

Complex Plane and Cartesian Plane

Understanding \mathbb{C} and \mathbb{R}^2

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Abstract: This study has been undertaken to understand the similarities and the differences between \mathbb{C} and \mathbb{R}^2 . Here we study the properties of complex plane and Cartesian planes in detail and compare them.

Keywords: field

1. Introduction

Complex numbers are the extension of real numbers and are defined by the set $\mathbb{C} = \{a + ib : a, b \in \mathbb{R}, i = \sqrt{-1}\}$, any complex number can be denoted by $z = a + ib$

i is not a real number

Proof

Firstly, let's note that i is a solution of the equation $x^2 + 1 = 0$

$$i.e. x^2 + 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 = -1 \Rightarrow x = \pm\sqrt{-1}$$

if x is a real number, then by law of tricotomy $x > 0$ or $x < 0$ or $x = 0$

$$i > 0 \Rightarrow \sqrt{-1} > 0 \Rightarrow (\sqrt{-1})^2 > 0 \Rightarrow -1 > 0 \Rightarrow \Leftarrow$$

$$i < 0 \Rightarrow \sqrt{-1} < 0 \Rightarrow (\sqrt{-1})^2 > 0 \Rightarrow -1 > 0 \Rightarrow \Leftarrow$$

$$i > 0 \Rightarrow \sqrt{-1} = 0 \Rightarrow (\sqrt{-1})^2 = 0 \Rightarrow -1 = 0 \Rightarrow \Leftarrow$$

Therefore in any case i fails to be a real number

$$\mathbb{R}^2 = \{(a, b) : a, b \in \mathbb{R}\}$$

Similarities between \mathbb{C} and \mathbb{R}^2

- \mathbb{C} and \mathbb{R}^2 have same cardinality
Consider the function $f: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ defined by $f(a, b) = a + ib$, clearly f is a bijection for
 $f(a_1, b_1) = f(a_2, b_2) \Rightarrow a_1 + ib_1 = a_2 + ib_2 \Rightarrow a_1 = a_2$ and $b_1 = b_2 \Rightarrow (a_1, b_1) = (a_2, b_2)$
Hence f is one-one. Also for any $c + id$, $f(c, d) = c + id$
Thus f is a bijection and hence the result.
- \mathbb{C} and \mathbb{R}^2 both are groups with respect to addition

We prove the statement for \mathbb{C} first

Let $z_1, z_2, z_3 \in \mathbb{C}$, where $z_1 = a_1 + ib_1, z_2 = a_2 + ib_2$ and $z_3 = a_3 + ib_3$ and $a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2, a_3, b_3 \in \mathbb{R}$

$$z_1 + z_2 = (a_1 + ib_1) + (a_2 + ib_2) = (a_1 + a_2) + i(b_1 + b_2) \in \mathbb{C} \dots \text{closure property}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (z_1 + z_2) + z_3 &= [(a_1 + ib_1) + (a_2 + ib_2)] + (a_3 + ib_3) \\ &= [(a_1 + a_2) + i(b_1 + b_2)] + (a_3 + ib_3) \\ &= ((a_1 + a_2) + a_3) + i((b_1 + b_2) + b_3) \\ &= (a_1 + (a_2 + a_3)) + i(b_1 + (b_2 + b_3)) \\ &= a_1 + ib_1 + ((a_2 + a_3) + i(b_2 + b_3)) \\ &= a_1 + ib_1 + [(a_2 + ib_2) + (a_3 + ib_3)] \\ &= z_1 + (z_2 + z_3) \dots \text{associativity property} \end{aligned}$$

Let $w = u + iv$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Suppose } z + w = z &\Rightarrow (a + ib) + (u + iv) = a + ib \\ &\Rightarrow (a + u) + i(b + v) = a + ib \\ &\Rightarrow a + u = a \text{ and } b + v = b \\ &\Rightarrow u = 0 \text{ and } v = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Similarly, } w + z = z &\Rightarrow (u + iv) + (a + ib) = a + ib \\ &\Rightarrow (u + a) + i(v + b) = a + ib \\ &\Rightarrow u + a = a \text{ and } v + b = b \\ &\Rightarrow u = 0 \text{ and } v = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Thus for any $z \in \mathbb{C}$ there exists a unique $w = 0 + 0i = 0$ such that $z + w = z = w + z$... **identity property**

