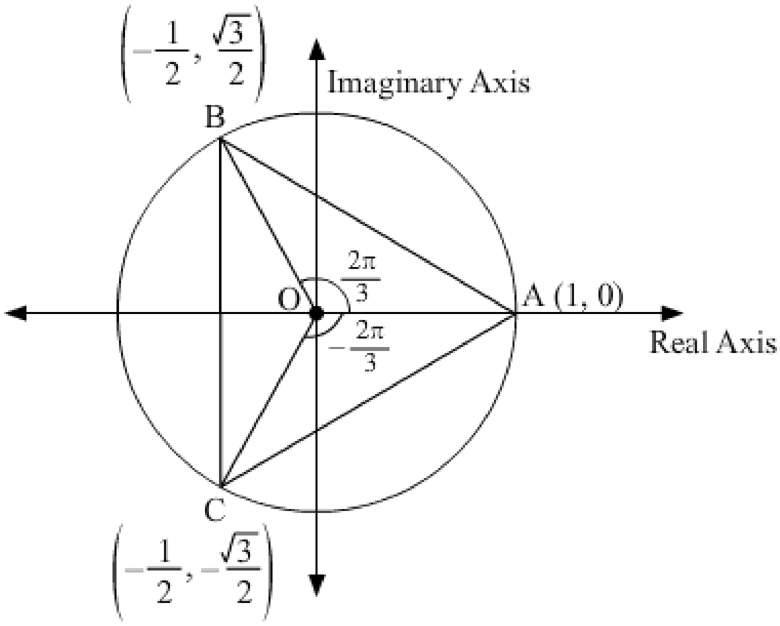
The roots $1, \omega, \omega^2$ are called the cube roots of unity. Also, ω and ω^2 can be written as $e^{i\frac{2\pi}{3}}$ and $e^{-i\frac{2\pi}{3}}$ respectively.

Properties of cube roots of unity:

- Sum of the roots, $1 + \omega + \omega^2 = 0$
- Product of the roots, $1 \times \omega \times \omega^2 = \omega^3 = 1$

Representation of cube roots of unity on the Argand plane:

If we plot the roots of the equation $x^3 = 1$ on the Argand plane, we obtain an equilateral triangle.



Important Identities:

- $x^3 - y^3 = (x-y)(x-y\omega)(x-y\omega^2)$
- $x^3 + y^3 = (x+y)(x+y\omega)(x+y\omega^2)$
- $x^2 + xy + y^2 = (x-y\omega)(x-y\omega^2)$
- $x^2 - xy + y^2 = (x+y\omega)(x+y\omega^2)$
- $x^3 + y^3 + z^3 - 3xyz = (x+y+z)(x+y\omega+z\omega^2)(x+y\omega^2+z\omega)$

Note: If α be one cube root of a number *p,* then its other cube roots will be $\alpha\omega$ and $\alpha\omega^2$.

- ***n*th root of unity**

Consider the equation $x^n = 1$. The number of roots of this equation is *n* and each root is called the *n*th root of unity.

$x^n = 1$

If $r = 0$, then $x = 1$

If $r = 1$, then $x = \cos\frac{2\pi}{n} + i\sin\frac{2\pi}{n} = e^{i\frac{2\pi}{n}}$

If $r = 2$, then $x = \cos\frac{4\pi}{n} + i\sin\frac{4\pi}{n} = e^{i\frac{4\pi}{n}}$

- -

- -

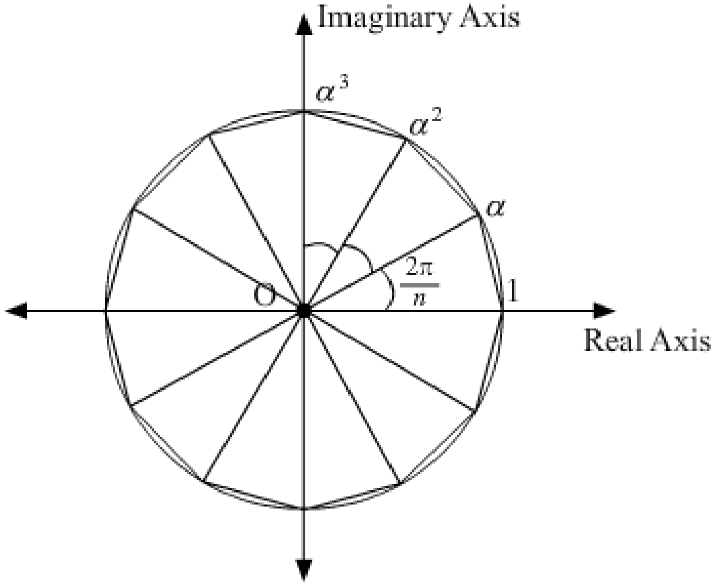
If $r = n - 1$, then $x=\cos\frac{2(n-1)\pi}{n}+i\sin\frac{2(n-1)\pi}{n}=e^{i\frac{2(n-1)\pi}{n}}$

The roots $1, e^{i\frac{2\pi}{n}}, e^{i\frac{4\pi}{n}}, \ldots, e^{i\frac{2(n-1)\pi}{n}}$ are the n^{th} roots of unity.

