Lesson 17: The Geometric Effect of Multiplying by a Reciprocal

Student Outcomes

- Students apply their knowledge to understand that multiplication by the reciprocal provides the inverse geometric operation to a rotation and dilation.
- Students understand the geometric effects of multiple operations with complex numbers.

Lesson Notes

This lesson explores the geometric effect of multiplication by the reciprocal to construct a transformation that undoes multiplication. In this lesson, students verify that the transformation of multiplication by the reciprocal produces the same result geometrically as it does algebraically. This lesson ties together the work of Lessons 13–15 on linear transformations of the form $L: \mathbb{C} \to \mathbb{C}$ by L(z) = wz for a complex number w, and all such linear transformations having the geometric effect of rotation by $\arg(w)$ and dilation by |w| to the work done in Lessons 6 and 7 on complex number division. In later lessons, when matrices are used to define transformations, we will revisit these and extend these topics. This lesson relies upon the foundational standards **G-CO.A.2**, **G-CO.A.4**, and **G.CO.A.5**, and strengthens student understanding of **N-CN.A.3**, **N-CN.B.4**, and **N-CN.B.5**.

This lesson is structured as a series of exploratory challenges that are scaffolded to allow students to make sense of the connections between algebraic operations with complex numbers and the corresponding transformations. The lesson concludes with students considering all the operations (and their related transformations) together and working with combinations of operations and describing them as a series of transformations of a complex number. In the Problem Set, students connect the work of this module back to linear transformations that they studied in Lessons 1 and 2.

Classwork

Opening (2 minutes)

Ask students to brainstorm real-world operations that 'undo' each other. For example, putting your shoes on and taking them off. Have each student briefly share ideas with their group mates. Next, have them think of mathematical operations that 'undo' each other. For example, division by 3 will 'undo' multiplication by 3. Remind students that we often use the word 'inverse' when talking about operations that undo each other. During this lesson, be sure to correct students that confuse the words opposite, reciprocal, and inverse.

Scaffolding:

Use these concrete examples to scaffold the opening as needed for your students:

In x + 2 how do you 'undo' adding 2? You would subtract 2. x + 2 - 2 = x

In 5x, how do you 'undo' multiplication by 5?

You would divide by 5.

$$\frac{5x}{5} = x$$

In x^3 , how do you undo the operation of cubing?

You would take the cube root.

 $\sqrt[3]{x^3} = x$



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Opening Exercise (3 minutes)

Students will be working with this complex number in the subsequent Exploratory Challenge. If students struggle to find the argument and modulus of 1 + i in this exercise, take time to review notation and methods for determining the argument of a complex number written in rectangular form. All the actual complex numbers in this lesson will correspond to 'friendly' rotations such as $\frac{\pi}{4}$, $\frac{\pi}{3}$, $\frac{\pi}{2}$, etc.

Opening Exercise

Given w = 1 + i. What is $\arg(w)$ and |w|? Explain how you got your answer.

 $\arg(w) = \frac{\pi}{4}$ and $|w| = \sqrt{2}$. I used the formula $|w| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$ to determine the modulus and since the point (1,1) lies along a ray from the origin that has been rotated 45° from the ray through the origin that contains the real number 1, the argument must be $\frac{n}{4}$.

Exploratory Challenge 1/Exercises 1–9 (10 minutes)

Students should complete the next nine exercises in small groups of 3-4 students. As teams work on these problems, circulate around the room to monitor progress. Some groups may get stuck on Question 3. Since we defined the argument of a complex number on an interval $0 \le \arg(z) < 2\pi$ students will need to figure a positive rotation on this interval that will be equivalent to $-\arg(z)$. You can lead a whole-class discussion at this point if needed before moving the groups on to complete the rest of the exercises in this Exploratory Challenge. After Exercise 6, have one or two students report out their group's response to this item.

