

1 Pascal's triangle

1. Multiply to find the following polynomials:

(a) $(x + 1)^3$

(b) $(x + 1)^4$

(c) $(x + 1)^5$

(d) $(x + 2)^3$

(e) $(x - 1)^3$

2. How many ways are there to choose 2 marbles from a bag of 5 marbles?

3. How many ways are there to choose 3 marbles from a bag of 5 marbles?

4. How many ways are there to choose 4 marbles from a bag of 5 marbles?

2 Roots of unity and the complex plane

Some more cool examples of where cyclic groups arise are *roots of unity*, which live inside the complex plane.

1. Find all the solutions to the equation $x^2 = 1$, that is, all the “square roots of unity”. Check that these form a group under multiplication.

2. Find all the solutions to the equation $x^3 = 1$ (hint: you will need the complex numbers). Check that these form a group under multiplication.

3. Find all the solutions to the equation $x^4 = 1$. Check that these form a group under multiplication.

4. Graph the solutions to each of the previous problems. What do they look like?

5. Use Euler's formula $e^{i\theta} = \cos(\theta) + i \sin(\theta)$ to write your solutions to the previous questions as complex exponentials. What patterns do you notice?

6. Can you express what all the n -th roots of unity will look like in terms of complex exponentials?

7. Do the cube roots of unity form a group under multiplication? Do the fourth roots of unity form a group under multiplication? Do the n -th roots of unity form a group under multiplication?

8. How many generators will these groups have?