
Complex Analysis

Math 214 Spring 2004
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Fowler 112 MWF 3:30pm - 4:25pm
<http://faculty.oxy.edu/ron/math/312/04/>

Class 4: Wednesday January 28

SUMMARY Polynomial Equations of a Complex Variable and Roots of Complex Numbers

READING Saff & Snider, Section 1.4 and 1.5

HOMEWORK Saff & Snider, Section 1.4 # 2, 4, 5, 8 **Extra Credit: #22, 23**

UPDATE

The answers to Exercise 2 from the class #3 are:

A: $e^{i\pi} = \cos \pi + i \sin \pi = -1$

B: $1 + i = |1 + i|e^{i \arg(1 + i)} = \sqrt{2}e^{i\frac{\pi}{4} + 2ni\pi}$

C: $(1-i)^5 = \left(|1-i|e^{i \operatorname{Arg}(1-i)}\right)^5 = \left(\sqrt{2}e^{i\frac{-\pi}{4}}\right)^5 = 2^{5/2}e^{-i\frac{5\pi}{4}} = \sqrt{32}e^{\frac{3\pi i}{4}} = \sqrt{32}\frac{(i-1)}{\sqrt{2}} = -4+4i$

We now know how to deal with real integer powers of complex numbers in a nice way (by using DeMoivre's Formula and exponential form).

Fractional Exponents

What about real fractional powers of complex numbers, i.e. roots? That is, we want to solve an equation like

$$z^n - z_0 = 0 \tag{1}$$

where z_0 is a known complex number, and we are trying to find the corresponding value(s) of $z = z_0^{1/n}$ which solve this equation.

Suppose we write z_0 , z and z^n in polar form:

$$z_0 = \tag{2}$$

$$z = \tag{3}$$

$$z^n = \tag{4}$$

where $|z_0| = r_0$, $|z| = r$, $\operatorname{Arg} z_0 = \theta_0$ and $\operatorname{Arg} z = \theta$

We can rewrite (1) as $z^n = z_0$ and obtain two real equations.

Exercise 1

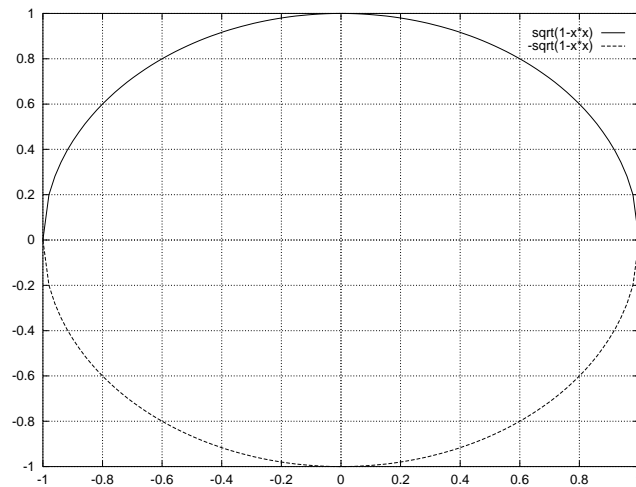
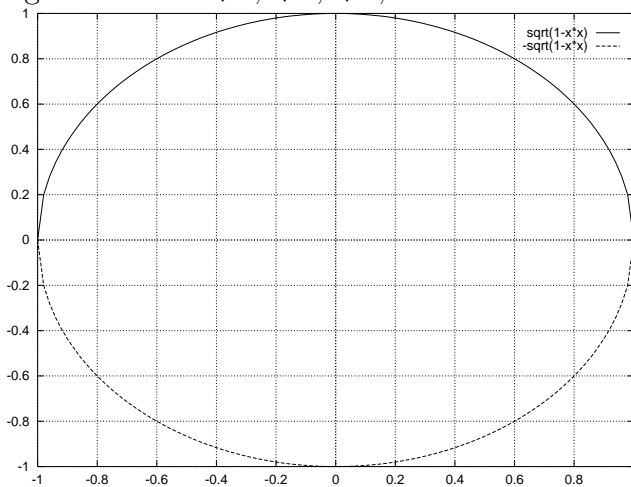
Obtain expressions for r and θ in terms of r_0 and θ_0

Roots of Unity

We are interested in finding the n^{th} roots of unity, i.e. z such that

$$z^n = 1, \quad n = 1, 2, 3 \dots$$

On the following axes, draw vector representations of the n^{th} roots of unity when $n = 2$, $n = 3$ or $n = 4$. How many distinct solutions to $z^n = 1$ are there? In other words, we are trying to evaluate $\sqrt{1}$, $\sqrt[3]{1}$, $\sqrt[4]{1}$, ...



What do you think the 5^{th} roots of unity will look like?

Exercise 2

Compute the solutions to the equation $z^5 = i$ and write them in polar (and rectangular) form. Sketch these solutions on the grid on the right.

Using DeMoivre's Formula and the result on n^{th} roots we can obtain a general formula for evaluating $z^{m/n}$

$$z^{m/n} = c_k = |z|^{m/n} \exp\left(\frac{mi(\theta + 2\pi k)}{n}\right), \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1, \quad \text{where } \theta = \text{Arg } z$$

These n roots can be written as

$$c, c\omega_n, c\omega_n^2, c\omega_n^3, \dots, c\omega_n^{n-1}$$

where c is any n^{th} root of a non-zero complex number, and $\omega_n = \exp\left(\frac{2i\pi}{n}\right)$

EXAMPLES

(1) Prove that $\sin 2\theta = 2 \sin \theta \cos \theta$ and $\cos 2\theta = \cos^2 \theta - \sin^2 \theta$ (use DeMoivre's Formula)

(2) Evaluate $\sqrt{5 - 12i}$

(3) Solve $w^3 - i = -\sqrt{3}$

(4) Solve $w^{4/3} + 2i = 0$