

Complex Numbers

Making Connections across Different Strands of Mathematics

postprimarymaths@pdst.ie



Overview of the Workshop

Session 1	Welcome & Introduction Breakout Session 1 Teaching and Learning approach to Number Introducing the Argand Diagram			
Session 2	Multiplication of Complex Numbers Breakout Session 2			
Stretch Break				
Session 3	DeMoivre's Theorem Breakout session 3 Conclusion			





Introduction



Protocols & Technology

Chat function

https://tinyurl.com/complexnumbers-AD

Polls







Key Messages





Understand the importance of using a geometric view to make sense of complex numbers. Understand the importance of extending prior knowledge by using a constructivist approach.



By the end of this workshop, participants will

- engage with constructivist tasks that will encourage students to become more confident in their mathematical ability and develop their critical-thinking skills.
- recognise the value of making the connection between the geometric view and the algebraic view of complex numbers.
- appreciate the importance of reflecting on practice, the value of effective collaboration and the long-term benefits of engaging with continual professional development.



Breakout Session 1

Introductions and Reflection



Feedback





The Argand Diagram

A constructivist approach



Introduction of Complex Numbers



Prior Content Knowledge

Investigation of multiplication using models including the number line. Select and use suitable strategies for finding solutions to quadratic equations. Junior Cycle Specification pages 15, 19, Junior Certificate Syllabus pages 22, 29.

Work with complex numbers in rectangular form to solve quadratic equations Leaving Certificate Syllabus page 39







Introduction of Complex Numbers

Key Content for this task

Students should be able to illustrate complex numbers on an Argand diagram. Leaving Certificate Syllabus page 29



Pedagogy Constructivism

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Methodologies Effective Questioning Group Work



Constructivism

Social and collaborative learning activities

Learning activities set in a **meaningful context**

Learners given the freedom to understand and construct meaning at their **own pace**

Chuang & Rosenbusch (2005)





Constructivism

"A constructivist pedagogical orientation supports teachers in **effectively** using digital technologies with their students i.e. learners are **actively involved** in a process of **determining** meaning and knowledge for themselves" DES (2015)





Prior Knowledge: Primary Approach

What approaches from primary school might a first year student have taken to explore multiplication?

Linear method Distribution Array method Skip counting method





6



10

24

84





Student Tasks: Open Question Think-Pair-Share Group Discussion Concluding Statement









Class Discussion

Present concluding statements Question/Critique Verify/Justify Summary of key learning Individual Reflection





Student Task:

If $A, B \in \mathbb{R}$, Investigate the effect on A of multiplying by B.









Summary of Key Learning

For $A, B \in \mathbb{R}$, If B>0 there is a scaling by a factor of B and a 0° rotation. If B<0 there is a scaling by a factor of B and a 180° rotation.





Student Task: If $A \in \mathbb{R}$, $B \in \mathbb{R}^+$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$ What is the effect on A of multiplying by $(B)^n$? A is scaled by a factor of B^n and there is a rotation of 0°



Extension:

What is the effect on a real number A of multiplying by $(-B)^n$? A is **scaled** by a factor of Bⁿ and there is are n x 180° **rotations.**





Prior Knowledge: Approach to Exploring Functions

Junior Cycle Functions:

'no roots in the real number system'

Senior Cycle Functions:

$$b^{2} - 4ac < 0$$

$$x = \pm \sqrt{-1} \qquad x^{2} - 6x + 13 = 0$$

$$x = \pm i \qquad x = 3 \pm 2i$$





Introducing the Imaginary Axis

What is the effect on a real number A of multiplying by (-B)ⁿ? A is **scaled** by a factor of Bⁿ and there are n x 180°**rotations.**

What is the effect on a real number A of multiplying by $(-1)^{\frac{1}{2}}$? A is scaled by a factor of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ rotation of 180° := 90° rotation





Summary of Key Learning

What is the effect on a real number A of multiplying by i? There is a rotation of 90°.





Q & A







Session 2

Multiplication of Complex Numbers



Prior Content Knowledge

Illustrate complex numbers on an Argand diagram. Interpret the modulus as distance from the origin. Multiplication of complex numbers of the form z=ai. Leaving Certificate Syllabus page 29







Key Content for this task

Investigate multiplication and division with complex numbers in rectangular form a+bi. Calculate the complex conjugate. Leaving Certificate Syllabus page 29



Pedagogy

Constructivism



Methodology Effective Questioning Group Work



Task:

$$z_1 = 1 + 2i, z_2 = 2 + 3i, find z_1 \times z_2$$

Distributive Law

$$z_1 \times z_2 = (1+2i)(2+3i)$$

= 1(2+3i) + 2i(2+3i)
= 2+3i+4i+6i^2
= 2+7i-6
= -4+7i

The Array Model

	2	3i
1	2	3 <i>i</i>
2 <i>i</i>	4 <i>i</i>	6i ²

```
z_1 \times z_2 = 2 + 3i + 4i + 6i^2
= 2 + 7i - 6
= -4 + 7i
```





Multiplication of Complex Numbers (Geometric Approach)





Breakout Session 2

Multiplication of Complex Numbers



Collaborative Task:

Choose a role, complete the investigation and record the results in the master table.