If $e^{i\frac{2\pi}{n}}=\alpha$ then the n^{th} roots of unity will be represented as $1, \alpha, \alpha^2, \ldots, \alpha^{n-1}$.

Representation of n^{th} roots of unity on the Argand plane:

The *n*th roots of unity when plotted on Argand plane represent the vertices of a regular polygon of *n* sides which are inscribed in the circle $|z|=1$.



Properties of *nth* roots of unity:

- Sum of *n*th roots of unity, $1+\alpha+\alpha^2+\ldots+\alpha^n$ = 0

- Product of n^{th} roots of unity, $1 \times \alpha \times \alpha^2 \times \ldots \times \alpha^{n-1} = -1^{n-1}$

- $1 + \alpha^r + \alpha^{2r} + \ldots + \alpha^{(n-1)r} = 0$ if H.C.F $(r, n) = 1$

- A number of the form $a + ib$, where a and b are real numbers and $i = \sqrt{-1}$, is defined as a complex number.
- For the complex numbers $z = a + ib$, a is called the real part (denoted by Re z) and b is called the imaginary part (denoted by Im z) of the complex number z.

  Example: For the complex number $z=\frac{-5}{9}+i\frac{\sqrt{3}}{17}$, Re $z=\frac{-5}{9}$ and Im $z=\frac{\sqrt{3}}{17}$

- Two complex numbers $z_1 = a + ib$ and $z_2 = c + id$ are equal if $a = c$ and $b = d$.

- **Addition of complex numbers**

Two complex numbers $z_1 = a + ib$ and $z_2 = c + id$ can be added as,

$z_1 + z_2 = (a + ib) + (c + id) = (a + c) + i(b + d)$

- **Properties of addition of complex numbers:**
  - **Closure Law:** Sum of two complex numbers is a complex number. In fact, for two complex numbers z_1 and z_2, such that $z_1 = a + ib$ and $z_2 = c + id$, we obtain $z_1 + z_2 = (a + c) + i(b + d)$.
  - **Commutative Law:** For two complex numbers z_1 and z_2,

  $z_1 + z_2 = z_2 + z_1$.

  - **Associative Law:** For any three complex numbers z_1, z_2 *and* z_3,

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

  - **Existence of Additive Identity:** There exists a complex number $0 + i0\ denotedby 0$, called the additive identity or zero complex number, such that for every complex number z, $z + 0 = z$.
  - **Existence of Additive Inverse:** For every complex number $z = a + ib$, there exists a complex number $-a + i(-b)$ [denoted by $-z$], called the additive inverse or negative of z, such that $z + (-z) = 0$.

- **Subtraction of complex numbers**

Given any two complex numbers z_1, and z_2, the difference $z_1 - z_2$ is defined as

$z_1 - z_2 = z_1 + (-z_2)$.

- **Multiplication of complex numbers:**

Two complex numbers $z_1 = a + ib$ and $z_2 = c + id$ can be multiplied as,

$z_1 z_2 = (ac - bd) + i(ad + bc)$

- Properties of multiplication of complex numbers:
  - **Closure law:** The product of two complex numbers is a complex number.

  In fact, for two complex numbers z_1 and z_2, such that $z_1 = a + ib$ and $z_2 = c + id$, we obtain $z_1 z_2 = (ac - bd) + i(ad + bc)$.

  - **Commutative Law:** For any two complex numbers z_1 and z_2, $z_1 z_2 = z_2 z_1$.
  - **Associative Law:** For any three complex numbers z_1, z_2 and z_3,

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

  - **Existence of Multiplicative Identity:** There exist a complex number $1 + i\,0\ denotedas 1$, called the multiplicative identity, such that for every complex numbers z, $z.1 = z$.
  - **Existence of Multiplicative Inverse:** For every non-zero complex number $z = a + ib$ $(a \neq 0, b \neq 0)$, we have the complex number

$\frac{a}{a^2+b^2} + i\frac{-b}{a^2+b^2}$ (denoted by $\frac{1}{z}$ or z^{-1}), called the multiplicative inverse of z, such that $z\frac{1}{z} = 1$.

