

MATH1050 Examples: Surjectivity, injectivity, and inverse functions.

1. Let $f : [0, 9] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the function defined by $f(x) = -x + 6\sqrt{x} - 5$ for any $x \in [0, 9]$.
 - (a) Show that $f(x) = -(A - \sqrt{x})^2 + B$ for any $x \in [0, 9]$. Here A, B are some real constants whose respective values you have to determine.
 - (b) Verify that f is injective directly from the definition of injectivity.
 - (c) Is f surjective? Justify your answer directly from the definition of surjectivity.

2. Let $f : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the function defined by $f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 1}{x^2 + 1} \sin\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}\right)$ for any $x \in (0, +\infty)$.

(a) Verify that f is not injective.

- (b) i. Verify that $\left|\frac{x^2 - 1}{x^2 + 1}\right| \leq 1$ for any $x \in (0, +\infty)$.

Remark. A very simple answer can be obtained without using calculus.

ii. Apply the previous part, or otherwise, to verify that f is not surjective.

3. Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the function defined by $f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x + 5 & \text{if } x \leq -3 \\ -x & \text{if } -3 < x < 1 \\ x - 3 & \text{if } x \geq 1 \end{cases}$.

(a) Is f surjective? Why?

(b) Is f injective? Why?

4. Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the function defined by $f(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -2x & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$.

(a) Is f surjective? Why?

(b) Is f injective? Why?

5. Let $f : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the function defined by $f(x) = \begin{cases} x + 2 & \text{if } x > 0 \text{ and } x \text{ is rational} \\ 2x - 1 & \text{if } x > 0 \text{ and } x \text{ is irrational} \end{cases}$.

(a) Is f surjective? Why?

(b) Is f injective? Why?

6. Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the function defined by $f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \in \mathbb{Q} \\ x^2 & \text{if } x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q} \end{cases}$.

(a) Is f injective? Justify your answer.

(b) Is f surjective? Justify your answer.

7. Let $f, g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the functions respectively defined by $f(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \in \mathbb{Q} \\ x^3 & \text{if } x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q} \end{cases}$, $g(x) = \begin{cases} x^3 & \text{if } x \in \mathbb{Q} \\ x & \text{if } x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q} \end{cases}$.

(a) i. Is f injective? Justify your answer.

ii. Is f surjective? Justify your answer.

(b) i. Is g injective? Justify your answer.

ii. Is g surjective? Justify your answer.

8. (a) Let $A = (0, +\infty)$, and $f : A \rightarrow A$ be the function defined by $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$ for any $x \in A$.

i. Verify that f is surjective.

ii. Verify that f is injective.

- (b) Let $B = (0, +\infty) \cap \mathbb{Q}$, and $g : B \rightarrow B$ be the function defined by $g(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$ for any $x \in B$.

- i. Verify that g is not surjective.
- ii. Is g injective? Why?

9. (a) Let $f : \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1, 1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the function defined by $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2 - 1}$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1, 1\}$.

- i. Verify that f is not injective.
- ii. Verify that f is not surjective.

(b) i. Let $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1, 1\}$. Verify that $\frac{1}{1 - x^2} \in \mathbb{R} \setminus (-1, 0]$.

ii. Let $y \in \mathbb{R} \setminus (-1, 0]$. Verify that there exists some $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1, 1\}$ such that $y = \frac{1}{1 - x^2}$.

iii. Let $g : \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1, 1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \setminus (-1, 0]$ be the function defined by $g(x) = \frac{1}{x^2 - 1}$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1, 1\}$.

Is g surjective? Why?

Remark. What is the point of this question? Starting from a non-surjective function, if we ‘restrict’ its range appropriately, we will obtain a new function which is surjective. However, we need be careful not to ‘over-restrict’ it.

10. (a) Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the function defined by $f(x) = x^2 - 2x$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

- i. Is f injective? Justify your answer.
- ii. Is f surjective? Justify your answer.

(b) Verify that for any $x \in (1, +\infty)$, $x^2 - 2x > -1$.

