

**MA055G & MA056G**  
**Introduktionskurs i matematik**

# **Lecture Notes 7**

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## The complex numbers

- Recall

$$\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$$

On  $\mathbb{Z}$  we can do the arithmetic operations  $+$ ,  $-$  and  $\times$ .

- The rational numbers  $\mathbb{Q}$  we 'created' to be able to do division as well:

$$\mathbb{Q} = \{m/n \mid m, n \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and } n \neq 0\}.$$

- The real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$  were 'created' to fill in the 'gaps' between the rationals on the number line.
- We now define a new number system, which will extend the real numbers, we shall call it the complex numbers and it will be denoted  $\mathbb{C}$ .

The reason for needing this extended number system is found in algebra, more specifically in the theory for solving equations:

We already know that if a quadratic polynomial

$$p(x) = x^2 + bx + c$$

has two roots  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , then

$$p(x) = x^2 + bx + c = (x - \alpha)(x - \beta),$$

and if a cubic polynomial  $g(x) = x^3 + ax^2 + bx + c$  has three roots  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$ , then

$$g(x) = x^3 + ax^2 + bx + c = (x - \alpha)(x - \beta)(x - \gamma).$$

We say that these polynomials split into linear factors.

Unfortunately not all polynomials split nicely into linear factors. For example

$$f(x) = x^2 + 1$$

has no roots, and

$$g(x) = x^3 - x^2 + x - 1 = (x^2 + 1)(x - 1)$$

has just one real root.

Aim We are looking for a number system which has the property that every polynomial of degree  $n$  has  $n$  roots and thus splits into  $n$  linear factors (by the Factor Theorem). This system will be  $\mathbb{C}$ .

We start by formally defining the complex numbers.

### DEFINITION

The complex numbers  $\mathbb{C}$  is the set of all ordered pairs of real numbers. That is

$$\mathbb{C} = \{ (a,b) : a,b \in \mathbb{R} \}.$$

### Arithmetic in $\mathbb{C}$ .

We can define an addition  $+$  and a multiplication  $\cdot$  on  $\mathbb{C}$ .

Given any two complex numbers  $z_1 = (a,b)$  and  $z_2 = (c,d)$ ,

we define

$$z_1 + z_2 := (a,b) + (c,d) = (a+c, b+d)$$

$$z_1 z_2 := (a,b) \cdot (c,d) = (ac-bd, ad+bc)$$

note that  $a+c, b+d, ac-bd, ad+bc$  are real numbers, so  $z_1 + z_2$  and  $z_1 z_2$  are complex numbers.

We can now prove that  $\mathbb{C}$  satisfies all the same rules of arithmetic as do  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\mathbb{Q}$ . (Note that we call such a structure a field):

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### Theorem (Rules of Arithmetic for $\mathbb{C}$ )

$\mathbb{C}$  together with its addition  $+$  and multiplication  $\cdot$  defined above is a field, that is, it satisfies the following rules of arithmetic:

#### 1. Closure Law

For all  $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $z_1 + z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $z_1 \cdot z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ .

#### 2. Identity Elements exist.

- There is a (unique) number  $(0,0) \in \mathbb{C}$  such that for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  
 $z + (0,0) = (0,0) + z = z$ .

- There is a (unique) number  $(1,0) \in \mathbb{C}$  such that for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  
 $z \cdot (1,0) = (1,0) \cdot z = z$ .

#### 3. Additive and multiplicative inverses exist. For each $z \in \mathbb{C}$ ,

there is a (unique) additive inverse  $(-z) \in \mathbb{C}$  such that

$$z + (-z) = (-z) + z = (0,0).$$

For each  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $z \neq (0,0)$ , there is a unique multiplicative inverse  $z^{-1} \in \mathbb{C}$  such that

$$z \cdot z^{-1} = z^{-1} \cdot z = (1,0).$$

#### 4. Associative Laws For all $z_1, z_2, z_3 \in \mathbb{C}$ ,

$$z_1 + (z_2 + z_3) = (z_1 + z_2) + z_3 \quad \text{and} \quad z_1(z_2 z_3) = (z_1 z_2) z_3.$$

#### 5. Commutative Laws For all $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$

$$z_1 + z_2 = z_2 + z_1 \quad \text{and} \quad z_1 \cdot z_2 = z_2 \cdot z_1.$$

#### 6. Distributive Laws For all $z_1, z_2, z_3 \in \mathbb{C}$

$$z_1 \cdot (z_2 + z_3) = z_1 z_2 + z_1 z_3.$$

Proof Just calculate using the definition and the properties of the real numbers.

