

Problem 21: Show that  $\sin 4\theta$  cannot be expressed as a function of  $\sin \theta$ . (Source: AoPS Precalculus)

Suppose there is a function  $f$  such that  $f(\sin \theta) = \sin 4\theta$ .

Let  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{3}$ . Then  $f\left(\sin \frac{\pi}{3}\right) = f\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) = \sin \frac{4\pi}{3} = -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$ .

Let  $\theta = \frac{2\pi}{3}$ . Then  $f\left(\sin \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) = f\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) = \sin \frac{8\pi}{3} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$ .

But  $f\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)$  cannot equal both  $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$  and  $-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$ , since a function must have exactly one output for every input.

Thus there is no function  $f$  such that  $f(\sin \theta) = \sin 4\theta$ . This is equivalent to saying  $\sin 4\theta$  cannot be expressed in terms of  $\sin \theta$ .