



Math 1050 ~ College Algebra

10 Complex Zeros of Polynomials

$$\begin{aligned} -3x + 4y &= 5 \\ 2x - y &= -10 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 4 \\ 2 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ -10 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^m k = \frac{m(m+1)}{2}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^n z^k = \frac{1 - z^{n+1}}{1 - z}$$

Learning Objectives

- Perform operations on complex numbers.
- Find all complex zeros of a polynomial.
- Factor a polynomial to linear and irreducible quadratic factors.
- Use the conjugate of a complex zero to identify an additional zero.
- Create a polynomial given information that includes complex zeros.

Complex Numbers \mathbb{C}

The imaginary unit i satisfies the following properties:

- $i^2 = -1$
- If c is a real number, $c \geq 0$ then $\sqrt{-c} = (\sqrt{c}) \cdot i$ ex $\sqrt{-5} = i\sqrt{5}$

A complex number is a number of the form $a + bi$ where a and b are real numbers and i is the imaginary unit.

The real numbers are a subset of the complex numbers.

The conjugate of a complex number, $a + bi$ is $a - bi$.

Expressed in symbols, $\overline{a + bi} = a - bi$.



ex $3 + 4i$ conjugate is $3 - 4i$

Ex 1: Identify a , b and the conjugate of each of these complex numbers.

a) $-2 + 5i$

$a = -2$
 $b = 5$
conjugate
 $-2 - 5i$

b) $6i = 0 + 6i$

$a = 0$
 $b = 6$
conjugate
 $0 - 6i = -6i$

c) $53 = 53 + 0i$

$a = 53$
 $b = 0$
conjugate
 $53 - 0i = 53$

d) $\pi - i$

$a = \pi$
 $b = -1$
conjugate
 $\pi + i$

Arithmetic on these numbers is as expected.

EX 2: Perform these operations on complex numbers.

a) $(1-3i)+(2+5i)$

$$= (1+2) + (-3+5)i$$

$$= \boxed{3+2i}$$

b) $(1-3i)(2+5i)$

$$= 2+5i-6i-15i^2$$

$$= 2-i-15(-1)$$

$$= 2-i+15$$

$$= \boxed{17-i}$$

c) $(1-3i)-(2+5i)$

$$= (1-2) + (-3-5)i$$

$$= \boxed{-1-8i}$$

d) $\frac{1-3i}{2+5i}$

$$= \frac{(1-3i)(2-5i)}{(2+5i)(2-5i)}$$

$$= \frac{2-5i-6i+15i^2}{4-10i+10i-25i^2}$$

$$= \frac{2-11i+15(-1)}{4-25(-1)}$$

$$= \frac{-13-11i}{29} = \boxed{\frac{-13}{29} + \frac{-11}{29}i}$$

e) $\sqrt{-3}\sqrt{-12}$

$$= (i\sqrt{3})(i\sqrt{12})$$

$$= i^2\sqrt{36}$$

$$= 6(-1)$$

$$= \boxed{-6}$$

f) $\sqrt{(-3)(-12)}$

$$= \sqrt{36}$$

$$= \boxed{6}$$

Ex 3: Perform this multiplication.

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

$$= x^2 - x(1-2i) - (1+2i)x$$

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

$$= x^2 - \underline{x} + \cancel{2ix} - \underline{x} - \cancel{2ix} + 1 - \cancel{2i} + \cancel{2i} - 4i^2$$

$$= x^2 - 2x + 1 - 4(-1) = \boxed{x^2 - 2x + 5}$$

(note: this is a variable expression, not a numerical expression like example above)

$(1+2i)$ and $(1-2i)$ are conjugates.

Complex Roots of Polynomial Functions (we're assuming coefficients in polynomial are all real)

The Fundamental Theorem of Algebra and Complex Factorization.

If f is a polynomial function with degree $n \geq 1$:

- f has at least one complex zero.
- In actuality, f has exactly n zeros, counting multiplicities.
- f has precisely n factors.