Exploratory Challenge 1/Exercises 1-9 Describe the geometric effect of the transformation L(z) = (1 + i)z. 1. The transformation rotates the complex number about the origin through 45° and dilates the number by a scale factor of $\sqrt{2}$. Describe a way to undo the effect of the transformation L(z) = (1 + i)z. 2. Geometrically, we need to rotate in the opposite direction, -45° , and dilate by a factor of 1 $\sqrt{2}$ 3. Given that $0 \le \arg(z) < 2\pi$ for any complex number, how could you describe any clockwise rotation of θ as an argument of a complex number? $\arg(z) = 2\pi - \theta$ would result in the same rotation as a clockwise rotation of θ . 4. Write a complex number in polar form that describes a rotation and dilation that will undo multiplication by (1 + i), and then convert it to rectangular form.

 $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\cos(315^{\circ}) + i\sin(315^{\circ})\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + i \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}i$

Scaffolding:

Throughout this lesson students will be working with friendly rotations and using their knowledge of special right triangles and proportional reasoning. In your classroom, display prominent visual reminders such as drawings of special triangles (see Lesson 12 of this module), a unit circle with benchmark rotations labeled in degrees and radians (see Algebra II Module 2), etc.



Work with specific angle measures to help struggling students understand the answer to Exercise 3.

Name a positive and negative rotation that take a ray from the origin containing the real number 1 through each point.

$$(1,1) (0,2) (-1,\sqrt{3}) (-3,0) (-2,-2)$$



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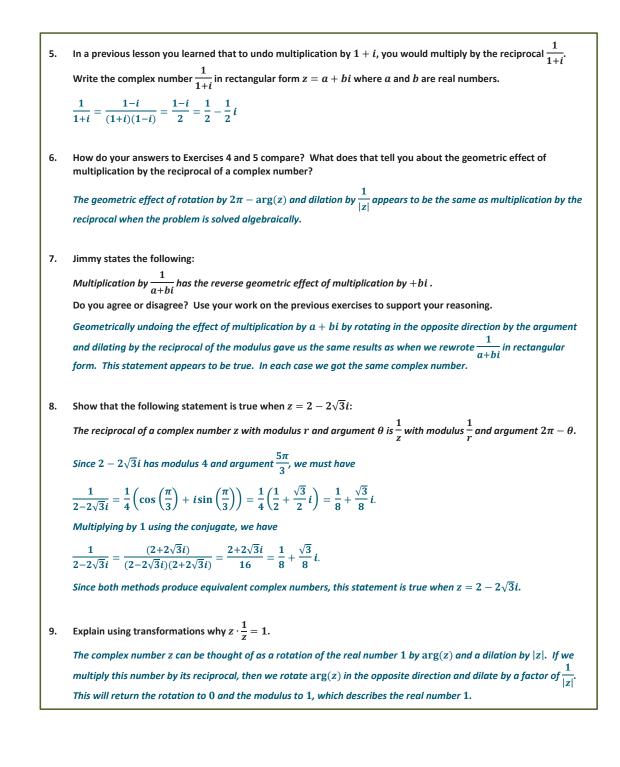
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Debrief this section by making sure that students are clear on the geometric effect of multiplication by the reciprocal of a complex number. Explain that this allows us to understand division of complex numbers as transformations as well. A proof that the geometric effect of multiplication by the reciprocal is the same as $\frac{1}{a+bi}$ is provided below.

Let $a + bi = r(\cos(\theta) + i\sin(\theta))$. Then a complex number whose modulus is $\frac{1}{r}$ and whose argument is $2\pi - \theta$ would be $\frac{1}{r}(\cos(2\pi - \theta) + i\sin(2\pi - \theta))$. We need to show that

$$\frac{1}{a+bi} = \frac{1}{r(\cos(\theta) + i\sin(\theta))}$$

is equivalent to $\frac{1}{r}(\cos(2\pi-\theta)+i\sin(2\pi-\theta)).$

$$\frac{1}{a+bi} = \frac{1}{r(\cos(\theta)+i\sin(\theta))}$$
$$= \frac{1}{r(\cos(\theta)+i\sin(\theta))} \cdot \frac{r(\cos(\theta)-i\sin(\theta))}{r(\cos(\theta)-i\sin(\theta))}$$
$$= \frac{r(\cos(\theta)-i\sin(\theta))}{r^2(\cos^2(\theta)-i^2\sin^2(\theta))}$$
$$= \frac{1}{r} \cdot \frac{(\cos(\theta)-i\sin(\theta))}{\cos^2(\theta)+\sin^2(\theta)}$$

