

O1 History of Mathematics
Lecture XIII
Complex analysis

Monday 19th November 2018
(Week 7)

Summary

- ▶ Complex numbers: validity and representation
- ▶ Substitution of complex values for real
- ▶ Cauchy's contributions
- ▶ Riemann
- ▶ What *is* an analytic function?

Early ideas about complex numbers

Before 1600, very faint beginnings:

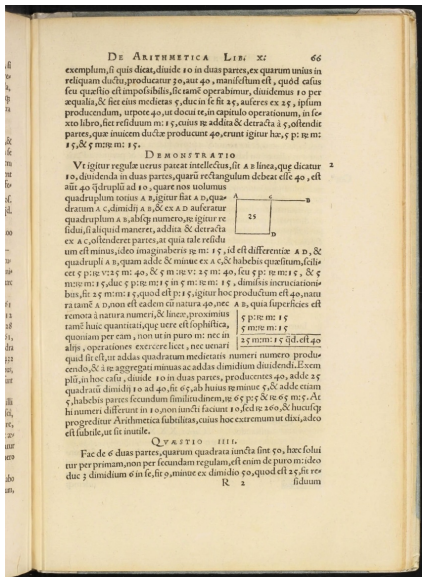
- ▶ Cardano (1545) [from quadratics]
- ▶ Bombelli (1572) [from cubics]
- ▶ Harriot (c. 1600) [from quartics]

But:

For the most part such roots were ignored: negative roots were described merely as 'false', but complex roots as 'impossible'.

(Mathematics emerging, p. 459.)

Cardano and complex numbers



Problem: find two numbers that add to 10 and multiply to 40, i.e., solve an equation of the type 'square plus number equals thing'

Cardano noted that $5 + \sqrt{-15}$ and $5 - \sqrt{-15}$ solve the problem, "dismissis incruciationibus", meaning

"putting aside mental tortures",

or

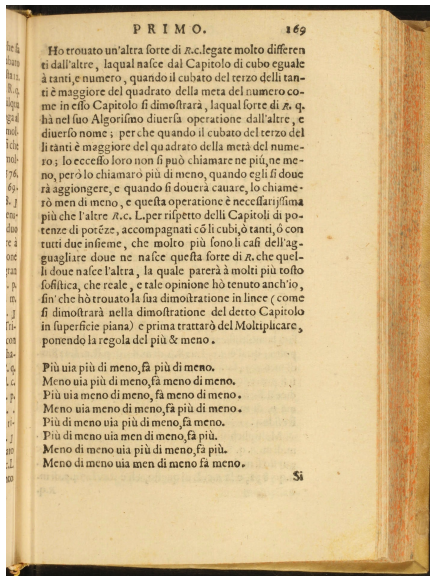
"the cross-multiples having canceled out",

or

"the imaginary part being lost"

But regarded such ideas as absurd and useless

Bombelli and complex numbers



“Another sort of cube root much different from the former . . .”

Systematic rules:

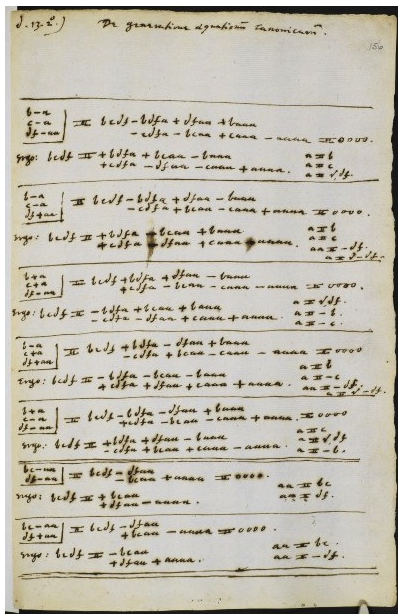
più di meno via più di meno, fà meno ($\sqrt{-1} \times \sqrt{-1} = -1$)

meno di meno via più di meno, fà più ($-\sqrt{-1} \times \sqrt{-1} = 1$)

But complex numbers were not admitted as solutions of equations — they could appear in calculations, provided they cancelled out by the end

Complex numbers justified through practical use?

