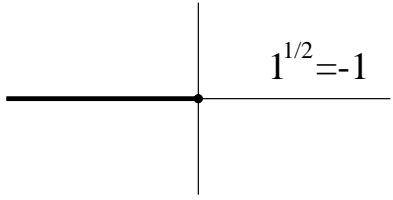




A diagram showing a horizontal real axis with a vertical imaginary axis intersecting at the origin. A thick black line segment on the real axis extends from the origin to the right, ending at a point marked with a dot. This segment represents a branch cut. Above the right end of this cut, the text  $1^{1/2} = 1$  is written.

$$1^{1/2} = 1$$



A diagram showing a horizontal real axis with a vertical imaginary axis intersecting at the origin. A thick black line segment on the real axis extends from the origin to the left, ending at a point marked with a dot. This segment represents a branch cut. Above the right end of this cut, the text  $1^{1/2} = -1$  is written.

$$1^{1/2} = -1$$