



N-CN Complex number patterns

Task

For this task, the letter i denotes the imaginary unit, that is, $i = \sqrt{-1}$.

a. For each integer k from 0 to 8, write i^k in the form a + bi.

b. Describe the pattern you observe, and algebraically prove your observation. In particular, simplify i^{195} .

c. Write each of the following expression in the form a + bi:

•
$$i^2 + i + 1$$

•
$$i^3 + i^2 + i + 1$$

•
$$i^4 + i^3 + i^2 + i + 1$$

•
$$i^5 + i^4 + i^3 + i^2 + i + 1$$

•
$$i^6 + i^5 + i^4 + i^3 + i^2 + i + 1$$

•
$$i^7 + i^6 + i^5 + i^4 + i^3 + i^2 + i + 1$$

•
$$i^8 + i^7 + i^6 + i^5 + i^4 + i^3 + i^2 + i + 1$$

d. Describe the pattern you observe, and algebraically prove your observation. In particular, compute

$$i^{195} + i^{194} + \dots + i^2 + i + 1.$$



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