

Some Curious Polynomial Expressions of the Trigonometric Functions

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Abstract: It is noted that $\cos (4n+1)x$ and $\cos (4n-1)x$ are polynomials of degree $4n+1$ and $4n-1$ respectively in $\cos x$ only. It is worth noting that $\sin (4n+1)x$ is same $(4n+1)^{\text{th}}$ degree polynomial as $\cos (4n+1)x$ with $\cos x$ replaced by $\sin x$. In contrast to this $\sin(4n-1)x$ is the same $(4n-1)^{\text{th}}$ degree polynomial in $\sin x$ with sign reversed.

i.e. If $\cos (4n+1)x = f_{4n+1}(\cos x)$ then $\sin (4n+1)x = f_{4n+1}(\sin x)$

$\cos (4n-1)x = g_{4n-1}(\cos x)$ then $\sin(4n-1)x = -g_{4n-1}(\sin x)$.

The results are proved in two ways: Employing De Moivre's and Binomial theorems and by using the properties of trigonometric ratios of complementary angles.

Keywords: Trigonometric polynomials, $\sin (nx)$, $\cos (nx)$.

INTRODUCTION

For 'n' a positive integer, $\cos(nx)$ and $\sin(nx)$ can be expressed as polynomials in $\sin x$ and $\cos x$ using De Moivre's and Binomial theorems. In this note a theorem on these polynomials is established.

Theorem Let n be a positive integer,

If $\cos(4n+1)x = f_{4n+1}(\cos x)$ then $\sin (4n+1)x = f_{4n+1}(\sin x)$ (I)

If $\cos (4n-1)x = g_{4n-1}(\cos x)$ then $\sin (4n-1)x = -g_{4n-1}(\sin x)$ (II)

where $f_{4n+1}()$ and $g_{4n-1}()$ are polynomials of degrees $(4n+1)$ and $(4n-1)$ respectively.

The results (I) and (II) are established in two different ways.

(I) Proof employing De Moivre's and Binomials:-

When n is a positive integer, by De Moivre's theorem

$$\cos nx + i \sin nx = e^{inx} = (\cos x + i \sin x)^n, \text{ where } i = \sqrt{-1}$$

Consider

$$\cos(4n+1)x + i \sin(4n+1)x = e^{i(4n+1)x} = (\cos x + i \sin x)^{4n+1} \tag{1}$$

Expanding the R.H.S of (1) employing Binomial theorem

$$\cos (4n+1)x + i \sin (4n+1)x$$

$$= \left\{ \begin{aligned} & \left(\cos^{4n+1} x - \binom{4n+1}{2} \cos^{4n-1} x (\sin^2 x) + \binom{4n+1}{4} \cos^{4n-3} x (\sin^4 x) - \binom{4n+1}{6} \cos^{4n-5} x (\sin^6 x) + \dots \right) \\ & + \left(\binom{4n+1}{4n} \cos x (\sin^{4n} x) \right) \end{aligned} \right\} + i$$

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} &\binom{4n+1}{1}(\cos^{4n} x)\sin x - \binom{4n+1}{3}(\cos^{4n-2} x)(\sin^3 x) + \binom{4n+1}{5}(\cos^{4n-4} x)(\sin^5 x) - \dots \\ &+ \binom{4n+1}{4n+1}(\sin^{4n-1} x) \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (2)$$

Equating real and imaginary parts on both sides of (2) , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cos}(4n+1) &= \\ \left\{ \cos^{4n+1} x - \binom{4n+1}{2}(\cos^{4n-1} x)(\sin^2 x) + \binom{4n+1}{4}(\cos^{4n-3} x)(\sin^4 x) - \binom{4n+1}{6}(\cos^{4n-5} x)(\sin^6 x) + \dots + \binom{4n+1}{4n} \cos x(\sin^{4n} x) \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

and

$$\text{Sin}(4n+1)x = \left\{ \begin{aligned} &\binom{4n+1}{1}(\cos^{4n} x)(\sin x) - \binom{4n+1}{3}(\cos^{4n-2} x)(\sin^3 x) + \dots \\ &\binom{4n+1}{4n-1}(\cos^2 x)(\sin^{4n-1} x) + (\sin^{4n+1} x) \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (4)$$

