

DP IB Maths: AI HL



Your notes

1.5 Complex Numbers

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Your notes

1.5.1 Intro to Complex Numbers

Cartesian Form

What is an imaginary number?

- Up until now, when we have encountered an equation such as $x^2 = -1$ we would have stated that there are “no real solutions”
 - The solutions are $x = \pm \sqrt{-1}$ which are not real numbers
- To solve this issue, mathematicians have defined one of the square roots of negative one as i ; an imaginary number
 - $\sqrt{-1} = i$
 - $i^2 = -1$
- The square roots of other negative numbers can be found by rewriting them as a multiple of $\sqrt{-1}$
 - using $\sqrt{ab} = \sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{b}$

What is a complex number?

- Complex numbers have both a real part and an imaginary part
 - For example: $3 + 4i$
 - The real part is 3 and the imaginary part is 4
 - Note that the imaginary part does not include the ‘ i ’
- Complex numbers are often denoted by Z
 - We refer to the real and imaginary parts respectively using $\text{Re}(z)$ and $\text{Im}(z)$
- Two complex numbers are equal if, and only if, both the real and imaginary parts are identical.
 - For example, $3 + 2i$ and $3 + 3i$ are **not equal**
- The set of all complex numbers is given the symbol \mathbb{C}

What is Cartesian Form?

- There are a number of different forms that complex numbers can be written in
- The form $z = a + bi$ is known as **Cartesian Form**
 - $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$
 - This is the first form given in the formula booklet
- In general, for $z = a + bi$
 - $\text{Re}(z) = a$
 - $\text{Im}(z) = b$
- A complex number can be easily represented geometrically when it is in Cartesian Form
- Your GDC may call this **rectangular form**
 - When your GDC is set in rectangular settings it will give answers in Cartesian Form
 - If your GDC is **not** set in a complex mode it will not give any output in complex number form

- Make sure you can find the settings for using complex numbers in Cartesian Form and practice inputting problems
- Cartesian form is the easiest form for adding and subtracting complex numbers



Your notes

Examiner Tip

- Remember that complex numbers have both a real part and an imaginary part
 - 1 is purely real (its imaginary part is zero)
 - i is purely imaginary (its real part is zero)
 - $1 + i$ is a complex number (both the real and imaginary parts are equal to 1)

Worked example

- a) Solve the equation $x^2 = -9$

$$x^2 = -9$$

$$x = \pm\sqrt{-9}$$

$$\text{Using } \sqrt{ab} = \sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{b} \quad x = \pm\sqrt{9}\sqrt{-1}$$

$$x = \pm 3i$$

- b) Solve the equation $(x + 7)^2 = -16$, giving your answers in Cartesian form.

$$(x + 7)^2 = -16$$

$$x + 7 = \pm\sqrt{-16}$$

$$x + 7 = \pm\sqrt{16}\sqrt{-1}$$

$$x + 7 = \pm 4i \quad \leftarrow \text{Using } \sqrt{ab} = \sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{b}$$

Rearrange answer into Cartesian form:

$$x = -7 \pm 4i$$



Your notes

Complex Addition, Subtraction & Multiplication

How do I add and subtract complex numbers in Cartesian Form?

- Adding and subtracting complex numbers should be done when they are in **Cartesian form**
- When adding and subtracting complex numbers, simplify the real and imaginary parts separately
 - Just like you would when collecting like terms in algebra and surds, or dealing with different components in vectors
 - $(a + bi) + (c + di) = (a + c) + (b + d)i$
 - $(a + bi) - (c + di) = (a - c) + (b - d)i$

How do I multiply complex numbers in Cartesian Form?