(c) Let $g : (1, +\infty) \rightarrow (-1, +\infty)$ be the function defined by $g(x) = x^2 - 2x$ for any $x \in (1, +\infty)$.

- i. Is g injective? Justify your answer.
- ii. Is g surjective? Justify your answer.
- iii. Is g bijective? If *yes*, also write down the ‘formula of definition’ for its inverse function.

11. Let $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the function defined by $g(x) = \frac{10^x - 10^{-x}}{2}$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

- (a) Verify that g is injective.
- (b) Verify that g is surjective.
- (c) What is the ‘formula of definition’ of the function $g^{-1} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$?

Remark. There is no need to use any results from the calculus in this question.

12. (a) Prove that for any $t \in \mathbb{R}$, $0 < \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + e^{-t}}} < 1$.

(b) Denote the interval $(0, 1)$ by I . Define the function $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow I$ by $g(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + e^{-x}}}$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

- i. Verify that g is surjective, directly from the definition of surjectivity.
- ii. Verify that g is injective, directly from the definition of injectivity.
- iii. Is g bijective? If *yes*, also write down the ‘formula of definition’ for its inverse function.

13. (a) Prove that for any $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{2\}$, $\frac{3x}{x - 2} \neq 3$.

(b) Let $f : \mathbb{R} \setminus \{2\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \setminus \{3\}$ be the function defined by $f(x) = \frac{3x}{x - 2}$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{2\}$.

- i. Is f injective? Justify your answer.
- ii. Is f surjective? Justify your answer.
- iii. Is f bijective? If *yes*, also write down the ‘formula of definition’ for its inverse function.

14. Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the function defined by $f(x) = x|x|$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

- (a) Is f injective? Justify your answer.
- (b) Is f surjective? Justify your answer.
- (c) Is f bijective? If *yes*, also write down the ‘formula of definition’ for its inverse function.

15. Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the function defined by $f(x) = x\sqrt{|x|}$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$.
- Is f injective? Justify your answer.
 - Is f surjective? Justify your answer.
 - Is f bijective? If *yes*, also write down the ‘formula of definition’ for its inverse function.
16. (a) Prove that for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $-1 < \frac{x|x|}{x^2 + 1} < 1$.
- (b) Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow (-1, 1)$ be the function defined by $f(x) = \frac{x|x|}{x^2 + 1}$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$.
- Is f injective? Justify your answer.
 - Is f surjective? Justify your answer.
 - Is f bijective? If *yes*, also write down the ‘formula of definition’ for its inverse function.
17. Let $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be the function defined by $f(z) = z^2 - 6z + 13$ for any $z \in \mathbb{C}$.
- Verify that f is surjective.
 - Verify that f is not injective.
18. Let $f : \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ be the function defined by $f(z) = \frac{z^2}{\bar{z}}$ for any $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$.
- Verify that $f(z) = \frac{z^3}{|z|^2}$ for any $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$.
 - Is f injective? Justify your answer.
 - Is f surjective? Justify your answer.
19. (a) Let $f : \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the function defined by $f(x) = x + \frac{1}{x}$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$.
- Verify that f is not surjective.
 - Verify that f is not injective.
- (b) Verify that for any $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$, $\left|x + \frac{1}{x}\right| > 2$.
- (c) Let $g : \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \setminus (-2, 2)$ be the function defined by $g(x) = x + \frac{1}{x}$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$.
- Verify that g is surjective.
 - Is g injective? Why?
- (d) Let $h : \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be the function defined by $h(z) = z + \frac{1}{z}$ for any $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$.
- Verify that h is surjective.
 - Is h injective? Why?
20. Let $A = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : -\pi < \text{Im}(z) < \pi\}$, $L = \{w \in \mathbb{C} : \text{Im}(w) = 0 \text{ and } \text{Re}(w) \leq 0\}$, and $B = \mathbb{C} \setminus L$.
- Prove that for any $z \in A$, $e^{\text{Re}(z)}(\cos(\text{Im}(z)) + i \sin(\text{Im}(z))) \in B$.
 - Define the function $f : A \rightarrow B$ by $f(z) = e^{\text{Re}(z)}(\cos(\text{Im}(z)) + i \sin(\text{Im}(z)))$ for any $z \in A$.
 - Verify that f is injective.
 - Verify that f is surjective.
21. (a) Prove that for any $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{-2\}$, $\frac{z+i}{z+2} \neq 1$.
- (b) Let $f : \mathbb{C} \setminus \{-2\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \setminus \{1\}$ be the function defined by $f(z) = \frac{z+i}{z+2}$ for any $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{-2\}$.
- Prove that f is injective.
 - Prove that f is surjective.
 - What is the ‘formula of definition’ of the inverse function of f , namely, the function $f^{-1} : \mathbb{C} \setminus \{1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \setminus \{-2\}$?

