

Reduction Formulas

Theorem

Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$:

- 1). $\cos^{2n+1} \theta = \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{k} \cos[(2n+1-2k)\theta]$
- 2). $\cos^{2n} \theta = \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \binom{2n}{n} + \frac{1}{2^{2n-1}} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{2n}{k} \cos[2(n-k)\theta]$
- 3). $\sin^{2n+1} \theta = \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{k} (-1)^k \sin[(2n+1-2k)\theta]$
- 4). $\sin^{2n} \theta = \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \binom{2n}{n} + \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n-1}} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{2n}{k} (-1)^k \cos[2(n-k)\theta]$

Proof

Assume $m \in \mathbb{N} - \{1\}$.

There exists $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that:

$$m = \begin{cases} 2n+1, & m \text{ odd} \\ 2n, & m \text{ even} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \cos^m \theta &= \left(\frac{e^{i\theta} + e^{-i\theta}}{2} \right)^m \\ &= \frac{1}{2^m} (e^{i\theta} + e^{-i\theta})^m \\ &= \frac{1}{2^m} \sum_{k=0}^m \binom{m}{k} e^{i(m-k)\theta} e^{-ik\theta} \\ &= \frac{1}{2^m} \sum_{k=0}^m \binom{m}{k} e^{i(m-2k)\theta} \end{aligned}$$

case 1: m odd ($m = 2n+1$)

Consider the symmetry and the possible signs of the even number of binomial coefficients:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \binom{2n+1}{0} & \dots & \binom{2n+1}{n} & \binom{2n+1}{n+1} & \dots & \binom{2n+1}{2n+1} \\ + & & + & + & & + \end{array}$$

The k coefficient is equal to the $2n+1-k$ coefficient and all signs are positive.

$$\begin{aligned} \cos^{2n+1} \theta &= \frac{1}{2^{2n+1}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{k} [e^{i(2n+1-2k)\theta} + e^{i[2n+1-2(2n+1-k)]\theta}] \\ &= \frac{1}{2^{2n+1}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{k} [e^{i(2n+1-2k)\theta} + e^{i(-2n-1+2k)\theta}] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{1}{2^{2n+1}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{k} [e^{i(2n+1-2k)\theta} + e^{-i(2n+1-2k)\theta}] \\
&= \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{k} \left[\frac{e^{i(2n+1-2k)\theta} + e^{-i(2n+1-2k)\theta}}{2} \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{k} \cos[(2n+1-2k)\theta]
\end{aligned}$$

case 2: m even ($m = 2n$)

Consider the symmetry and the possible signs of the odd number of binomial coefficients:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
\binom{2n}{0} & \cdots & \binom{2n}{n-1} & \binom{2n}{n} & \binom{2n}{n+1} & \cdots & \binom{2n}{2n} \\
+ & & + & + & + & & +
\end{array}$$

The k coefficient is equal to the $2n - k$ coefficient and all signs are positive.

$$\begin{aligned}
\cos^{2n} \theta &= \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \binom{2n}{n} + \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n}{k} [e^{i(2n-2k)\theta} + e^{i[2n-2(2n-k)]\theta}] \\
&= \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \binom{2n}{n} + \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n}{k} [e^{i(2n-2k)\theta} + e^{i(-2n+2k)\theta}] \\
&= \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \binom{2n}{n} + \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n}{k} [e^{i(2n-2k)\theta} + e^{-i(2n-2k)\theta}] \\
&= \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \binom{2n}{n} + \frac{1}{2^{2n-1}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n}{k} \left[\frac{e^{i(2n-2k)\theta} + e^{-i(2n-2k)\theta}}{2} \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \binom{2n}{n} + \frac{1}{2^{2n-1}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n}{k} \cos[2(n-k)\theta]
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sin^m \theta &= \left(\frac{e^{i\theta} - e^{-i\theta}}{2i} \right)^m \\
&= \frac{1}{(2i)^m} (e^{i\theta} - e^{-i\theta})^m \\
&= \frac{1}{(2i)^m} \sum_{k=0}^m \binom{m}{k} e^{i(m-k)\theta} (-e^{-i\theta})^k \\
&= \frac{1}{(2i)^m} \sum_{k=0}^m \binom{m}{k} (-1)^k e^{i(m-k)\theta} e^{-ik\theta}
\end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{1}{(2i)^m} \sum_{k=0}^m \binom{m}{k} (-1)^k e^{i(m-2k)\theta}$$

case 1: m odd ($m = 2n + 1$)

Consider the symmetry and the possible signs of the even number of binomial coefficients:

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} \binom{2n+1}{0} & \dots & \binom{2n+1}{n} & \binom{2n+1}{n+1} & \dots & \binom{2n+1}{2n+1} \\ + & & + & - & & - \\ + & & - & + & & - \end{array}$$

The k coefficient is equal to the $2n + 1 - k$ coefficient and the signs alternate.

$$\begin{aligned} \sin^{2n+1} \theta &= \frac{1}{(2i)^{2n+1}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{k} [(-1)^k e^{i(2n+1-2k)\theta} + (-1)^{k+1} e^{i[2n+1-2(2n+1-k)]\theta}] \\ &= \frac{1}{(2i)^{2n+1}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{k} (-1)^k [e^{i(2n+1-2k)\theta} - e^{i(-2n-1+2k)\theta}] \\ &= \frac{1}{(2i)^{2n+1}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{k} (-1)^k [e^{i(2n+1-2k)\theta} - e^{-i(2n+1-2k)\theta}] \\ &= \frac{1}{(2i)^{2n}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{k} (-1)^k \left[\frac{e^{i(2n+1-2k)\theta} - e^{-i(2n+1-2k)\theta}}{2i} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \frac{1}{i^{2n}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{k} (-1)^k \sin[(2n+1-2k)\theta] \\ &= \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n+1}{k} (-1)^k \sin[(2n+1-2k)\theta] \end{aligned}$$

case 2: m even ($m = 2n$)

Consider the symmetry and the possible signs of the odd number of binomial coefficients:

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} \binom{2n}{0} & \dots & \binom{2n}{n-1} & \binom{2n}{n} & \binom{2n}{n+1} & \dots & \binom{2n}{2n} \\ + & & + & - & + & & + \\ + & & - & + & - & & + \end{array}$$

The k coefficient is equal to the $2n - k$ coefficient and all signs match, but alternate.

$$\begin{aligned} \sin^{2n} \theta &= \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \binom{2n}{n} + \frac{1}{(2i)^{2n}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n}{k} (-1)^k [e^{i(2n-2k)\theta} + e^{i[2n-2(2n-k)]\theta}] \\ &= \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \binom{2n}{n} + \frac{1}{(2i)^{2n}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n}{k} (-1)^k [e^{i(2n-2k)\theta} + e^{i(-2n+2k)\theta}] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \binom{2n}{n} + \frac{1}{(2i)^{2n}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n}{k} (-1)^k [e^{i(2n-2k)\theta} + e^{-i(2n-2k)\theta}] \\
&= \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \binom{2n}{n} + \frac{1}{2^{2n-1}} \left(\frac{1}{i^{2n}} \right) \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n}{k} (-1)^k \left[\frac{e^{i(2n-2k)\theta} + e^{-i(2n-2k)\theta}}{2} \right] \\
&= \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \binom{2n}{n} + \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{2n-1}} \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{2n}{k} (-1)^k \cos[2(n-k)\theta]
\end{aligned}$$

Example

$$\begin{aligned}
\cos^2 \theta &= \frac{1}{4} \binom{2}{1} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^0 \binom{2}{k} \cos(2-2k)\theta \\
&= \frac{1}{4} (2) + \frac{1}{2} \binom{2}{0} \cos 2\theta \\
&= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cos 2\theta \\
&= \frac{1 + \cos 2\theta}{2}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\sin^2 \theta &= \frac{1}{4} \binom{2}{1} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^0 \binom{2}{k} \cos(2-2k)\theta \\
&= \frac{1}{4} (2) - \frac{1}{2} \binom{2}{0} \cos 2\theta \\
&= \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \cos 2\theta \\
&= \frac{1 - \cos 2\theta}{2}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\cos^3 \theta &= \frac{1}{4} \sum_{k=0}^1 \binom{3}{k} \cos[(3-2k)\theta] \\
4 \cos^3 \theta &= \binom{3}{0} \cos 3\theta + \binom{3}{1} \cos \theta \\
4 \cos^3 \theta &= \cos 3\theta + 3 \cos \theta \\
\cos 3\theta &= 4 \cos^3 \theta - 3 \cos \theta
\end{aligned}$$

$$\sin^3 \theta = -\frac{1}{4} \sum_{k=0}^1 \binom{3}{k} (-1)^k \sin[(3-2k)\theta]$$

$$-4 \sin^3 \theta = \binom{3}{0} \sin 3\theta - \binom{3}{1} \sin \theta$$

$$-4 \sin^3 \theta = \sin 3\theta - 3 \sin \theta$$

$$\sin 3\theta = 3 \sin \theta - 4 \sin^3 \theta$$