

Complex Numbers

A Graphical Approach

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

What does this mean?

a. $x + 2 = 9$

b. $x + 9 = 2$

c. $2x = 6$

d. $6x = 2$

e. $x^2 = 9$

f. $x^2 = 10$

g. $x^2 = -9$

Positive whole numbers : a, c, e

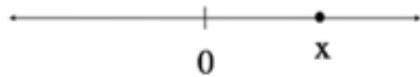
Integers : a, c, e, b

Rational numbers : a, c, e, b, d

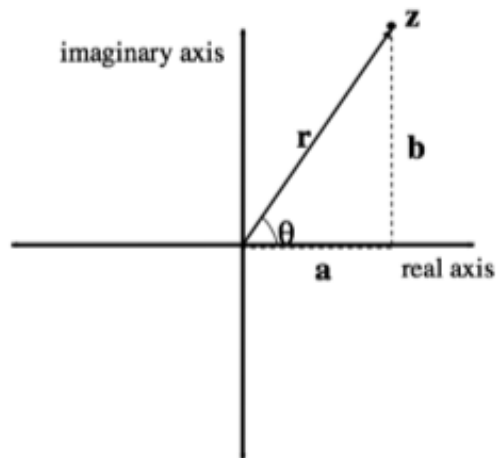
Real numbers : a, c, e, b, d, f

Complex numbers: adds g to the list

The Real Number Line



The Complex Number Plane



Polar form vs. rectangular form

$$a = r \cos \theta$$

$$b = r \sin \theta$$

$$z = (a, b) \rightarrow z = a + bi$$

$$z = (r, \theta)$$

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

Addition / subtraction are straightforward

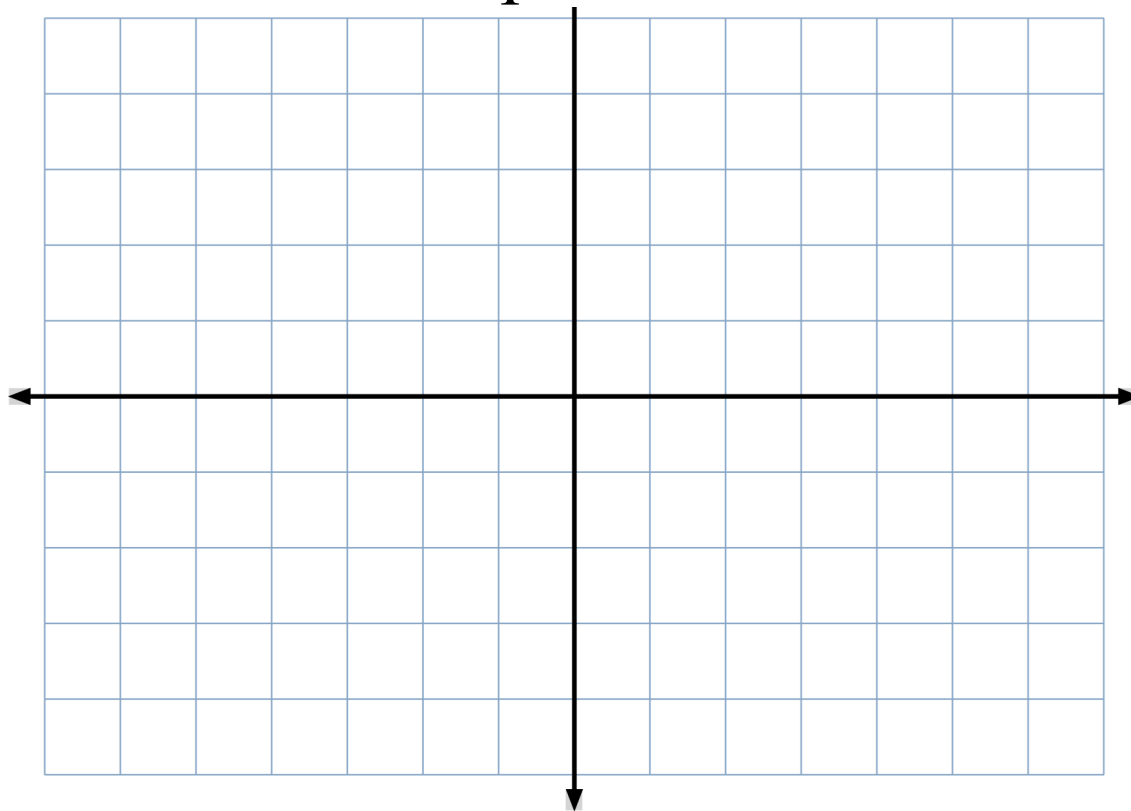
$a + bi$ form

visually: works like vectors algebraically:

add or subtract the real parts,

add or subtract the imaginary parts

Addition of complex numbers



Multiplication of Complex Numbers

Given $z_1 = (r_1, \theta_1)$ and $z_2 = (r_2, \theta_2)$

$$(r_1, \theta_1) \cdot (r_2, \theta_2) = (r_1 \cdot r_2, \theta_1 + \theta_2)$$

An Example:

$$(2, 30^\circ) \cdot (3, 90^\circ) = (6, 120^\circ)$$

Does that work for real numbers?

$$(2,0^\circ) \cdot (3,0^\circ)$$

$$(2,0^\circ) \cdot (3,180^\circ)$$

$$(2,180^\circ) \cdot (3,180^\circ)$$

- One $(1, 0^\circ)$, remains the multiplicative identity.