22. For any $a, b \in \mathbb{C}$, define the function $f_{a,b} : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ by $f_{a,b}(z) = az + b\bar{z}$ for any $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

(a) Let $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{C}$.

i. Verify that $f_{c,d}(f_{a,b}(z)) = (ac + \bar{b}d)z + (bd + \bar{a}d)\bar{z}$ for any $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

ii. Verify that $f_{ac,bc}(z) = cf_{a,b}(z)$ for any $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

iii. Suppose $c \in \mathbb{R}$. Verify that $f_{ac,bc}(z) = f_{a,b}(cz)$ for any $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

(b) Let $a, b \in \mathbb{C}$. Prove that there exist some $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $f_{\alpha,\beta}(f_{a,b}(z)) = (|a|^2 - |b|^2)z$ for any $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

Remark. Make use of part (a.i) to find candidates for α, β .

(c) Let $a, b \in \mathbb{C}$. Suppose $|a| \neq |b|$. Prove that $f_{a,b}$ is bijective. What is the ‘formula of definition’ of the inverse function of $f_{a,b}$?

Remark. Instead of checking surjectivity and injectivity directly from definition, make use of parts (b), (a.ii), (a.iii) to write down a candidate inverse function for the function $f_{a,b}$.

(d) Let $a, b \in \mathbb{C}$. Suppose $|a| = |b|$. Is $f_{a,b}$ bijective? Justify your answer.

23. Let $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be the function defined by $f(z) = z(\operatorname{Re}(z))^2 + i\operatorname{Im}(z)$ for any $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

(a) Verify that
$$\begin{cases} \operatorname{Re}(f(z)) &= A(\operatorname{Re}(z))^M \\ \operatorname{Im}(f(z)) &= [B(\operatorname{Re}(z))^N + C] \cdot \operatorname{Im}(z) \end{cases} \quad \text{for any } z \in \mathbb{C}.$$

Here A, B, C, M, N are integers whose values you have to determine explicitly.

(b) Verify that f is injective, directly from the definition of injectivity.

(c) Verify that f is surjective, directly from the definition of surjectivity.

(d) Write down the ‘formula of definition’ of the inverse function $f^{-1} : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ of the function f .

24. (a) Let $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$, and $a \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$. Define the function $\mu : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ by $\mu(z) = az^n$ for any $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

Prove that μ is bijective iff $n = 1$.

(b) Let $h : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be the function defined by

$$h(z) = \begin{cases} iz & \text{if } |z| \in \mathbb{Q} \\ \frac{3i}{2\bar{z}} & \text{if } |z| \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q} \end{cases}.$$

i. Prove the statement below:

- For any $\zeta \in \mathbb{C}$, if $|\zeta|$ is irrational then $|h(\zeta)|$ is irrational.

ii. Prove that $h \circ h$ is a polynomial function on \mathbb{C} . Determine the explicit formula of definition for $h \circ h$ as well.

iii. Is h bijective? Justify your answer. (*Hint.* Make good use of the result in the previous part.)

25. We introduce this definition:

A monic polynomial is a polynomial whose leading coefficient is 1.