Harriot and complex numbers



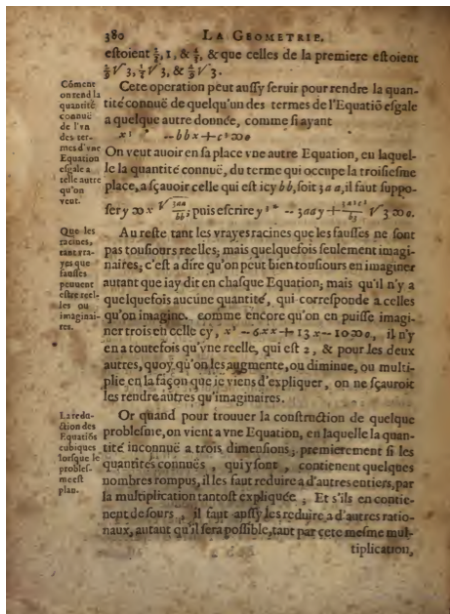
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Unpublished manuscripts contain systematic treatment of complex roots of equations — but these were removed by his editors

Cf. Harriot's *Artis analyticae praxis* (1931), pp. 14–15; see:

Muriel Seltman & Robert Goulding, *Thomas Harriot's Artis analyticae praxis: an English translation with commentary*, Springer, 2007

Descartes and 'imaginaries'



La géométrie (1637):

introduced the term
'imaginaire' — meant to be
derogatory?

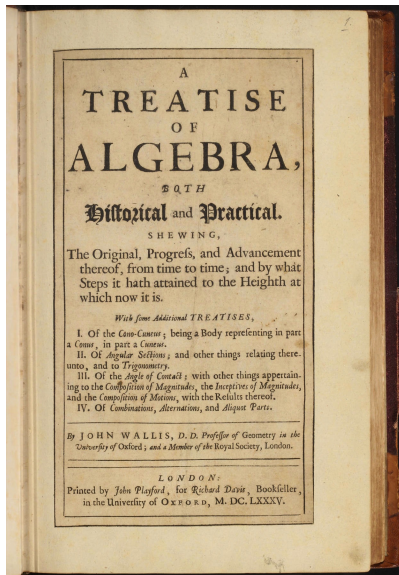
Didn't regard them as
numbers

Ideas about complex numbers in the later 17th century

John Wallis, *A treatise of algebra* (1685): complex numbers based on insights derived from

- ▶ Euclidean geometry
- ▶ trigonometry
- ▶ properties of conics

(See: *Mathematics emerging*, §15.1.1.)



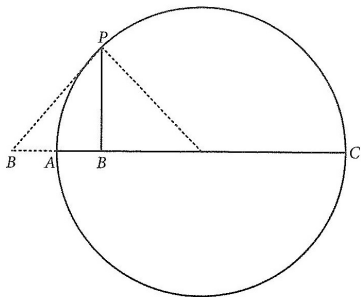
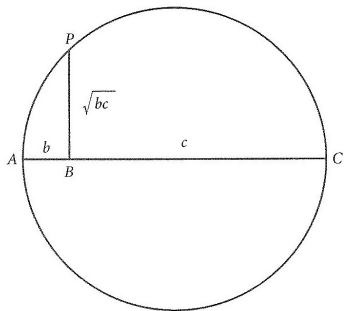
Wallis: justification of imaginary numbers



- ▶ A man starts at A and walks 5 yds to B, then retreats 2 yds to C: overall, he has covered 3 yds. If he instead retreats 8 yds to D, then we may say that he has covered -3 yds.
- ▶ Somewhere on the seashore, we gain 26 units of land from the sea, but lose 10 units. Thus, we have gained 16 units overall; if this is a perfect square, then it has side 4 units of length.
- ▶ If instead we lose 26 units of land, but gain 10, then we have lost 16 units overall, or gained -16. The area in question (assumed to be a square) might therefore be viewed as having side $\sqrt{-16}$.

(see: Leo Corry, *A brief history of numbers*, OUP, 2015, pp. 184–185)

Wallis: imaginary numbers as geometric means



(see: Leo Corry, *A brief history of numbers*, OUP, 2015, pp. 185–186)

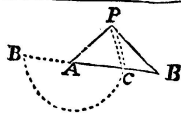
“A new Impossibility in Algebra”

John Wallis, *A treatise of algebra*, p. 267 ‘Of negative squares’:
... requires a new Impossibility in Algebra

CHAP. LXVII. *Of Negative Squares.*

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Suppose again, $AP = 15$, $PC = 12$, (and therefore $AC = \sqrt{225 - 144} = \sqrt{81} = 9$;) $PB = 20$ (and therefore $BC = \sqrt{400 - 144} = \sqrt{256} = \pm 16$, or -16 ;) Then is $AB = 9 \mp 16 = 25$, or $AB = 9 - 16 = -7$. The one Affirmative, the other Negative. (The same values would be, but with contrary Signs, if we take $AC = \sqrt{81} = -9$: That is, $AB = -9 \mp 16 = \mp 7$, $AB = -9 - 16 = -25$.)