$$(1, 0^\circ) \cdot (r, \theta) = (r, \theta)$$

- Reciprocals are well-defined.

$$z \cdot \frac{1}{z} = 1, z \neq 0$$

$$(r, \theta) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{r}, -\theta \right) = (1, 0^\circ), r \neq 0$$

- So division works.

$$\frac{z_1}{z_2} = z_1 \cdot \frac{1}{z_2}$$

$$\frac{(r_1, \theta_1)}{(r_2, \theta_2)} = (r_1, \theta_1) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{r_2}, -\theta_2 \right) = \left(\frac{r_1}{r_2}, \theta_1 - \theta_2 \right)$$

Powering

$$(1,45^\circ)^1 = (1,45^\circ)$$

$$(1,45^\circ)^2 = (1,90^\circ)$$

$$(1,45^\circ)^3 = (1,135^\circ)$$

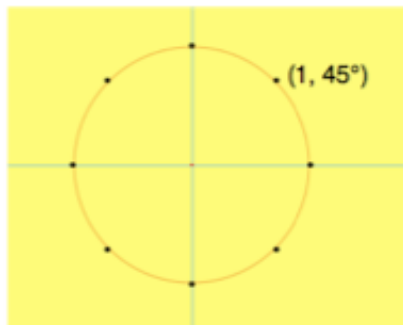
$$(1,45^\circ)^4 = (1,180^\circ)$$

$$(1,45^\circ)^5 = (1,225^\circ)$$

$$(1,45^\circ)^6 = (1,270^\circ)$$

$$(1,45^\circ)^7 = (1,315^\circ)$$

$$(1,45^\circ)^8 = (1,360^\circ)$$



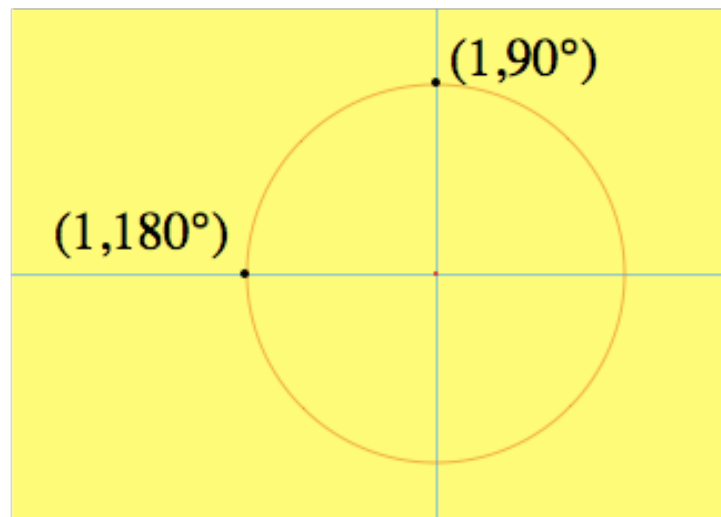
$$(1, 90^\circ)^2 = ?$$

$$(1, 90^\circ)^2 = (1, 180^\circ)$$

$$(1, 90^\circ)^2 = -1$$

$$\sqrt{-1} = (1, 90^\circ)$$

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



Complex Numbers Games

Complex Numbers Basics (and Transformations) p. 6

Computing Any Isometry Using Complex Numbers

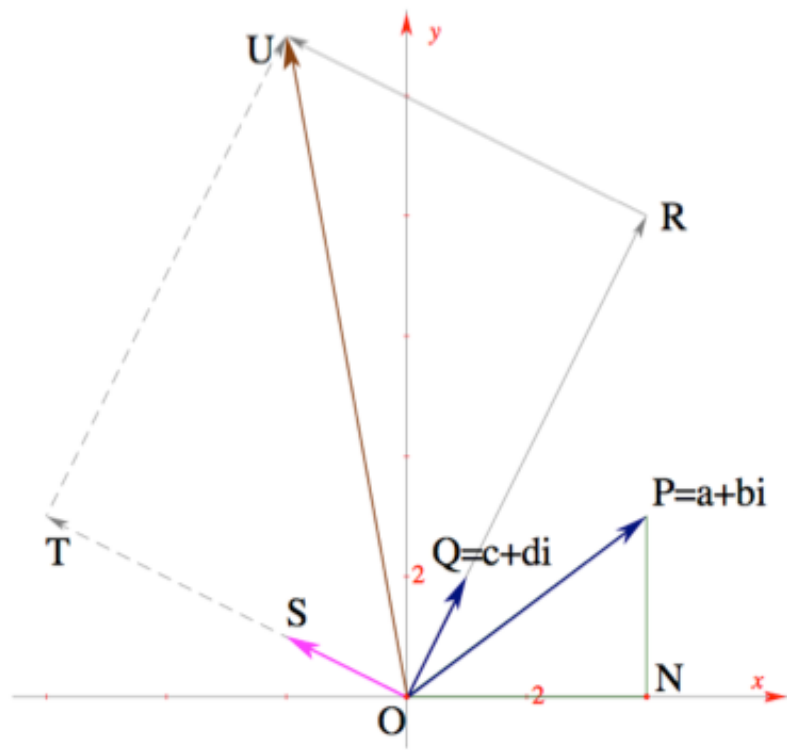
p. 9

Slope of perpendicular lines

p. 5

Proof that this makes sense p. 7 (Practice with numbers)

Actual proof p. 8



Looking back: this completes a quest
that started in kindergarten

Looking ahead: this provides an approach to some trig identities.

(sin and cos of a sum, double angle formulas)

It also prepares students for geometric transformation matrices.