

1. Let $a, b \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $a + b = a^2 + b^2 = \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{3}i$. Compute $|\operatorname{Re}(a)|$.

Answer: $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

From $a + b = \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{3}i$ we can let $a = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}i + x$ and $b = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}i - x$. Then $a^2 + b^2 = 2((\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}i)^2 + x^2) = 2(x^2 - \frac{1}{3}) = \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{3}i$. So $x^2 = \frac{1+\sqrt{3}i}{3} = \frac{2}{3}e^{i\pi/3}$, $x = \pm \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3+i}}{2}$. Since $|\operatorname{Re}(a)| = |\operatorname{Re}(x)|$, the answer is $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$.

2. Consider the curves $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ and $2x^2 + 2xy + y^2 - 2x - 2y = 0$. These curves intersect at two points, one of which is $(1, 0)$. Find the other one.

Answer: $(-\frac{3}{5}, \frac{4}{5})$

From the first equation, we get that $y^2 = 1 - x^2$. Plugging this into the second one, we are left with

$$\begin{aligned} 2x^2 \pm 2x\sqrt{1-x^2} + 1 - x^2 - 2x \mp 2\sqrt{1-x^2} &= 0 \Rightarrow (x-1)^2 = \mp 2\sqrt{1-x^2}(x-1) \\ &\Rightarrow x-1 = \mp 2\sqrt{1-x^2} \text{ assuming } x \neq 1 \\ &\Rightarrow x^2 - 2x + 1 = 4 - 4x^2 \Rightarrow 5x^2 - 2x - 3 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

The quadratic formula yields that $x = \frac{2 \pm 8}{10} = 1, -\frac{3}{5}$ (we said that $x \neq 1$ above but we see that it is still valid). If $x = 1$, the first equation forces $y = 0$ and we easily see that this solves the second equation. If $x = -\frac{3}{5}$, then clearly y must be positive or else the second equation will sum five positive terms.

Therefore $y = \sqrt{1 - \frac{9}{25}} = \sqrt{\frac{16}{25}} = \frac{4}{5}$. Hence the other point is $(-\frac{3}{5}, \frac{4}{5})$.

3. If r, s, t , and u denote the roots of the polynomial $f(x) = x^4 + 3x^3 + 3x + 2$, find

$$\frac{1}{r^2} + \frac{1}{s^2} + \frac{1}{t^2} + \frac{1}{u^2}.$$

Answer: $\frac{9}{4}$

First notice that the polynomial

$$g(x) = x^4 \left(\frac{1}{x^4} + \frac{3}{x^3} + \frac{3}{x} + 2 \right) = 2x^4 + 3x^3 + 3x + 1$$

is a polynomial with roots $\frac{1}{r}, \frac{1}{s}, \frac{1}{t}, \frac{1}{u}$. Therefore, it is sufficient to find the sum of the squares of the roots of $g(x)$, which we will denote as r_1 through r_4 . Now, note that

$$r_1^2 + r_2^2 + r_3^2 + r_4^2 = (r_1 + r_2 + r_3 + r_4)^2 - (r_1r_2 + r_1r_3 + r_1r_4 + r_2r_3 + r_2r_4 + r_3r_4) = \left(-\frac{a_3}{a_4}\right)^2 - \frac{a_2}{a_4}$$

by Vieta's Theorem, where a_n denotes the coefficient of x^n in $g(x)$. Plugging in values, we get that our answer is $(-\frac{3}{2})^2 - 0 = \frac{9}{4}$.