Which gives indeed (as before) a double value of AB , $\sqrt{175}$, $\mp \sqrt{-81}$, and $\sqrt{175}$, $-\sqrt{-81}$: But such as requires a new Impossibility in Algebra, (which in Lateral Equations doth not happen;) not that of a Negative Root, or a Quantity less than nothing; (as before,) but the Root of a Negative Square. Which in strictness of speech, cannot be: since that no Real Root (Affirmative or Negative,) being Multiplied into itself, will make a Negative Square.

Complex numbers in the 18th century (1)



Nature remained unclear:

“that amphibian between being and not-being, which we call the imaginary root of negative unity” (Leibniz, 1702)

But complex numbers were increasingly being used ...

Complex numbers in the 18th century (2)

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boles, dépend en partie de la quadrature du cercle, & en
partie de la quadrature de l'hyperbole ou de la description
de la Logarithmique.

*Manières abrégées de transformer les différentielles
composées en simples, & réciproquement; Et même
les simples imaginaires en réelles composées.*

PROBL. I. Transformer la différentielle $\frac{adx}{bb-xx}$ en
une différentielle Logarithmique $\frac{adx}{zb}$, & réciproquement.

Faites $z = \frac{z-1}{z+1} \times b$, & vous aurez $\frac{adx}{bb-xx} = \frac{adt}{zb}$. Réci-
proquement prenez $t = \frac{z+b}{z-b}$, & vous aurez $\frac{adt}{zb} =$
 $= \frac{adx}{bb-xx}$.

Corol. On transformera de même la différentielle $\frac{adx}{bb+xx}$
en $\frac{-adt}{zb\sqrt{-1}}$ différentielle de Logarithme imaginaire; &
réciproquement.

PROBL. II. Transformer la différentielle $\frac{adx}{bb+xx}$ en
différentielle de secteur ou d'arc circulaire $\frac{-adt}{z\sqrt{1-bb}}$; &
réciproquement.

Faites $z = \sqrt{\frac{1}{t} - bb}$, & vous aurez $\frac{adx}{bb+xx} = \frac{-adt}{z\sqrt{1-bb}}$
Réciproquement prenez $t = \frac{1}{z^2 + bb}$, & vous aurez
 $\frac{-adt}{z\sqrt{1-bb}} = \frac{adx}{bb+xx}$.

PROBL. III. Transformer la différentielle $\frac{adx}{bb-xx}$ en
différentielle de secteur hyperbolique $\frac{adt}{z\sqrt{1+bb}}$; & réci-
proquement.

Faites $z = \sqrt{\frac{1}{t} + bb}$, & ensuite $t = \frac{1}{bb-xx}$; & vous
aurez ce qu'on demande.

PROBL.

Johann Bernoulli, 'Solution d'un
problème concernant le calcul
intégrale, ...', *Mémoires de
l'Académie royale des sciences*,
1702:

by making the substitution

$z = \sqrt{\frac{1}{t} - bb}$, transform the

differential $\frac{adz}{bb+zz}$ into $\frac{-adt}{2bt\sqrt{-1}}$

No worries about the validity of
switching between real and complex
integrals

(See *Mathematics emerging*,
§15.2.1)

Complex numbers in the 18th century (3)

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How EQUATIONS are to be sol'd.

AFTER therefore in the Solution of a Question you are come to an Equation, and that Equation is duly reduc'd and order'd; when the Quantities which are suppos'd given, are really given in Numbers, those Numbers are to be substituted in their room in the Equation, and you'll have a Numeral Equation, whose Root being extracted will satisfy the Question. As if in the Division of an Angle into five equal Parts, by putting r for the Radius of the Circle, q for the Chord of the Complement of the propos'd Angle to two right ones, and x for the Chord of the Complement of the fifth Part of that Angle, I had come to this Equation, $x^4 - 5rrx^2 + 5r^2q - r^2q = 0$. Where in any particular Case the Radius r is given in Numbers, and the Line q subtending the Complement of the given Angle; as if Radius were 10, and the Chord 3; I substitute those Numbers in the Equation for r and q , and there comes out the Numeral Equation $x^4 - 500x^2 + 5000x - 30000 = 0$, whereof the Root being extracted will be x , or the Line subtending the Complement of the fifth Part of that given Angle.