Denote by M the set of all monic quadratic polynomials with real coefficients and indeterminate x .

(a) For any $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$, denote by $p_{\alpha,\beta}(x)$ the monic quadratic polynomial $(x - \alpha)(x - \beta)$ with indeterminate x .

Define the function $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow M$ by $(\alpha, \beta) \xrightarrow{\Phi} p_{\alpha,\beta}(x)$ for any $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$.

i. Is Φ surjective? Justify your answer.

ii. Is Φ injective? Justify your answer.

(b) For any $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$, denote by $q_{\alpha,\beta}(x)$ the monic quadratic polynomial $(x - \alpha)^2 + \beta$ with indeterminate x .

Define the function $\Psi : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow M$ by $(\alpha, \beta) \xrightarrow{\Psi} q_{\alpha,\beta}(x)$ for any $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$.

i. Is Ψ surjective? Justify your answer.

ii. Is Ψ injective? Justify your answer.

26. Consider each of the statements below. For each of them, dis-prove it by constructing an appropriate counter-example.

(a) Let $f, g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be functions. Suppose f, g are injective. Then the function $h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $h(x) = f(x) + g(x)$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$ is injective.

- (b) Let $f, g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be functions. Suppose f, g are injective. Then the function $h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $h(x) = f(x) + g(x)$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$ is not injective.
- (c) Let $f, g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be functions. Suppose f, g are injective. Then the function $h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $h(x) = f(x)g(x)$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$ is injective.
- (d) Let $f, g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be functions. Suppose f, g are injective. Then the function $h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $h(x) = f(x)g(x)$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$ is not injective.
- (e) Let $f, g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be functions. Suppose f, g are surjective. Then the function $h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $h(x) = f(x) + g(x)$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$ is surjective.
- (f) Let $f, g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be functions. Suppose f, g are surjective. Then the function $h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $h(x) = f(x) + g(x)$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$ is not surjective.
- (g) Let $f, g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be functions. Suppose f, g are surjective. Then the function $h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $h(x) = f(x)g(x)$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$ is surjective.
- (h) Let $f, g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be functions. Suppose f, g are surjective. Then the function $h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $h(x) = f(x)g(x)$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$ is not surjective.

27. Let J be an open interval in \mathbb{R} . (It is assumed that J is not the empty set.) Denote by $C(J)$ the set of all real-valued continuous functions on J . Denote by $C^1(J)$ the set of all real-valued differentiable functions on J whose first derivatives are continuous functions on J .

Define the function $D : C^1(J) \rightarrow C(J)$ by $D(\varphi) = \varphi'$ for any $\varphi \in C^1(J)$.

For each $a \in J$, define the function $I_a : C(J) \rightarrow C^1(J)$ by $(I_a(\psi))(x) = \int_a^x \psi(t)dt$ for any $\psi \in C(J)$ for any $x \in J$.

- (a) i. Is the function $D : C^1(J) \rightarrow C(J)$ surjective?
 ii. Is the function $D : C^1(J) \rightarrow C(J)$ injective?
- (b) Let $a \in J$.
- i. Prove that $((I_a \circ D)(\varphi))(x) = \varphi(x) - \varphi(a)$ for any $\varphi \in C^1(J)$ for any $x \in J$.
 ii. Prove that $((D \circ I_a)(\psi))(x) = \psi(x)$ for any $\psi \in C(J)$ for any $x \in J$.
- (c) Let $a \in J$.
- i. Is the function $I_a : C(J) \rightarrow C^1(J)$ surjective?
 ii. Is the function $I_a : C(J) \rightarrow C^1(J)$ injective?
 iii. Is the function $I_a \circ D : C^1(J) \rightarrow C^1(J)$ surjective?
 iv. Is the function $I_a \circ D : C^1(J) \rightarrow C^1(J)$ injective?

28. We recall this definition from the calculus of one real variable:

- A real-valued function of one real variable is said to be **smooth** if it is differentiable for as many times as we like at every point of its domain.