4. Find the 2011th-smallest x , with $x > 1$, that satisfies the following relation:

$$\sin(\ln x) + 2 \cos(3 \ln x) \sin(2 \ln x) = 0.$$

Answer: $x = e^{2011\pi/5}$

Set $y = \ln x$, and observe that

$$2 \cos(3y) \sin(2y) = \sin(3y + 2y) - \sin(3y - 2y) = \sin(5y) - \sin(y),$$

so that the equation in question is simply

$$\sin(5y) = 0.$$

The solutions are therefore

$$\ln x = y = \frac{n\pi}{5} \implies x = e^{n\pi/5} \text{ for all } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

5. Find the remainder when $(x+2)^{2011} - (x+1)^{2011}$ is divided by $x^2 + x + 1$.

Answer: $(-3^{1005} - 1)x + (-2 \cdot 3^{1005} - 1)$

The standard method is to use the third root of unity ω , $\omega^2 + \omega + 1 = 0$. Let $(x+2)^{2011} - (x+1)^{2011} = (x^2 + x + 1)Q(x) + ax + b$ and substitute $x = \omega$. Then $a\omega + b = (\omega+2)^{2011} - (\omega+1)^{2011}$. Note that $\omega+2$ has size $\sqrt{3}$ and argument $\pi/6$, so $(\omega+2)^6 = -3^3$. Also $\omega+1$ has magnitude 1 and argument $\pi/3$, so $(\omega+1)^6 = 1$. Using this and $2011 = 6 \cdot 335 + 1$, we get that $a\omega + b = (-3^{1005} - 1)\omega + (-2 \cdot 3^{1005} - 1)$.

Another solution is to note that $(x+2)^2 \equiv x^2 + 4x + 4 \equiv -3x^2 \pmod{x^2 + x + 1}$ and $(x+1)^2 \equiv x^2 + 2x + 1 \equiv x \pmod{x^2 + x + 1}$. Then we have $x^3 \equiv 1 \pmod{x^2 + x + 1}$ and we can proceed by using periodicity.

6. There are 2011 positive numbers with both their sum and the sum of their reciprocals equal to 2012. Let x be one of these numbers. Find the maximum of $x + x^{-1}$.

Answer: $\frac{8045}{2012}$

Let $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{2010}$ be the 2010 numbers distinct from x . Then $y_1 + y_2 + \dots + y_{2010} = 2012 - x$ and $\frac{1}{y_1} + \frac{1}{y_2} + \dots + \frac{1}{y_{2010}} = 2012 - \frac{1}{x}$. Applying the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality gives

$$\left(\sum_{i=1}^{2010} y_i \right) \left(\sum_{i=1}^{2010} \frac{1}{y_i} \right) = (2012 - x)(2012 - \frac{1}{x}) \geq 2010^2$$

so $2012^2 - 2012(x + x^{-1}) + 1 - 2010^2 \geq 0$, $x + x^{-1} \leq 8045/2012$.

7. Let $P(x)$ be a polynomial of degree 2011 such that $P(1) = 0$, $P(2) = 1$, $P(4) = 2$, ... , and $P(2^{2011}) = 2011$. Compute the coefficient of the x^1 term in $P(x)$.

Answer: $2 - \frac{1}{2^{2010}}$

We analyze $Q(x) = P(2x) - P(x)$. One can observe that $Q(x) - 1$ has the powers of 2 starting from 1, 2, 4, ... , up to 2^{2010} as roots. Since Q has degree 2011, $Q(x) - 1 = A(x-1)(x-2) \dots (x-2^{2010})$ for some A . Meanwhile $Q(0) = P(0) - P(0) = 0$, so

$$Q(0) - 1 = -1 = A(-1)(-2) \dots (-2^{2010}) = -2^{(2010 \cdot 2011)/2} A.$$

Therefore $A = 2^{-(1005 \cdot 2011)}$. Finally, note that the coefficient of x is same for P and $Q - 1$, so it equals

$$A(-2^0)(-2^1) \dots (-2^{2010})((-2^0) + (-2^{-1}) + \dots + (-2^{-2010})) = \frac{A \cdot 2^{1005 \cdot 2011} (2^{2011} - 1)}{2^{2010}} = \boxed{2 - \frac{1}{2^{2010}}}.$$

8. Find the maximum of

$$\frac{ab + bc + cd}{a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2}$$

for reals a, b, c , and d not all zero.