For example...

Proof that additive and multiplicative inverses exist:

Let  $z = (a, b) \in \mathbb{Z}$

then define  $(-z) = (-a, -b) \in \mathbb{C}$ .

We have

$$z + (-z) = (a, b) + (-a, -b) = (a-a, b-b) = (0, 0)$$

$$(-z) + z = (-a, -b) + (a, b) = (-a+a, -b+b) = (0, 0).$$

For  $z = (a, b) \in \mathbb{C}$ , where  $z \neq (0, 0)$ , define  $z^{-1} = \left( \frac{a}{a^2+b^2}, \frac{-b}{a^2+b^2} \right)$ ,

then

$$z \cdot z^{-1} = (a, b) \cdot \left( \frac{a}{a^2+b^2}, \frac{-b}{a^2+b^2} \right)$$

$$= \left( \frac{a^2}{a^2+b^2} - \frac{b^2}{a^2+b^2}, \frac{-ab}{a^2+b^2} + \frac{ba}{a^2+b^2} \right)$$

$$= \left( \frac{a^2+b^2}{a^2+b^2}, \frac{-ab+ba}{a^2+b^2} \right) = (1, 0)$$

Similar calculations give

$$z^{-1} \cdot z = (1, 0).$$

$\mathbb{C}$  contains  $\mathbb{R}$  as a subset, in fact we can identify

$\mathbb{R}$  and the subset  $\{(a,0) : (a,0) \in \mathbb{C}\}$

Because  $\mathbb{R}$  can be identified with the complex numbers of the form  $(a,0)$ , we abuse our notation slightly and write  $(a,0)$  as  $a$ .

We then define

$$i := (0,1)$$

and we have that

$$(a,b) = a + ib$$

For the complex number  $z = (a,b) = a + ib$  we call  $a$  the real part of  $z$  and  $b$  the imaginary part of  $z$ .

In symbols we write

$$a = \operatorname{Re}(z) \quad \text{and} \quad b = \operatorname{Im}(z).$$

Note that  $b = \operatorname{Im}(z)$ , though known as the imaginary part, is a real number.

The real numbers are just the complex numbers  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  for which  $\operatorname{Im}(z) = 0$ .

Let us work with the number  $i$ .

First note

$$i^2 = (0,1) \cdot (0,1) = (0-1, 0+0) = (-1, 0)$$

that is  $i^2 = -1$

If you remember this formula you need not memorize how to multiply complex numbers, for

$$(a,b) \cdot (c,d) = (a+ib)(c+id)$$

$$= ac + iad + ibc + i^2 bd$$

$$= (ac - bd) + i(ad + bc)$$

$$= (ac - bd, ad + bc).$$

For any complex number  $z = (a,b) = a+ib$ , we define  $\bar{z}$ , the complex conjugate of  $z$  by

$$\bar{z} := (a, -b) = a - ib.$$

We note that

$$z \cdot \bar{z} = (a+ib)(a-ib) = a^2 - i^2 b^2 = a^2 + b^2 = (a^2 + b^2, 0),$$

that is  $z \cdot \bar{z}$  is a real number.

This is a very important fact as it allows us to compute multiplicative inverses of complex numbers without memorizing the formula we gave above...

Let  $0 \neq a+ib$ , then

$$(a+ib)^{-1} = \frac{1}{(a+ib)} = \frac{a-ib}{(a-ib)(a+ib)} = \frac{a-ib}{a^2+b^2} = \underbrace{\frac{a}{a^2+b^2}}_{\in \mathbb{R}} + i \underbrace{\frac{-b}{a^2+b^2}}_{\in \mathbb{R}}$$

"small" theorem.

↓  
Lemma

$$(a) \overline{z_1 + z_2} = \overline{z_1} + \overline{z_2}$$

$$(b) \overline{z_1 \cdot z_2} = \overline{z_1} \cdot \overline{z_2}$$

Proof (b) We leave (a) as an exercise!