Furthermore:

- Complex zeros occur in conjugate pairs.
- Every polynomial can be factored into linear and quadratic factors with real coefficients.

vertex: $x = \frac{2}{2(3)} = \frac{1}{3}$ vertex $(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{5}{3})$

Ex 4: Determine the complex zeros of $f(x) = 3x^2 - 2x + 2$.

$$0 = 3x^2 - 2x + 2$$

$$x = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{4 - 4(3)(2)}}{2(3)} = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{4(1-6)}}{6} = \frac{2 \pm 2\sqrt{-5}}{6}$$

$$= \frac{2(1 \pm \sqrt{5}i)}{6} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{5}i}{3} \quad \text{two zeros: } x = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3}i, \frac{1}{3} - \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3}i$$

Ex 5: Given $x + 3i$ is a factor of $f(x) = 2x^3 - 11x^2 + 18x - 99$, find all other zeros.

if $x + 3i$ is a factor, then $x + 3i = 0$ $n=3 \Rightarrow$ there are 3 zeros.

$x = -3i$ is a zero of $f(x)$.

$\Rightarrow x = 3i$ must also be a zero of $f(x)$ (since complex zeros come as conjugate pairs).

$\Rightarrow (x - 3i)$ is a factor of $f(x)$.

$$(x + 3i)(x - 3i) = x^2 - \cancel{3i}x + \cancel{3i}x - 9i^2 = x^2 - 9(-1) = x^2 + 9$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2x - 11 \\ x^2 + 9 \overline{) 2x^3 - 11x^2 + 18x - 99} \\ \underline{-(2x^3 + 18x)} \\ -11x^2 - 99 \\ \underline{-(-11x^2 - 99)} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x) = (x + 3i)(x - 3i)(2x - 11)$$

$$2x - 11 = 0$$

$$2x = 11$$

$$x = \frac{11}{2}$$

3 zeros:
 $3i, -3i, \frac{11}{2}$

Ex 6: Use the techniques in this section and the last to find all the zeros of

$$f(x) = x^5 + 6x^4 + 10x^3 + 6x^2 + 9x = x(x^4 + 6x^3 + 10x^2 + 6x + 9)$$

$$g(x) = x^4 + 6x^3 + 10x^2 + 6x + 9$$

possible rational roots/zeros:

$$\pm 1, \pm 3, \pm 9$$

using Descartes Rule of Signs:

$\Rightarrow 0$ positive roots

\Rightarrow check possible roots/zeros

$$-1, -3, -9$$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrrr} -1 & 1 & 6 & 10 & 6 & 9 \\ & & -1 & -5 & -5 & -1 \\ \hline & 1 & 5 & 5 & 1 & 8 \end{array}$$

$\Rightarrow -1 = x$ is NOT a root/zero of $g(x)$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrrr} -3 & 1 & 6 & 10 & 6 & 9 \\ & & -3 & -9 & -3 & -9 \\ \hline & 1 & 3 & 1 & 3 & 0 \end{array}$$

$\Rightarrow x = -3$ is a root/zero of $g(x)$

$$\Rightarrow g(x) = (x+3)(x^3 + 3x^2 + x + 3)$$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr} -3 & 1 & 3 & 1 & 3 \\ & & -3 & 0 & -3 \\ \hline & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array}$$

$\Rightarrow x = -3$ is a root/zero again.

$$\Rightarrow g(x) = (x+3)^2(x^2+1)$$

$$\Rightarrow g(x) = x^4 + 6x^3 + 10x^2 + 6x + 9 = (x+3)^2(x^2+1)$$

linear factor irreducible quadratic factor
(if we only allow real roots)

$$g(x) = (x+3)^2(x^2+1)$$

$$g(x) = (x+3)^2(x-i)(x+i)$$

zeros/roots of $g(x)$

are $-3, i, -i$

\uparrow multiplicity 2 \uparrow each has multiplicity 1

Note: i and $-i$ are complex conjugates.

zeros:
 $x = 0$
 $x = -3$ (mult. 2)
 $x = i$
 $x = -i$