

Observation 1. Let $z \in \mathbb{C}$. TFAE, as easily seen by writing $z = x + iy \in \mathbb{C}$ where $x = \operatorname{Re} z \in \mathbb{R}$ and $y = \operatorname{Im} z \in \mathbb{R}$.

$$(1.1) \quad z \geq 0 \quad (\text{a convenient way to indicate that } z \text{ is real and nonnegative, i.e. } z = \operatorname{Re} z \geq 0)$$

$$(1.2) \quad z = |z|$$

$$(1.3) \quad \operatorname{Re} z = |z|$$

Observation 2. Let $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$. TFAE. (think what this is saying geometrically)

$$(2.1) \quad z_1 \bar{z}_2 \geq 0$$

$$(2.4) \quad [z_2 = 0] \text{ or } \left[\frac{z_1}{z_2} \geq 0 \right]$$

$$(2.2) \quad z_1 \bar{z}_2 = |z_1| |z_2|$$

$$(2.5) \quad [z_2 = 0] \text{ or } [z_1 = \lambda z_2 \text{ for some } \lambda \in [0, \infty)]$$

$$(2.3) \quad \operatorname{Re} z_1 \bar{z}_2 = |z_1 \bar{z}_2|$$

Theorem 1. [Triangle Inequality (with equality)] Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and z_1, \dots, z_n from \mathbb{C} . Then

$$|z_1 + \dots + z_n| \leq |z_1| + \dots + |z_n| \quad (1)$$

and equality holds in (1) if and only if

$$z_j \bar{z}_k = |z_j| |z_k| \quad \text{for each } j, k \in \mathbb{N}^{\leq n} \text{ with } j \neq k. \quad (2)$$

An equivalent formulation of (2) is

$$z_j \bar{z}_k = |z_j| |z_k| \quad \text{for each } j, k \in \mathbb{N}^{\leq n}. \quad (2')$$

Proof. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$. The equivalence of (2) and (2') follows from $z\bar{z} = |z|^2$ for any $z \in \mathbb{C}$. Theorem 1 clearly holds when $n = 1$ for any $z_1 \in \mathbb{C}$. Thus we assume $n \geq 1$.

First we show inequality (1) by induction. Let $n = 2$. Fix any $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$. Then (1) holds since

$$\begin{aligned} |z_1 + z_2|^2 &= (z_1 + z_2) \overline{(z_1 + z_2)} \\ &= (z_1 + z_2) (\bar{z}_1 + \bar{z}_2) \\ &= z_1 \bar{z}_1 + z_2 \bar{z}_2 + z_1 \bar{z}_2 + \bar{z}_1 z_2 \\ &= |z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2 + z_1 \bar{z}_2 + \overline{z_1 \bar{z}_2} \\ &= |z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2 + 2\operatorname{Re}(z_1 \bar{z}_2) \\ &\stackrel{(*)}{\leq} |z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2 + 2|z_1 \bar{z}_2| \\ &= |z_1|^2 + |z_2|^2 + 2|z_1| |z_2| \\ &= (|z_1| + |z_2|)^2. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Now fix $n \in \mathbb{N}^{\geq 2}$. Assume that Theorem 1 holds for any collection of $m \in \mathbb{N}$ complex numbers where $m \leq n$. Fix z_1, \dots, z_{n+1} from \mathbb{C} . Then

$$\left| \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} z_j \right| = \left| \left(\sum_{j=1}^n z_j \right) + z_{n+1} \right| \leq \left| \sum_{j=1}^n z_j \right| + |z_{n+1}| \leq \left(\sum_{j=1}^n |z_j| \right) + |z_{n+1}| = \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} |z_j|.$$

Thus (1) holds.

Thus, for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and z_1, \dots, z_n from \mathbb{C} , inequality (1) holds.

The remainder of the proof is the next Exercise. □

Outline of rest of proof ...

What remains to be shown is, $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\left| \sum_{i=1}^n z_i \right| = \sum_{i=1}^n |z_i| \iff (2) \text{ holds. (WTS)}$$

• If $n=1$, then (WTS) clearly holds for any $z_1 \in \mathbb{C}$.

• Let $n=2$. Note

$$|z_1 + z_2| = |z_1| + |z_2|$$

is equiv. to, by the calculation in (3) (namely the $\overline{z_1 z_2}$)

$$\operatorname{Re}(z_1 \overline{z_2}) = |z_1| |z_2|$$

which is equiv. to, by Observation 2,

$$z_1 \overline{z_2} = |z_1| |z_2|.$$

So (WTS) holds for $n=2$ for any $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$.

• WTS \Rightarrow for $n \geq 3$ Fix $n \in \mathbb{N}^{\geq 3}$. Let

$$\left| \sum_{i=1}^n z_i \right| = \sum_{i=1}^n |z_i|. \quad (4)$$

(WTS (2) holds.)

Fix $j, k \in \mathbb{N}^{\leq n}$ such that $j \neq k$. Let

$$\Gamma = \{i \in \mathbb{N}^{\leq n} : i \neq j \text{ and } i \neq k\}.$$

(Note card $\Gamma \geq 1$ and $\Gamma \cup \{j\} \cup \{k\} = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$)

So

$$\begin{aligned} |z_j| + |z_k| + \sum_{i \in \Gamma} |z_i| &= \sum_{i=1}^n |z_i| \\ &\stackrel{\text{by (4)}}{=} \left| \sum_{i=1}^n z_i \right| \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{using our} \\ \text{assumption.} \end{array} \right\} \\ &= \left| (z_j + z_k) + \sum_{i \in \Gamma} z_i \right| \\ &\stackrel{\Delta}{\leq} |z_j + z_k| + \sum_{i \in \Gamma} |z_i| \\ &\stackrel{(1)}{=} |z_j| + |z_k| + \sum_{i \in \Gamma} |z_i|. \end{aligned}$$

So $|z_j| + |z_k| = |z_j + z_k|$. Now apply $n=2$ case of (WTS) to get (2) holds for j & k (which were arbitrary so done).

WTS \Leftarrow for $n \geq 3$ Fix $n \in \mathbb{N}^{\geq 3}$. Let

$$z_j \bar{z}_k = |z_j| |z_k|, \quad \forall j, k \in \mathbb{N}^{\leq n}. \quad (2')$$

We need to show $\left| \sum_{i=1}^n z_i \right| = \sum_{i=1}^n |z_i|$ (5)

Case 1 $z_j = 0 \quad \forall j \in \mathbb{N}^{\leq n}$. Clearly (5) holds.

Case 2 $\exists k \in \mathbb{N}^{\leq n}$ at $z_k \neq 0$. So $\bar{z}_k \neq 0$. So

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \sum_{i=1}^n z_i \right| &= \left| \frac{1}{\bar{z}_k} \sum_{i=1}^n (z_i \bar{z}_k) \right| \stackrel{(2')}{=} \frac{1}{|\bar{z}_k|} \left| \sum_{i=1}^n |z_i| |\bar{z}_k| \right| \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n |z_i|. \end{aligned} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{our assumption.} \end{array} \right\}$$

So (5) holds.



You are **strongly** encouraged to work in groups, following the procedure as in homework [MS09](#).

Exercise pCA 5. Variant of 3.1.24.3 (p. 173).

Read section 3.1. Then finish the proof of Theorem 1 from the previous page.