But the Root is a Number which being substituted in the Equation for the Letter or Species signifying the Root, will make all the Terms vanish. Thus Unity is the Root of the Equation $x^4 - 500x^2 + 5000x - 30000 = 0$, because being writ for x it produces $1 - 1 - 19 + 49 - 30$, that is, nothing. And thus, if for x you write the Number 3, or the Negative Number -5 , and in both Cases there will be produc'd nothing, the Affirmative and Negative Terms in these four Cases destroying one another; then since any of the Numbers written in the Equation fulfils the Condition of x , by making all the Terms of the Equation together equal to nothing, any of them will be the Root of the Equation.

And that you may not wonder that the same Equation may have several Roots, you must know that there may be more Solutions [than one] of the same Problem. As if there was sought the Interfection of two given Circles; there are two Interfections, and consequently the Question admits two Answers; and then the Equation determining

the

Isaac Newton, *Universal Arithmetick*, 1728:

p. 195: "it is just that the Roots of Equations should be often impossible, lest they should exhibit the cases of Problems that are impossible as if they are possible" — complex numbers as an indicator of real-world solvability of problems

Complex numbers in the 18th century (4)

Leonhard Euler also used them freely:
e.g., in *Introductio in analysin
infinitorum*, 1748, §138:

$$e^{+v\sqrt{-1}} = \cos .v + \sqrt{-1} . \sin .v$$

$$e^{-v\sqrt{-1}} = \cos .v - \sqrt{-1} . \sin .v$$

(See *Mathematics emerging*, §9.2.3)

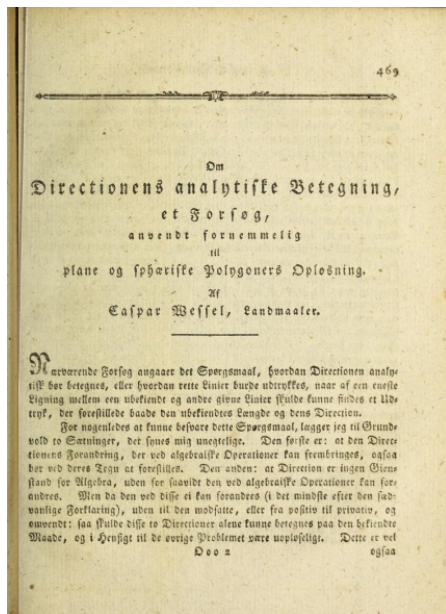


The Fundamental Theorem of Algebra

Every polynomial equation of degree n has exactly n roots.

- ▶ Early 17th century: known that an equation of degree n **may** have n roots
- ▶ During 17th century: complex numbers gradually admitted as roots
- ▶ 15 Sept 1759: Euler asserted theorem in a letter to Nicholas Bernoulli, but didn't prove it
- ▶ Mid/late 18th century: attempted proofs by Euler, d'Alembert, Lagrange, and others
- ▶ 1799: proof by Gauss in his doctoral dissertation, followed by several others
- ▶ 1806: new proof by Argand
- ▶ 1821: Argand's proof appears in Cauchy's *Cours d'analyse*

New ways of viewing complex numbers



Caspar Wessel, 'Om Directionens analytiske Betegning ...' ['On the analytic representation of direction ...'], *Nye Samling af det Kongelige Danske Videnskabers Selskabs Skrifter*, 1799

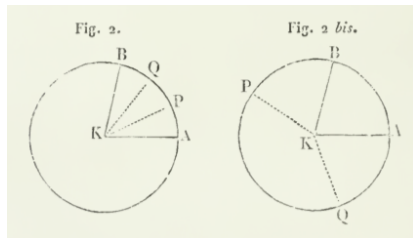
Published in Danish — not well known

French translation published in 1897

New ways of viewing complex numbers



Robert Argand, *Essay on a method of representing imaginary quantities . . .*, 1806



New ways of viewing complex numbers

Theory of Conjugate Functions, or Algebraic Couples; with a Preliminary and Elementary Essay on Algebra as the Science of Pure Time.

