

Problem 17: Find all complex numbers z such that $|z - 1| = |z + 3| = |z - i|$. (Source: ARML)

Let $z = a + bi$.

$$(a - 1)^2 + b^2 = (a + 3)^2 + b^2$$

$$(a - 1)^2 = (a + 3)^2$$

$$a - 1 = \pm(a + 3)$$

$$a - 1 = -a - 3$$

$$2a = -2$$

$$a = -1$$

$$(a - 1)^2 + b^2 = a^2 + (b - 1)^2$$

$$a^2 - 2a + 1 + b^2 = a^2 + b^2 - 2b + 1$$

$$-2a + 1 = -2b + 1$$

$$-2a = -2b$$

$$a = b$$

Thus $\boxed{z = -1 - i}$.

Now let's think about this geometrically. The points 1 , -3 , and $-i$ form a triangle in the complex plane. There is only one complex number that is equidistant from the vertices of this triangle. z is the point inside the triangle that is equidistant from the vertices.