- Complex numbers can be multiplied by a constant in the same way as algebraic expressions:
 - $k(a + bi) = ka + kbi$
- Multiplying two complex numbers in Cartesian form is done in the same way as multiplying two linear expressions:
 - $(a + bi)(c + di) = ac + (ad + bc)i + bdi^2 = ac + (ad + bc)i - bd$
 - This is a complex number with real part $ac - bd$ and imaginary part $ad + bc$
 - The most important thing when multiplying complex numbers is that
 - $i^2 = -1$
- Your GDC will be able to multiply complex numbers in Cartesian form
 - Practise doing this and use it to check your answers
- It is easy to see that multiplying more than two complex numbers together in Cartesian form becomes a lengthy process prone to errors
 - It is easier to multiply complex numbers when they are in different forms and usually it makes sense to convert them from Cartesian form to either Polar form or Euler's form first
- Sometimes when a question describes multiple complex numbers, the notation Z_1, Z_2, \dots is used to represent each complex number

How do I deal with higher powers of i?

- Because $i^2 = -1$ this can lead to some interesting results for higher powers of i
 - $i^3 = i^2 \times i = -i$
 - $i^4 = (i^2)^2 = (-1)^2 = 1$
 - $i^5 = (i^2)^2 \times i = i$
 - $i^6 = (i^2)^3 = (-1)^3 = -1$
- We can use this same approach of using i^2 to deal with much higher powers
 - $i^{23} = (i^2)^{11} \times i = (-1)^{11} \times i = -i$
 - Just remember that -1 raised to an even power is 1 and raised to an odd power is -1



Your notes

Examiner Tip

- When revising for your exams, practice using your GDC to check any calculations you do with complex numbers by hand
 - This will speed up using your GDC in rectangular form whilst also giving you lots of practice of carrying out calculations by hand

Worked example

- a) Simplify the expression $2(8 - 6i) - 5(3 + 4i)$.

Expand the brackets

$$2(8 - 6i) - 5(3 + 4i) = 16 - 12i - 15 - 20i$$

Collect the real and imaginary parts

$$16 - 15 - 12i - 20i$$

Simplify

$$\boxed{1 - 32i}$$

- b) Given two complex numbers $z_1 = 3 + 4i$ and $z_2 = 6 + 7i$, find $z_1 \times z_2$.

Expand the brackets

$$(3 + 4i)(6 + 7i) = 18 + 21i + 24i + 28i^2$$

$$= 18 + 21i + 24i + (28)(-1)$$

← Using $i^2 = -1$

Collect the real and imaginary parts

$$18 + 21i + 24i - 28 = 18 - 28 + (21 + 24)i$$

Simplify

$$\boxed{-10 + 45i}$$



Your notes

Complex Conjugation & Division

When **dividing** complex numbers, the **complex conjugate** is used to change the denominator to a real number.

What is a complex conjugate?

- For a given complex number $z = a + bi$, the **complex conjugate of z is denoted as z^*** , where $z^* = a - bi$
- If $z = a - bi$ then $z^* = a + bi$
- You will find that:
 - $z + z^*$ is always real because $(a + bi) + (a - bi) = 2a$
 - For example: $(6 + 5i) + (6 - 5i) = 6 + 6 + 5i - 5i = 12$
 - $z - z^*$ is always imaginary because $(a + bi) - (a - bi) = 2bi$
 - For example: $(6 + 5i) - (6 - 5i) = 6 - 6 + 5i - (-5i) = 10i$
 - $z \times z^*$ is always real because $(a + bi)(a - bi) = a^2 + abi - abi - b^2i^2 = a^2 + b^2$ (as $i^2 = -1$)
 - For example: $(6 + 5i)(6 - 5i) = 36 + 30i - 30i - 25i^2 = 36 - 25(-1) = 61$

How do I divide complex numbers?

- To divide two complex numbers:
 - STEP 1: Express the calculation in the form of a fraction
 - STEP 2: Multiply **the top and bottom by the conjugate of the denominator**:
 - $\frac{a + bi}{c + di} = \frac{a + bi}{c + di} \times \frac{c - di}{c - di}$
 - This ensures we are multiplying by 1; so not affecting the overall value
 - STEP 3: Multiply out and simplify your answer
 - This should have a real number as the denominator
 - STEP 4: Write your answer in Cartesian form as two terms, simplifying each term if needed
 - OR convert into the required form if needed
- Your GDC will be able to divide two complex numbers in Cartesian form
 - Practise doing this and use it to check your answers if you can



Your notes

Examiner Tip

- We can speed up the process for finding ZZ^* by using the basic pattern of $(x+a)(x-a) = x^2 - a^2$
- We can apply this to complex numbers: $(a+bi)(a-bi) = a^2 - b^2i^2 = a^2 + b^2$ (using the fact that $i^2 = -1$)
 - So $3+4i$ multiplied by its conjugate would be $3^2 + 4^2 = 25$

Worked example

 Find the value of $(1+7i) \div (3-i)$.

