



Imaginary and Complex Numbers

Since i is defined to have the property that $i^2 = -1$, the number i is the principal square root of -1 ; that is, $i = \sqrt{-1}$. i is called the imaginary unit. Numbers of the form $3i$, $-5i$, and $i\sqrt{2}$ are square roots of negative real numbers. For any positive

real number b , $\sqrt{-b^2} = \sqrt{b^2} \cdot \sqrt{-1}$ or bi .

Example 1) $\sqrt{-18} = \sqrt{(-1)(3^2)(2)} = \sqrt{-1} \cdot \sqrt{3^2} \cdot \sqrt{2} = 3i\sqrt{2}$

Example 2) $-2i \cdot 7i = -14i^2 = -14(-1) = 14$

Example 3) $\sqrt{-10} \cdot \sqrt{-15} = i\sqrt{10} \cdot i\sqrt{15} = i^2\sqrt{150} = -1\sqrt{25} \cdot \sqrt{6} = -5\sqrt{6}$

Simplify:

1. $\sqrt{-144}$ $12i$

6. $3i(-5i)^2$ $-75i$

2. $\sqrt{-64x^4}$ $8x^2i$

7. i^{38} -1

3. $\sqrt{-6} \cdot \sqrt{-24}$ -12

8. $\sqrt{-120}$ $2i\sqrt{30}$

4. $(-2i)(-6i)(4i)$ $-48i$

9. $-2\sqrt{-168}$ $-4i\sqrt{42}$

5. i^{24} 1

10. $\sqrt{-125x^5}$ $5ix^2\sqrt{5x}$

Complex numbers

A complex number is any number that can be written in the form $a + bi$, where a and b are real numbers and i is the imaginary unit. For example, $7 + 4i$ and $2 - 6i$ are complex numbers.

Complex numbers can be added and subtracted as if they were binomials.

Example 1) $(3 + 4i) + (2 + 7i) = 3 + 2 + 4i + 7i = 5 + 11i$

Example 2) $(-5 + 8i) - (2 - 12i) = -5 - 2 + 8i + 12i = -7 + 20i$

The numbers $a + bi$ are multiplied as if they were binomials, with $i^2 = -1$.

Example 3) $(3 + 4i)(2 + 7i)$
 $= 6 + 21i + 8i + 28i^2$
 $= 6 + 21i + 8i + 28(-1)$
 $= 6 - 28 + 29i$
 $= -22 + 29i$

Example 4) $(-2 + \sqrt{-16})(4 - \sqrt{-9})$
 $= (-2 + 4i)(4 - 3i)$
 $= -8 + 6i + 16i - 12i^2$
 $= -8 + 12 + 22i$
 $= 4 + 22i$

Simplify:

11. $(6 - 2i)(1 + i)$ $8 + 4i$

12. $(3 - 5i)(3 + 5i)$ 34

13. $(1 - 4i)(2 + i)$ $6 - 7i$

14. $(7 + \sqrt{-36})(6 + 4i)$ $18 + 64i$

$$15. \quad (10 - \sqrt{-25})(-15 - \sqrt{-49}) \quad -185 + 5i$$

Two complex numbers of the form $a + bi$ and $a - bi$ are called complex conjugates. The product of complex conjugates is always a real number. For example, $(2 + 3i)(2 - 3i) = 4 - 6i + 6i + 9$ or 13. You can use that fact when simplifying the quotient of two complex numbers. When dividing complex numbers it is important to remember that you must not leave the i in the denominator.

$$\text{Example 1)} \quad \frac{3i}{2+4i} = \frac{3i}{2+4i} \cdot \frac{2-4i}{2-4i} = \frac{6i-12i^2}{4-16i^2} = \frac{6i+12}{20} = \frac{3i+6}{10}$$

$$\text{Example 2)} \quad \frac{6}{2i} = \frac{6}{2i} \cdot \frac{i}{i} = \frac{6i}{2i^2} = \frac{6i}{2(-1)} = \frac{6i}{-2} = -3i$$

Simplify:

$$16. \quad \frac{4}{5+3i} \quad \frac{10-6i}{17}$$

$$17. \quad \frac{3}{4i} \quad -\frac{3i}{4}$$

$$18. \quad \frac{2-i}{3-4i} \quad \frac{2+i}{5}$$

$$19. \quad \frac{10+i}{4-i} \quad \frac{39+14i}{17}$$

$$20. \quad \frac{8}{3i} \quad -\frac{8i}{3}$$