

Chapter 8 / Example 9

Powers of complex numbers

- a** Given $\tan\left(\frac{\pi}{6}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$ find the modulus and argument of $z = -\sqrt{3} - i$.
- b** Find an expression for z^n and hence find the smallest value of n for which $\text{Im}(z_n) = 0$ and for this value of n give z^n in Cartesian form.

Press **MENU** 1 **RUN-MAT** to display the Run-Matrix screen for arithmetical calculations.

To enter the modulus function press **F4** MATH **F3** Abs.

Type $-\sqrt{3} - i$ and press **EXE**.

To enter i press **SHIFT** 0 i .

$$|-\sqrt{3} - i| = 2.$$

Press **OPTN** **F3** COMPLEX **F3** Arg.

Type $(-\sqrt{3} - i)$ and press **EXE** **□**.

Remember to enclose the complex number in parentheses.

The argument is $-\frac{5\pi}{6}$.

Complex numbers cannot be used in graph, table or recursion modes. However, the use of a list in a complex calculation is supported.

Enter the numbers 1, 2, 3, ..., 8 in a list.

Type {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8}.

Press **→**, press **SHIFT** 1 **[List]** type 1 and press **EXE**.

Press **OPTN**, **F3** COMPLEX, **F6** \triangleright , **F2** ImP.

Type $\left(2^{\text{List1}} e^{-\frac{5\pi}{6}(\text{List1})i}\right)$ and press **EXE**.

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Press \blacktriangle T and then use \blacktriangleright to scroll through the list.

The sixth term in the list is 0.

Hence the smallest value of n for which $\text{imag}\left(2^n e^{-\frac{5n}{6}i}\right) = 0$ is 6.

Type $2^6 e^{-\frac{5n}{6} \times 6i}$ and press $\boxed{\text{EXE}}$.

$$2^6 e^{-\frac{5n}{6} \times 6i} = -64.$$