Let $W = U + iV$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Suppose } z + W = 0 &\Rightarrow (a + ib) + (U + iV) = 0 + i0 \\ &\Rightarrow (a + U) + i(b + V) = 0 + i0 \\ &\Rightarrow a + U = 0 \text{ and } b + V = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow U = -a \text{ and } V = -b \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Similarly, } W + z = 0 &\Rightarrow (U + iV) + (a + ib) = 0 + i0 \\ &\Rightarrow (U + a) + i(V + b) = 0 + i0 \\ &\Rightarrow U + a = 0 \text{ and } V + b = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow U = -a \text{ and } V = -b \end{aligned}$$

Thus for any $z \in \mathbb{C}$ there is a $W = -a + (-b)i = -z$ such that $z + W = 0 = W + z$... **additive inverse property**

Now we prove that \mathbb{R}^2 is a group with respect to addition

Let $(a_1, b_1), (a_2, b_2), (a_3, b_3) \in \mathbb{R}^2$

$$(a_1, b_1) + (a_2, b_2) = ((a_1 + a_2), (b_1 + b_2)) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \dots \text{closure property}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (z_1 + z_2) + z_3 &= [(a_1, b_1) + (a_2, b_2)] + (a_3, b_3) \\ &= [(a_1 + a_2), (b_1 + b_2)] + (a_3, b_3) \\ &= ((a_1 + a_2) + a_3), ((b_1 + b_2) + b_3) \\ &= (a_1 + (a_2 + a_3)), (b_1 + (b_2 + b_3)) \\ &= (a_1, b_1) + ((a_2 + a_3), (b_2 + b_3)) \\ &= (a_1, b_1) + [(a_2, b_2) + (a_3, b_3)] \end{aligned}$$

... **associativity property**

Let $(u, v) \in \mathbb{R}^2$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Suppose } (a, b) + (u, v) &= (a, b) \\ &\Rightarrow ((a + u), (b + v)) = (a, b) \\ &\Rightarrow a + u = a \text{ and } b + v = b \\ &\Rightarrow u = 0 \text{ and } v = 0 \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{Similarly, } \Rightarrow (u, v) + (a, b) &= (a, b) \\ \Rightarrow (u + a) + i(v + b) &= (a, b) \\ \Rightarrow u + a &= a \text{ and } v + b = b \\ \Rightarrow u &= 0 \text{ and } v = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Thus for any $z \in \mathbb{C}$ there exists a unique $(0, 0)$ such that
 $(a, b) + (u, v) = (a, b) = (u, v) + (a, b) \quad \dots$

identity property

Let $(U, V) \in \mathbb{R}^2$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Suppose } (a, b) + (U, V) &= (0, 0) \\ \Rightarrow ((a + U), (b + V)) &= (0, 0) \\ \Rightarrow a + U &= 0 \text{ and } b + V = 0 \\ \Rightarrow U &= -a \text{ and } V = -b \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Similarly, } \Rightarrow (U, V) + (a, b) &= (0, 0) \\ \Rightarrow ((U + a), (V + b)) &= (0, 0) \\ \Rightarrow U + a &= 0 \text{ and } V + b = 0 \\ \Rightarrow U &= -a \text{ and } V = -b \end{aligned}$$

Thus for any $z \in \mathbb{C}$ there is a $(-a, (-b))$ such that $(a, b) + (U, V) = (0, 0) = (U, V) + (a, b) \quad \dots$ **additive inverse property**

Difference between \mathbb{C} and \mathbb{R}^2

- You can add a real number to a complex number but you cannot add a real number to an element in \mathbb{R}^2

$$\text{let } z = 3 + 5i, \text{ then } z + 4 = 3 + 5i + 4 = 7 + 5i$$

where as for $(3, 5) \in \mathbb{R}^2, (3, 5) + 4$ is not defined

- Multiplying two complex numbers gives a complex number, where as any two numbers in \mathbb{R}^2 can be treated as vectors that leads to either Dot product or Cross product

$$\begin{aligned} \text{let } z_1 = a + ib \text{ and } z_2 = c + id \text{ then } z_1 z_2 \\ = ac - bd + i(ad + bc) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{where as, if } u = (a, b) \text{ and } v = (c, d) \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^2, \text{ then } u \cdot v \\ = ac + bd \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{and } u \times v = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ a & b & 0 \\ c & d & 0 \end{vmatrix} = (ad - bc)\hat{k} \text{ a unit vector in}$$

the direction perpendicular to x - axis and y - axis

- A complex number is a scalar where as an element in \mathbb{R}^2 is referred to as a vector
- We can divide two complex numbers but division of two vectors is not defined
- Elements of \mathbb{R} are called as scalars where as that of \mathbb{C} are scalars
- \mathbb{C} is a field, whereas, \mathbb{R}^2 is just a vector space

Acknowledgment

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