By WILLIAM ROWAN HAMILTON,

M.R.I.A., F.R.A.S., Hon. M.R.S.Ed. and Dub., Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and of the Royal Northern Antiquarian Society at Copenhagen, Andrews' Professor of Astronomy in the University of Dublin, and Royal Astronomer of Ireland.

Read November 4th, 1833, and June 1st, 1835.

General Introductory Remarks.

THE Study of Algebra may be pursued in three very different schools, the Practical, the Philological, or the Theoretical, according as Algebra itself is accounted an Instrument, or a Language, or a Contemplation; according as ease of operation, or symmetry of expression, or clearness of thought, (the *opere*, the *fari*, or the *aspere*,) is eminently prized and sought for. The Practical person seeks a Rule which he may apply, the Philological person seeks a Formula which he may write, the Theoretical person seeks a Theorem on which he may meditate. The felt imperfections of Algebra are of three answering kinds. The Practical Algebraist complains of imperfection when he finds his Instrument limited in power; when a rule, which he could happily apply to many cases, can be hardly or not at all applied by him to some new case; when it fails to enable him to do or to discover something else, in some other Art, or in some other Science, to which Algebra with him was but subordinate, and for the sake of which and not for its own sake, he studied Algebra. The Philological Algebraist complains of imperfection, when his Language presents him with an Anomaly; when he finds an Exception disturb the simplicity of his Notation, or the symmetrical structure of his Syntax; when a Formula must be written with precaution, and a Symbolism is not universal. The Theoretical Algebraist complains of imperfection, when the clearness of his Contemplation is obscured; when the Reasonings of his Science seem anywhere to oppose each other, or become in any part too complex or too little valid for his belief to rest firmly upon them; or when, though trial may have taught him that a rule is useful, or that a formula gives true results, he cannot prove that rule, nor understand that formula: when he cannot rise to intuition from induction, or cannot look beyond the signs to the things signified.

Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy, 1837

Complex numbers as ordered pairs subject to specified rules:

$$(a, b) \pm (c, d) = (a \pm c, b \pm d)$$

$$(a, b)(c, d) = (ac - bd, ad + bc)$$

$$\frac{(a, b)}{(c, d)} = \left(\frac{ac + bd}{c^2 + d^2}, \frac{bc - ad}{c^2 + d^2} \right)$$

Led to the search for **triples**, and thence to **quaternions**

Complex analysis

The origins of complex analysis may be seen in early achievements by Johann Bernoulli, Euler, and others, using complex transformations to evaluate real integrals. But is substitution of complex variables for real variables permissible?

- ▶ Euler (posthumous, 1794): yes
- ▶ Laplace (1785, 1812): yes
- ▶ Poisson (1812): doubtful
- ▶ Cauchy (1814): inspired by Laplace, set to work on the problem

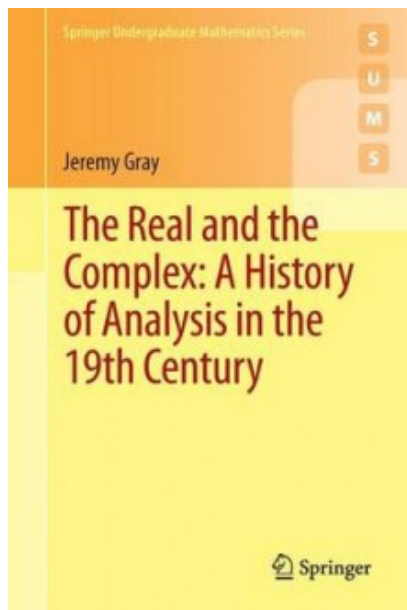
Sources for the origins of complex analysis

Secondary:

- ▶ Katz: §17.3 (3rd ed.); §22.3 (brief ed.)
- ▶ Frank Smithies: *Cauchy and the creation of complex function theory*, Cambridge University Press, 1997

Primary: as quoted by Smithies; some extracts reproduced in *Mathematics emerging*, §15.2.