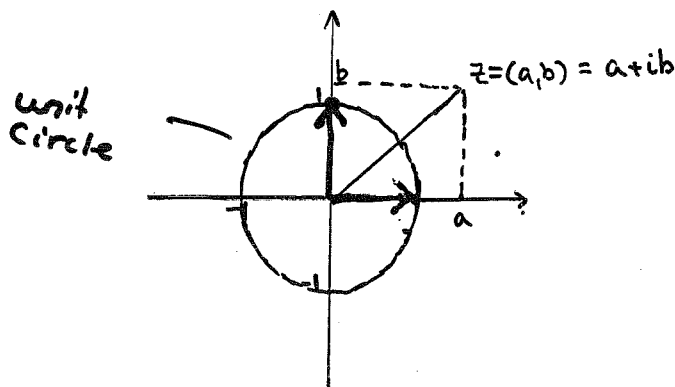
Let  $z_1 = a+ib$ ,  $z_2 = c+id$ , then

$$\text{RHS} = \overline{a+ib} \cdot \overline{c+id} = (a-ib)(c-id) = (ac-bd) - i(ad+bc)$$

$$= \overline{(ac-bd) + i(ad+bc)} = \overline{(a+ib)(c+id)} = \text{LHS.} \blacksquare$$

## Argand diagrams

$z = (a, b) = a + ib$  can be represented graphically in the coordinate system as the point with Cartesian coordinates  $(a, b)$ . This representation is known as an Argand diagram for  $z$ .



Since the  $x$ -coordinate of  $z$  is  $a = \operatorname{Re}(z)$ , the  $x$ -axis is known as the real axis.

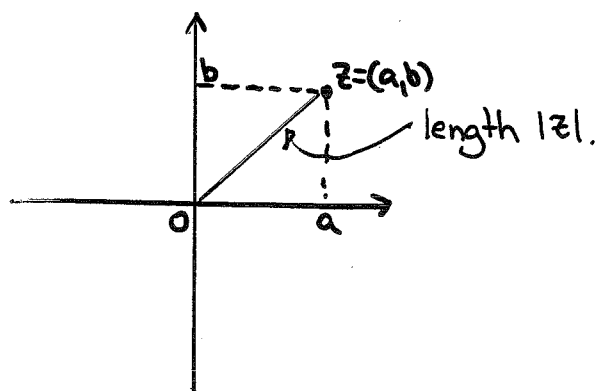
And similarly, because the  $y$ -coordinate  $b = \operatorname{Im}(z)$ , the  $y$ -axis is known as the imaginary axis.

(absolut) beloppet

We define the norm (also called the absolute value of  $z = (a, b) \in \mathbb{C}$  as

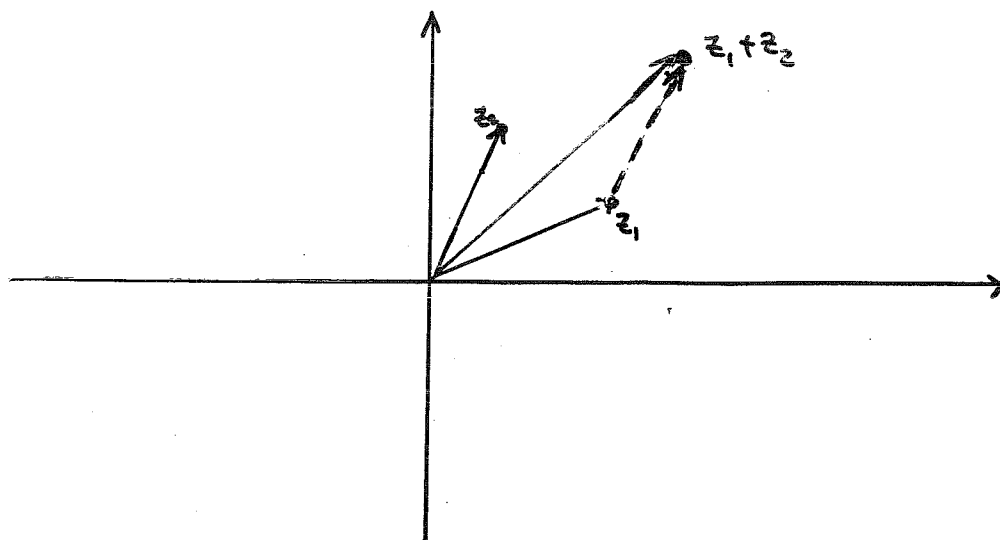
$$|z| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$$

