

Section 3.3 Complex roots of the characteristic equation.

**Complex numbers review.**

A **complex number** is represented in the form  $z = x + iy$ , where  $x$  and  $y$  are real numbers satisfying the usual rules of addition and multiplication, and the symbol  $i$ , called the **imaginary unit**, has the property

$$i^2 = -1.$$

The numbers  $x$  and  $y$  are called the **real** and **imaginary** part of  $z$ , respectively, and are denoted by

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \Re(z), \quad y = \Im(z) \\ x &= \Re(z), \quad y = \Im(z). \end{aligned}$$

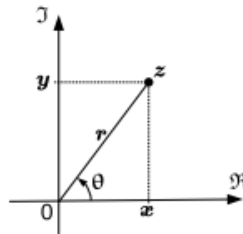
We say that  $z$  is real if  $y = 0$ , while it is purely imaginary if  $x = 0$ .

If  $z = x + iy$ , then a number  $\bar{z} = x - iy$  is called the **complex conjugate** to  $z$ .

Let  $z = x + iy$ ,  $z_1 = x_1 + iy_1$  and  $z_2 = x_2 + iy_2$ , then

1.  $z\bar{z} = x^2 + y^2$
2.  $cz = cx + i(cy)$  for any constant  $c$
3.  $z_1 \pm z_2 = (x_1 \pm x_2) + i(y_1 \pm y_2)$
4.  $z_1 z_2 = (x_1 x_2 - y_1 y_2) + i(x_1 y_2 + x_2 y_1)$
5.  $\frac{z_1}{z_2} = \frac{z_1 \bar{z}_2}{z_2 \bar{z}_2}$

Geometrically, complex numbers can be represented as points in the plane.



We will call the  $xy$ -plane, when viewed in this manner, the complex plane, with the  $x$ -axis designated as the real axis, and the  $y$ -axis as the imaginary axis. We designate the complex number zero as the origin. Thus,  $x + iy = 0$  means  $x = y = 0$ .

The complex number  $z = x + iy$  can be represented in

- **polar form** as  $z = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$ , where  $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$  and  $\tan \theta = \frac{y}{x}$ .
- **exponential form** as  $z = re^{i\theta}$ .

**Euler's formula:**  $e^{a+ib} = e^a(\cos b + i \sin b)$

Example.

$$z = 3 + 5i$$

real part  $\operatorname{Re}(z) = 3$   
 imaginary part  $\operatorname{Im}(z) = 5$

$$\bar{z} = 3 - 5i \quad \text{complex conjugate.}$$

$$z_1 = -4 + i$$

$$\operatorname{Re}(z_1) = -4$$

$$\operatorname{Im}(z_1) = 1$$

$$\bar{z}_1 = -4 - i$$

$$z + z_1 = (3 + 5i) + (-4 + i)$$

$$= (3 - 4) + i(5 + 1)$$

$$= -1 + 6i$$

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

$$= (3 + 8) + i(5 - 2)$$

$$= 11 + 3i$$

$$z \cdot z_1 = (3 + 5i)(-4 + i)$$

$$= -12 + 3i - 20i + 5i^2$$

$$= -12 - 17i - 5$$

$$= -17 - 17i$$

$$\frac{z}{z_1} = \frac{3 + 5i}{-4 + i} = \frac{(3 + 5i)(-4 - i)}{(-4 + i)(-4 - i)} = \frac{-12 - 3i - 20i - 5i^2}{(-4)^2 - (i)^2} = \frac{-12 - 23i - 5(-1)}{17} = \frac{-12 + 5 - 23i}{17} = \frac{-7 - 23i}{17}$$

$$z = 3 + 5i$$

absolute value of  $z$   $|z| = \sqrt{3^2 + 5^2} = \sqrt{9 + 25} = \sqrt{34}$

$$z = \sqrt{34} \left( \frac{3}{\sqrt{34}} + i \frac{5}{\sqrt{34}} \right) = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta) \quad \text{polar form}$$

$$r = \sqrt{34}, \quad \cos \theta = \frac{3}{\sqrt{34}}, \quad \sin \theta = \frac{5}{\sqrt{34}}$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{5}{3}, \quad \theta = \arctan\left(\frac{5}{3}\right)$$

exponential form  $z = 3 + 5i = \sqrt{34} e^{i\theta} = \sqrt{34} e^{i \arctan\left(\frac{5}{3}\right)}$