Real and complex analysis united



Cauchy as 'creator' of complex analysis

Some of Cauchy's contributions to complex analysis:

- ▶ integration along paths and contours (1814) [1827]
- ▶ calculus of residues (1826)
- ▶ integral formulae (1831)
- ▶ inferences about Taylor series expansions
- ▶ applications to evaluation of difficult definite integrals of real functions

Cauchy's changing views of complex numbers and variables

At different times, Cauchy regarded complex numbers in different ways:

- ▶ as formal (numerical) expressions $a + b\sqrt{-1}$;
- ▶ geometrically;
- ▶ by reducing $i = \sqrt{-1}$ to a “real but indeterminate quantity”

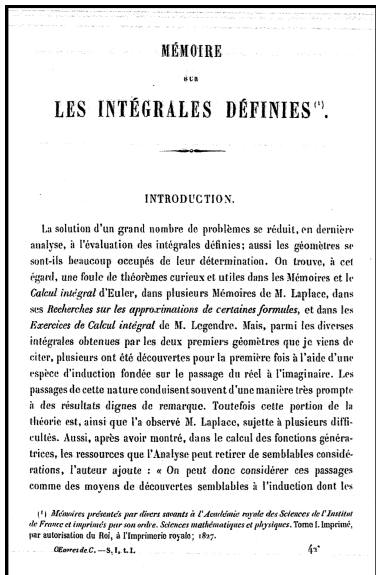
This done, there is no need to torture the mind to discover what the symbolic sign $\sqrt{-1}$ could represent . . .

(in modern terms, Cauchy reduced complex arithmetic to calculations modulo $i^2 + 1$ in $\mathbb{R}[i]$)

Moreover, Cauchy's view of complex variables gradually shifted

- ▶ from quantities with two parts $x + y\sqrt{-1}$
- ▶ to single quantities z .

Cauchy's first 'Mémoire' (1814/1827)



Cited Laplace's concerns about the solution of integrals by “the passage from the real to the imaginary”

First part: evaluation of improper integrals, such as

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\cos x}{1+x^2} dx = \frac{\pi}{e}$$

Noted Cauchy–Riemann equations in passing (as had d'Alembert and Euler) as general useful property of analytic functions, rather than fundamental feature of the theory

Complex numbers in the *Cours d'analyse* (1821)

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COURS D'ANALYSE.

toute expression symbolique de la forme

$$a + \zeta \sqrt{-1},$$

a , ζ désignant deux quantités réelles; et l'on dit que deux expressions imaginaires

$$a + \zeta \sqrt{-1}, \quad \gamma + \delta \sqrt{-1}$$

sont *égales* entre elles, lorsqu'il y a égalité de part et d'autre, 1.^o entre les parties réelles a et γ , 2.^o entre les coefficients de $\sqrt{-1}$, savoir, ζ et δ . L'égalité de deux expressions imaginaires s'indique, comme celle de deux quantités réelles, par le signe =; et il en résulte ce qu'on appelle une *équation imaginaire*. Cela posé, toute équation imaginaire n'est que la représentation symbolique de deux équations entre quantités réelles. Par exemple, l'équation symbolique

$$a + \zeta \sqrt{-1} = \gamma + \delta \sqrt{-1}$$

équivalant seule aux deux équations réelles

$$a = \gamma, \quad \zeta = \delta.$$

Lorsque, dans l'expression imaginaire

$$a + \zeta \sqrt{-1},$$

le coefficient ζ de $\sqrt{-1}$ s'évanouit, le terme $\zeta \sqrt{-1}$ est censé réduit à zéro, et l'expression elle-même à la quantité réelle a . En vertu de cette convention, les expressions imaginaires comprennent, comme cas particuliers, les quantités réelles.

Les expressions imaginaires peuvent être sou-

Defined as “symbolic expressions”

$$a + b\sqrt{-1}$$

55-page development of formal definitions and properties

Consideration of multi-functions — which are the most natural branches to take?

Sought to extend ideas for real functions to the complex case, particularly those relating to power series and convergence

Cauchy's second 'Mémoire' (1825)

'Mémoire sur les intégrales définies, prises entre des limites imaginaires'

Direct adaptation of definition of real integral to the complex case:

$$\int_{x_0 + y_0\sqrt{-1}}^{X + Y\sqrt{-1}} f(z) dz$$

is the limit (or one of the limits) of a sum of products of the form

$$\sum (x_{i-1} + y_{i-1}\sqrt{-1}) f(x_{i-1} + y_{i-1}\sqrt{-1}).$$

NB. No explicit definition of a function of a complex variable; tacit assumption of differentiability, hence that the Cauchy–Riemann equations hold.

Contour integration

In any domain where the function does not become infinite, the value of a complex integral is independent of the path along which it is taken.

Cauchy: consider two different paths within the rectangle (x_0, y_0) , (X, Y) such that the function $f(x + y\sqrt{-1})$ does not become infinite for values of x, y lying within the domain enclosed by the paths. Then the value of the integral $\int_{x_0+y_0\sqrt{-1}}^{X+Y\sqrt{-1}} f(z) dz$ is independent of the path taken.

