

# Complex Numbers and Quadratic Equations

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- **Complex Numbers**

The square root of  $-1$  is represented by the symbol  $i$ . It is read as *iota*.

$$i = \sqrt{-1} \text{ or } i^2 = -1$$

- Any number of the form  $a + ib$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are real numbers, is known as a complex number. A complex number is denoted by  $z$ .  
 $z = a + ib$
- For the complex number  $z = a + ib$ ,  $a$  is the real part and  $b$  is the imaginary part. The real and imaginary parts of a complex number are denoted by  $\text{Re } z$  and  $\text{Im } z$  respectively.
- For complex number  $z = a + ib$ ,  $\text{Re } z = a$  and  $\text{Im } z = b$
- A complex number is said to be purely real if its imaginary part is equal to zero, while a complex number is said to be purely imaginary if its real part is equal to zero.
- For e.g.,  $2$  is a purely real number and  $3i$  is a purely imaginary number.
- Two complex numbers are equal if their corresponding real and imaginary parts are equal.
- Complex numbers  $z_1 = a + ib$  and  $z_2 = c + id$  are equal if  $a = c$  and  $b = d$ .
- Let's now try and solve the following puzzle to check whether we have understood this concept.

## Solved Examples

**Example 1:** Verify that each of the following numbers is a complex number.

$$3 + \sqrt{-7}, \sqrt{2} + \sqrt{5} \text{ and } 1 - 5i$$

**Solution:**

$3 + \sqrt{-7}$  can be written as  $3 + i\sqrt{7}$ , which is of the form  $a + ib$ . Thus,  $3 + \sqrt{-7}$  is a complex number.

$\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{5}$  is not of the form  $a + ib$ . But it is known that every real number is a complex number.

Thus,  $\sqrt{2} + \sqrt{5}$  is a complex number.

$1 - 5i$  is of the form  $a + ib$ . Thus,  $1 - 5i$  is a complex number.

**Example 2:** What are the real and imaginary parts of the complex number  $-\sqrt{11} - \sqrt{-23}$ ?

**Solution:** The complex number  $-\sqrt{11} - \sqrt{-23}$  can be written as  $-\sqrt{11} - i\sqrt{23}$ , which is of the form  $a + ib$ .

$$\operatorname{Re} z = a = -\sqrt{11} \text{ and } \operatorname{Im} z = b = -\sqrt{23}$$

**Example 3:** For what values of  $x$  and  $y$ ,  $z_1 = (x + 1) - 10i$  and  $z_2 = 19 + i(y - x)$  represent equal complex numbers?

**Solution:**

Two complex numbers are equal if their corresponding real and imaginary parts are equal.

For the given complex numbers,

$$x + 1 = 19 \text{ and } y - x = -10$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 18 \text{ and } y - 18 = -10$$

$$\Rightarrow x = 18 \text{ and } y = 8$$

Thus, the values of  $x$  and  $y$  are 18 and 8 respectively.

### Addition and Subtraction of Complex Numbers

- The addition of two complex numbers  $z_1 = a + ib$  and  $z_2 = c + id$  is defined as

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

$$\text{For example: } (4 + 3i) + (-2 + 6i) = (4 - 2) + i(3 + 6) = 2 + 9i$$

- Several properties are exhibited by the addition of complex numbers.
- **Closure law**  
The addition of complex numbers satisfies closure property i.e., the sum of two complex

numbers is a complex number.

If  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  are any two complex numbers, then  $z_1 + z_2$  is also a complex number.

- **Commutative law**

The commutative law holds for the addition of complex numbers.

If  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  are any two complex numbers, then  $z_1 + z_2 = z_2 + z_1$ .

For example:  $z_1 = 3 + 2i$  and  $z_2 = -5 + 4i$

$$z_1 + z_2 = (3 + 2i) + (-5 + 4i) = -2 + 6i$$

$$z_2 + z_1 = (-5 + 4i) + (3 + 2i) = -2 + 6i$$

$$\therefore z_1 + z_2 = z_2 + z_1$$

- **Associative law**

The associative law holds for the addition of complex numbers.