Group Roles: Record (Input to table) Method 1 (Geogebra File) Method 2 (Trigonometry) Verifier (Confirm Results)







Summary of Key Learning

Student key learning:

When two complex numbers are multiplied their moduli are multiplied and their arguments are added.

Reflection:

What elements of this task make a good learning experience for students?





Stretch Break





Session 3

DeMoivre's Theorem

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Multiplication of Complex Numbers

Prior Content Knowledge

Trigonometric Ratios and Pythagoras' Theorem. Junior Cycle Specification page 17, Junior Certificate Syllabus page 20.

Multiplication of complex numbers. Polar form of a complex number. Leaving Certificate Syllabus page 29, 39.









Key Content for this task

DeMoivre's Theorem. Polar form of a complex number Leaving Certificate Syllabus page 39



Pedagogy Constructivis

Constructivism



Methodology

Effective Questioning Structured Problem Solving



Prior Knowledge: Geometric View of Multiplication

Task 1

Multiplication of Real Numbers $a \times b$, where $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ If b>0 there is a scaling by a factor of b and 0° rotation. If b<0 there is a scaling by a factor of b and 180° rotation.





Prior Knowledge: Geometric View of Multiplication

Multiplication by $(-1)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ Scaling by a factor of 1 Rotation of 90°





Prior Knowledge: Geometric View of Multiplication

Multiplication of Complex Numbers of the form *bi* Scale factor of b If b>0 Rotation of 90° If b<0 Rotation of 270°





Prior Knowledge: Multiplication of Complex Numbers

Task 2

What are the effects of multiplying z_1 by z_2 , if both z_1 and z_2 are complex numbers in the form (a+bi), where $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$?

- $|z_1|$ is scaled by a factor of $|z_2|$
- (Product of the Moduli)
- z_1 is rotated by the argument of z_2 (Sum of the Arguments)



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Prior Knowledge: Trigonometry



$$Sin\theta = \frac{b}{r}$$
$$rSin\theta = b$$



$$Cos\theta = \frac{a}{r}$$

$$rCos\theta = a$$





Prior Knowledge: Polar Form of a Complex Number



$$z = a + bi$$

$$z = rCos\theta + irSin\theta$$

$$z = r(Cos\theta + iSin\theta)$$



DeMoivre's Theorem

If z=a+bi, where $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, what is the effect on z of raising z to the power of n (z^n) , where $n \in \mathbb{Z}$?





Breakout Session 3

De Moivre's Theorem



Summary of Key Learning

Multiplication	Argument (angle θ)	Modulus (<i>r</i>)
$\mathbf{z} \times \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{z}^2$	Doubled (2 θ)	Squared (r^2)
$\mathbf{z} \times \mathbf{z} \times \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{z}^3$	Tripled (3 θ)	Cubed (r^3)
$z \times z \times z \times z = z^4$	Multiplied by 4 (4 $ heta$)	Multiplied by itself 4 times (r^4)
$z \times z \times z \times z \times z = z^5$	Multiplied by 5 (5 θ)	Multiplied by itself 5 times (r^5)
z^n	Multiplied by n ($n heta$)	Multiplied by itself n times (r^n)



Summary of Key Learning





Extending the Learning

Generalise your thinking:

$$z^n = r^n (Cos \, n\theta + i \, Sin \, n\theta)$$

If we were given a value for z^n , how many roots would z^n have? How would you find these roots?



Applying the Learning

If z = 1 + i, find z^5 in as many ways as possible.

Which of these methods would you use to find z^{10} ?







Conclusion

Summary and Reflection



Key Messages





Understand the importance of using a geometric view to make sense of complex numbers. Understand the importance of extending prior knowledge through using a constructivist approach.



PDST Post Primary Maths Team



Team Leader Advisors: Stephen Gammell Angela Dwane Enda Donnelly stephengammell@pdst.ie angeladwane@pdst.ie endadonnelly@pdst.ie Dympna McCoy Warren McIntyre **Administrator** dympnamccoy@pdst.ie warrenmcintyre@pdst.ie **Gráinne Haughney Arlene Murphy** Michael Walsh grainnehaughneymdt@pdst.ie arlenemurphy@pdst.ie michaelwalsh@pdst.ie Darren Murphy **General Enquiries:** darrenmurphy@pdst.ie **Twitter** Postprimarymaths@pdst.ie @ProjectMaths ie

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