Rewrite as a fraction: $\frac{1+7i}{3-i}$ complex conjugate of $3-i$ is $3+i$

Multiply top and bottom of the fraction by the complex conjugate of the denominator.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1+7i}{3-i} \times \frac{3+i}{3+i} &= \frac{(1+7i)(3+i)}{(3-i)(3+i)} \\ &= \frac{3+i+21i+7i^2}{9+3i-3i-i^2} \end{aligned}$$

$i^2 = -1$

the imaginary parts eliminate each other

$$= \frac{3+22i+(-7)}{9-(-1)}$$

Simplify $= \frac{-4+22i}{10}$

Write in Cartesian form $= \frac{-4}{10} + \frac{22i}{10}$

$-\frac{2}{5} + \frac{11}{5}i$

Simplify final answer.



Your notes

1.5.2 Modulus & Argument

Modulus & Argument

How do I find the modulus of a complex number?

- The modulus of a complex number is its **distance** from the origin when plotted on an Argand diagram
- The modulus of Z is written $|Z|$
- If $Z = x + iy$, then we can use **Pythagoras** to show...
 - $|Z| = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$
- A modulus is **never negative**

What features should I know about the modulus of a complex number?

- the modulus is related to the complex **conjugate** by...
 - $zz^* = z^*z = |z|^2$
 - This is because $zz^* = (x + iy)(x - iy) = x^2 + y^2$
- In general, $|z_1 + z_2| \neq |z_1| + |z_2|$
 - e.g. both $z_1 = 3 + 4i$ and $z_2 = -3 + 4i$ have a modulus of 5, but $z_1 + z_2$ simplifies to $8i$ which has a modulus of 8

How do I find the argument of a complex number?

- The argument of a complex number is the **angle** that it makes on an **Argand diagram**
 - The angle must be taken from the **positive real axis**
 - The angle must be in a **counter-clockwise** direction
- Arguments are measured in **radians**
 - They can be given exact in terms of π
- The argument of Z is written **arg Z**
- Arguments can be calculated using right-angled **trigonometry**
 - This involves using the tan ratio plus a sketch to decide whether it is positive/negative and acute/obtuse

What features should I know about the argument of a complex number?

- Arguments are usually given in the range $-\pi < \arg z \leq \pi$
 - Negative arguments are for complex numbers in the third and fourth quadrants
 - Occasionally you could be asked to give arguments in the range $0 < \arg z \leq 2\pi$
 - The question will make it clear which range to use
- The argument of zero, **arg 0** is undefined (no angle can be drawn)

What are the rules for moduli and arguments under multiplication and division?

- When two complex numbers, Z_1 and Z_2 , are **multiplied** to give $Z_1 Z_2$, their **moduli** are also **multiplied**



Your notes

- $|z_1 z_2| = |z_1| |z_2|$
- When two complex numbers, z_1 and z_2 , are **divided** to give $\frac{z_1}{z_2}$, their **moduli** are also **divided**
 - $\left| \frac{z_1}{z_2} \right| = \frac{|z_1|}{|z_2|}$
- When two complex numbers, z_1 and z_2 , are **multiplied** to give $z_1 z_2$, their **arguments** are **added**
 - $\arg(z_1 z_2) = \arg z_1 + \arg z_2$
- When two complex numbers, z_1 and z_2 , are **divided** to give $\frac{z_1}{z_2}$, their **arguments** are **subtracted**