Answer: $\frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{4}$

One has $ab \leq \frac{t}{2}a^2 + \frac{1}{2t}b^2$, $bc \leq \frac{1}{2}b^2 + \frac{1}{2}c^2$, and $cd \leq \frac{1}{2t}c^2 + \frac{t}{2}d^2$ by AM-GM. If we can set t such that $\frac{t}{2} = \frac{1}{2t} + \frac{1}{2}$, it can be proved that $\frac{ab+bc+cd}{a^2+b^2+c^2+d^2} \leq \frac{\frac{t}{2}(a^2+b^2+c^2+d^2)}{a^2+b^2+c^2+d^2} = \frac{t}{2}$, and this is maximal because we can set a, b, c, d so that the equality holds in every inequality we used. Solving this equation, we get $t = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$, so the maximum is $\frac{t}{2} = \frac{\sqrt{5}+1}{4}$.

9. It is a well-known fact that the sum of the first n k -th powers can be represented as a polynomial in n . Let $P_k(n)$ be such a polynomial for integers k and n . For example,

$$\sum_{i=1}^n i^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6},$$

so one has

$$P_2(x) = \frac{x(x+1)(2x+1)}{6} = \frac{1}{3}x^3 + \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{6}x.$$

Evaluate $P_7(-3) + P_6(-4)$.

Answer: -665

Since the equation

$$P_k(x) = P_k(x-1) + x^k$$

has all integers ≥ 2 as roots, the equation is an identity, so it holds for all x . Now we can substitute $x = -1, -2, -3, -4, \dots$ to prove

$$P_k(-n) = -\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (-i)^k$$

so $P_7(-3) + P_6(-4) = -(-1)^6 - (-2)^6 - (-3)^6 - (-1)^7 - (-2)^7 = -665$.

10. How many polynomials P of degree 4 satisfy $P(x^2) = P(x)P(-x)$?

Answer: 10

Note that if r is a root of P then r^2 is also a root. Therefore $r, r^2, r^2, r^2, r^2, \dots$, are all roots of P . Since P has a finite number of roots, two of these roots should be equal. Therefore, either $r = 0$ or $r^N = 1$ for some $N > 0$.

If all roots are equal to 0 or 1, then P is of the form $ax^b(x-1)^{(4-b)}$ for $b = 0, \dots, 4$.

Now suppose this is not the case. For such a polynomial, let q denote the largest integer such that $r = e^{2\pi i \cdot p/q}$ is a root for some integer p coprime to q . We claim that the only suitable $q > 1$ are $q = 3$ and $q = 5$.

First note that if r is a root then one of \sqrt{r} or $-\sqrt{r}$ is also a root. So if q is even, then one of $e^{2\pi i \cdot p/2q}$ or $e^{2\pi i \cdot p+q/2q}$ should also be root of p , and both p/q and $(p+q)/2q$ are irreducible fractions. This contradicts the assumption that q is maximal. Therefore q must be odd. Now, if $q > 6$, then $r^{-2}, r^{-1}, r, r^2, r^4$ should be all distinct, so $q \leq 6$. Therefore $q = 5$ or 3 .

If $q = 5$, then the value of p is not important as P has the complex fifth roots of unity as its roots, so $P = a(x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1)$. If $q = 3$, then P is divisible by $x^2 + x + 1$. In this case we let $P(x) = a(x^2 + x + 1)Q(x)$ and repeating the same reasoning we can show that $Q(x) = x^2 + x + 1$ or $Q(x)$ is of form $x^b(x-1)^{2-b}$.

Finally, we can show that exactly one member of all 10 resulting families of polynomials fits the desired criteria. Let $P(x) = a(x-r)(x-s)(x-t)(x-u)$. Then, $P(x)P(-x) = a^2(x^2-r^2)(x^2-s^2)(x^2-t^2)(x^2-u^2)$. We now claim that r^2, s^2, t^2 , and u^2 equal r, s, t , and u in some order. We can prove this noting that the mapping $f(x) = x^2$ maps 0 and 1 to themselves and maps the third and fifth roots of unity to another distinct third or fifth root of unity, respectively. Hence, for these polynomials, $P(x)P(-x) = a^2(x^2-r)(x^2-s)(x^2-t)(x^2-u) = aP(x^2)$, so there exist exactly 10 polynomials that fit the desired criteria, namely the ones from the above 10 families with $a = 1$.