

## Illustration of the argument theorem

We illustrate this for a cubic polynomial:

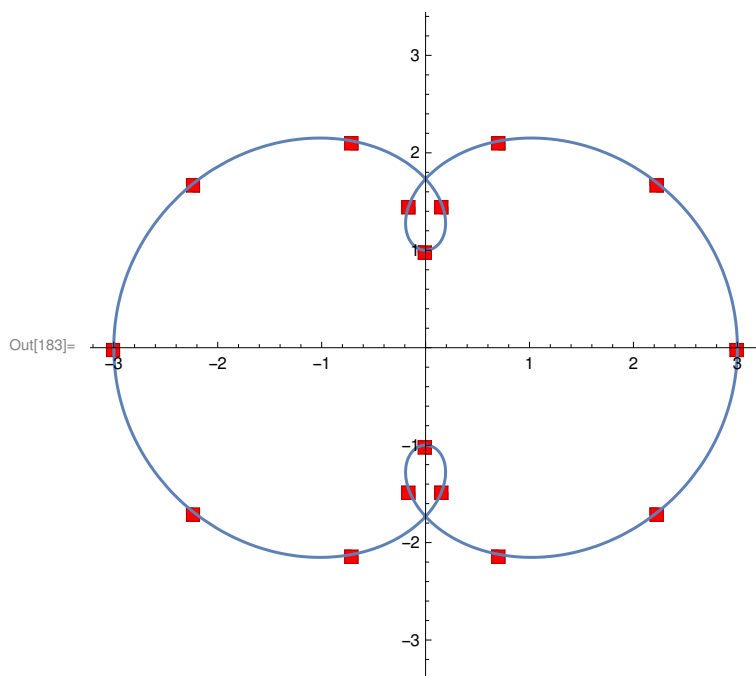
```
In[157]:= f[z_] := 2 z + z^3
```

First set up a table of  $w=f(z)$  evaluated at 16 points on the unit circle in the  $z$ -plane:

```
In[182]:= w = Table[{Re[f[Exp[I θ]], Im[f[Exp[I θ]]]} /. θ → 2.0 Pi m / 16, {m, 16}];
```

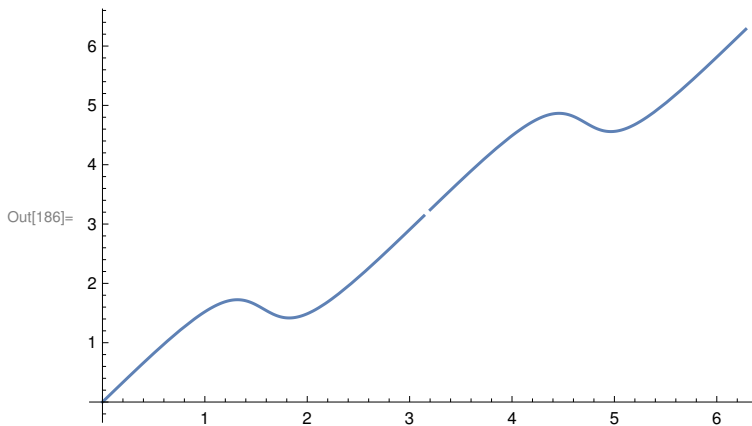
Plot these and, since it is easy to do, we fill in the gaps:

```
In[183]:= Show[ListPlot[w, PlotMarkers → {Red, Small}],  
  ParametricPlot[{Re[f[Exp[I θ]], Im[f[Exp[I θ]]]}, {θ, 0, 2 Pi}],  
  PlotRange → {{-3.1, 3.1}, {-3.1, 3.1}}, AspectRatio → 1]
```



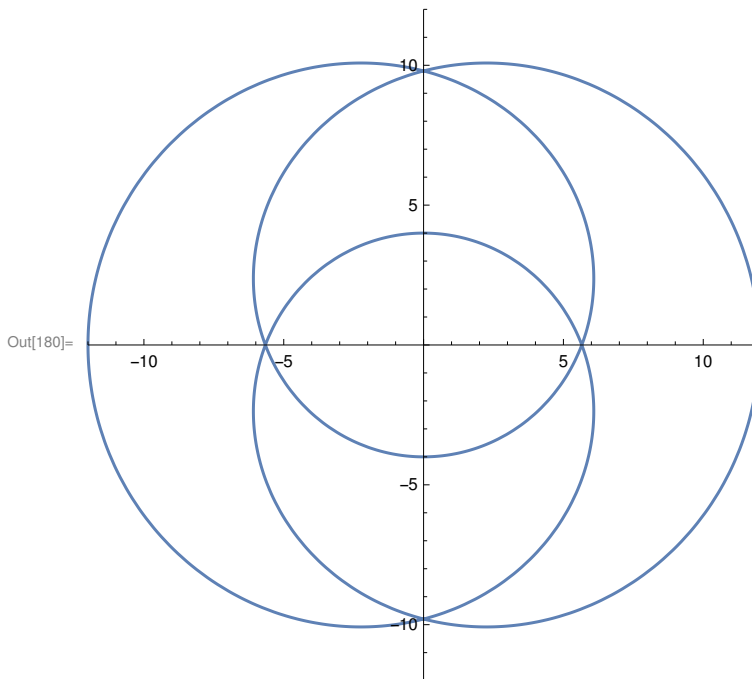
Note that the curve (in the  $w$ -plane) encircles  $w=0$  once. There is therefore only one solution of  $f(z)=0$  with  $|z|<1$ . It is the solution  $z=0$ .

```
In[186]:= Block[{z = Exp[I θ]},
  Plot[Arg[f[z]] + If[θ < Pi, 0, 2 Pi], {θ, 0, 2 Pi}]]
```



Repeating the first plot with  $|z|=2$  gives the following plot in the  $w$ -plane:

```
In[180]:= ParametricPlot[{Re[f[2 Exp[I θ]]], Im[f[2 Exp[I θ]]]},
  {θ, 0, 2 Pi}, PlotRange → {{-12, 12}, {-12, 12}}, AspectRatio → 1]
```



The curve (in the  $w$ -plane) encircles  $w=0$  three times. There are therefore three solutions of  $f(z)=0$  with  $|z|<2$ . They are  $z=0$  and the two square roots of  $-2$ .