If  $z_1$ ,  $z_2$  and  $z_3$  are any three complex numbers, then

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

- **Additive identity**

The complex number  $(0 + i0)$  is the additive identity. It is denoted by 0.

For every complex number  $z$ ,  $z + 0 = z$

- **Additive inverse**

The complex number  $\{-a + i(-b)\}$  is the additive inverse of the complex number  $z = a + ib$ .

The inverse of a complex number  $z$  is denoted by  $-z$ .

Also,  $z + (-z) = 0$ .

For example: The inverse of the complex number  $7 - 3i$  is  $-7 + 3i$ .

## Difference of Complex Numbers

- The difference of complex numbers  $z_1 = a + ib$  and  $z_2 = c + id$  is defined as

$$z_1 - z_2 = z_1 + (-z_2) = (a + ib) + \{-(c + id)\}$$

$$= (a + ib) + \{-c - id\}$$

$$= (a - c) + i(b - d)$$

For example: Let  $z_1 = -1 + 3i$  and  $z_2 = 7 + 4i$

$$z_1 - z_2 = (-1 + 3i) - (7 + 4i) = (-1 - 7) + i(3 - 4) = -8 - i$$

- **Closure law**

The difference of complex numbers satisfies the closure property i.e., the difference of two complex numbers is a complex number.

If  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  are any two complex numbers, then  $z_1 - z_2$  is also a complex number.

## Solved Examples

**Example1:** If  $Z_1 = 3 - i$  and  $Z_2 = 1 + 2i$ , then write the complex number  $(Z_1 + 2Z_2 - 4)$  in the form  $a + ib$  and determine the values of  $a$  and  $b$ .

**Solution:**

We have  $Z_1 = 3 - i$  and  $Z_2 = 1 + 2i$

$$Z_1 + 2Z_2 - 4 = (3 - i) + 2(1 + 2i) - 4$$

$$= 3 - i + 2 + 4i - 4$$

$$= 1 + 3i$$

Which is of the form  $a + ib$

$$\therefore a = 1 \text{ and } b = 3$$

**Example 2:** What is the additive inverse of  $(-1 + i\sqrt{3})$ ?

**Solution:**

$$\text{Let } Z = -1 + i\sqrt{3}$$

$$\text{Additive inverse of } Z = -(-1 + i\sqrt{3}) = 1 - i\sqrt{3}$$

## Multiplication of Complex Numbers

### Multiplication of Complex Numbers and Their Properties

- The multiplication of two complex numbers  $z_1 = a + ib$  and  $z_2 = c + id$  is defined as

$$z_1 z_2 = (a + ib) \times (c + id)$$

$$= a(c + id) + ib(c + id)$$

$$= ac + iad + ibc + i^2 bd \left[ \because i = \sqrt{-1} \Rightarrow i^2 = -1 \right]$$

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

$$\therefore \boxed{z_1 z_2 = (ac - bd) + i(ad + bc)}$$

- For example:

Let  $z_1 = 1 + 2i$  and  $z_2 = -3 + 4i$

$$z_1 z_2 = (-3 - 8) + i \{4 + (-6)\} = -11 + i(-2) = -11 - 2i$$

- The multiplication of complex numbers satisfies the following properties:
- **Closure law**

The product of two complex numbers is a complex number.

If  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  are any two complex numbers, then  $z_1 z_2$  is a complex number.

- **Commutative law**

Commutative law holds for the product of complex numbers i.e., for any two complex numbers  $z_1$  and  $z_2$ ,  $z_1 z_2 = z_2 z_1$

- **Associative law**

Associative law holds for the product of complex numbers.