Really a theorem about real functions in the plane?

(Gauss had discovered this in 1811, alongside a similar definition of a complex integral, but did not publish.)

Contour integration

For the case where $f(x + y\sqrt{-1})$ becomes infinite at the point $x = a, y = b$, Cauchy considered the limit

$$f := \lim_{\substack{x \rightarrow a \\ y \rightarrow b}} \left(x - a + (y - b)\sqrt{-1} \right) f \left(x + y\sqrt{-1} \right),$$

and determined that the difference between the integrals of f along different paths that are infinitely close to each other as well as to (a, b) is $2\pi f\sqrt{-1}$.

With a natural extension of this result for multiple and/or higher-order singularities, this became an ancestor of **Cauchy's residue theorem** — developed as part of Cauchy's **calculus of residues** in a paper of 1826 ('Sur un nouveau genre de calcul').

Taylor's Theorem for complex analytic functions

In *Cours d'analyse* (1821), Cauchy had considered the notion of radius of convergence for both real and imaginary power series.

1831: a complex function has a convergent power series if it is “finite and continuous”

Continued to refine the conditions for the theorem over many years.

Cauchy's language is not always satisfactory to modern eyes, but was considerably more rigorous than that of most of his contemporaries.

1841: extension to negative powers — Laurent's Theorem.

Cauchy's complex analysis

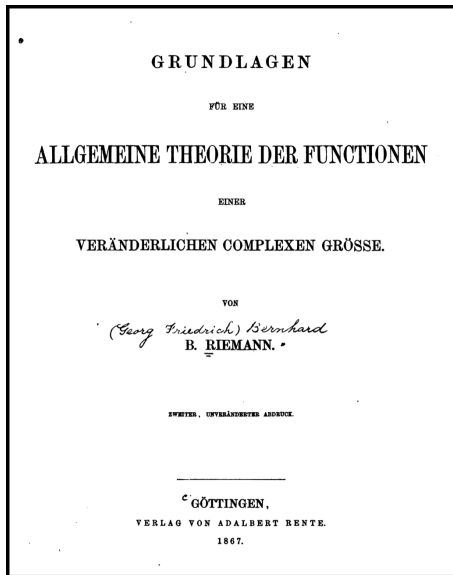
Cauchy's ideas concerning complex functions developed over many years. In the early stages

- ▶ did he appreciate the fundamental nature of the concepts and results that he was using and deriving?
- ▶ did he recognise the subtleties of working with complex numbers rather than simply with pairs of real numbers?

Have historians of mathematics read too much into the earlier work on the basis of what came later?

Point to note: Cauchy may be credited with many of the fundamental ideas of complex analysis, **but this does not mean that they appeared fully-formed.**

Riemann on complex analysis



Doctoral dissertation:
*Foundations for a General
Theory of Functions of a
Variable Complex Quantity*
(1851)

Started from the idea that a
complex variable should be
treated as a single quantity z

“The complex variable w is
called a function of another
complex variable z when its
variation is such that the value
of the derivative $\frac{dw}{dz}$ is
independent of the value of dz ”

That is: $\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(z+\delta) - f(z)}{\delta}$ exists

Riemann on complex analysis

— 4 —

so erhält, dass er und zwar nur dann für je zwei Werthe von dx und dy denselben Werth haben wird, wenn

$$\frac{du}{dx} = \frac{dv}{dy} \quad \text{und} \quad \frac{dv}{dx} = -\frac{du}{dy}$$

ist. Diese Bedingungen sind also hinreichend und notwendig, damit $w = u + vi$ eine Function von $z = x + yi$ sei. Für die einzelnen Glieder dieser Function fliessen aus ihnen die folgenden:

$$\frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} + \frac{d^2 u}{dy^2} = 0, \quad \frac{d^2 v}{dx^2} + \frac{d^2 v}{dy^2} = 0,$$

welche für die Untersuchung der Eigenschaften, die einem Gliede einer solchen Function einzeln betrachtet zukommen, die Grundlage bilden. Wir werden den Beweis für die wichtigsten dieser Eigenschaften einer eingehenderen Betrachtung der vollständigen Function voraufgeben lassen, zuvor aber noch einige Punkte, welche allgemeineren Gebieten angehören, erörtern und festlegen, um uns den Boden für jene Untersuchungen zu ebenen.

