

MATH1853 Linear Algebra, Probability & Statistics

Lecture Notes

Jacob Shing

October 21, 2025

Important: This course has two parts: (1) Linear Algebra; and (2) Probability & Statistics. These notes only cover the second part.

1 Complex Variables

Definition 1.1 (Complex Number). The set of **complex numbers** is defined as

$$\mathbb{C} = \{a + bi \mid a, b \in \mathbb{R}, i^2 = -1\}$$

Further, for $z = a + bi \in \mathbb{C}$, we refer to a as the **real part** of z , denoted $\operatorname{Re}(z)$, and b as the **imaginary part** of z , denoted $\operatorname{Im}(z)$.

Definition 1.2 (Complex Operations). $\mathbb{C}$ is a field under the certain operations. For $z = a + bi, w = c + di \in \mathbb{C}$, we define:

Name	Notation	Definition
Addition	$z + w$	$(a + c) + (b + d)i$
Subtraction	$z - w$	$(a - c) + (b - d)i$
Multiplication	zw	$(ac - bd) + (ad + bc)i$
Division	$\frac{z}{w}, (w \neq 0)$	$\frac{ac + bd}{c^2 + d^2} + \frac{bc - ad}{c^2 + d^2}i$
Conjugate	$\bar{z}$	$a - bi$
Modulus	$ z $	$\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$

Table 1: Operations on Complex Numbers

Theorem 1.3 (Triangle Inequality). For any $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$, we have

$$|z + w| \leq |z| + |w|$$

Proof.

The proof is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} |z + w|^2 &= (z + w)(\overline{z + w}) \\ &= z\bar{z} + w\bar{w} + z\bar{w} + \bar{z}w \\ &= |z|^2 + |w|^2 + z\bar{w} + \bar{z}w \\ &= |z|^2 + |w|^2 + 2\operatorname{Re}(z\bar{w}) \quad (\text{by } \operatorname{Re}(z) = \frac{z + \bar{z}}{2}) \\ &\leq |z|^2 + |w|^2 + 2|z\bar{w}| \quad (\sqrt{\operatorname{Re}(z)^2 + \operatorname{Im}(z)^2} \geq \operatorname{Re}(z)) \\ &= |z|^2 + |w|^2 + 2|z||w| \\ &= (|z| + |w|)^2 \end{aligned}$$

Q.E.D.

Theorem 1.4 (Properties of Conjugates and Moduli). For any $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$, we have

1. **properties of conjugates:**

- (a) $\overline{(z + w)} = \bar{z} + \bar{w}$
- (b) $\overline{(zw)} = \bar{z}\bar{w}$
- (c) $\overline{\left(\frac{z}{w}\right)} = \frac{\bar{z}}{\bar{w}}, (w \neq 0)$
- (d) $\overline{(\bar{z})} = z$ (**involution**)

2. **properties of moduli:**

- (a) $|z| \geq 0$, and $|z| = 0$ if and only if $z = 0$
- (b) $|zw| = |z||w|$
- (c) $\left|\frac{z}{w}\right| = \frac{|z|}{|w|}, (w \neq 0)$
- (d) $|z|^n = |z^n|$

Definition 1.5 (Polar Form of a Complex Number). For any $z = a + bi \in \mathbb{C}$, we can express z in **polar form** as

$$z = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$$

where $r = |z| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$ is the **modulus** of z , and $\theta = \arg(z) = \arctan \frac{b}{a}$ is the **argument** of z .

Remark. In MATH1853, we limit θ to be the principal argument, i.e., $\arg(z) \in [0, 2\pi)$ or $(-\pi, \pi]$.

Definition 1.6 (Multiplication of Complex Numbers in Polar Form). Let $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$, where $z_1 = r_1(\cos \theta_1 + i \sin \theta_1)$ and $z_2 = r_2(\cos \theta_2 + i \sin \theta_2)$. Then, the multiplication of z_1 and z_2 is given by

$$z_1 z_2 = r_1 r_2 [\cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) + i \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2)]$$

Theorem 1.7 (De Moivre's Theorem). If $z = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta) \in \mathbb{C}$, $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $r > 0$, then

$$z^n = r^n [\cos(n\theta) + i \sin(n\theta)]$$

Theorem 1.8 (Euler's Formula). The formula states:

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$$

Corollary 1.9. The trigonometric functions can be expressed in terms of exponentials as follows:

$$\cos \theta = \frac{e^{i\theta} + e^{-i\theta}}{2}, \quad \sin \theta = \frac{e^{i\theta} - e^{-i\theta}}{2i}$$

Definition 1.10 (Exponential Form of a Complex Number). For any $z = a + bi \in \mathbb{C}$, z has the **exponential form**:

$$z = re^{i\theta}$$

where $r = |z| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$ and $\theta = \arg(z) = \arctan \frac{b}{a}$.

Theorem 1.11 (Properties of the Exponential Form). For any $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$, we have the following properties:

Property	Rule
Product	$e^z e^w = e^{z+w}$
Quotient	$\frac{e^z}{e^w} = e^{z-w}$
Power	$(e^z)^n = e^{nz}$
De Moivre's	$(re^{i\theta})^n = r^n e^{in\theta}$
Conjugate	$\overline{e^z} = e^{\bar{z}}$
Modulus	$ e^z = e^{\operatorname{Re}(z)}$
Argument	$\arg(e^z) = \operatorname{Im}(z)$