For any three complex numbers  $z_1$ ,  $z_2$  and  $z_3$ :  $(z_1 z_2) z_3 = z_1 (z_2 z_3)$

- **Distributive law**

For any three complex numbers  $z_1$ ,  $z_2$  and  $z_3$ :

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

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

- **Multiplicative identity**

The complex number  $1 + i0$  is the multiplicative identity of the complex number. It is denoted by 1. For any complex number  $z$ ,  $z \times 1 = z$ .

- **Multiplicative inverse**

The complex number  $z_2$  is said to be the multiplicative inverse of the complex number  $z_1$  if  $z_1 z_2 = 1$  (1 is the multiplicative identity). The multiplicative inverse of a complex number  $z$  is denoted by  $z^{-1}$ .

$$\therefore z \times \frac{1}{z} = 1$$

$\therefore \frac{1}{z}$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $z$ .

Multiplicative inverse of the complex number  $z = a + ib$  is given by

$$z^{-1} = \frac{1}{z} = \frac{a}{a^2 + b^2} + i \frac{(-b)}{a^2 + b^2}$$

### Powers of $i$

- $i = \sqrt{-1}$

$$i^2 = -1$$

$$i^3 = i^2 \times i = (-1) \times i = -i$$

$$i^4 = i^2 \times i^2 = (-1) \times (-1) = 1$$

$$i^5 = i^4 \times i = 1 \times i = i$$

$$i^6 = i^4 \times i^2 = 1 \times -1 = -1$$

And so on...

- In general, we can write

$$i^{4k} = 1$$

$$i^{4k+1} = i$$

$$i^{4k+2} = -1$$

$$i^{4k+3} = -i$$

Where  $k$  is any integer

For example:  $i^{39} = i^{36+3} = i^{4 \times 9 + 3}$

It is of the form  $i^{4k+3}$ , where  $k = 9$

$$\therefore i^{39} = -i$$

## Solved Examples

**Example 1** Simplify the following:

$$\left[ (-i)^{17} + \left( \frac{1}{i} \right)^8 \right]$$

**Solution:**

$$\begin{aligned} & (-i)^{17} + \left( \frac{1}{i} \right)^8 \\ &= [(-1) \times i]^{17} + \left( \frac{1}{i} \right)^8 \\ &= (-1)^{17} (i)^{17} + (i^{-1})^8 \\ &= -(i)^{16+1} + (i^8)^{-1} \\ &= -i + [i^{4 \times 2}]^{-1} \quad \left[ \because i^{4k+1} = i \right] \\ &= -i + (1)^{-1} \quad \left[ \because i^{4k} = 1 \right] \\ &= -i + 1 \\ &= (1 - i) \end{aligned}$$

**Example 2** If  $x + iy = (2 + 5i)(7 + i)$ , then what are the values of  $x$  and  $y$ ?

**Solution:**

$$\begin{aligned} x + iy &= (2 + 5i)(7 + i) \\ x + iy &= (2 \times 7 - 5 \times 1) + i(2 \times 1 + 5 \times 7) \\ x + iy &= (14 - 5) + i(2 + 35) \\ x + iy &= 9 + i(37) \end{aligned}$$

On equating the real and imaginary parts, we obtain

$$x = 9 \text{ and } y = 37$$

**Example 3** What is the value of  $(\sqrt{-25})\left(\sqrt{-\frac{8}{49}}\right)$ ?

**Solution:**

We know that  $\sqrt{-1} = i$

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore (\sqrt{-25})\left(\sqrt{-\frac{8}{49}}\right) &= (\sqrt{25} \times \sqrt{-1})\left(\sqrt{-1}\sqrt{\frac{8}{49}}\right) \\ &= (5i)\left(\frac{2\sqrt{2}i}{7}\right) \\ &= \left(5 \times \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{7}\right)i \times i \\ &= \frac{10\sqrt{2}}{7}i^2 \\ &= \frac{10\sqrt{2}}{7}(-1) \quad [\because i^2 = -1] \\ &= \frac{-10\sqrt{2}}{7}\end{aligned}$$

**Note:** Students may make mistakes while solving this question.

We know that  $\sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{b} = \sqrt{ab}$ . However, when  $a$  and  $b$  are both negative, then  $\sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{b} \neq \sqrt{ab}$ .

