

sqrt(-i)

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This is a simple demonstration of the beauty of math. One day I was interested in revisiting Euler's formula for complex numbers so I asked myself what the $\sqrt{-i}$ was equal to. Here are my findings:

$$z = \sqrt{-i} \quad (1)$$

Using Euler's formula (stated below) we can begin the simplification process.

$$\exp i\theta = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta \quad (2)$$

Let's start with $z = -i$. This is along the negative x-axis, and therefore we have $\theta = \frac{3\pi}{2}$. To check:

$$\exp i\frac{3\pi}{2} = \cos \frac{3\pi}{2} + i \sin \frac{3\pi}{2} = 0 - i \quad (3)$$

Since we have the exponential representation of i we can now take its square root, apply Euler's formula, and obtain a representation for $\sqrt{-i}$.

$$\sqrt{\exp i\frac{3\pi}{2}} = \exp i\frac{3\pi}{4} = \cos \frac{3\pi}{4} + i \sin \frac{3\pi}{4} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}}(-1 + i) \quad (4)$$

Therefore, $\sqrt{-i} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}}(-1 + i)$