By the Pythagorean Identity,

$$\frac{1}{a+bi} = \frac{1}{r}(\cos(\theta) - i\sin(\theta))$$

By using identities $\cos(-\theta) = \cos(\theta)$ and $\sin(-\theta) = -\sin(\theta)$ and $\cos(2\pi - \theta) = \cos(-\theta)$ and $\sin(2\pi - \theta) = \sin(-\theta)$, we substitute to get

$$\frac{1}{a+bi} = \frac{1}{r}(\cos(2\pi-\theta) + i\sin(2\pi-\theta))$$

Exploratory Challenge 2/Exercise 10 (15 minutes)

This second challenge is a culminating activity that gives students the opportunity to review all the transformations and operations on complex numbers studied in this Module. Students should continue working in groups on this activity. After groups have completed the graphic organizer, you may invite representatives from the different groups to summarize their findings one row per group. If time is an issue, you may have each group work on only one row. Depending on the size of your class, more than one group may be assigned the same row. Have students prepare and present a poster summarizing their work on their assigned operation. While each group is presenting, students can take notes.

In this section, students are making connections between the algebraic structure of complex numbers and the related

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geometric representations and transformations, which is MP.2 and MP.7.

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Scaffolding:

As an alternative to presenting this proof, have students verify the geometric effect of multiplying by the reciprocal of a complex number with specific examples.

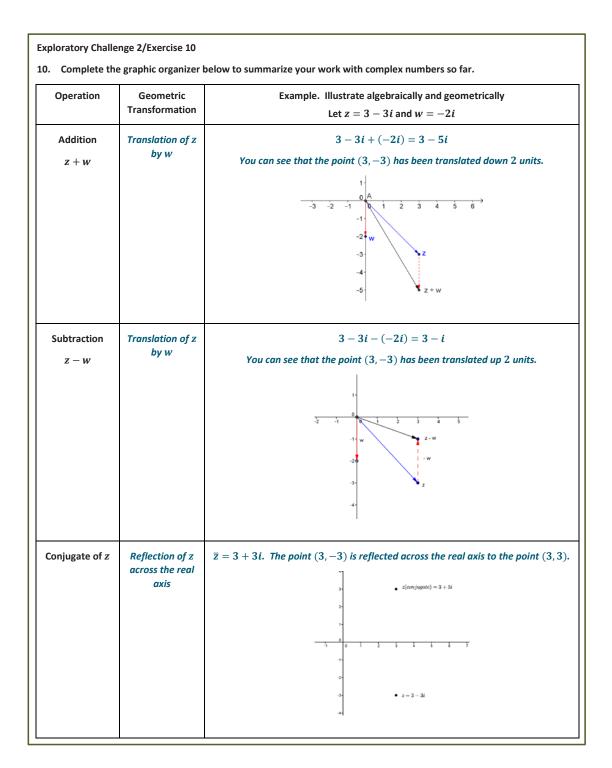
• Let z = 2 + 2i. For each number below find $\frac{z}{w}$.