Hence, this question cannot be solved as

$$\begin{aligned}(\sqrt{-25})\left(\sqrt{-\frac{8}{49}}\right) &= \sqrt{(-25)\left(-\frac{8}{49}\right)} \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{25 \times 8}{49}} \\ &= \frac{10\sqrt{2}}{7}\end{aligned}$$

**Example 4** What is the multiplicative inverse of  $5 - 9i$ ?

**Solution:**



Let  $z = a + ib = 5 - 9i$

Accordingly,  $a = 5$  and  $b = -9$

We know that

$$\begin{aligned} z^{-1} &= \frac{a}{a^2 + b^2} + i \frac{-b}{a^2 + b^2} \\ &= \frac{5}{5^2 + (-9)^2} + i \frac{9}{5^2 + (-9)^2} \\ &= \frac{5 + 9i}{106} \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\frac{5 + 9i}{106}$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $5 - 9i$ .

### Division of Complex Numbers

- The division of two complex numbers  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  can be defined as  $\frac{z_1}{z_2} = z_1 \times \frac{1}{z_2}$ , where  $\frac{1}{z_2}$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $z_2$ .

$$\frac{z_1}{z_2} = z_1 \times \text{multiplicative inverse of } z_2$$

- To find the quotient of two complex numbers, find the product of the first number with the multiplicative inverse of the second number.

$$\text{For example: If } z_1 = 1 + i \text{ and } z_2 = 2 - 3i, \text{ then } \frac{z_1}{z_2} = \frac{1+i}{2-3i} = (1+i) \left( \frac{1}{2-3i} \right)$$

We know that the multiplicative inverse of the complex number  $z = a + ib$  is

$$\text{given by } \frac{1}{a+ib} = \frac{a}{a^2 + b^2} + i \frac{(-b)}{a^2 + b^2}$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{2-3i} = \frac{2}{2^2 + (-3)^2} + i \frac{3}{2^2 + (-3)^2} = \frac{2}{13} + i \frac{3}{13}$$

$$\text{Now, } \frac{z_1}{z_2} = (1+i) \left( \frac{2}{13} + i \frac{3}{13} \right) = \left( \frac{2}{13} - \frac{3}{13} \right) + i \left( \frac{2}{13} + \frac{3}{13} \right) = \frac{-1}{13} + i \frac{5}{13}$$

## Solved Examples

**Example 1** Write the complex number  $\frac{2+\sqrt{3}i}{1-\sqrt{3}i}$  in the form of  $a + ib$ .

**Solution:**

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{2+\sqrt{3}i}{1-\sqrt{3}i} &= \frac{2+\sqrt{3}i}{1-\sqrt{3}i} \times \frac{1+\sqrt{3}i}{1+\sqrt{3}i} \\&= \frac{(2+\sqrt{3}i)(1+\sqrt{3}i)}{(1-\sqrt{3}i)(1+\sqrt{3}i)} \\&= \frac{2+2\sqrt{3}i+\sqrt{3}i+3i^2}{(1)^2-(\sqrt{3}i)^2} \\&= \frac{2+2\sqrt{3}i+\sqrt{3}i+3(-1)}{1-3i^2} \quad [i^2 = -1] \\&= \frac{2+3\sqrt{3}i-3}{1-3(-1)} \quad [i^2 = -1] \\&= \frac{-1+3\sqrt{3}i}{1+3} \\&= \frac{-1+3\sqrt{3}i}{4} \\&= \frac{-1}{4} + \frac{3\sqrt{3}i}{4}\end{aligned}$$

## Identities of Complex Numbers

The identities for complex numbers are the same as the algebraic identities for real numbers. The identities which hold for complex numbers are as follows:

- $(z_1 + z_2)^2 = z_1^2 + z_2^2 + 2z_1z_2$
- $(z_1 - z_2)^2 = z_1^2 + z_2^2 - 2z_1z_2$
- $z_1^2 - z_2^2 = (z_1 + z_2)(z_1 - z_2)$ 
  - $(z_1 + z_2)^3 = z_1^3 + z_2^3 + 3z_1^2z_2 + 3z_1z_2^2$
  - $(z_1 - z_2)^3 = z_1^3 - z_2^3 - 3z_1^2z_2 + 3z_1z_2^2$

- $(z_1 + z_2)^3 = z_1^3 + z_2^3 + 3z_1^2z_2 + 3z_1z_2^2$
- $(z_1 - z_2)^3 = z_1^3 - z_2^3 - 3z_1^2z_2 + 3z_1z_2^2$

## Modulus and Conjugate of a Complex Number

### Modulus of a Complex Number

- The modulus of a complex number  $z = a + ib$  is denoted by  $|z|$  and defined as  $|z| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$ .
- For example: The modulus of the complex number  $z = 1 - \sqrt{3}i$  is  $|z| = \sqrt{(1)^2 + (-\sqrt{3})^2} = \sqrt{1+3} = \sqrt{4} = 2$
- The following results hold true for two complex numbers  $z_1$  and  $z_2$ .
- $|z_1 z_2| = |z_1| |z_2|$
- $\left| \frac{z_1}{z_2} \right| = \frac{|z_1|}{|z_2|}$ , provided  $|z_2| \neq 0$

### Conjugate of a Complex Number

- The conjugate of a complex number  $z = a + ib$  is denoted by  $\bar{z}$  and defined as  $\bar{z} = a - ib$ .
- For example: The conjugate of the complex number  $2 + \sqrt{-5}$  is  $\bar{z} = 2 - \sqrt{-5} = 2 - i\sqrt{5}$
- The following results hold true for two complex numbers  $z_1$  and  $z_2$ .
- $\overline{z_1 z_2} = \bar{z}_1 \bar{z}_2$
- $\overline{z_1 + z_2} = \bar{z}_1 + \bar{z}_2$

- $\overline{z_1 - z_2} = \overline{z_1} - \overline{z_2}$
- $\overline{\left(\frac{z_1}{z_2}\right)} = \frac{\overline{z_1}}{\overline{z_2}}$ , provided  $z_2 \neq 0$
- The modulus of a complex number and the modulus of its conjugate are equal.  
 $|z| = |\overline{z}|$

### Relation of Multiplicative Inverse with Modulus and Conjugate of a Complex Number

- The multiplicative inverse of a complex number  $z = a + ib$  is given by
 
$$z^{-1} = \frac{a}{a^2 + b^2} + i \frac{-b}{a^2 + b^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow z^{-1} = \frac{a - ib}{a^2 + b^2}$$

$$\overline{z} = a - ib \text{ is the conjugate and } |z| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} \text{ is the modulus of the complex number } z.$$

$$z^{-1} = \frac{\overline{z}}{|z|^2}$$

$$\therefore z\overline{z} = |z|^2 \quad \left( \because z^{-1} = \frac{1}{z} \right)$$

Or

This is the required relation.

### Solved Examples

**Example 1:** Determine the conjugate and multiplicative inverse of  $3 + \sqrt{7}i$ .

**Solution:**

Let  $z = 3 + \sqrt{7}i$

Accordingly, conjugate,  $\overline{z} = 3 - \sqrt{7}i$  and  $|z|^2 = (3)^2 + (\sqrt{7})^2 = 9 + 7 = 16$

