

Then (again, for clarity's sake, temporarily suppressing the (\vec{r}, t) -dependence of these quantities):

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tilde{Z}_1 \cdot \tilde{Z}_2^* + \tilde{Z}_2 \cdot \tilde{Z}_1^* &= (X_1 + iY_1) \cdot (X_2 + iY_2)^* + (X_2 + iY_2) \cdot (X_1 + iY_1)^* \\
 &= (X_1 + iY_1) \cdot (X_2 - iY_2) + (X_2 + iY_2) \cdot (X_1 - iY_1) \\
 &= (X_1 \cdot X_2 + iY_1 \cdot X_2 - iY_2 \cdot X_1 + Y_1 \cdot Y_2) + (X_2 \cdot X_1 + iY_2 \cdot X_1 - iY_1 \cdot X_2 + Y_2 \cdot Y_1) \\
 &= (X_1 \cdot X_2 + i\cancel{X_2 \cdot Y_1} - i\cancel{X_1 \cdot Y_2} + Y_1 \cdot Y_2) + (X_1 \cdot X_2 + i\cancel{X_1 \cdot Y_2} - i\cancel{X_2 \cdot Y_1} + Y_1 \cdot Y_2) \\
 &= 2(X_1 \cdot X_2 + Y_1 \cdot Y_2) = 2 \operatorname{Re}\{\tilde{Z}_1 \cdot \tilde{Z}_2^*\}
 \end{aligned}$$

i.e. $\operatorname{Re}\{\tilde{Z}_1 \cdot \tilde{Z}_2^*\} = \operatorname{Re}\{\tilde{Z}_2 \cdot \tilde{Z}_1^*\}$. We will explicitly prove this statement – the 1st term is:

$$\tilde{Z}_1 \cdot \tilde{Z}_2^* = X_1 \cdot X_2 + iX_2 \cdot Y_1 - iX_1 \cdot Y_2 + Y_1 \cdot Y_2 = \underbrace{(X_1 \cdot X_2 + Y_1 \cdot Y_2)}_{=\operatorname{Re}\{\tilde{Z}_1 \cdot \tilde{Z}_2^*\}} + i \underbrace{(X_2 \cdot Y_1 - X_1 \cdot Y_2)}_{=\operatorname{Im}\{\tilde{Z}_1 \cdot \tilde{Z}_2^*\}}$$

whereas the 2nd term (= changing in indices $1 \rightleftharpoons 2$ in the above expression) is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tilde{Z}_2 \cdot \tilde{Z}_1^* &= X_2 \cdot X_1 + iX_1 \cdot Y_2 - iX_2 \cdot Y_1 + Y_2 \cdot Y_1 = X_1 \cdot X_2 + iX_1 \cdot Y_2 - iX_2 \cdot Y_1 + Y_1 \cdot Y_2 \\
 &= \underbrace{(X_1 \cdot X_2 + Y_1 \cdot Y_2)}_{=\operatorname{Re}\{\tilde{Z}_2 \cdot \tilde{Z}_1^*\}} + i \underbrace{(X_1 \cdot Y_2 - X_2 \cdot Y_1)}_{=\operatorname{Im}\{\tilde{Z}_2 \cdot \tilde{Z}_1^*\}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Separately comparing the real and imaginary parts of each of these two terms, we see that indeed

$$\operatorname{Re}\{\tilde{Z}_1 \cdot \tilde{Z}_2^*\} = \operatorname{Re}\{\tilde{Z}_2 \cdot \tilde{Z}_1^*\} = (X_1 \cdot X_2 + Y_1 \cdot Y_2)$$

Whereas:

$$\operatorname{Im}\{\tilde{Z}_1 \cdot \tilde{Z}_2^*\} = -\operatorname{Im}\{\tilde{Z}_2 \cdot \tilde{Z}_1^*\} = (X_2 \cdot Y_1 - X_1 \cdot Y_2).$$

Alternatively, we can equivalently see this another way, simply by working with the explicit expressions for complex $\tilde{Z}_1(\vec{r}, t) = A_1(\vec{r}, t)e^{i(\omega_1(t)t + \varphi_1(\vec{r}, t))}$ and $\tilde{Z}_2(\vec{r}, t) = A_2(\vec{r}, t)e^{i(\omega_2(t)t + \varphi_2(\vec{r}, t))}$:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tilde{Z}_1 \cdot \tilde{Z}_2^* + \tilde{Z}_2 \cdot \tilde{Z}_1^* &= A_1 e^{i(\omega_1 t + \varphi_1)} \cdot A_2 e^{-i(\omega_2 t + \varphi_2)} + A_2 e^{i(\omega_2 t + \varphi_2)} \cdot A_1 e^{-i(\omega_1 t + \varphi_1)} \\
 &= A_1 \cdot A_2 e^{i(\omega_1 t + \varphi_1)} e^{-i(\omega_2 t + \varphi_2)} + A_1 \cdot A_2 e^{i(\omega_2 t + \varphi_2)} e^{-i(\omega_1 t + \varphi_1)}
 \end{aligned}$$

Let us define $x \equiv (\omega_1(t)t + \varphi_1(t))$ and $y \equiv (\omega_2(t)t + \varphi_2(t))$. Rewriting the above expression:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tilde{Z}_1 \cdot \tilde{Z}_2^* + \tilde{Z}_2 \cdot \tilde{Z}_1^* &= A_1 \cdot A_2 e^{ix} \cdot e^{-iy} + A_1 \cdot A_2 e^{iy} \cdot e^{-ix} \\
 &= A_1 \cdot A_2 e^{i(x-y)} + A_1 \cdot A_2 e^{i(y-x)} = A_1 \cdot A_2 \left(e^{i(x-y)} + e^{i(y-x)} \right) \\
 &= A_1 \cdot A_2 \left(\underbrace{e^{i(x-y)} + e^{-i(x-y)}}_{=2\cos(x-y)} \right) = 2 \underbrace{A_1 \cdot A_2 \cos(x-y)}_{=\operatorname{Re}\{\tilde{Z}_1(t) \cdot \tilde{Z}_2^*(t)\}!!!} \\
 &= 2 \operatorname{Re}\{\tilde{Z}_1 \cdot \tilde{Z}_2^*\}
 \end{aligned}$$