$$w = 1 - i$$
$$w = 3i$$
$$w = -4 - 4i$$
$$w = -5$$



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Multiplication W · Z	Rotation of z by arg(w) followed by dilation by a factor of w	$\arg(w) = \frac{3\pi}{2} \text{ and } w = 2. \text{ Thus, } wz \text{ is } 3 - 3i \text{ rotated } \frac{3\pi}{2} \text{ and dilated by a}$ factor of 2. $3 - 3i = 3\sqrt{2} \left(\cos\left(\frac{7\pi}{4}\right) + i \sin\left(\frac{7\pi}{4}\right) \right) \text{ so the new modulus will be } 6\sqrt{2} \text{ and the}$ new argument will be a number between 0 and 2π that corresponds to a rotation of $\frac{7\pi}{4} + \frac{3\pi}{2} = \frac{13\pi}{4}$. The argument would be $\frac{5\pi}{4}$. $-2i(3 - 3i) = -6i - 6 = -6 - 6i \text{ that does indeed have modulus } 6\sqrt{2} \text{ and}$ argument $\frac{5\pi}{4}$.
Reciprocal of z	Rotates the real number 1 the opposite rotation of z and a dilation by the reciprocal of the modulus of z	$3 - 3i \text{ is a rotation of } \frac{7\pi}{4} \text{ and a dilation by } 3\sqrt{2} \text{ of the real number 1. The}$ $reciprocal \text{ would be rotation of } -\frac{7\pi}{4} \text{ and a dilation by } \frac{1}{3\sqrt{2}}. \text{ The argument of the}$ $reciprocal \text{ would be } \frac{\pi}{4} \text{ and the modulus would be } \frac{\sqrt{2}}{6}.$ $\frac{1}{3-3i} = \frac{3+3i}{(3-3i)(3+3i)} = \frac{3+3i}{18} = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6}i \text{ with } \arg(z) = \frac{\pi}{4} \text{ and } z = \frac{1}{6}\sqrt{2}$
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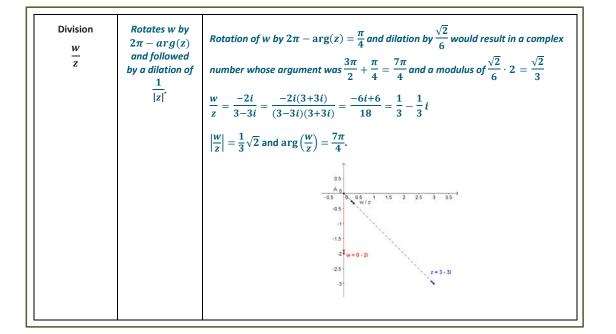
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Exercises 11–13 (7 minutes)

Students should work on these problems with a partner. Ask each student to explain one problem to their partner to check for understanding. Then, invite one or two students to share their results on the board.

Exercises 11–13 Let z = -1 + i and let w = 2i. Describe each complex number as a transformation of z and then write the number in rectangular form. 11. $w\overline{z}$ z is reflected across the real axis, then that number is rotated by $\arg(w)$ and dilated by |w|. $\arg(z) = \frac{3\pi}{4}$ and $|z| = \sqrt{2}$. $\arg(\overline{z}) = \frac{5\pi}{4}$ with the same modulus as z. Rotation by $\arg(w) = \frac{\pi}{2}$ and dilation by 2 would give a complex number with argument of $\frac{5\pi}{4} + \frac{\pi}{2} = \frac{7\pi}{4}$ and modulus of $2\sqrt{2}$ which is the modulus and argument of the number shown below. $w\overline{z} = 2i(-1-i) = 2-2i$.

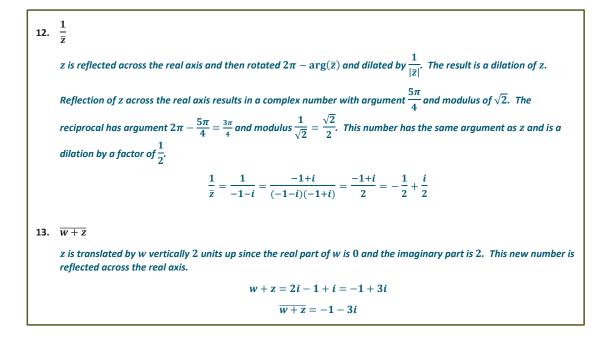






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Closing (3 minutes)

The graphic organizer students made in Exploratory Challenge 2 will function as a summary for this lesson. Invite students to answer the following questions in writing or to discuss them with a partner.

- What is the geometric effect of complex number division (multiplication of z by 1/w)?
 - The number z is rotated $2\pi \arg(w)$ and dilated by $\frac{1}{|w|}$
- How are the modulus and argument of the complex number 1/z related to the complex number z?
 - The modulus of $\frac{1}{2}$ is $\frac{1}{r}$ and the argument of $\frac{1}{2}$ is $2\pi \arg(z)$, which is the same as rotation of $-\arg(z)$.

Exit Ticket (5 minutes)



If needed you may make the closing questions more concrete by specifying specific complex numbers for z and w.

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Exit Ticket

Let $z = 1 + \sqrt{3}i$ and $w = \sqrt{3} - i$. Describe each complex number as a transformation of z, and then write the number in rectangular form and identify its modulus and argument.