Now, the multiplicative inverse is given by  $z^{-1} = \frac{\overline{z}}{|z|^2}$

$$z^{-1} = \frac{3 - \sqrt{7}i}{16}$$

**Example 2:** What is the conjugate of  $\frac{(5+i)(1+2i)}{(3-4i)(1+i)}$  ?

**Solution:**

$$\text{Let } z = \frac{(5+i)(1+2i)}{(3-4i)(1+i)}$$

In order to find the conjugate of  $z$ , we first write it in the form of  $a + ib$ .

$$z = \frac{3+11i}{7-i} \quad (\text{By the multiplication of complex numbers})$$

On multiplying the numerator and the denominator with  $(7+i)$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} z &= \frac{(3+11i) \times (7+i)}{(7-i) \times (7+i)} \\ &= \frac{10+80i}{49+1} \\ &= \frac{10+80i}{50} \\ &= \frac{1+8i}{5} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Now, } \frac{1}{z} = \frac{1-8i}{5}$$

Thus, the conjugate of the given complex number is  $\frac{1-8i}{5}$ .

**Example 3:** What is the modulus of  $z = (1+i)^{10}$  ?

**Solution:**

$$\text{Modulus, } |z| = |(1+i)^{10}|$$

It can be written as

$$|z| = |(1+i)(1+i)^9|$$

$$|z| = |(1+i)||1+i|^9 \quad \left( \because |z_1 z_2| = |z_1| |z_2| \right)$$

Continuing in this manner, we can write

$$|z| = |(1+i)||1+i|\dots|(1+i)| \quad (10 \text{ times})$$

$$|z| = |(1+i)|^{10}$$

Now,  $|1+i| = \sqrt{1^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{2}$

$$|z| = (\sqrt{2})^{10} = 2^5$$

### Quadratic Equations with Complex Roots

- Complex numbers are used for finding the roots of a quadratic equation whose discriminant is negative.
- The roots of a quadratic equation  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  are given by

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}, \text{ where } b^2 - 4ac \text{ is the discriminant of the quadratic equation}$$

- If the discriminant i.e., the value under the square root is negative, then the roots of the quadratic equation will be complex numbers.
- For example: For the equation  $3x^2 + 7x + 6 = 0$ ,  $a = 3$ ,  $b = 7$  and  $c = 6$

$$\therefore \text{Discriminant} = b^2 - 4ac = (7)^2 - 4(3)(6) = 49 - 72 = -23$$

Thus, the roots of the quadratic equation are complex numbers.

**Example 1** Solve the quadratic equation  $x^2 - 2\sqrt{3}x + \sqrt{3} + 4 = 0$ .

**Solution:**

The given quadratic equation is  $x^2 - 2\sqrt{3}x + \sqrt{3} + 4 = 0$ .

The discriminant of this equation is

$$b^2 - 4ac = (-2\sqrt{3})^2 - 4(1)(\sqrt{3} + 4) = 12 - 4\sqrt{3} - 16 = -(4 + 4\sqrt{3})$$

Thus, the solution of the given equation is

$$\frac{-(-2\sqrt{3}) \pm \sqrt{-(4 + 4\sqrt{3})}}{2} = \frac{2\sqrt{3} \pm \sqrt{4 + 4\sqrt{3}} i}{2}$$

**Example 2** If the roots of the quadratic equation  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  are imaginary, then what can we say about the signs of  $a$  and  $c$ ?