Euler's formula

$$e^{3+5i} = e^3 \cdot e^{5i} = e^3 (\cos 5 + i \sin 5)$$

$$e^{-4+i} = e^{-4} \cdot e^i = e^{-4} (\cos 1 + i \sin 1)$$

**Complex roots of the characteristic equation.**

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0$$

where  $a, b, c$  are constants and  $b^2 - 4ac < 0$ .

Then the auxiliary equation

$$ar^2 + br + c = 0$$

has two complex conjugate roots:

$$r_1 = -\frac{b}{2a} + i\frac{\sqrt{4ac - b^2}}{2a}, \quad r_2 = -\frac{b}{2a} - i\frac{\sqrt{4ac - b^2}}{2a} = \overline{r_1}.$$

$$\Re(r_1) = -\frac{b}{2a} = \alpha$$

$$\Im(r_1) = \frac{\sqrt{4ac - b^2}}{2a} = \beta$$

Then the solution of the equation is

$$y(t) = e^{r_1 t} = e^{(\alpha + i\beta)t} = e^{\alpha t} (\cos \beta t + i \sin \beta t)$$

Then the fundamental solution set is

$$y_1(t) = \Re[y(t)] = e^{\alpha t} \cos \beta t, \quad y_2(t) = \Im[y(t)] = e^{\alpha t} \sin \beta t$$

Let us find  $W[y_1, y_2](t) \neq 0$  (never zero)

If the auxiliary equation

$$ar^2 + br + c = 0$$

has two complex-conjugate roots

$$r_{1,2} = -\frac{b}{2a} \pm i \frac{\sqrt{4ac - b^2}}{2a},$$

then the general solution of the equation

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0$$

is

$$y(t) = e^{\alpha t} (C_1 \cos \beta t + C_2 \sin \beta t),$$

where  $\alpha = -\frac{b}{2a}$ ,  $\beta = \frac{\sqrt{4ac - b^2}}{2a}$ ,  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are arbitrary constants.

**Example 1.** Find the general solution of the equation

$$y'' - 2y' + 2y = 0$$

auxiliary equation  $r^2 - 2r + 2 = 0$

roots:  $r_1 = \frac{2 + \sqrt{4 - 4(2)}}{2} = \frac{2 + \sqrt{-4}}{2} = \frac{2 + (-1) \cdot 4}{2} = \frac{2 + 2i}{2} = 1 + i$

$r_2 = 1 - i$

$$\operatorname{Re}(r_1) = 1$$

$$\operatorname{Im}(r_1) = 1$$

general solution:  $f(t) = e^t (c_1 \cos t + c_2 \sin t)$

**Example 2.** Solve the initial value problem

$$y'' + 4y' + 5y = 0, \quad y(0) = 1, y'(0) = 0.$$

auxiliary equation:  $r^2 + 4r + 5 = 0$   
roots:  $r_1 = \frac{-4 + \sqrt{16 - 4(5)}}{2} = \frac{-4 + \sqrt{16 - 20}}{2} = \frac{-4 + \sqrt{-4}}{2} = \frac{-4 + 2i}{2} = -2 + i$

$$\operatorname{Re}(r_1) = -2$$

$$\operatorname{Im}(r_1) = 1$$

general solution:  $y(t) = e^{-2t}(c_1 \cos t + c_2 \sin t)$   $y(0) = c_1 = 1$   
 $y'(t) = -2e^{-2t}(c_1 \cos t + c_2 \sin t) + e^{-2t}(-c_1 \sin t + c_2 \cos t)$   $y'(0) = -2c_1 + c_2 = 0$   
 $c_2 = 2c_1 = 2$

$$y(t) = e^{-2t}(\cos t + 2 \sin t)$$