1. $\frac{z}{w}$

2. $\frac{1}{wz}$



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Exit Ticket Sample Solutions

Let $z = 1 + \sqrt{3}i$ and $w = \sqrt{3} - i$. Describe each complex number as a transformation of z, and then write the number in rectangular form and identify its modulus and argument. 1. z is rotated by $-\arg(w)$ and dilated by $\frac{1}{|w|}$. $\arg(z) = \frac{\pi}{3}$ and $2\pi - \arg(w) = 2\pi - \frac{11\pi}{6} = \frac{\pi}{6}$. So, division by w should rotate z to $\frac{\pi}{2}$. |z| = 2 and $\frac{1}{|w|} = \frac{1}{2}$, so the modulus of $\frac{z}{w}$ should be $2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} = 1$. This rotation and dilation describe the complex number *i*. Algebraically, we get the same number. $\frac{z}{w} = \frac{1 + \sqrt{3}i}{\sqrt{3} - i} = \frac{1 + \sqrt{3}i}{\sqrt{3} - i} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3} + i}{\sqrt{3} + i} = \frac{4i}{4} = i$ $\frac{1}{wz}$ 2. z is rotated $\arg(w)$ and dilated by |w| then rotated $-\arg(wz)$ and dilated by $\frac{1}{|wz|}$. For the given values of z and w, this transformation results in a dilation of w by a factor of $\frac{1}{4}$. $\arg(z) = \frac{\pi}{3}$ and $\arg(w) = \frac{11\pi}{6}$. Adding these arguments and finding an equivalent rotation between 0 and 2π gives a rotation of $\frac{\pi}{6}$ and $|wz| = 2 \cdot 2 = 4$. This describes the complex number $2\sqrt{3} + 2i$. The reciprocal of this number has argument $\frac{11\pi}{6}$ and modulus $\frac{1}{4}$, which describes the complex number $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{8} - \frac{1}{8}i$. $\frac{1}{wz} = \frac{1}{(\sqrt{3}-i)(1+\sqrt{3}i)} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}+2i} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}+2i} \cdot \frac{2\sqrt{3}-2i}{2\sqrt{3}-2i} = \frac{2\sqrt{3}-2i}{16} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{8} - \frac{1}{8}i$

Problem Set Sample Solutions

 Describe the geometric effect of multiplying z by the reciprocal of each complex number listed below.
 a. w₁ = 3i arg(w₁) = π/2 and |w₁| = 3 z is rotated by 2π - arg(w₁), which is 2π - π/2 = 3π/2 and dilated by 1/3.
 w₂ = -2 arg(w₂) = π and |w₂| = 2 z is rotated by 2π - arg(w₂), which is 2π - π = π and dilated by 1/2.



