

# Complex functions



A complex function can be written in terms of its real and imaginary parts:

$$w = f(z) = f(x + iy) = u(x, y) + iv(x, y) \quad \text{or} \quad w = f(z) = f(re^{i\theta}) = u(r, \theta) + iv(r, \theta)$$

## Exponential function

**Power series:**

$$e^z = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} z^n$$

Some similarities with its real counterpart include:

$$e^0 = 1, \quad e^z \neq 0, \quad \frac{d}{dz} e^z = e^z, \quad e^{z_1} e^{z_2} = e^{z_1+z_2}.$$

Some notable differences:  $e^z$  is not one-to-one,  $e^z$  can attain negative values.

A key property used for computing is  $e^z = e^x(\cos(y) + i \sin(y))$ , hence  $e^z$  is periodic:

$$\begin{cases} e^z \equiv 1 & \text{if } z = 2k\pi i, \quad k \in \mathbb{Z} \\ e^{z_1} \equiv e^{z_2} & \text{if } z_1 = z_2 + 2k\pi i, \quad k \in \mathbb{Z} \end{cases}$$

**Example:**  $e^{2+\frac{\pi i}{4}} = e^2 (\cos(\frac{\pi}{4}) + i \sin(\frac{\pi}{4})) = e^2 \left( \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + \frac{i\sqrt{2}}{2} \right)$

**Example:** Find all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $e^z = \sqrt{3} - i$ .

First, write in polar form:  $|\sqrt{3} - i| = \sqrt{3+1} = 2$  and  $\text{Arg}(\sqrt{3} - i) = -\frac{\pi}{6}$ .

Then,  $e^z = e^{x+iy} = e^x e^{iy} = 2e^{-\frac{\pi i}{6}}$  only when  $e^x = 2$  and  $e^{iy} = e^{-\frac{i\pi}{6}}$  or  $e^{iy - (-\frac{i\pi}{6})} = 1$ .

This is true when  $x = \ln(2)$  and  $y + \frac{\pi}{6} = 2\pi k$  or  $y = \frac{\pi}{6}(12k - 1)$  for  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

**Notation:**  $f(z) = e^{\frac{1}{3}}$  may be interpreted as any of the complex third roots so sometimes  $\exp\{z\}$  is used to denote that a single value is chosen, i.e.  $\exp(\frac{1}{3}) \approx 1.3956$  whereas

$$e^{1/3} \approx 1.3956 \left( \cos \frac{2\pi k}{3} + i \sin \frac{2\pi k}{3} \right), \quad k = 0, 1, 2.$$

## Logarithmic function

**Multivalued logarithm:**

$$\log(z) = \{\ln |z| + i(\text{Arg}(z) + 2n\pi)\} = \{\ln(z) + i\text{arg}(z)\} \quad \text{for } n \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } z \neq 0$$

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## Single-valued logarithm (principal value):

$$\text{Log}(z) = \ln|z| + i \text{Arg}(z) \quad \text{for } z \neq 0$$

**Example:**  $\text{Log}(\sqrt{3} - i) = \ln(2) + i(-\frac{\pi}{6})$ .

### Properties:

$\exp(\text{Log}(z)) = z$  for  $z \neq 0$  and  $\text{Log}(\exp(z)) = z$  for  $-\pi < \text{Im}\{z\} \leq \pi$ .

It also gives a way to define complex powers, for  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ :

$$z^\alpha = e^{\alpha \log(z)} = e^{\alpha(\ln|z| + i \arg(z))}$$

Note: if  $\alpha$  is rational, only a finite number of  $z^\alpha$  result.

**Example:** Determine all possible values of  $i^{\frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}}$ .

First, if  $z = i$  then  $|z| = \sqrt{0^2 + 1^2} = 1$  and  $\text{Arg}(z) = \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} z^\alpha &= \left\{ e^{\frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}(\ln(1) + i(\frac{\pi}{2} + 2\pi n))} : n \in \mathbb{Z} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ e^{\frac{\sqrt{3}}{4}i(\frac{\pi}{2} + 2\pi n)} : n \in \mathbb{Z} \right\} = \left\{ e^{i\frac{\sqrt{3}\pi}{8}(1+4n)} : n \in \mathbb{Z} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}\pi}{8}(1+4n)\right) + i \sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}\pi}{8}(1+4n)\right) : n \in \mathbb{Z} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

**Example:** Determine all possible values of  $(i + \sqrt{3})^i$ .

Ans:  $\left\{ e^{-\frac{\pi}{6} + 2\pi n} (\cos(\ln 2) + i \sin(\ln 2)) : n \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$

**Note:** The Maple command `evalc` yields the principal value.

## Trigonometric functions

The familiar identities and derivatives for trigonometric functions still hold in  $\mathbb{C}$ .

$$\sin(z) = \frac{1}{2i}(e^{iz} - e^{-iz}) \quad \cos(z) = \frac{1}{2i}(e^{iz} + e^{-iz})$$

$$\sin(x + iy) = \sin(x) \cosh(y) + i \cos(x) \sinh(y) \quad \cos(x + iy) = \cos(x) \cosh(y) - i \sin(x) \sinh(y)$$

$$\sinh(z) = \frac{1}{2}(e^z - e^{-z}) \quad \cosh(z) = \frac{1}{2}(e^z + e^{-z})$$

A notable difference:  $\sin(z)$  and  $\cos(z)$  are unbounded, unlike  $|\sin(x)| \leq 1$  for  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

$$|\sin(z)|^2 = \sin^2(x) + \sinh^2(y) \quad |\cos(z)|^2 = \cos^2(x) + \sinh^2(y)$$