

### Question

State Rouché's theorem and use it to show that all the roots of the equation

$$z^6 + \alpha z + 1 = 0,$$

where the constant  $\alpha$  satisfies  $|\alpha| = 1$ , lie in the annulus  $\frac{1}{2} < |z| < 2$ .

Use the argument principle to show that, if  $\operatorname{Re}(\alpha) > 0$ , then just one of these roots lies in the first quadrant.

### Answer

If  $|z| = \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $|z^6 + \alpha z| \leq |z|^6 + |\alpha||z| < (\frac{1}{2})^6 + \frac{1}{2} < 1$

So  $z^6 + \alpha z + 1$  has no roots in  $|z| \leq \frac{1}{2}$

If  $|z| = 2$ ,  $|\alpha z + 1| \leq |\alpha||z| + 1 \leq 3 < 2^6 = |z|^6$

so all the roots are inside  $|z| = 2$

DIAGRAM

Let  $\alpha = a + ib$ ,  $a > 0$

$$f(z) = z^6 + \alpha z + 1$$

On  $OA$ ,  $f = x^6 + ax + 1 + ibx$

$\tan \arg f(z) = \frac{bx}{x^6 + ax + 1}$  continuous on  $OA$  as  $a > 0$

This is zero when  $x = 0$  and  $\rightarrow 0$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ , so the total change of  $\arg f(z)$  on  $OA$  is  $\epsilon_1$  - small.

On  $BO$   $z = iy$   $f = -y^6 + by + 1 + iay$

Consider the real parts  $-y^6 - by + 1$ , the derivative is  $-6y^5 - b$  which is always negative if  $b > 0$ , and which has just one positive root for  $b > 0$ . So  $-y^6 - by + 1$  has one positive root.

So the graph of  $\tan \arg f(z)$  is of the form

DIAGRAM

So as  $y$  goes from  $\infty$  to 0, the change of argument of  $f(z)$  is  $-\pi$ .

On the semicircle  $Re^{i\theta}$   $f(z) = R^6 e^{i6\theta}(1 + w)$  -  $w$  small.

So as  $\theta : 0 \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{2}$   $\arg f(z)$  increases by approximately  $3\pi$ .

Thus  $[\arg f(z)]_C = 2\pi$  and thus there is just one root in the first quadrant.