Example: The multiplicative inverse of the complex number $z = 2 - 3i$ can be found as,
$z^{-1} = \frac{2}{(2)^2 + (-3)^2} + i\frac{(-3)}{(2)^2 + (-3)^2} = \frac{2}{13} - \frac{3}{13}i$

- **Distributive Law:** For any three complex numbers z_1, z_2 and z_3,
  - $z_1\,(z_2 + z_3) = z_1 z_2 + z_1 z_3$
  - $(z_1 + z_2)\,z_3 = z_1 z_3 + z_2 z_3$

- **Division of Complex Numbers**

Given any two complex number z_1 and z_2, where $z_2 \neq 0$, the quotient $\frac{z_1}{z_2}$ is defined as $\frac{z_1}{z_2} = z_1\frac{1}{z_2}$

Example: For $z_1 = 1 + i$ and $z_2 = 2 - 3i$, the quotient $\frac{z_1}{z_2}$ can be found as,

$\frac{z_1}{z_2} = \frac{1+i}{2-3i}$

$= \left(1 + i\right)\left(\frac{1}{2-3i}\right)$

$= \left(1 + i\right)\left(\frac{2}{(2)^2+(-3)^2} + i\frac{(-3)}{(2)^2+(-3)^2}\right)$

$= \left(1 + i\right)\left(\frac{2}{13} - \frac{3}{13}i\right)$

$= \left[1\times\frac{2}{13} - 1\times\left(-\frac{3}{13}\right)\right] + i\left[1\times\left(-\frac{3}{13}\right) + 1\times\frac{2}{13}\right]$

$= \frac{5}{13} - \frac{1}{13}i$

- **Property of Complex Numbers**
  - For any integer$k$, $i^{4k} = 1$, $i^{4k+1} = i$, $i^{4k+2} = -1$, $i^{4k+3} = -i$.
  - If a and b are negative real numbers, then

- **Modulus of a Complex Number**

The modulus of a complex number $z = a + ib$, is denoted by $|z|$, and is defined as the non-negative real number $\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$, i.e., $\left|z\right| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$.

Example 1: If $z = 2 - 3i$, then $\left|z\right| = \sqrt{(2)^2 + (-3)^2} = \sqrt{13}$

- **Conjugate of Complex Number**

The conjugate of a complex number $z = a + ib$, is denoted by $\overline{z}$, and is defined as the complex number $a - ib$, i.e., $\overline{z} = a - ib$.

Example 2: Find the conjugate of $\frac{2}{3+5i}$.

Solution: We have

$\frac{2}{3+5i}$

$= \frac{2}{3+5i} \times \frac{3-5i}{3-5i}$

$= \frac{2(3-5i)}{(3)^2-(5i)^2}$

$= \frac{2(3-5i)}{9-25i^2}$

$= \frac{6-10i}{9+25} \quad \left(\because i^2 = -1\right)$

$= \frac{6-10i}{34}$

$= \frac{6}{34} - \frac{10i}{34}$

$= \frac{3}{17} - \frac{5i}{17}$

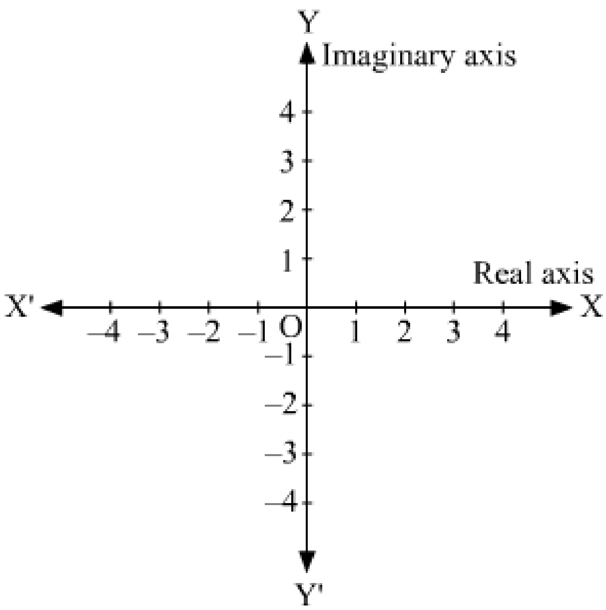
Thus, the conjugate of $\frac{2}{3+5i}$ is $\frac{3}{17} + \frac{5i}{17}$.