Examiner Tip

- Always draw a quick sketch to help you see what quadrant the complex number lies in when working out an argument
- Look for the range of values within which you should give your argument
 - If it is $-\pi < \arg z \leq \pi$ then you may need to measure it in the negative direction
 - If it is $0 < \arg z \leq 2\pi$ then you will always measure in the positive direction (counter-clockwise)



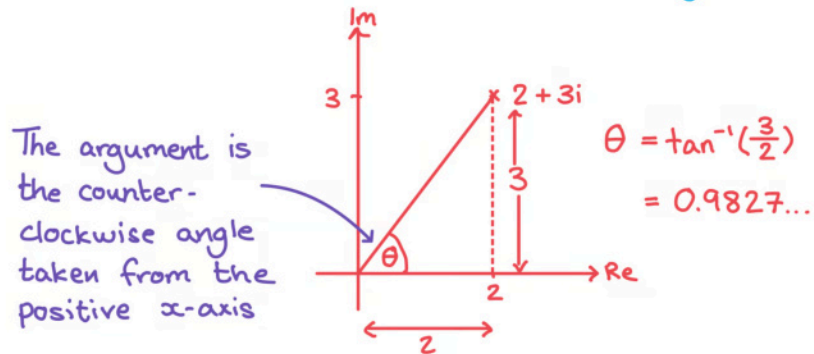
Your notes

Worked example

- a) Find the modulus and argument of $z = 2 + 3i$

$$|z| = \sqrt{2^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{13}$$

Draw a sketch to help find the argument:



$$\text{Mod } z = |z| = \sqrt{13}$$

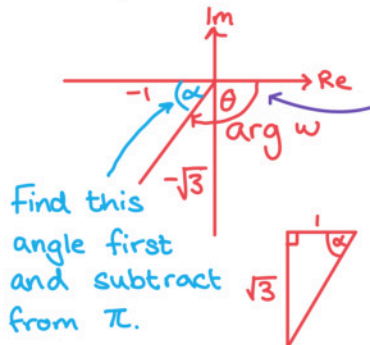
$$\text{arg } z = \theta = 0.983 \text{ (3sf)}$$

- b) Find the modulus and argument of $w = -1 - \sqrt{3}i$



Your notes

$$|w| = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + (-\sqrt{3})^2} = \sqrt{4}$$



If the argument is measured clockwise from the positive x-axis then it will be negative.

$$\alpha = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{1}\right) = \tan^{-1}(\sqrt{3}) = \frac{\pi}{3}$$

$$\theta = \pi - \frac{\pi}{3} = \frac{2\pi}{3}$$

$$\text{Mod } z = |z| = 2$$

$$\text{arg } z = -\theta = -\frac{2\pi}{3}$$



Your notes

1.5.3 Introduction to Argand Diagrams

Argand Diagrams

What is the complex plane?

