

Let $z = a + bi$ and $w = c + di$. We defined

$$zw = (a + bi)(c + di) = (ac - bd) + (ad + bc)i$$

There are some interesting observations about this product. It is often the case that complex numbers are viewed as points in the *Argand Plane*, so that z is placed at the point $(\operatorname{Re}(z), \operatorname{Im}(z))$. We note $z\bar{z} = a^2 + b^2$. In the argand plane it is natural to define the *modulus* of z

$$|z| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$$

which is the same as $z\bar{z} = |z|^2$ (which you shall see in the context of inner product spaces). We check

$$|z||w| = (a^2 + b^2)(c^2 + d^2) = a^2c^2 + a^2d^2 + b^2c^2 + b^2d^2$$

and with $zw = (a + bi)(c + di) = (ac - bd) + (ad + bc)i$, we have

$$|zw| = (ac - bd)^2 + (ad + bc)^2 = a^2c^2 + b^2d^2 - 2abcd + a^2d^2 + b^2c^2 + 2abcd = a^2c^2 + a^2d^2 + b^2c^2 + b^2d^2 = |z||w|$$

This is quite surprising. Now we also can think of an angle θ associated with z in the argand plane namely the angle between the *Re* axis and the vector (2-tuple) joining the origin $(0+0i)$ with the point z . So

$$z = |z|(\cos(\theta) + i \sin(\theta)) = |z|e^{i\theta}$$

where

$$\cos(\theta) = \frac{a}{a^2 + b^2}, \quad \sin(\theta) = \frac{b}{a^2 + b^2}$$

With this notation we say that the *argument* of z is

$$\arg(z) = \theta.$$

Now what about $\arg(zw)$? Assume $\arg(w) = \phi$. We could write $z = |z|e^{i\theta}$, $w = |w|e^{i\phi}$ and so

$$zw = |z||w|e^{1(\theta+\phi)}$$

which yields $\arg(zw) = \theta + \phi$. Thus multiplying two complex numbers multiplies their moduli and adds their arguments.

Alternatively

$$\cos(\theta) = \frac{a}{a^2 + b^2}, \quad \sin(\theta) = \frac{b}{a^2 + b^2}, \quad \cos(\phi) = \frac{c}{c^2 + d^2}, \quad \sin(\phi) = \frac{d}{c^2 + d^2}$$

We have by our angle sum formulas (from the first assignment!)

$$\cos(\theta + \phi) = \frac{ac - bd}{(a^2 + b^2)(c^2 + d^2)}, \quad \sin(\theta + \phi) = \frac{ad + bc}{(a^2 + b^2)(c^2 + d^2)}.$$

Thus $\theta + \phi = \arg(zw)$.