- Properties of modulus and conjugate of complex numbers:

For any three complex numbers z, z_1, z_2,

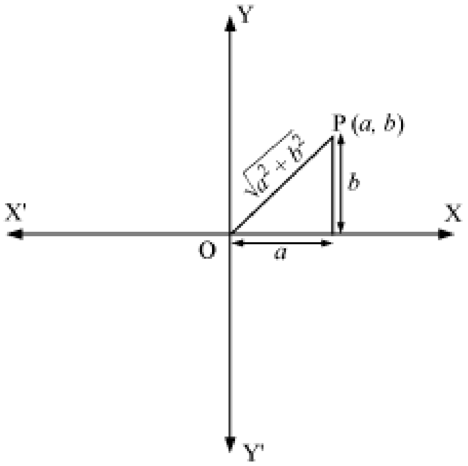
- $z^{-1} = \frac{\bar{z}}{|z|^2}$ or $z.\bar{z} = |z|^2$
- $|z_1 z_2| = |z_1||z_2|$
- $\left|\frac{z_1}{z_2}\right| = \frac{|z_1|}{|z_2|}$, provided $|z_2| \neq 0$
- $\overline{z_1 z_2} = \overline{z_1}\,\overline{z_2}$
- $\overline{z_1 \pm z_2} = \overline{z_1} \pm \overline{z_2}$

- **Argand plan:** Each complex number represents a unique point on Argand plane. An Argand plane is shown in the following figure.



Here, x-axis is known as the **real axis** and y-axis is known as the **imaginary axis**.

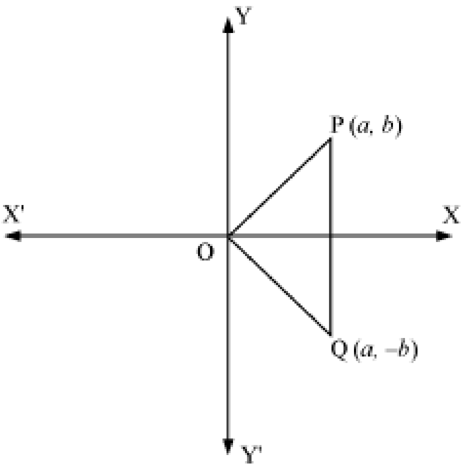
- **Complex Number on Argand plane:** The complex number $z = a + ib$ can be represented on an Argand plane as



In this figure, $OP = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} = |z|$

-
- .Thus, the modulus of a complex number $z = a + ib$ is the distance between the point P(x, y) and the origin O.

- **Conjugate of Complex Number on Argand plane:**
- The conjugate of a complex number $z = a + ib$ is $\bar{z} = a - ib$, z and $\bar{z}$ can be represented by the points P(a, b) and Q(a, $-b$) on the Argand plane as



Thus, on the Argand plane, the conjugate of a complex number is the mirror image of the complex number with respect to the real axis.

- **Polar representation of Complex Numbers**

The polar form of the complex number $z = x + iy$, is $r(\cos\theta + \sin\theta)$ where $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ (modulus of z) and $\cos\theta = \frac{x}{r}$, $\sin\theta = \frac{y}{r}$ (θ is known as the argument of z).

The value of θ is such that $-\pi < \theta \le \pi$, which is called the principle argument of z.

Example 2: Represent the complex number $z = \sqrt{2} - i\sqrt{2}$ in polar form.
Solution: $z = \sqrt{2} - i\sqrt{2}$
Let $\sqrt{2} = r\cos\theta$ and $-\sqrt{2} = r\sin\theta$
By squaring and adding them, we have

$$2 + 2 = r^2\left(\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow r^2 = 4$$

$$\Rightarrow r = \sqrt{4} = 2$$

Thus,

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\sin \theta = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} = \sin\left(2\pi - \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta = 2\pi - \frac{\pi}{4} = \frac{7\pi}{4}$$

Thus, the required polar form is $2\left(\cos\frac{7\pi}{4} + \sin\frac{7\pi}{4}\right)$.

- **Solutions of the quadratic equation when D < 0.**

The solutions of the quadratic equation $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$, where a, b, $c \in \mathrm{R},\ a \neq 0$ are given by $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{D}}{2a}$, *where* $D = b^2 - 4ac < 0$.

Example: Solve $2x^2 + 3ix + 2 = 0$

Solution: Here $a = 2$, $b = 3i$ and $c = 2$

$$D = b^2 - 4ac$$

$$= (3i)^2 - 4\times2\times2$$

$$= -9 - 16$$

$$= -25 < 0$$

$$\therefore x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{D}}{2a}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{-3i \pm \sqrt{-25}}{2\times2}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{-3i \pm 5i}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{-3i+5i}{4} \quad \text{or} \quad x = \frac{-3i-5i}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{2i}{4} \quad \text{or} \quad x = -\frac{8i}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{i}{2} \quad \text{or} \quad x = -2i$$