

Problem 10: The equation

$$x^{10} + (13x - 1)^{10} = 0$$

has the 10 complex roots  $r_1, \overline{r_1}, r_2, \overline{r_2}, r_3, \overline{r_3}, r_4, \overline{r_4}, r_5, \overline{r_5}$ . Find the value of

$$\frac{1}{r_1 \overline{r_1}} + \frac{1}{r_2 \overline{r_2}} + \frac{1}{r_3 \overline{r_3}} + \frac{1}{r_4 \overline{r_4}} + \frac{1}{r_5 \overline{r_5}}.$$

(Source: AIME)

First let's find one of the roots.

$$x^{10} + (13x - 1)^{10} = 0$$

$$x^{10} = -(13x - 1)^{10}$$

$$x^{10} = (i^{10})(13x - 1)^{10}$$

$$x^{10} = (i(13x - 1))^{10}$$

$$x = i(13x - 1)$$

$$x = 13ix - i$$

$$x - 13ix = -i$$

$$x(1 - 13i) = -i$$

$$x(13i - 1) = i$$

$$x = \frac{i}{13i - 1}$$

$$x = \frac{i(13i + 1)}{-169 - 1}$$

$$x = \frac{-13 + i}{-170}$$

$$x = \frac{13}{170} - \frac{1}{170}i$$

this step gives us one of the roots

We have found that  $r_1 = \frac{13}{170} - \frac{1}{170}i$  is one of the roots of the equation. We can get all the roots of the equation by taking conjugates and by multiplying  $r_1$  by the tenth roots of unity.

$$\begin{aligned}
r_1 &= \frac{13}{170} - \frac{1}{170}i \\
\overline{r_1} &= \frac{13}{170} + \frac{1}{170}i \\
r_2 &= e^{2\pi i/10} \left( \frac{13}{170} - \frac{1}{170}i \right) \\
\overline{r_2} &= e^{18\pi i/10} \left( \frac{13}{170} + \frac{1}{170}i \right) \\
r_3 &= e^{4\pi i/10} \left( \frac{13}{170} - \frac{1}{170}i \right) \\
\overline{r_3} &= e^{16\pi i/10} \left( \frac{13}{170} + \frac{1}{170}i \right) \\
r_4 &= e^{6\pi i/10} \left( \frac{13}{170} - \frac{1}{170}i \right) \\
\overline{r_4} &= e^{14\pi i/10} \left( \frac{13}{170} + \frac{1}{170}i \right) \\
r_5 &= e^{8\pi i/10} \left( \frac{13}{170} - \frac{1}{170}i \right) \\
\overline{r_5} &= e^{12\pi i/10} \left( \frac{13}{170} + \frac{1}{170}i \right)
\end{aligned}$$

We have found all ten roots of the equation. Now we can find the value of the given expression.

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{r_1\overline{r_1}} + \frac{1}{r_2\overline{r_2}} + \frac{1}{r_3\overline{r_3}} + \frac{1}{r_4\overline{r_4}} + \frac{1}{r_5\overline{r_5}} &= 170 + e^{20\pi i/10}170 + e^{20\pi i/10}170 + e^{20\pi i/10}170 + e^{20\pi i/10}170 \\
&= 170 \times 5 \\
&= \boxed{850}
\end{aligned}$$