Graphically,  $|z|$  is the length of the direction vector for  $z$  in the Argand diagram, that is the length  $\|\vec{Oz}\|$  of the line segment  $Oz$ :



The sum of two complex numbers  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  is just the point whose direction vector is the sum of the two direction vectors for  $z_1$  and  $z_2$ . Hence by the triangle inequality we have that

$$|z_1 + z_2| \leq |z_1| + |z_2|$$



We also note that

LEMMA  $|z|^2 = z \bar{z}$

PROOF

$$z \bar{z} = (a+ib)(a-ib) = a^2 + b^2 = \left(\sqrt{a^2+b^2}\right)^2 = |z|^2 \quad \blacksquare$$

COROLLARY  $|z_1 z_2| = |z_1| |z_2|$

PROOF

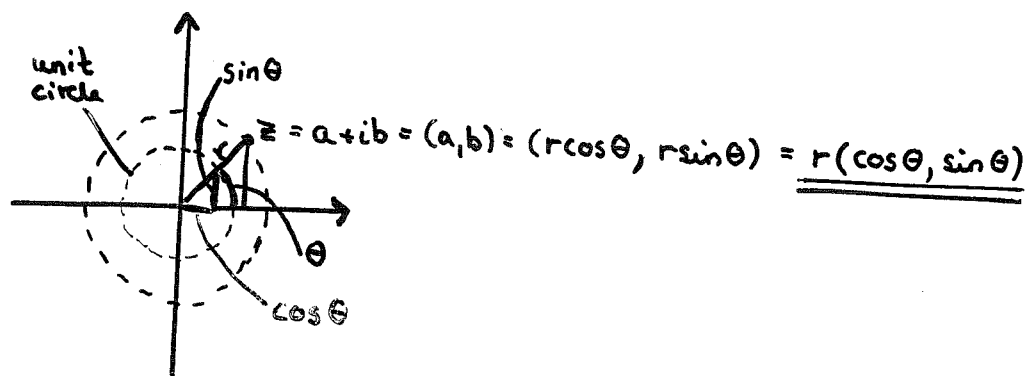
$$\underline{|z_1 z_2|^2} = (z_1 z_2) (\overline{z_1 z_2}) = (z_1 z_2) (\bar{z}_1 \bar{z}_2) = (z_1 \bar{z}_1) (z_2 \bar{z}_2) = \underline{|z_1|^2 |z_2|^2}$$

and since  $|z|$  is a non-negative real number, we thus have

$$|z_1| |z_2| = |z_1 z_2| \quad \blacksquare$$

## Polar form of complex numbers (sv: polär form)

Suppose that  $z = (a, b) = a + ib \in \mathbb{C}$  has a direction vector of length  $r = |z|$  and forms an angle  $\theta$  with the x-axis:



The 'new' form  $z = r(\cos \theta, \sin \theta) = \underline{\underline{r \cos \theta + i(r \sin \theta)}}$  is known as the polar form of  $z$ .

The 'old' forms

$$\underline{\underline{z = (a, b)}} \text{ and } \underline{\underline{z = a + ib}}$$

are known as the Cartesian form of  $z$ .

The angle  $\theta$  is known as the argument of  $z$ , and we write

$$\theta = \arg(z)$$

Note that the argument of  $z$  is not unique: Adding  $2\pi$  to  $\theta$  yields another angle which is also an argument of  $z$ .

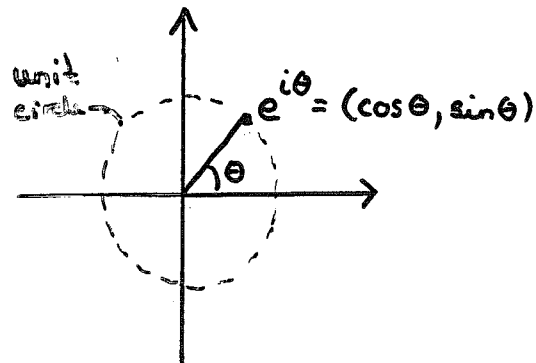
The principal value among the values of  $\arg(z)$  is the value in the interval  $\underline{\underline{[-\pi, \pi]}}$  and is denoted by  $\text{Arg}(z)$ .