Now the expression on the R.H.S of (3) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cos}(4n+1)x &= \\ &(\cos^{4n+1} x) - \binom{4n+1}{2}(\cos^{4n-1} x)(1-\cos^2 x) + \binom{4n+1}{4}(\cos^{4n-3} x)(1-\cos^2 x)^2 - \\ &\binom{4n+1}{6}(\cos^{4n-5} x)(1-\cos^2 x)^3 \\ &\dots + (-1)^p \binom{4n+1}{2p}(\cos^{4n-2p+1} x)(1-\cos^2 x)^p + \dots - \binom{4n+1}{4n}(\cos x)(1-\cos^2 x)^{2n} \\ &= \sum_{p=0}^{2n} (-1)^p \binom{4n+1}{2p}(\cos x)^{4n-2p+1} (1-\cos^2 x)^p = f_{4n+1}(\cos x) \dots (\text{say}) \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Also, writing the expression on the R.H.S of expression (4) in the reverse order, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sin}(4n+1)x &= \\ &(\sin^{4n+1} x) - \binom{4n+1}{4n-1}(1-\sin^2 x)(\sin^{4n-1} x) + \dots + (-1)^p \binom{4n+1}{2p+1}(1-\sin^2 x)^{2n-p}(\sin^{2p+1} x) \\ &\dots - \binom{4n+1}{3}(1-\sin^2 x)^{2n-1}(\sin^3 x) + \binom{4n+1}{1}(1-\sin^2 x)^{2n}(\sin x) \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Noting that

$$\binom{4n+1}{2k} = \binom{4n+1}{(4n+1)-2k} \quad , \text{ for } k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 2n$$

Then, the expression on the R.H.S of (6) can be rewritten as

$$\text{Sin}(4n+1)x = (\sin^{4n+1} x) - \binom{4n+1}{2}(1-\sin^2 x)(\sin^{4n-1} x) + \dots + (-1)^p \binom{4n+1}{2p}(1-\sin^2 x)^{2n-p}(\sin^{2p+1} x)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \dots\dots\dots - \binom{4n+1}{4n-2} (1-\sin^2 x)^{2n-1} (\sin^3 x) + \binom{4n+1}{4n} (1-\sin^2 x)^{2n} (\sin x) \\ & = \sum_{p=0}^{2n} (-1)^p \binom{4n+1}{2p} (\sin x)^{4n-2p+1} (1-\sin^2 x)^p \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

This expression is the same as expression on the R.H.S of (5) with $\cos x$ replaced by $\sin x$.
we thus have

$$\sin (4n+1)x = f_{4n+1}(\sin x)$$

Hence the result : If $\cos (4n+1) = f_{4n+1}(\cos x)$ then $\sin(4n+1)x = f_{4n+1}(\sin x)$ (I)

To establish the result (II)

Again consider

$$\cos (4n-1)x + i \sin (4n-1)x = (\cos x + i \sin x)^{4n-1} \quad (8)$$

Expanding the R.H.S of (8) employing Binomial theorem and equating real and imaginary parts on both sides, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \cos (4n-1)x & = \\ \cos^{4n-1} x & - \binom{4n-1}{2} (\cos^{4n-3} x)(\sin^2 x) + \binom{4n-1}{4} (\cos^{4n-5} x)(\sin^4 x) \\ & \dots\dots + (-1)^{q-1} \binom{4n-1}{2q} (\cos x)^{4n-2q-1} (\sin^2 x)^q + \dots\dots\dots + \binom{4n-1}{4n-2} (\cos x)(\sin x)^{4n-2}. \\ & = \sum_{p=0}^{2n} (-1)^p \binom{4n+1}{2q} (\cos x)^{4n-2q-1} (1-\cos^2 x)^q = g_{4n-1}(\cos x) \dots (\text{say}) \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

