Exposé court

44 Multiplicative dependence of two integers shifted by a root of unity

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We prove a result on the multiplicative independence of the numbers $m - \alpha$, $n - \alpha$, where m > n are positive integers and α is a reciprocal algebraic number with the property that $\alpha + 1/\alpha$ has at least two real conjugates over \mathbb{Q} lying in the interval $(-\infty, 2]$. As an application, we show that for any positive integers m > n and $k \ge 3$ the numbers $m - \zeta_k$, $n - \zeta_k$, where ζ_k is the primitive *k*th root of unity, are multiplicatively independent except when (n, k) = (1, 6). This settles a conjecture of Madritsch and Ziegler.