Denote by $C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ the set of all smooth functions on \mathbb{R} .

Let $X : C^\infty(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ be the function defined by $(X(\varphi))(x) = x\varphi(x)$ for any $\varphi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

Let $D : C^\infty(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ be the function defined by $(D(\varphi))(x) = \varphi'(x)$ for any $\varphi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

Let $I_0 : C^\infty(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ be the function defined by $(I_0(\varphi))(x) = \int_0^x \varphi(t)dt$ for any $\varphi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

- (a) Verify that for any $\varphi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$, for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $((D \circ X)(\varphi))(x) - (X \circ D)(\varphi)(x) = \varphi(x)$.

Remark. This seemingly innocuous mathematical statement is a baby case of something of great significance in *modern physics*; it is behind the **Heisenberg relations** for position and momentum in *quantum mechanics*.

- (b) Verify that for any $\varphi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$, for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $((X \circ I_0)(\varphi))(x) - (I_0 \circ X)(\varphi)(x) = ((I_0 \circ I_0)(\varphi))(x)$.

29. In this question, you are supposed to be familiar with the notion of continuity in the calculus of one real variable. You may take for granted the validity of **Bolzano's Intermediate Value Theorem**.

- Let $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, with $a < b$, and $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function. Suppose f is continuous on $[a, b]$. Further suppose $f(a)f(b) < 0$. Then f has a zero in (a, b) .

- (a) Let $p, q, r, s, t \in \mathbb{R}$, and $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the function defined by $f(x) = x^5 + px^4 + qx^3 + rx^2 + sx + t$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

You may take for granted that f is continuous on \mathbb{R} .

Define $b = 1 + 2(|p| + |q| + |r| + |s| + |t|)$, and $a = -b$.

i. Prove that $f(b) \geq \frac{b^5}{2}$ and $f(a) \leq -\frac{b^5}{2}$.

ii. Hence apply Bolzano's Intermediate Value Theorem to deduce that f has a zero in (a, b) .

- (b) Let $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a quintic polynomial function with real coefficients. Prove that g is surjective.

Remark. Can you imitate the argument above to prove that every polynomial function with real coefficient of odd degree is a surjective function from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} ? What fails to work if you try such an argument on a polynomial function with real coefficient of even degree?

30. In this question, we are illustrating via specific examples the Cardano-Tartaglia method for finding roots of a general cubic polynomial with complex coefficients.

Let ω be a cube root of unity. Suppose $\omega \neq 1$.

- (a) Verify the 'identities' below, in which each of a, b, c may stand for a complex number or an indeterminate:

i. $a^2 + b^2 + c^2 - ab - bc - ca = (a + b\omega + c\omega^2)(a + b\omega^2 + c\omega)$.

ii. $a^3 + b^3 + c^3 - 3abc = (a + b + c)(a + b\omega + c\omega^2)(a + b\omega^2 + c\omega)$.

- (b) Consider the polynomial $f(x) = x^3 - 9x + 12$, in which x is the indeterminate.

i. Find real numbers κ, λ which satisfy $\kappa \leq \lambda$ and $\kappa^3 + \lambda^3 = 12$ and $\kappa\lambda = 3$.

ii. Hence, by factorizing $f(x)$, or otherwise, find the roots of $f(x)$ in terms of ω .

Remark. First re-express $f(x)$ in such a way that $\kappa^3, \lambda^3, \kappa\lambda$ appear explicitly.

- (c) Consider the polynomial $g(y) = y^3 + 3y^2 - 12y + 10\sqrt{5} - 14$, in which y is the indeterminate.

i. With an appropriate substitution $y = x - \alpha$, in which α is an appropriate constant, re-express $g(y)$ as $x^3 + sx + t$ in which s, t are constants.

ii. Hence find the roots of $g(y)$.

31. Let $\omega = \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{3}\right) + i \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{3}\right)$. Note that ω is one of the two cube roots of unity which are not 1.