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5.

Für die folgenden Betrachtungen beschränken wir die Veränderlichkeit der Grössen x, y auf ein endliches Gebiet, indem wir als Ort des Punktes O nicht mehr die Ebene A selbst, sondern eine über dieselbe ausgebreitete Fläche T betrachten. Wir wählen diese Einkleidung, bei der es unanständig sein wird, von aufeinander liegenden Flächen zu reden, um die Möglichkeit offen zu lassen, dass der Ort des Punktes O über denselben Theil der Ebene sich mehrfach erstrecke; setzen jedoch für einen solchen Fall voraus, dass die auf einander liegenden Flächenstücke nicht längs einer Linie zusammenhängen, so dass eine Umfaltung der Fläche, oder eine Spaltung in auf einander liegende Theile nicht vorkommt.

Die Anzahl der in jedem Theile der Ebene auf einander liegenden Flächenstücke ist alsdann vollkommen bestimmt, wenn die Begrenzung der Lage und dem Sinne nach (d. h. ihre innere und äussere Seite) gegeben ist; ihr Verlauf kann sich jedoch noch verschieden gestalten.

In der That, ziehen wir durch den von der Fläche bedeckten Theil der Ebene eine beliebige Linie l , so ändert sich die Anzahl der über einander liegenden Flächenstücke nur beim Ueberschreiten der Begrenzung, und zwar beim Uebertritt von Aussen nach Innen um $+1$, im entgegengesetzten Falle um -1 , und ist also überall bestimmt. Längs des Ufers dieser Linie setzt sich nun jeder angrenzende Flächenstück auf ganz bestimmte Art fort, so lange die Linie die Begrenzung nicht trifft, da eine Unbestimmtheit jedenfalls nur in einem einzelnen Punkte und also entweder in einem Punkte der Linie selbst oder in einer endlichen Entfernung von derselben Statt hat; wir können daher, wenn wir unsere Betrachtung auf einen im Innern der Fläche verlaufenden Theil der Linie l und zu beiden Seiten auf einen hinreichend kleinen Flächenstreifen beschränken, von bestimmten angrenzenden Flächenstücken reden, deren Anzahl auf jeder Seite gleich ist, und die wir, indem wir der Linie eine bestimmte Richtung beilegen, auf der Linken mit a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n , auf der Rechten mit a'_1, a'_2, \dots, a'_n bezeichnen. Jeder Flächenstück a wird sich dann in einem der Flächenstücke a' fortsetzen; dieser wird zwar im Allgemeinen für den ganzen Lauf der Linie l derselbe sein, kann sich jedoch für besondere Lagen von l in einem ihrer Punkte ändern. Nehmen wir an, dass oberhalb eines solchen Punktes σ (d. h.

Cauchy–Riemann equations now taken as fundamental to the theory

Other key concepts appear explicitly:

- ▶ harmonic functions;
- ▶ conformality (a complex function preserves angles wherever its derivative does not vanish);
- ▶ ...

Early impact limited by abstraction and restricted publication

The word 'analytic'

The words **analysis**, **analytic** have had many meanings:

- Classical: a method of investigating a problem, the opposite of synthesis
- c. 1600: algebra became known as the 'analytic art' or just 'analysis', using finite equations
- 1669: Newton introduced 'analysis with infinite equations', that is, infinite series
- 1748: Euler wrote on the analysis of infinitely large and infinitely small quantities
- 1790–1840: in sections of journals, the Académie des Sciences, etc., **Analyse** could mean 'pure mathematics' though with a bias to algebra, calculus, etc.; compare **Géométrie** also meaning 'pure mathematics', but with (perhaps) spatial bias
- 1821: Cauchy's **cours d'analyse** shows similarities with our analysis courses today

What *is* an analytic function?

Lagrange, 1797: function is **analytic** if it has a power-series expansion

Cauchy's point of departure, 1814–1831: treated complex functions that are continuous and satisfy the Cauchy–Riemann equations (always true for analytic functions in the sense of Lagrange), but used no special terminology

Riemann, 1851: switched focus to complex functions for which $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(z+h) - f(z)}{h}$ exists in the region of interest

Weierstrass, 1860s: applied Lagrange's term **analytic** to Riemann's conception of function

Oxford, 2018: we follow Riemann and Weierstrass, by using the words **holomorphic**, **meromorphic**, etc. as variants of **analytic**, with slightly different meanings