If we define the complex number  $e^{i\theta}$  by

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta,$$

that is

$e^{i\theta}$  is the complex number on the unit circle in the Argand diagram with argument  $\theta$



Then, if  $z = a + ib = r(\cos \theta, \sin \theta) = r \cos \theta + i(r \sin \theta)$

we can write  $z = r e^{i\theta}$

Further, we can define the complex exponential function  $e^z$  for any  $z = a + ib$  as

$$\underline{e^z = e^{a+ib} = e^a e^{ib} = e^a (\cos a + i \sin b)}$$

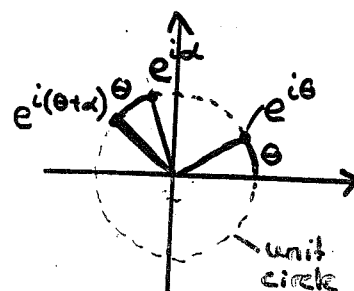
### LEMMA

If  $z = r(\cos\theta + i\sin\theta) = re^{i\theta}$  and

$$w = s(\cos\alpha + i\sin\alpha) = se^{i\alpha}.$$

Then

$$zw = (rs)e^{i(\theta+\alpha)}$$



### PROOF

$$zw = (r\cos\theta + ir\sin\theta)(s\cos\alpha + is\sin\alpha)$$

$$= rs\cos\theta\cos\alpha - rs\sin\theta\sin\alpha + i(rs\cos\theta\sin\alpha + rs\sin\theta\cos\alpha)$$

$$= rs((\cos\theta\cos\alpha - \sin\theta\sin\alpha) + i(\cos\theta\sin\alpha + \sin\theta\cos\alpha))$$

$$= rs(\cos(\theta+\alpha) + i\sin(\theta+\alpha))$$

$$= rse^{i(\theta+\alpha)} \quad \blacksquare$$

Using this result  $n$  times proves...

### De Moivre's Theorem

If  $n$  is a positive integer, then

$$\underline{\underline{(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^n = \cos(n\theta) + i \sin(n\theta)}}$$

### Corollary

If  $z = r(\cos \theta, \sin \theta) = r \cos \theta + i r \sin \theta$ , then

$$z^n = r^n (\cos(n\theta), \sin(n\theta)).$$

## Equations

A (complex) polynomial of degree  $n$  is an expression

$$p(z) = a_n z^n + a_{n-1} z^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 z + a_0,$$

where  $a_n \neq 0$  and all coefficients  $a_i \in \mathbb{C}$ .

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A root of  $p$  is a (complex) number  $z_0$  such that

$$p(z_0) = 0.$$

First observe: we can divide complex polynomials in the same way as we divide real polynomials because the rules of arithmetic in  $\mathbb{C}$  are the same as in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

We also have

### THE FACTOR THEOREM

$z_0$  is a root of the complex polynomial  $p$  if and only if there exists a polynomial  $g$  such that

$$p = (z - z_0) g$$

#### Definition

If the polynomial is divisible by  $(z - z_0)^m$ , but not by  $(z - z_0)^{m+1}$  then  $z_0$  is called a root of multiplicity  $m$ .

## The Fundamental Theorem of Algebra

Every (complex) polynomial of degree  $n$  has precisely  $n$  roots if these are counted with multiplicity.

So quadratic equations when solved in  $\mathbb{C}$  always have two roots (if we count with multiplicity.)

Finding the roots is usually straight forward using the method of completing the square...

Examples  
Quadratic Equations

Solve

(a)  $z^2 + 2z + 3 = 0$

(b)  $z^2 = i$

(c)  $z^2 = 8 + 6i$

(d)  $z^2 + 4z + 2iz + 14 + 64i = 0$

Sol<sup>n</sup> (d):

$$z^2 + (4+2i)z + (14+64i) = 0$$

complete the square:

$$(z + (2+i))^2 - (2+i)^2 + 14+64i = 0$$

↑

$$(z + (2+i))^2 = -11-60i \quad \textcircled{*}$$

Let  $w = z + (2+i)$ , then  $\textcircled{*}$  becomes

$$w^2 = -11-60i \quad \textcircled{**}$$

which can be solved by putting

$$w = u+iv \text{ where } u, v \in \mathbb{R}$$

then by comparing real and imaginary parts  
in  $\textcircled{**}$  we get

$$\begin{cases} u^2 - v^2 = -11 \\ 2uv = -60 \end{cases}$$

which can be solved to give

$$w = 5-i6 \quad \text{and} \quad w = -5+i6$$

$$z = w - (2+i) = \underline{\underline{3-7i}} \quad \text{or} \quad \underline{\underline{-7+i5}}$$

