



GeoGebra + Complex Number Arithmetic: Implementing CCSSM

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Objectives

- Develop a **rich, meaningful, and connected framework** for understanding complex numbers for teachers/students/learners.
- Use technology appropriately.



CCSS-Mathematics

High School Conceptual Category: Number and Quantity

Domain: The Complex Number System

Clusters:

- **Perform arithmetic operations with complex numbers.**
- **Represent complex numbers and their operations on the complex plane.**
- Use complex numbers in polynomial identities and equations.




Table of Results In Complex Number Interpretation from Future Math Teachers in Junior Year Geometry Course (Similar results for Inservice Teachers)

Computation	Percent Success	Percent Graph
Add: $(2+3i) + (4+2i)$	100	50
Subtract: $(5+4i) - (3+2i)$	87	25
Multiply: $(2+3i) * 2i$	87	0
Divide: $(4+6i)/2i$	50	0

Standards

1. Know there is a complex number i such that $i^2 = -1$, and every complex number has the form $a + bi$ with a and b real.





In a prior life:

- Before the *1980 Agenda for Action* or the *1989 NCTM Standards*, a common method was to tell students the following:

$$i = \sqrt{-1}$$

$$i^2 = -1$$

$$i^3 = -i$$

$$i^4 = 1$$

And every complex number has the form $a + bi$ where a and b are real.

Before-

- To add complex numbers, add the real parts, the a 's together and the b 's together.

$$(a_1 + b_1i) + (a_2 + b_2i) = (a_1 + a_2) + (b_1 + b_2)i$$

- To multiply complex numbers, FOIL

$$(a_1 + b_1i)(a_2 + b_2i) = (a_1a_2) + (a_1b_2)i + (b_1a_2)i + (b_1b_2)i^2$$



Standards

5. (+) Represent addition, subtraction, multiplication, and conjugation of complex numbers **geometrically on the complex plane**; use properties of this representation for computation.