- (a) For the moment, take for granted the validity of the statement (#) below:

(#) Let $h, k \in \mathbb{C}$. There exist some $\sigma, \tau \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $k = \sigma^3 + \tau^3$ and $h = -3\sigma\tau$.

Let $s, t \in \mathbb{C}$. Consider the polynomial $f(x) = x^3 + sx + t$ with indeterminate x . By factorizing $f(x)$, prove that the polynomial $f(x)$ has a root in \mathbb{C} .

Remark. You may need the 'identity' $a^3 + b^3 + c^3 - 3abc = (a + b + c)(a + b\omega + c\omega^2)(a + b\omega^2 + c\omega)$.

- (b) Let $p, q, r \in \mathbb{C}$. Consider the polynomial $g(y) = y^3 + py^2 + qy + r$ with indeterminate y .

i. Prove that there exists some $\alpha, s, t \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $g(y) = (y - \alpha)^3 + s(y - \alpha) + t$ as polynomials.

ii. Apply the result in the previous part to prove that the polynomial $g(y)$ has a root in \mathbb{C} .

- (c) Let $G : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a cubic polynomial function with complex coefficients. Prove that G is surjective.

- (d) We are going to prove the statement (#) here.

Let $h, k \in \mathbb{C}$. Consider the quadratic polynomial $Q(u) = u^2 - ku - \frac{h^3}{27}$ with indeterminate u . Take for granted that the roots of $Q(u)$ in \mathbb{C} are μ, ν respectively, and $Q(u) = (u - \mu)(u - \nu)$ as polynomials.

i. Verify that $\mu + \nu = k$ and $\mu\nu = -\frac{h^3}{27}$.

ii. Hence prove that there exist some $\sigma, \tau \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $\sigma^3 + \tau^3 = k$ and $\sigma\tau = -\frac{h}{3}$.

Remark. Combined together, the results described in this question tell us how we may solve arbitrary cubic polynomial equations with complex coefficients, with the help of the operations $+, -, \times, \div$ and 'taking square roots', 'taking cube roots'. This is the **Cardano-Tartaglia Method**. (But what about quartic polynomial equations? Quintic polynomial equations? You will know the answer from your *algebra* courses.)

32. We introduce/recall these definitions:

- Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. A **degree- n polynomial with complex coefficients and with indeterminate z** is an expression of the form $a_n z^n + \cdots + a_1 z + a_0$ in which $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{C}$ and $a_n \neq 0$.
- A complex-valued function of one complex variable is called a **degree- n polynomial function on \mathbb{C}** exactly when its ‘formula of definition’ is given by a degree- n polynomial with complex coefficients.
- Let $\zeta \in \mathbb{C}$, and $f(z) \equiv a_n z^n + \cdots + a_1 z + a_0$ be a polynomial with complex coefficients and with indeterminate z . ζ is said to be a **root of the polynomial $f(z)$ in \mathbb{C}** if $f(\zeta) = 0$.

The statement (#) below, first proved by Gauss, is known as the **Fundamental Theorem of Algebra**:

(#) *Every non-constant polynomial with complex coefficients (and with one indeterminate) has a root in \mathbb{C} .*

(a) Prove that the statement (#) is logically equivalent to the statement (b) below:

(b) *For any $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$, every degree- n polynomial function on \mathbb{C} is surjective.*

(b) Let $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0, 1\}$, $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{C}$, with $a_n \neq 0$, and $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be the degree- n polynomial function defined by $f(z) = a_n z^n + \cdots + a_1 z + a_0$ for any $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

Apply the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra, or otherwise, to prove that f is not injective.

Remark. Here you may also take for granted the **Factor Theorem** (whose ‘real version’ you have already learnt at school and may be carried in verbatim to the ‘complex situation’):

- Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$, and $p(z)$ be a degree- n polynomial (with complex coefficients). Suppose α is a root of $p(z)$. Then there is a degree- $(n - 1)$ polynomial $q(z)$ (with complex coefficients) so that $p(z) = (z - \alpha)q(z)$ as polynomials.