

Finding n^{th} Roots of Complex Numbers

If $z = r(\cos\theta + i \sin\theta)$, then the n^{th} root of z is

$$z^{\frac{1}{n}} = r^{\frac{1}{n}} \left[\cos \left(\frac{\theta}{n} + \frac{2k\pi}{n} \right) + i \sin \left(\frac{\theta}{n} + \frac{2k\pi}{n} \right) \right]$$

where $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n - 1$

1. Determine the cube roots of $z = 27(\cos\pi + i \sin\pi)$

2. Find the fourth roots of $z = 5\left(\cos \frac{\pi}{3} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{3}\right)$

3. Determine the cube roots of $z = -1$

4. Find the eighth roots of unity

5. Find the cube roots of $-2 - 2\sqrt{3}i$

Answers

1. Determine the cube roots of $z = 27(\cos\pi + i \sin\pi)$

$$3\left(\cos \frac{\pi}{3} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{3}\right), 3(\cos\pi + i \sin\pi), 3\left(\cos \frac{5\pi}{3} + i \sin \frac{5\pi}{3}\right)$$

2. Find the fourth roots of $z = 5\left(\cos \frac{\pi}{3} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{3}\right)$

$$\sqrt[4]{5}\left(\cos \frac{\pi}{12} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{12}\right), \sqrt[4]{5}\left(\cos \frac{7\pi}{12} + i \sin \frac{7\pi}{12}\right), \sqrt[4]{5}\left(\cos \frac{13\pi}{12} + i \sin \frac{13\pi}{12}\right), \sqrt[4]{5}\left(\cos \frac{19\pi}{12} + i \sin \frac{19\pi}{12}\right)$$

3. Determine the cube roots of $z = -1$

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}i, -1, \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}i$$

4. Find the eighth roots of unity

$$1, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}i, i, -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}i, -1, -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}i, -i, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}i$$

5. Find the cube roots of $-2 - 2\sqrt{3}i$

$$\sqrt[3]{4}\left(\cos \frac{4\pi}{9} + i \sin \frac{4\pi}{9}\right), \sqrt[3]{4}\left(\cos \frac{10\pi}{9} + i \sin \frac{10\pi}{9}\right), \sqrt[3]{4}\left(\cos \frac{16\pi}{9} + i \sin \frac{16\pi}{9}\right)$$