

Problem 17: Determine all integer values of  $\theta$  with  $0^\circ \leq \theta \leq 90^\circ$  for which  $(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^{75}$  is a real number.  
(Source: ARML)

Let  $z = (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^{75}$ . By de Moivre's theorem, we have

$$z = (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^{75} = \cos(75\theta) + i \sin(75\theta)$$

Now  $z$  is a real number when  $75\theta$  is an integer multiple of  $180$ , that is, for all values

$$\theta = \frac{180n}{75} = \frac{12n}{5} \text{ where } n \text{ is an integer and } 0 \leq \theta \leq 90$$

For  $\theta$  to be an integer,  $n$  has to be an integer multiple of  $5$ . Thus  $n = 0, 5, 10, \dots, 35$ . This gives us

$$\theta = 0^\circ, 12^\circ, 24^\circ, 36^\circ, 48^\circ, 60^\circ, 72^\circ, 84^\circ$$