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c.
$$w_3 = \sqrt{3} + t$$

 $\arg(w_3) = \frac{\pi}{6} \text{ and } |w_3| = 2$
 $z \text{ is rotated by } 2\pi - \arg(w_3), \text{ which is } $2\pi - \frac{\pi}{6} = \frac{11\pi}{6} \text{ and dilated by } \frac{1}{2}.$
d. $w_4 = 1 - \sqrt{3}t$
 $\arg(w_4) = \frac{5\pi}{6} \text{ and } |w_4| = 2$
 $z \text{ is rotated by } 2\pi - \arg(w_4), \text{ which is } $2\pi - (\frac{5\pi}{3}) = \frac{\pi}{3} \text{ and dilated by } \frac{1}{2}.$
2. Let $z = -2 - 2\sqrt{3}t$. Show that the geometric transformations you described in Problem 1 really produce the correct complex number by performing the indicated operation and determining the argument and modulus of each number.
a. $\frac{-2-2\sqrt{3}t}{w_1} = \frac{-2-2\sqrt{3}t}{3t} = \frac{-2-2\sqrt{3}t}{-3t} = \frac{-6\sqrt{3}+6t}{-3t} = -\frac{2\sqrt{3}}{3} + \frac{2}{3}t, \left|\frac{z}{w_1}\right| = \frac{4}{3}, \arg\left(\frac{z}{w_1}\right) = \frac{5\pi}{6}.$
 $|z| = 4$, so the result of division is a complex number whose modulus $t\frac{1}{3}$ of 4.
 $\arg(z) = \frac{4\pi}{3}$, so the result of division by a complex number is whose argument represents the same rotation $\cos \frac{4\pi}{3} + \frac{3\pi}{2} = \frac{17\pi}{6}$, which would be $\frac{5\pi}{6}$.
b. $\frac{-2-2\sqrt{3}t}{w_2}$
 $\frac{z}{w_2} = -\frac{2-2\sqrt{3}t}{-2} = 1 + \sqrt{3}t, \left|\frac{z}{w_2}\right| = 2, \arg\left(\frac{z}{w_2}\right) = \frac{\pi}{3}$
 $|z| = 4 \text{ and } \frac{1}{2} \text{ of } 4 \text{ is } 2.$
 $\arg(z) = \frac{4\pi}{3}$, so the result of division will rotate z by $-\frac{\pi}{2}$ and $\frac{4\pi}{3} - \frac{\pi}{2} = \frac{\pi}{3}$.
c. $\frac{-2-2\sqrt{3}t}{w_3} = \frac{-2\sqrt{3}-4t}{4} = -\frac{2\sqrt{3}-4t}{4} = -\sqrt{3} - t, \left|\frac{z}{w_3}\right| = 2, \arg\left(\frac{z}{w_3}\right) = \frac{7\pi}{6}$
 $|z| = 4 \text{ and } \frac{1}{2} \text{ of } 4 \text{ is } 2.$
 $\arg(z) = \frac{4\pi}{3}$, so the result of division will rotate z by $-\frac{\pi}{6}$ and $\frac{4\pi}{3} - \frac{\pi}{6} = \frac{7\pi}{6}$.$$

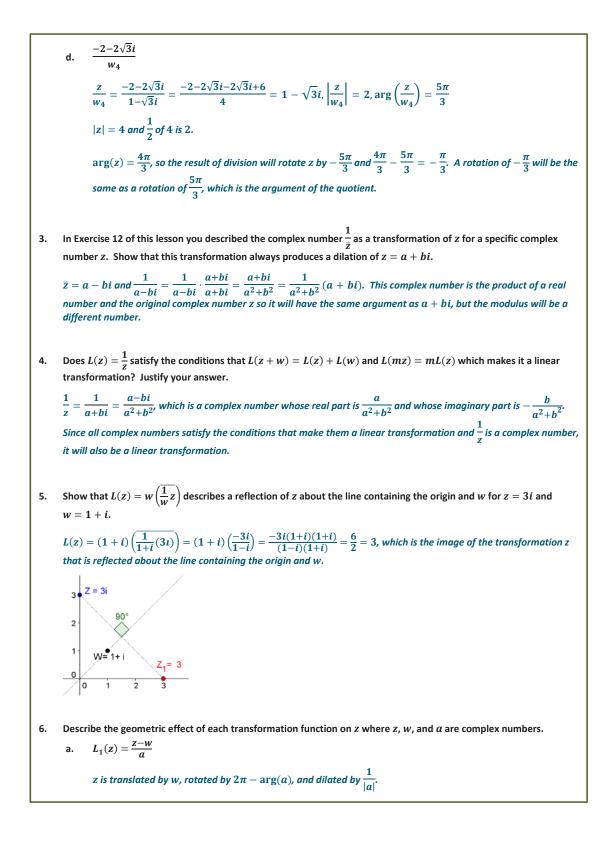
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b. $L_2(z) = \overline{\left(\frac{z-w}{a}\right)}$ z is translated by w, reflected about the real axis, rotated by $2\pi - \arg(a)$, and dilated by $\frac{1}{|a|}$ and reflected about the real axis. c. $L_3(z) = a \overline{\left(\frac{z-w}{a}\right)}$ z is translated by w, reflected about the real axis, rotated by $2\pi - \arg(a)$, and dilated by $\frac{1}{|a|}$, reflected about the real axis, rotated by arg(a), and dilated by |a|d. $L_3(z) = a \overline{\left(\frac{z-w}{a}\right)} + w$ z is translated by w, reflected about the real axis, rotated by $2\pi - \arg(a)$, and dilated by $\frac{1}{|a|'}$ reflected about the real axis, rotated by $\arg(a)$, dilated by |a|, and translated by w. Verify your answers to Problem 6 if z = 1 - i, w = 2i, and a = -1 - i. 7. $L_1(z) = \frac{z-w}{a}$ a. $|z| = \sqrt{2}, \arg(z) = \frac{7\pi}{4}, |w| = 2, \arg(w) = \pi, |a| = \sqrt{2}, \arg(a) = \frac{5\pi}{4} = 3.927$ $\frac{z-w}{a} = \frac{1-i-2i}{-1-i} = \frac{1-3i}{-1-i} = 1+2i, \left|\frac{z-w}{a}\right| = \sqrt{5}, \arg\left(\frac{z-w}{a}\right) = 1.107 \text{ radians.}$ $z - w = 1 - 3i, |z - w| = \sqrt{10}, \arg(z - w) = 5.034$ radians. $\frac{1}{|a|} \times |z - w| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \times \sqrt{10} = \sqrt{5} = \left| \frac{z - w}{a} \right|,$ $\arg\left(\frac{z-w}{a}\right) = \arg(z-w) + \left(2\pi - \arg(a)\right) = 5.034 + 2\pi - 3.927 = 1.107 + 2\pi = 1.107$ radians. b. $L_2(z) = \overline{\left(\frac{z-w}{a}\right)}$ $\overline{\left(\frac{z-w}{a}\right)} = \overline{\left(\frac{1-3i}{-1-i}\right)} = \overline{(1+2i)} = 1 - 2i, \left|\overline{\left(\frac{z-w}{a}\right)}\right| = \sqrt{5}, \arg\left(\overline{\left(\frac{z-w}{a}\right)}\right) = -1.107 \text{ radians.}$ $\overline{\left(\frac{1}{|a|}\right)} \times \overline{|z-w|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \times \sqrt{10} = \sqrt{5} = \left|\overline{\left(\frac{z-w}{a}\right)}\right|$ $\arg\left(\overline{\left(\frac{z-w}{a}\right)}\right) = 2\pi - \left(\arg(z-w) + \left(2\pi - \arg(a)\right)\right) = 2\pi - 5.034 - 2\pi + 3.927 = -1.107 \text{ radians.}$