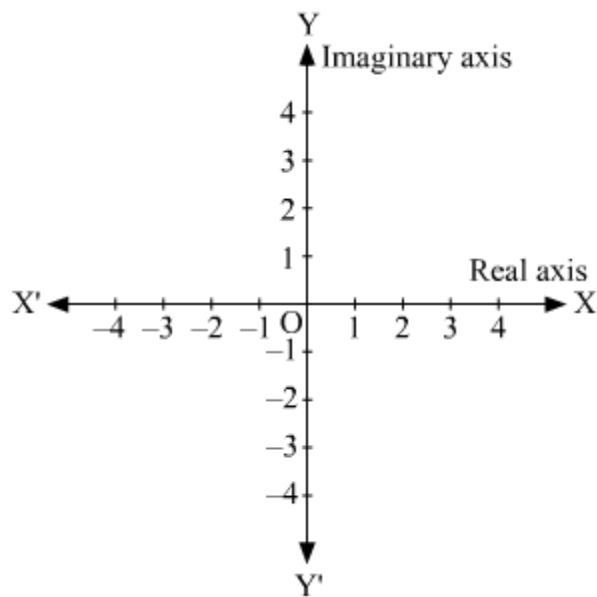
**Solution:**

The roots of quadratic equation  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  are imaginary if the discriminant  $b^2 - 4ac < 0$ .

Here,  $b^2$  is always positive whatever the sign of  $b$  is. Hence, the discriminant is negative if the product  $ac$  is positive. Thus,  $a$  and  $c$  must have the same signs.

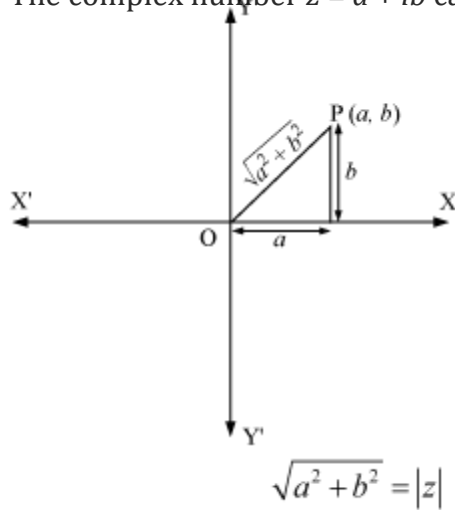
### Concept of Argand Plane

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**.

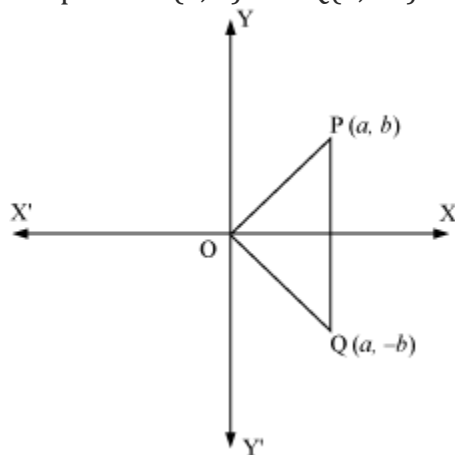
- The complex number  $z = a + ib$  can be represented on an Argand plane as



In this figure,  $OP =$

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

- 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



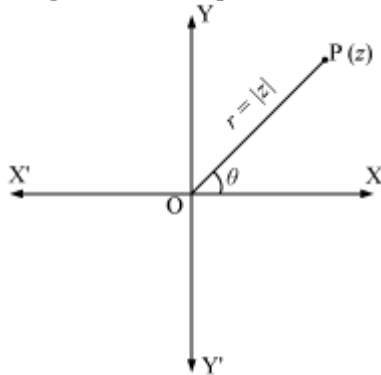
Thus, on the Argand plane, the conjugate of a complex number is the mirror image of the complex number with respect to the real axis.

### Polar Representation of Complex Numbers

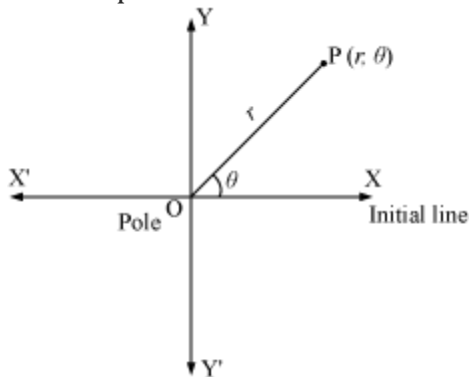
- A complex number  $z = a + ib$  can be written in the **polar form** as  $z = r (\cos\theta + i \sin\theta)$ .
- Here,  $r$  is the **modulus** of the complex number and is given by  $r = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$
- $\theta$  is the **argument** of the complex number and is given by  $\theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{b}{a}$



