

# 1 Euler's Formula

One of the most famous equations in maths was discovered by Leonhard Euler. In it, he ties together  $i$ ,  $\pi$  and  $e$ .

He found that any complex number  $z = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$  could be written in the form  $z = re^{i\theta}$ . This means that  $e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$ , where  $\theta$  is the argument in radians of the complex number. Since the argument is the rotation about the origin, it leads to the most famous result, called Euler's Identity:

$$e^{i\pi} = -1$$

Euler's Formula is often referred to as polar form at university, and makes it similarly easy for us to solve problems involving complex numbers.

**For example:**

$$2e^{2i} \times 3e^{5i} = 6e^{7i}$$

$$e^{2i} \div e^{3i} = e^{-i}$$

If you have to change from rectangular into polar form:

If  $z = 1 - i$ , find  $z^7$ .

$$|1 - i| = \sqrt{1^2 + (-1)^2} = \sqrt{2}$$

$$\arg(1 - i) = -\frac{\pi}{4}$$

$$\text{Hence, } z = \sqrt{2}e^{-\frac{i\pi}{4}}$$

$$z^7 = (\sqrt{2})^7 e^{-\frac{7i\pi}{4}}$$

$$z^7 = 2^{\frac{7}{2}} e^{\frac{i\pi}{4}}$$

**A harder example:**

Find the value of  $i^i$

Since we know that  $i = e^{\frac{i\pi}{2}}$ , as it is only a revolution of  $\frac{\pi}{2}$  radians to get to the imaginary axis, we can rewrite the expression as  $i^i = e^{(\frac{i\pi}{2})^i}$

Then, using power rules, we simply multiply the powers together:

$$i^i = e^{\frac{i^2\pi}{2}} = e^{-\frac{\pi}{2}}$$

## Questions

(Answers - page ??)

1. Find the value of  $(-i)^i$
2. Find the value of  $\ln(-1)$
3. Suppose you have forgotten the formulas for the sine and cosine of a sum and a difference, but do remember the formula  $e^{z+w} = e^z e^w$ , with  $z, w \in \mathbb{C}$ .  
Use this latter formula to find formulas for  $\cos(A - B)$  and  $\sin(A + B)$  with A and B real.
4. Determine the exact **real** value of  $(i^i)^2$
5. Write the complex number  $\ln(-25e^{ii})$  in exact rectangular form.
6. Use  $e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$  to show that  $\cos \theta = \frac{1}{2}(e^{i\theta} + e^{-i\theta})$
7. Use  $e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$  to show that  $\sin \theta = \frac{1}{2i}(e^{i\theta} - e^{-i\theta})$
8. Find the exact value of  $\cos(i)$
9. Find the exact value of  $-i \ln\left(\frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{3} + i)\right)$
10. Solve the equation  $e^x + e^{-x} = 0$