

Problem 2: nth roots of unity

Abhishek Daniel

To find the 6^{th} roots of unity:

we know that

$$(1)^{\frac{1}{n}} = e^{i\frac{2k\pi}{n}}, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$$

Thus for 6^{th} roots we will get,

$$(1)^{\frac{1}{6}} = e^{i\frac{\pi k}{3}}$$

$$\text{when } k = 0 \implies e^0 = 1$$

$$\text{when } k = 1 \implies e^{i\frac{\pi}{3}} = \frac{1}{2}(1 + i\sqrt{3})$$

$$\text{when } k = 2 \implies e^{i\frac{2\pi}{3}} = -\frac{1}{2}(1 - i\sqrt{3})$$

$$\text{when } k = 3 \implies e^{i\pi} = -1$$

$$\text{when } k = 4 \implies e^{i\frac{4\pi}{3}} = -\frac{1}{2}(1 + i\sqrt{3})$$

$$\text{when } k = 5 \implies e^{i\frac{5\pi}{3}} = \frac{1}{2}(1 - i\sqrt{3})$$

Thus the 6^{th} roots of unity are ± 1 , $\pm \frac{1}{2}(1 + i\sqrt{3})$ and $\pm \frac{1}{2}(1 - i\sqrt{3})$. The below graph shows the 6^{th} roots of unity and the roots are represented by blue dots and the red lines shows that every roots are 60° apart from each other.