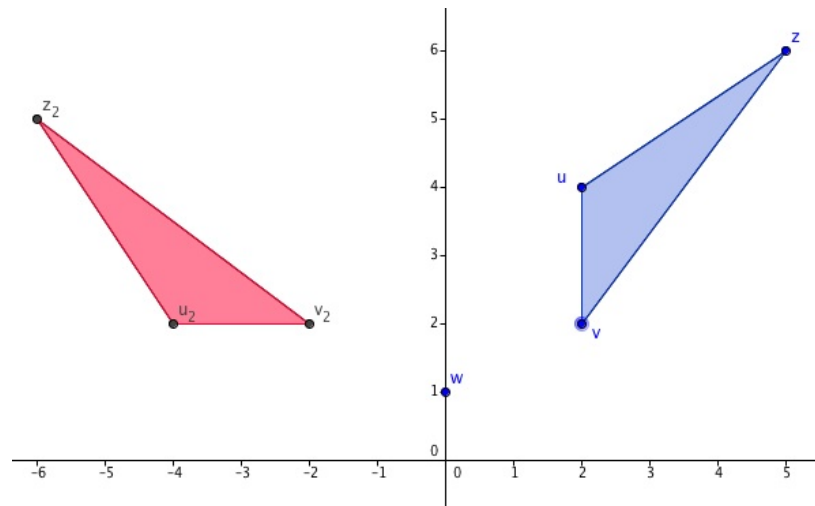




GeoGebra

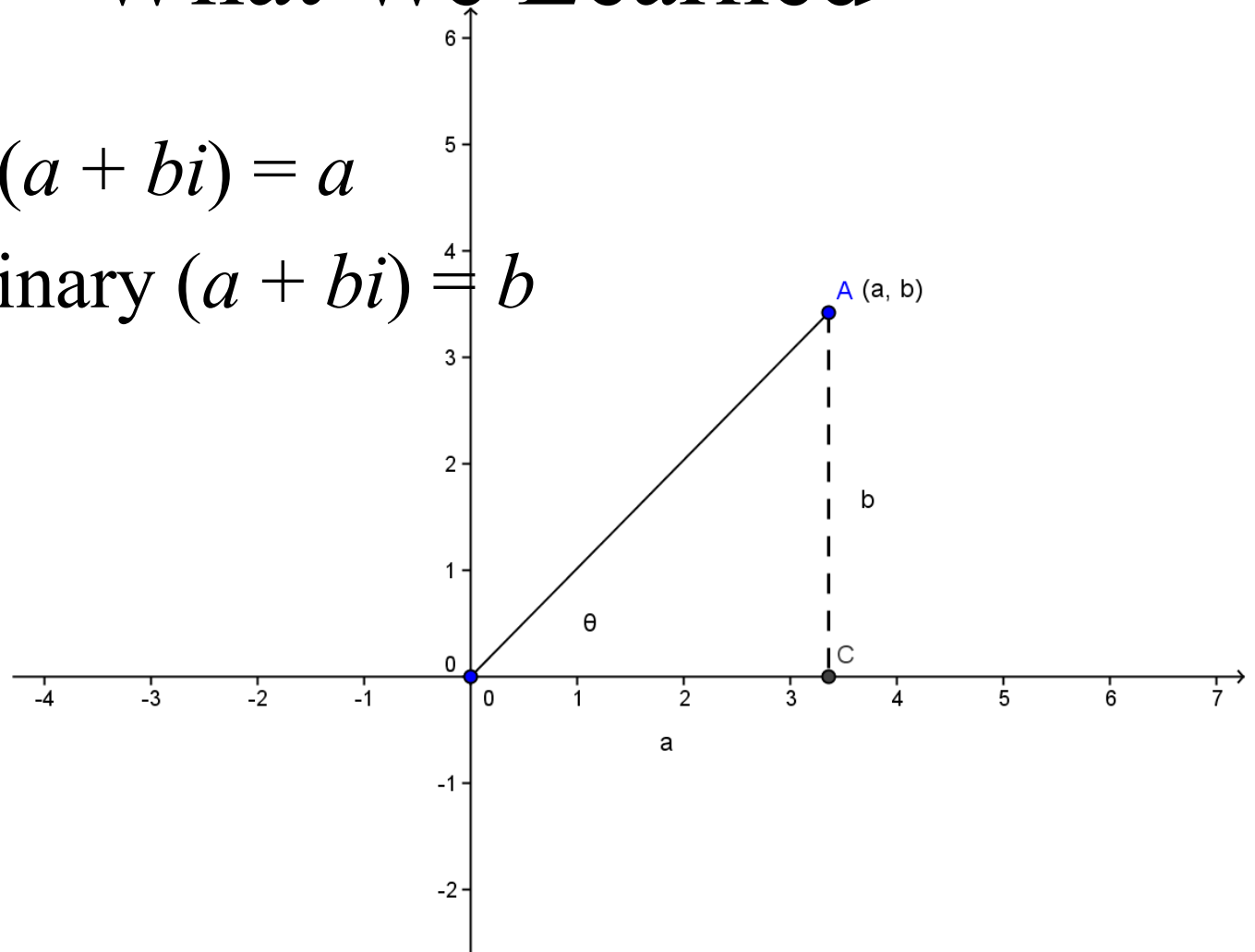
free application software from geogebra.org

How could we **transform** the blue triangle into the red triangle?



What We Learned

- Real $(a + bi) = a$
- Imaginary $(a + bi) = b$



What We Learned

Let $m = |a + bi|$ and $n = |c + di|$. Also, let
 $\theta = \arg(a + bi)$ and $\varphi = \arg(c + di)$.

$$(a + bi) \times (c + di) = m \cdot n \operatorname{cis}(\theta + \varphi)$$

$$(a + bi) \div (c + di) = m/n \operatorname{cis}(\theta - \varphi)$$



Geometric effects of complex multiplication

- Multiplying z by w scales the modulus of z by a factor of $|w|$ and increases the argument of z by $\arg(w)$ radians (counterclockwise).
- Definition: A *dilation* of a polygon is the uniform scaling of the sides of a polygon.
- Definition: A *rotation* is a uniform radial reorientation of the vertices of a polygon.



Geometric effects of complex arithmetic

- Definition: Two geometric shapes are *similar* provided that one can be obtained from the other by dilation, possibly with additional translation, rotation and reflection.
- Definition: Two geometric shapes are *congruent* provided that one can be transformed into the other by an isometry, i.e., a combination of translations, rotations and reflections, i.e. no dilation allowed.



Questions