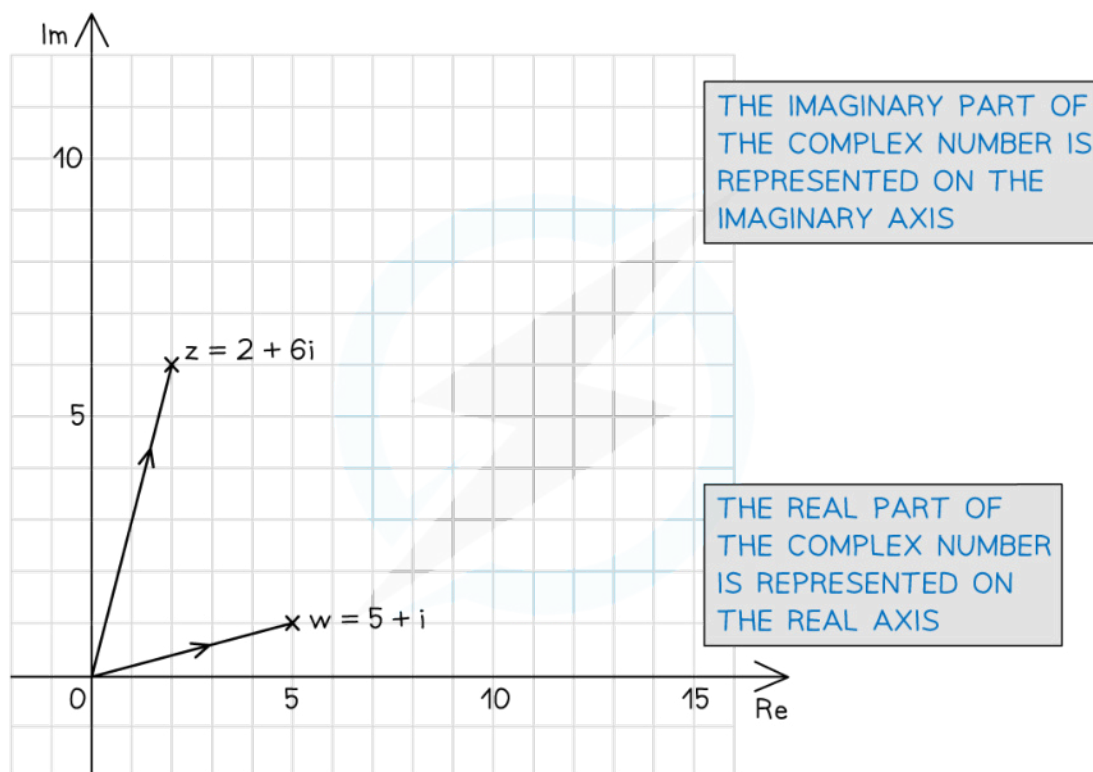
- The complex plane, sometimes also known as the Argand plane, is a two-dimensional plane on which complex numbers can be represented geometrically
- It is similar to a two-dimensional Cartesian coordinate grid
 - The x-axis is known as the **real** axis (Re)
 - The y-axis is known as the **imaginary** axis (Im)
- The complex plane emphasises the fact that a complex number is two dimensional
 - i.e it has two parts, a real and imaginary part
 - Whereas a real number only has one dimension represented on a number line (the x-axis only)

What is an Argand diagram?

- An Argand diagram is a geometrical representation of complex numbers on a **complex plane**
 - A complex number can be represented as either a point or a vector
- The complex number $x + yi$ is represented by the point with cartesian coordinate (x, y)
 - The **real** part is represented by the point on the **real** (x-) axis
 - The **imaginary** part is represented by the point on the **imaginary** (y-) axis
- Complex numbers are often represented as **vectors**
 - A line segment is drawn from the origin to the cartesian coordinate point
 - An arrow is added in the direction away from the origin
 - This allows for geometrical representations of complex numbers



Your notes



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 **Examiner Tip**

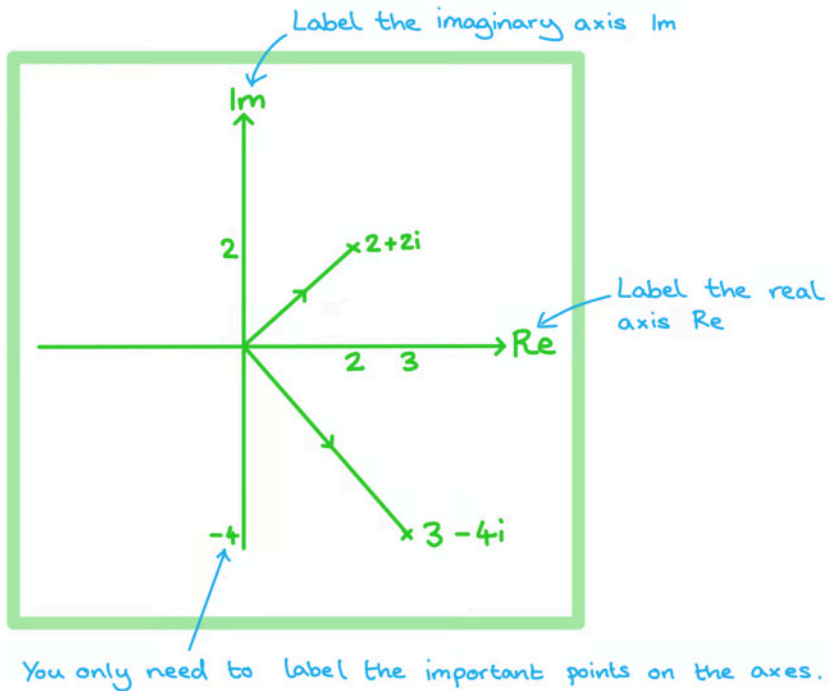
- When setting up an Argand diagram you do not need to draw a fully scaled axes, you only need the essential information for the points you want to show, this will save a lot of time



