

3. Roots of unity (chapter 9)

- a) Show, as a consequence of De Moivre's Theorem, that all roots of the equation $z^n = 1$ are located on the unit circle, and the roots come in conjugate pairs (except for real roots which are their own conjugates). Finally conclude that the roots form the vertices of a regular polygon with n sides (or n vertices) with one of the vertices located at the complex number 1.

Let $z = r(\cos\theta + i\sin\theta)$ be the polar form of z .

Since $z^n = 1$, gives $r = 1$.

By De Moivre's Theorem, $z^n = r^n(\cos(n\theta) + i\sin(n\theta)) = 1$

$$\Rightarrow \cos(n\theta) + i\sin(n\theta) = 1.$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \cos(n\theta) = 1 \\ \sin(n\theta) = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} n\theta = 2k\pi \\ n\theta = k\pi \end{cases} \Rightarrow n\theta = 2k\pi.$$

Overall, $\theta = k \cdot \frac{2\pi}{n}$, $k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$.

Since $z_k = \cos(n \cdot \frac{k \cdot 2\pi}{n}) + i\sin(n \cdot \frac{k \cdot 2\pi}{n}) = \cos(2k\pi) + i\sin(2k\pi) = 1$, all roots are located on the unit circle, which they located on the unit circle with the same distance to the nearby points.

Since all of the roots are 1, which is real number, they are their own conjugates.

For the regular polygon, each vertices is the point of z_k on the unit circle, which for complex number 1 having the fact z , which when $k=n-1$.

Throughout this question, let z_0 be the first root in counterclockwise direction after 1.

- b) Suppose you have $\text{Re}(z_0)$. Explain, hypothetically, how you use value of $\text{Re}(z_0)$ to construct all the roots of unity using compass and straight edge and using techniques of Greek Constructions as in 12.1. (You will return to this method in the following items.)

Having $\text{Re}(z_0)$. Let O be the center of unit circle and from $|PA|$ be the length of $\text{Re}(z_0)$ which A is the point on x -axis (Real-valued axis).

Thoughts: get a perpendicular line $l_1 \perp OM$ (x -axis). \rightarrow get the point of l_1 intersect unit circle B \rightarrow get the line length of B to unit circle intersect with x -axis C . \rightarrow use B as centre $|BC|$ as length, intersect with circle D \rightarrow use D as centre and $|BC|$ as length intersect with \bar{z} $\rightarrow \dots$ until the point overlap with C .

Steps:

- ① get length $|OA|$ using compass.
- ② use A as centre, draw a circle with width $|OA|$, i.e. $\text{Re}(z_0)$, intersect x -axis with O and point X (Axiom 4).
- ③ get a random width bigger than $|OA|$, and locate at O and draw a circle O_1 .
- ④ use the same width as ③ and locate at point X and draw a circle O_2 .
- ⑤ O_1 and O_2 intersect at point Y, Z (Axiom 4).
- ⑥ Get line l_1 from Y, Z (Axiom 1), perpendicular to OM .
- ⑦ l_1 intersect with unit circle at B (Axiom 5).
- ⑧ unit circle intersect with x -axis at C (Axiom 5).
- ⑨ Use compass get the length $|BC|$.
- ⑩ Use width $|BC|$ locate at B and draw a circle C_3 .
- ⑪ C_3 intersect with unit circle at D (Axiom 5), where D is another root.
- ⑫ Use D as centre and width $|BC|$ and draw a circle C_4 .
- ⑬ C_4 intersect with unit circle at Z (Axiom 5), where Z is another root.
- ⑭ repeat until the new intersect point is C .