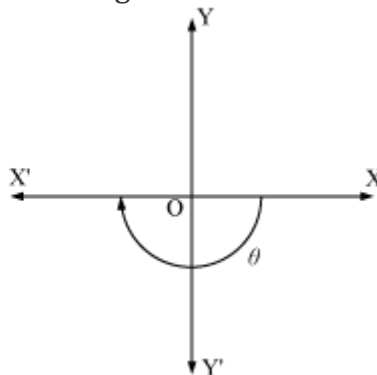
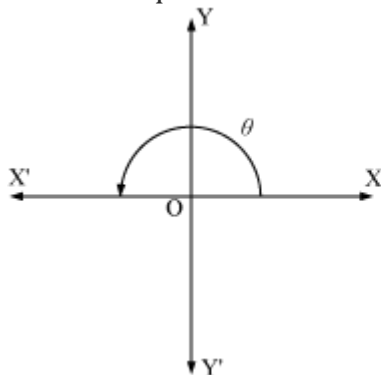
- Geometrically,  $r$  represents the distance of the point that represents the complex number from the origin, and  $\theta$  represents the angle formed by the line joining the point and the origin with the positive  $x$ -axis.



- The polar coordinates of a complex number  $z$  are  $(r, \theta)$ . The origin is considered as the pole and the positive  $x$ -axis is considered as the initial line.



- The value of  $\theta$  lying in the interval  $-\pi < \theta \leq \pi$  is called the **principal argument** of the complex number  $z$ . In order to write the polar form of a complex number, we always find the principal argument.
- If  $\theta$  lies in quadrants I or II, then the argument is found in the anticlockwise direction. If  $\theta$  lies in quadrants III or IV, then the argument is found in the clockwise direction.



**Example 1:** Represent the complex number  $(\sqrt{3} - i)$  in polar form.

**Solution:** Let  $z = r(\cos\theta + i\sin\theta)$  be the polar form of the complex number  $(\sqrt{3} - i)$ .

$$\therefore r \cos \theta = \sqrt{3} \text{ and } r \sin \theta = -1$$

On squaring and adding, we obtain

$$r^2 (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) = (\sqrt{3})^2 + (-1)^2$$

$$r^2 = 3 + 1 = 4$$

$$r = \pm 2$$

$$r = 2 \quad (r \text{ cannot be negative})$$

Now,

$$\cos \theta = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \text{ and } \sin \theta = -\frac{1}{2}$$

Here,  $\cos \theta$  is positive and  $\sin \theta$  is negative. Hence,  $\theta$  lies in quadrant **IV**.

$$\therefore \theta = -\frac{\pi}{6}$$

Thus, the required polar form of the given complex number is

$$2\left\{\cos\left(-\frac{\pi}{6}\right) + i\sin\left(-\frac{\pi}{6}\right)\right\}$$

**Example 2:** What are the modulus and the argument of the complex number  $-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+i)$ ?

**Solution:**

$$\text{Let } r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta) = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}}(1+i)$$

Which gives,

$$r \cos \theta = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} \text{ and } r \sin \theta = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

On squaring and adding, we obtain

$$r^2 (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) = \left( \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)^2$$

$$r^2 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$$

$$r = \pm 1$$

$$r = 1 (\because r > 0)$$

$$\text{Now, } \cos \theta = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} \text{ and } \sin \theta = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

Here, both  $\cos \theta$  and  $\sin \theta$  are negative.

Hence,  $\theta$  lies in quadrant **III**.

$$\therefore \theta = \frac{\pi}{4} - \pi = -\frac{3\pi}{4}$$

Thus, the modulus and argument of the given complex number are 1 and  $-\frac{3\pi}{4}$  respectively.