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$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{c.} & L_{3}(z)=a\left(\overline{\frac{2-w}{a}}\right)\\ & a\times\left(\overline{\frac{2-w}{a}}\right)=(-1-i)\left(\overline{\frac{1-3i}{-1-i}}\right)=(-1-i)\overline{(1+2i)}=(-1-i)(1-2i)=-3+i,\\ & \left|a\times\left(\overline{\frac{2-w}{a}}\right)\right|=\sqrt{10}, \arg\left((-1-i)\left(\overline{\frac{2-w}{a}}\right)\right)=\pi-0.322=2.820\ radians.\\ & \left|a\right|\times\left(\overline{\frac{1}{(ai)}}\right)\times\overline{|z-w|}=\sqrt{2}\times\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\times\sqrt{10}=\sqrt{10}=\left|(-1-i)\left(\overline{\frac{2-w}{a}}\right)\right|\\ & \arg\left(a\times\left(\overline{\frac{2-w}{a}}\right)\right)=\arg(a)+\left(\arg(z-w)+\left(2\pi-\arg(a)\right)\right)\\ & = 3.927+2\pi-5.034-2\pi+3.927=2.280\ radians.\\ \text{d.} & L_{3}(z)=a\left(\overline{\frac{2-w}{a}}\right)+w\\ & a\times\left(\overline{\frac{2-w}{a}}\right)+w=(-1-i)\left(\overline{\frac{1-3i}{-1-i}}\right)+2i=-3+i+2i=-3+3i,\\ & \left|a\times\left(\overline{\frac{2-w}{a}}\right)+w\right|=3\sqrt{2},\arg\left((-1-i)\left(\overline{\frac{2-w}{a}}\right)+w\right)=\frac{3\pi}{4}=2.356\ radians.\\ & \left|a\times\left(\overline{\frac{2-w}{a}}\right)+w\right|=|-3+i+2i|=3\sqrt{2}=,\\ & \arg\left(a\times\left(\overline{\frac{2-w}{a}}\right)+w\right)=\arg(-3+i+2i)=\arg(-3+3i)=2.356\ radians. \end{array}$$