And

$$\begin{aligned} \sin (4n-1)x & = \\ \binom{4n-1}{1} (\cos^{4n-2} x)(\sin x) & - \binom{4n-1}{3} (\cos^{4n-4} x)(\sin^3 x) + \binom{4n-1}{5} (\cos^{4n-6} x)(\sin^5 x) \\ & \dots\dots + (-1)^q \binom{4n-1}{2q+1} (\cos^{4n-2q-2} x)(\sin^{2q+1} x) \dots\dots\dots + \binom{4n-1}{4n-3} (\cos^2 x)(\sin^{4n-3} x) - (\sin^{4n-1} x) \end{aligned}$$

By rewriting the R.H.S of the above in the reverse order and noting that

$$\binom{4n-1}{2k} = \binom{4n-1}{(4n-1)-2k}, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, 2n-1$$

We note that

$$\begin{aligned} \sin (4n-1)x & = \\ - (\sin^{4n-1} x) & - \binom{4n-1}{4n-3} (\cos^2 x)(\sin^{4n-3} x) + \dots + (-1)^q \binom{4n-1}{2q+1} (\cos^{4n-2q-2} x)(\sin^{2q+1} x) \dots\dots\dots \\ & \dots\dots - \binom{4n-1}{5} (\cos^{4n-6} x)(\sin^5 x) + \binom{4n-1}{3} (\cos^{4n-4} x)(\sin x)^3 - \binom{4n-1}{1} (\cos^{4n-2} x)(\sin x) \end{aligned}$$

$$= - \sum_{q=0}^{2n-1} (-1)^q \binom{4n+1}{2q} (\sin x)^{4n-2q-1} (1 - \sin^2 x)^q = -g_{4n-1}(\sin x) \tag{10}$$

The expression (10) for $\sin (4n-1)x$ is same as the expression (9) with $\cos x$ with replaced by $\sin x$ but for the change in sign ..i.e $\sin (4n+1)x = -g_{4n-1}(\sin x)$.

Hence the result : If $\cos (4n-1)x = g_{4n-1}(\cos x)$ then $\sin (4n-1)x = -g_{4n-1}(\sin x)$ (II)

(II) Proof employing the trigonometric properties of complimentary angles.

i) $\sin \{(4n+1)x\} = \sin \{(4n+1)(\frac{\pi}{2} - y)\}$ where $x = \frac{\pi}{2} - y$
 $= \sin \{(2n\pi+1)(\frac{\pi}{2} - (4n+1)y)\}$
 $= \sin \{\frac{\pi}{2} - (4n+1)y\}$
 $= \cos (4n+1)y = f_{4n+1}(\cos y)$
 $= f_{4n+1}(\cos(\frac{\pi}{2} - y))$
 $= f_{4n+1}(\sin x)$

ii) Similarly
 $\sin \{(4n-1)x\} = \sin \{(4n-1)(\frac{\pi}{2} - y)\}$
 $= \sin \{2n\pi - \frac{\pi}{2} - (4n-1)y\}$
 $= \sin \{-\frac{\pi}{2} - (4n-1)y\}$
 $= -\sin \{\frac{\pi}{2} + (4n-1)y\}$
 $= \cos (4n-1)y$
 $= -g_{4n-1}(\cos y)$
 $= -g_{4n-1}(\cos(\frac{\pi}{2} - x))$
 $= -g_{4n-1}(\sin x).$

CONCLUSION

The following results are proved in two ways: Employing De Moivre's and Binomial theorems and by using the properties of trigonometric ratios of complimentary angles.

i.e. If $\cos (4n+1)x = f_{4n+1}(\cos x)$ then $\sin (4n+1)x = f_{4n+1}(\sin x)$

$\cos (4n-1)x = g_{4n-1}(\cos x)$ then $\sin(4n-1)x = -g_{4n-1}(\sin x)$.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author acknowledges with thanks Prof .N.Ch.PattabhiRamacharyulu (Retd),Professor ,NIT Warangal for suggesting the problem and his guidance in preparing this paper.

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