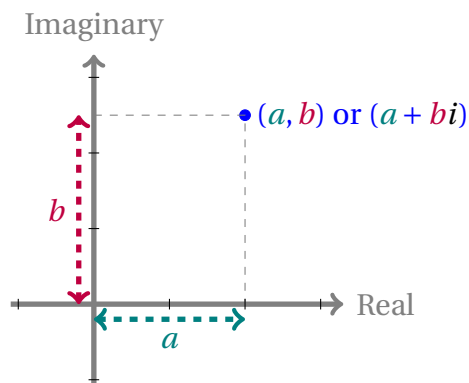


## 3.1: Complex Numbers

- Fun Fact: Complex numbers came to existence because mathematicians were interested in factoring all polynomial linearly. Now we use complex numbers in many areas of engineering.
- $i$  is the square root of  $-1$ . ( $i = \sqrt{-1}$ )
- That is,  $i$  is a number such that  $i^2 = -1$ .
- An **imaginary number** is the principal square root of a negative number. If  $-r < 0$ , is negative, then the principal square root of  $-r$  is  $\sqrt{-r} = i\sqrt{r}$  is an imaginary number. Example  $\sqrt{-4} = \sqrt{4}\sqrt{-1} = 2i$  or  $\sqrt{-2} = \sqrt{2}\sqrt{-1} = \sqrt{2}i$ .
- **Be careful!** When replacing  $\sqrt{-1}$  by  $i$ , the exponent rules for real numbers don't work. Example:  $\sqrt{-2}\sqrt{-3} \neq \sqrt{(-2)(-3)}$
- To write square root of a negative number as an imaginary number: Separate the  $\sqrt{-1}$  and then simplify the other square root.
- **Complex numbers:** They are of the form  $a + bi$  where  $a$  and  $b$  are real numbers.  $a$  is called the **real part** and  $b$  is called the **imaginary part** of the number. If  $a = 0$ , then the complex number is an **imaginary number**. If  $b = 0$ , then the complex number is a real number.
- **Why complex numbers?** To be able to find roots of all polynomials. Examples:  $x^2 + 1 = 0$ ,  $x^2 + 4x + 5 = 0$  and ...
- **Complex Plane** is a two dimensional plane where each point associates with a complex number. The  $x$ -value of a point represent the real part of number and the  $y$ -value of the point is the imaginary part of the number. The number  $(a, b)$  represents complex number  $a + bi$ .  
Note that any point on **x-axis** is a **real** number and any point on **y-axis** is an **imaginary** number.



## Operations on Complex Numbers

Let  $a_1 + b_1 i$  and  $a_2 + b_2 i$  be two complex numbers. Then

- **the sum of the two** is  $(a_1 + b_1 i) + (a_2 + b_2 i) = (a_1 + a_2) + (b_1 + b_2) i$
- **the difference of the two** is  $(a_1 + b_1 i) - (a_2 + b_2 i) = (a_1 - a_2) + (b_1 - b_2) i$
- **the product of the two** is

$$(a_1 + b_1 i) \cdot (a_2 + b_2 i) = \underbrace{a_1 a_2 + a_1 b_2 i + b_1 a_2 i + b_1 b_2 i^2}_{\text{Foil the two}} \stackrel{-b_1 b_2}{=} \underbrace{(a_1 a_2 - b_1 b_2)}_{\text{Regroup}} + (a_1 b_2 + b_1 a_2) i$$

- **The complex conjugate** of  $a + bi$  is  $a - bi$ . We use the complex conjugates to divide two complex numbers. Main **property** of complex conjugates is

$$(a + bi) \cdot (a - bi) = a^2 + b^2$$

- **Dividing two complex numbers:** If  $a_2 \neq 0$  or  $b_2 \neq 0$ , then  $\frac{a_1 + b_1 i}{a_2 + b_2 i} = \left( \frac{a_1 + b_1 i}{a_2 + b_2 i} \right) \cdot \left( \frac{a_2 - b_2 i}{a_2 - b_2 i} \right) = \frac{(a_1 + b_1 i)(a_2 - b_2 i)}{(a_2 + b_2 i)(a_2 - b_2 i)} = \frac{(a_1 a_2 + b_1 b_2) + (-a_1 b_2 + b_1 a_2) i}{a^2 + b^2} = \frac{(a_1 a_2 + b_1 b_2)}{a^2 + b^2} + \frac{(-a_1 b_2 + b_1 a_2)}{a^2 + b^2} i$

Note that we used the complex conjugate to rewrite a fraction (division) in the standard form,  $a + bi$ , of a complex number.