Sol<sup>n</sup> (a)-(c) (a)  $z^2 + 2z + 3 = 0$

↓

$$(z+1)^2 - 1 + 3 = 0$$

↓

$$(z+1)^2 = -2$$

↓

$$(z+1)^2 = 2i^2$$

↓

$$z+1 = \pm \sqrt{2} i$$

↓

$$\underline{\underline{z = -1 \pm \sqrt{2} i}}$$

(b)  $z^2 = i$

(solve either by the method of  $n$ th roots) OR

put  $z = u+iv$  where  $u, v$  are real.

Then

$$i = z^2 = (u^2 - v^2) + i(2uv)$$

By comparing real and imaginary parts separately we get

$$\begin{cases} u^2 - v^2 = 0 \\ 2uv = 1 \end{cases}$$

↓

$$(u+v)(u-v) = 0$$

↓

$$u = v \quad \text{or} \quad u = -v$$

↓

$$2u^2 = 1 \quad \text{or} \quad -2u^2 = 1$$

↓

$$u = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

↓

$$v = u = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

no sol<sup>n</sup>  
as  $u$  is  
real

$$\underline{\underline{\text{So } z = \pm \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + i \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)}}$$

(c)  $z^2 = 8+6i$  Proceeding as we did in (b) we get  $z = u+iv$  and

$$\begin{cases} u^2 - v^2 = 8 \\ 2uv = 6 \end{cases}$$

↓

$$u = \frac{3}{v} \quad (*)$$

↓

$$v^4 + 8v^2 - 9 = 0$$

↓

$$v^2 = -4 \pm 5$$

↓

$$v^2 = 1 \quad \text{as } v \text{ is real}$$

↓

$$v = \pm 1$$

↓

$$u = \pm 3 \quad \text{by inserting in } (*)$$

$$\text{so } \underline{\underline{z = 3+i}} \quad \text{or} \quad \underline{\underline{z = -3-i}}$$

## ROOTS

Find all complex numbers  $\rho$  such that

$$\rho^n = z$$

where  $z$  is any complex number.

$\rho$  is known as an  $n$ 'th root of  $z$

Let us first consider the special case  $z=1$ , that is find all complex numbers  $\rho$  such that

$$\rho^n = 1.$$

These are known as the complex  $n$ 'th roots of unity.

So...

Solve  $z^n = 1$  \*

If we let  $z = re^{i\theta}$ , we first observe that  $r=1$  (why?)

So complex roots of unity lie on the unit circle in the Argand diagram.

$$z = e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$$

Next observe that  $1 = 1 + i \cdot 0 = \cos 0 + i \sin 0$

So \* amounts to solving

$$(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^n = \cos 0 + i \sin 0,$$

which by De Moivre's Theorem becomes

$$\cos(n\theta) + i \sin(n\theta) = \cos 0 + i \sin 0.$$

So by comparing real and imaginary parts separately we get

$$1 = \cos 0 = \cos(n\theta) \quad \text{and} \quad 0 = \sin 0 = \sin(n\theta).$$

That is,

$$n\theta = k(2\pi) \quad \text{and thus} \quad \underline{\underline{\theta = k \cdot \frac{2\pi}{n}}} \quad k = \dots, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