Your notes

 **Worked example**

- a) Plot the complex numbers $z_1 = 2 + 2i$ and $z_2 = 3 - 4i$ as points on an Argand diagram.



- b) Write down the complex numbers represented by the points A and B on the Argand diagram below.

A: $1 + 3i$
 B: $-2 - i$



Your notes

Complex Roots of Quadratics

What are complex roots?

- A quadratic equation can either have two real roots (zeros), a repeated real root or no real roots
 - This depends on the location of the graph of the quadratic with respect to the x-axis
- If a quadratic equation has no real roots we would previously have stated that it has **no real solutions**
 - The quadratic equation will have a **negative discriminant**
 - This means taking the square root of a negative number
- Complex numbers provide solutions for quadratic equations that have **no real roots**

How do we solve a quadratic equation when it has complex roots?

- If a quadratic equation takes the form $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ it can be solved by either using the quadratic formula or completing the square
- If a quadratic equation takes the form $ax^2 + b = 0$ it can be solved by rearranging
- The property $i = \sqrt{-1}$ is used
 - $\sqrt{-a} = \sqrt{a \times -1} = \sqrt{a} \times \sqrt{-1}$
- If the coefficients of the quadratic are real then the complex roots will occur in complex conjugate pairs
 - If $z = p + qi$ ($q \neq 0$) is a root of a quadratic with real coefficients then $z^* = p - qi$ is also a root
- The **real part** of the solutions will have the same value as the x coordinate of the turning point on the graph of the quadratic
- When the coefficients of the quadratic equation are **non-real**, the solutions will **not** be complex conjugates
 - To solve these you can use the quadratic formula

How do we factorise a quadratic equation if it has complex roots?

- If we are given a quadratic equation in the form $az^2 + bz + c = 0$, where a, b , and $c \in \mathbb{R}$, $a \neq 0$ we can use its complex roots to write it in **factorised form**
 - Use the quadratic formula to find the two roots, $z = p + qi$ and $z^* = p - qi$
 - This means that $z - (p + qi)$ and $z - (p - qi)$ must both be factors of the quadratic equation
 - Therefore we can write $az^2 + bz + c = a(z - (p + qi))(z - (p - qi))$
 - This can be rearranged into the form $a(z - p - qi)(z - p + qi)$

Examiner Tip

- Once you have your final answers you can check your roots are correct by substituting your solutions back into the original equation
 - You should get 0 if correct! [Note: 0 is equivalent to $0 + 0i$]



Your notes

Worked example

Solve the quadratic equation $z^2 - 2z + 5 = 0$ and hence, factorise $z^2 - 2z + 5$.

Use the quadratic formula or completing the square to find the solutions.

Solutions of a quadratic equation	$ax^2 + bx + c = 0 \Rightarrow x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}, a \neq 0$
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$$\begin{aligned} a &= 1 \\ b &= -2 \\ c &= 5 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} z &= \frac{-(-2) \pm \sqrt{(-2)^2 - 4(1)(5)}}{2(1)} = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{-16}}{2} \\ &= \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{16} \sqrt{-1}}{2} \\ &= \frac{2 \pm 4i}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$z_1 = 1 + 2i \quad z_2 = 1 - 2i$$

If the solutions are $z_1 = 1 + 2i$ and $z_2 = 1 - 2i$ then the factors must be $z - (1 + 2i)$ and $z - (1 - 2i)$

$$z^2 - 2z + 5 = (z - (1 + 2i))(z - (1 - 2i))$$

$$(z - 1 - 2i)(z - 1 + 2i)$$