- **Power to integer exponent:** For now, we only discuss the integer exponents and we discuss them in terms of multiplication. If  $n > 0$  is a whole number then  $(a + bi)^n = \underbrace{(a + bi)(a + bi) \cdots (a + bi)}_n$ .

When calculating this product, simplify using  $i^2 = -1$ ,  $i^3 = -i$ ,  $i^4 = 1$ ,  $i^5 = i$ ,  $i^6 = -1$ ,  $i^7 = -i$ ,  $i^8 = 1$ ,  $i^9 = i$  and ....

Notice that higher powers of  $i$  reduce to power 0 or 1.

- **How do we verify a complex/real number is a root for a polynomial/equation?** Plug in that complex/real number in the polynomial/equation. If the polynomial is zero or equation is satisfied, then the number is a root.

1. Perform the following operations and express the result as a simplified (in standard form  $a + bi$ ) complex number.

(a)  $9 + (3 + 11i)$

(f)  $(3i) \cdot (9 + 11i)$

(b)  $11i + (9 + 13i)$

(g)  $(9 + 11i) \cdot (13 + 3i)$

(c)  $(9 + 11i) + (13 - 3i)$

(h)  $\frac{9 + 11i}{3i}$

(d)  $(13 + 3i) - (1 - i)$

(i)  $\frac{9 + 11i}{13}$

(e)  $9 \cdot (9 + 13i)$

(j)  $\frac{9 + 11i}{3 + 4i}$

2. Perform each of the following operations.

(a)  $i^{24}$

(c)  $i^{23}$

(e)  $i^{100}$

(g)  $i^{102}$

(b)  $i^{41}$

(d)  $i^{26}$

(f)  $i^{101}$

(h)  $i^{103}$

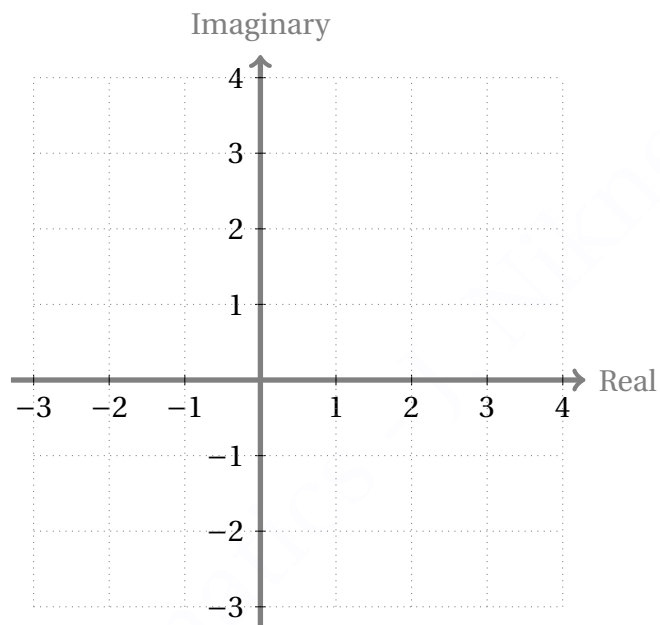
3. Evaluate the following algebraic expressions.

(a) If  $f(x) = x^2 - 2x + 2$ , evaluate  $f(2i)$ .

(b) If  $f(x) = x^2 - 2x + 5$ , evaluate  $f(i + 1)$ .

4. Verify that  $-i - 1$  is a solution to  $x^2 + 2x + 2 = 0$ .

5. Plot  $-2 + 3i$  and  $3 - 2i$  on the complex plane. Clearly mark each point.



6. Write  $\frac{2-3i}{7+i}$  in the form  $a + bi$ .

(a)  $11 - 23i$

(c)  $-\frac{11}{50} - \frac{23}{50}i$

(b)  $\frac{11}{8} - \frac{23}{8}i$

(d)  $\frac{11}{50} - \frac{23}{50}i$

7. Solve  $(x + 11)^3 = 27$  for  $x$ , in complex numbers domain.

8. Solve  $(x - 11)^3 + 125 = 0$  for  $x$ , in complex numbers domain.

9. Solve  $3x^4 - 13x^2 - 10 = 0$  for  $x$ , in the complex numbers domain.

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## Related Videos

1. **Complex Operations:** [https://mediahub.ku.edu/media/t/1\\_mtbgzpkr](https://mediahub.ku.edu/media/t/1_mtbgzpkr)
2. **Watch Gateway Video 30:** [https://mediahub.ku.edu/media/MATH+104+--+030.m4v/0\\_n9tednmc](https://mediahub.ku.edu/media/MATH+104+--+030.m4v/0_n9tednmc)
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