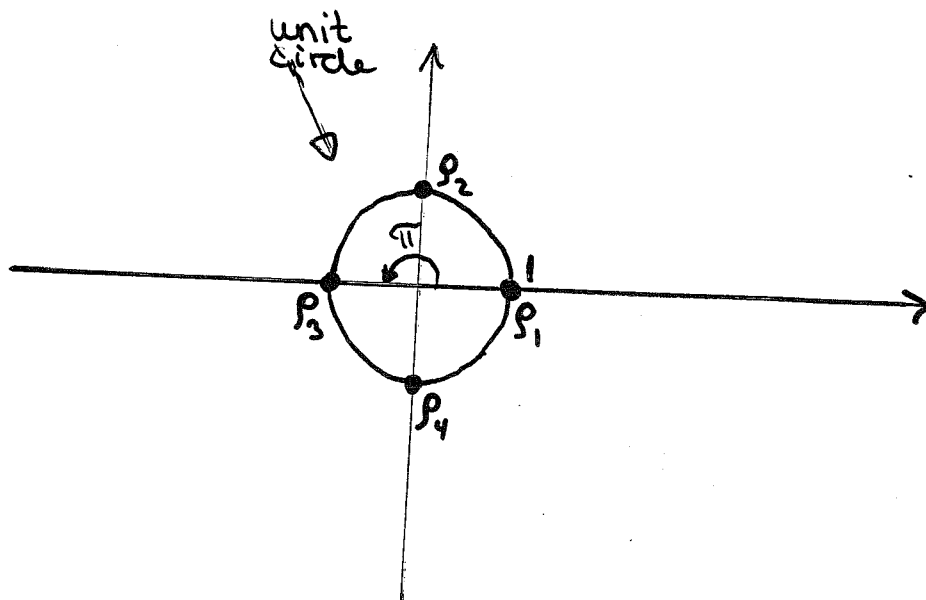
So the  $n$ 'th roots of unity are  $z = e^{i\theta}$

where  $\theta = k \cdot \frac{2\pi}{n}$ ,  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1, \cancel{n}, \cancel{n+1}, \cancel{n+2}, \cancel{n+3}, \dots$

These are  $z=1$  and  $n-1$  other points evenly spaced on the unit circle in the Argand diagram.

### Example

Find all  $\rho$  such that  $\rho^4 = 1$



$$\rho_1 = \underline{\underline{1}}$$

$$\rho_2 = \cos \frac{\pi}{2} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{2} = \underline{\underline{i}}$$

$$\rho_3 = \cos \pi + i \sin \pi = \underline{\underline{-1}}$$

$$\rho_4 = \cos \frac{3\pi}{2} + i \sin \frac{3\pi}{2} = \underline{\underline{-i}}$$

LEMMA Given any complex number  $re^{i\theta}$ .

If  $z \neq 0$  and  $z^n = re^{i\theta}$  then

$$z = \sqrt[n]{r} e^{iu}$$

where  $u = \frac{\theta}{n} + k\left(\frac{2\pi}{n}\right)$ ,  $k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$

that is, the  $n$ th roots of  $re^{i\theta}$  all lie on the circle in the Argand diagram of radius  $\sqrt[n]{r}$  and centre at the origin.

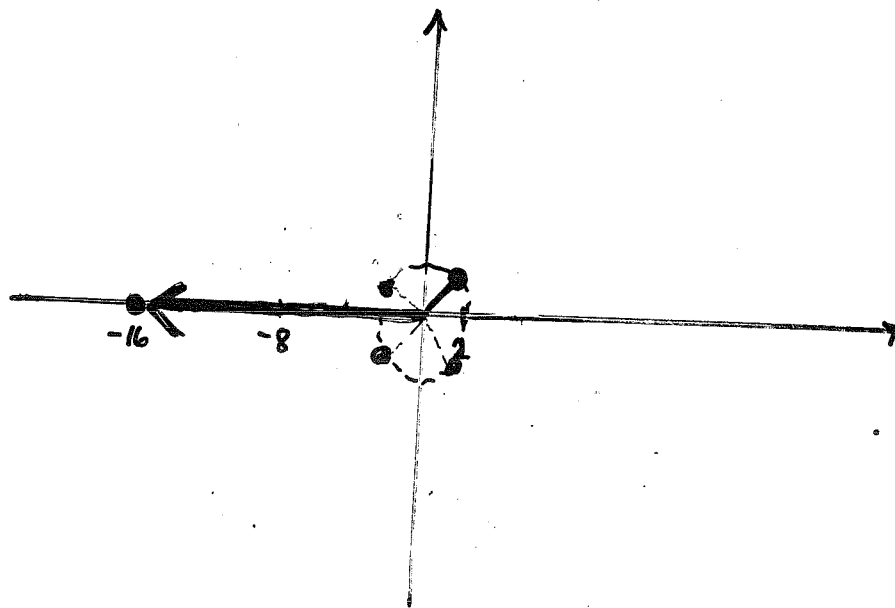
One of the roots has argument  $\frac{\theta}{n}$ ,

there are  $n$  roots altogether and they are evenly spaced on the circle.

