

Investigating Powers of Complex Numbers

Let z be the complex number $z = 2 \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{5} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{5} \right)$ or $z = 2e^{\frac{\pi i}{5}}$
Find the different powers of z in modulus-argument and exponential forms.

Power of z	Calculation	Modulus-Argument Form	Exponential Form
z		$2 \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{5} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{5} \right)$	$z = 2e^{\frac{\pi i}{5}}$
z^2	$2 \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{5} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{5} \right) \times 2 \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{5} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{5} \right)$	$4 \left(\cos \frac{2\pi}{5} + i \sin \frac{2\pi}{5} \right)$	$z = 4e^{\frac{2\pi i}{5}}$
z^3	$4 \left(\cos \frac{2\pi}{5} + i \sin \frac{2\pi}{5} \right) \times 2 \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{5} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{5} \right)$	$8 \left(\cos \frac{3\pi}{5} + i \sin \frac{3\pi}{5} \right)$	$z = 8e^{\frac{3\pi i}{5}}$
z^4	$8 \left(\cos \frac{2\pi}{5} + i \sin \frac{2\pi}{5} \right) \times 2 \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{5} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{5} \right)$	$16 \left(\cos \frac{4\pi}{5} + i \sin \frac{4\pi}{5} \right)$	$z = 16e^{\frac{4\pi i}{5}}$
z^5	$16 \left(\cos \frac{2\pi}{5} + i \sin \frac{2\pi}{5} \right) \times 2 \left(\cos \frac{\pi}{5} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{5} \right)$	$32(\cos \pi + i \sin \pi)$	$z = 32e^{\pi i}$
z^n		$2^n \left(\cos \frac{n\pi}{5} + i \sin \frac{n\pi}{5} \right)$	$z = 2^n e^{\frac{n\pi i}{5}}$

Now, consider the general complex number $z = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$ or $z = re^{i\theta}$
Find the different powers of z in modulus-argument and exponential forms.

Power of z	Calculation	Modulus-Argument Form	Exponential Form
z		$r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$	$re^{i\theta}$
z^2	$r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta) \times r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$	$r^2(\cos 2\theta + i \sin 2\theta)$	$r^2 e^{2i\theta}$
z^3	$r^2(\cos 2\theta + i \sin 2\theta) \times r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$	$r^3(\cos 3\theta + i \sin 3\theta)$	$r^3 e^{3i\theta}$
z^4	$r^3(\cos 3\theta + i \sin 3\theta) \times r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$	$r^4(\cos 4\theta + i \sin 4\theta)$	$r^4 e^{4i\theta}$
z^5	$r^4(\cos 4\theta + i \sin 4\theta) \times r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$	$r^5(\cos 5\theta + i \sin 5\theta)$	$r^5 e^{5i\theta}$
z^n		$r^n(\cos n\theta + i \sin n\theta)$	$r^n e^{in\theta}$

We can conclude that:

$$(r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta))^n = r^n(\cos n\theta + i \sin n\theta)$$