

5.4 Operations with Complex Numbers

Square Root of Negative Numbers

The square root of a negative real number has TWO imaginary roots: one positive, one negative.

$$\sqrt{-r} = \sqrt{-1} \cdot \sqrt{r} \quad \left(\text{where } \boxed{\sqrt{-1} = i} \right) = i\sqrt{r}$$

and

$$\boxed{i^2} = i \cdot i = \sqrt{-1} \cdot \sqrt{-1} = \boxed{-1}$$

Examples: Simplify.

1. $\sqrt{81} = 9i$

3. $\sqrt{120} = 2\sqrt{30}i$

$$\boxed{2i\sqrt{30}} \quad \begin{array}{r} 2 \overline{)120} \\ \underline{2} \\ 2 \overline{)60} \\ \underline{2} \\ 2 \overline{)30} \\ \underline{3} \\ 3 \overline{)15} \\ \underline{3} \\ 5 \end{array}$$

2. $\sqrt{48} = 4\sqrt{3}i$

4. $\sqrt{256} = 16i$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \overline{)48} \\ \underline{2} \\ 2 \overline{)24} \\ \underline{2} \\ 2 \overline{)12} \\ \underline{2} \\ 2 \overline{)6} \\ \underline{2} \\ 3 \end{array} \quad \boxed{4i\sqrt{3}}$$

$$\boxed{16i} \quad \begin{array}{r} 2 \overline{)256} \\ \underline{2} \\ 2 \overline{)128} \\ \underline{2} \\ 2 \overline{)64} \\ \underline{2} \\ 2 \overline{)32} \\ \underline{2} \\ 2 \overline{)16} \\ \underline{2} \\ 2 \overline{)8} \\ \underline{2} \\ 2 \overline{)4} \\ \underline{2} \\ 2 \end{array}$$

Examples: Solve by taking square roots.

5. $x^2 + 16 = 0$

$$\begin{array}{l} -16 \quad -16 \\ \sqrt{x^2} = \sqrt{-16} \\ \boxed{x = \pm 4i} \end{array}$$

7. $-3x^2 - 10 = 44$

$$\begin{array}{l} +10 \quad +10 \\ -3x^2 = 54 \\ \frac{-3}{-3} \quad \frac{54}{-3} \quad x = \frac{\pm}{3\sqrt{2}}i \\ \sqrt{x^2} = \sqrt{-18} \\ \boxed{x = \pm 3i\sqrt{2}} \end{array}$$

6. $2x^2 + 68 = 20$

$$\begin{array}{l} -68 \quad -68 \\ 2x^2 = -48 \\ \frac{2}{2} \quad \frac{-48}{2} \\ \sqrt{x^2} = \sqrt{-24} \\ x = \pm 2\sqrt{6}i \\ \boxed{x = \pm 2i\sqrt{6}} \end{array}$$

8. $\frac{1}{4}x^2 + 10 = -15$

$$\begin{array}{l} -10 \quad -10 \\ 4 \cdot \frac{1}{4}x^2 = -25 \cdot 4 \\ \sqrt{x^2} = \sqrt{-100} \\ \boxed{x = \pm 10i} \end{array}$$

Examples: Solve by taking square roots.

9. $2(x-1)^2 + 12 = 0$

$$\begin{array}{l} -12 \quad -12 \\ \frac{2(x-1)^2}{2} = \frac{-12}{2} \\ \sqrt{(x-1)^2} = \sqrt{-6} \\ x-1 = \pm i\sqrt{6} \\ \boxed{x = 1 \pm i\sqrt{6}} \end{array}$$

11. $-5(x+2)^2 - 7 = 38$

12. $-\frac{1}{3}(x-7)^2 + 5 = 23$

10. $\frac{1}{2}(x+4)^2 - 8 = -26$

$$\begin{array}{l} +8 \quad +8 \\ 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2}(x+4)^2 = -18 \cdot 2 \\ \sqrt{(x+4)^2} = \sqrt{-36} \\ x+4 = \pm 6i \\ \boxed{x = -4 \pm 6i} \end{array}$$

The standard form of a complex number is

$$a + bi$$

↑
↙
 real part imaginary part

Every number can be written as a complex number.

$$9 + 2i \longrightarrow \text{imaginary number}$$

$$0 + 2i \longrightarrow \text{pure imaginary number}$$

$$9 + 0i \longrightarrow \text{real number}$$

Adding and Subtracting Complex Numbers

Add or subtract: real part to real part
imaginary part to imaginary part

Examples: Simplify.

13. $(4 - i) + (3 + 2i)$ $7 + i$

14. $(7 - 5i) - (1 - 5i)$

$$\boxed{7} - \boxed{5i} - \boxed{1} + \boxed{5i} \quad 6 + 0i = \boxed{6}$$

15. $6 - (-2 + 9i) + (-8 + 4i)$

$$\boxed{6} + \boxed{2} - \boxed{9i} + \boxed{-8} + \boxed{4i} \quad 0 - 5i = \boxed{-5i}$$

16. $2i - (3 + i) + (2 - 3i)$

$$\boxed{2i} - \boxed{3} - \boxed{i} + \boxed{2} - \boxed{3i} \quad \boxed{-1 - 2i}$$

Multiplying Complex Numbers

Examples: Simplify.

17. $5i(-2 + i)$

18. $(-1 + 2i)(7 - 4i)$

19. $(6 + 3i)(6 - 3i)$

20. $(2 + 5i)^2$

Dividing Complex Numbers

A. Pure Imaginary Denominator

Multiply numerator and denominator by i .

Examples: Simplify.

21. $\frac{2 + 8i}{i}$

22. $\frac{3 + 7i}{2i}$

23. $\frac{4 - i}{2i}$

B. Imaginary Denominator $a + bi$

To simplify a fraction with an imaginary number, $a + bi$, in the denominator, you must **multiply** by the **conjugate of the denominator**.

Example: The conjugate of $1 - 3i$ is $1 + 3i$.

The conjugate of $6 + 5i$ is $6 - 5i$.

Examples: Simplify.

$$24. \frac{2}{7 - 8i}$$

Examples: Simplify.

$$25. \frac{-3}{2 + i}$$

$$26. \frac{3 + 11i}{-1 - 2i}$$