### EXAMPLE

Find all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $z^4 = -16$ .

First we need to write  $-16$  in polar form. We do this by locating it on the Argand diagram:



$$\text{so } \arg(-16) = \underline{\underline{\pi}}$$

$$|-16| = \underline{\underline{16}}$$

$$\text{Hence } \underline{\underline{-16}} = 16 (\cos \pi + i \sin \pi) \\ = \underline{\underline{16 e^{i\pi}}}$$

The 'first' fourth root of  $-16$  is thus

$$\rho_0 = 2e^{i\frac{\pi}{4}}$$

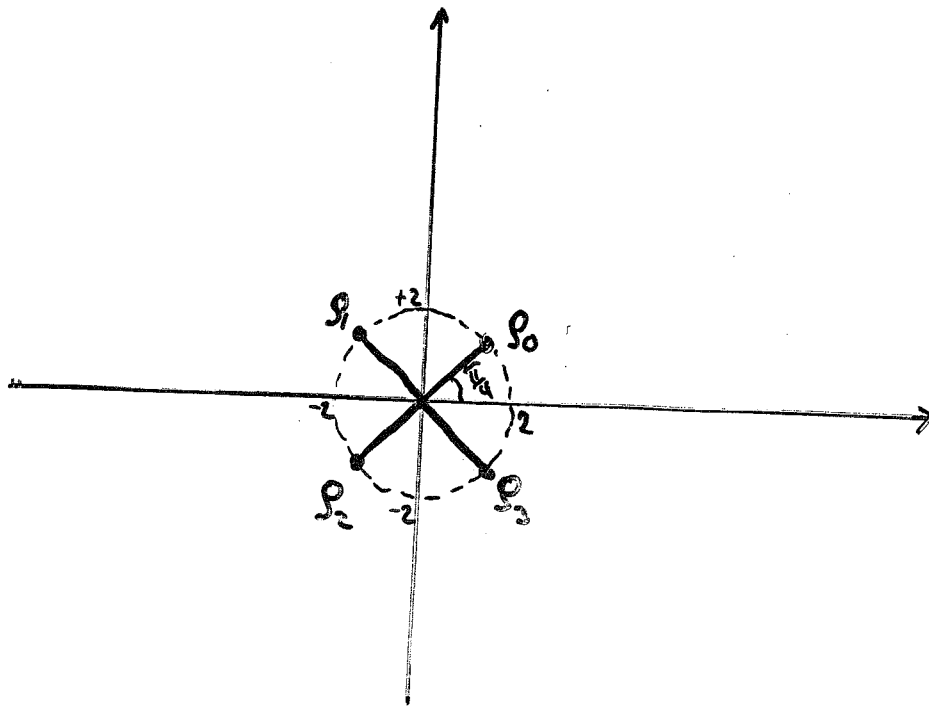
and the three others are

$$\rho_1 = 2e^{i(\frac{3\pi}{4})}$$

$$\rho_2 = 2e^{i(\frac{5\pi}{4})}$$

$$\rho_3 = 2e^{i(\frac{7\pi}{4})}$$

On the Argand diagram they are:



$$p_0 = 2 \left( \cos \frac{\pi}{4}, \sin \frac{\pi}{4} \right) = 2 \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) = (\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{2}) = \underline{\underline{\sqrt{2}(1+i)}}$$

$$p_1 = 2 \left( \cos \frac{3\pi}{4}, \sin \frac{3\pi}{4} \right) = 2 \left( -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) = (-\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{2}) = \underline{\underline{\sqrt{2}(-1+i)}}$$

$$p_2 = 2 \left( \cos \frac{5\pi}{4}, \sin \frac{5\pi}{4} \right) = 2 \left( -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) = (-\sqrt{2}, -\sqrt{2}) = \underline{\underline{\sqrt{2}(-1-i)}}$$

$$p_3 = 2 \left( \cos \frac{7\pi}{4}, \sin \frac{7\pi}{4} \right) = 2 \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) = (\sqrt{2}, -\sqrt{2}) = \underline{\underline{\sqrt{2}(1-i)}}$$