

$\alpha\beta\gamma\delta$ Theorem

January 17, 2016

Theorem. *To every natural m there exists reals $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$ such that for all real t :*

$$\cos(mt) = \alpha + (1 - \alpha) \cos t + \beta \sin t$$

$$\sin(mt) = \gamma (1 - \cos t) + \delta \sin t$$

Proof. Write $m = \sum_{i=0}^{|m|} m_i 2^i$ as m 's binary expansion where $|m|$ is m 's number of binary digits:

$$\cos \left(\sum_{i=0}^{|m|} m_i 2^i t \right)$$

take the first term out

$$\cos \left(m_0 t + \sum_{i=1}^{|m|} m_i 2^i t \right)$$

and use angle addition formula:

$$\cos(m_0 t) \cos \left(\sum_{i=1}^{|m|} m_i 2^i t \right) - \sin(m_0 t) \sin \left(\sum_{i=1}^{|m|} m_i 2^i t \right)$$

continuing this way we'll end up with sum of 2^d summands where d is the number of ones on m 's binary representation, and every summand is a multiplication of d sines and cosines. All in all, since m_i are all either zero or one, the exponential sum reduce to a linear function in $\sin t, \cos t$ where the other terms are constants built from multiplications of $\cos 2^k, \sin 2^k$, i.e. we showed that

$$\cos(mt) = \alpha + \beta \cos t + \gamma \sin t$$

setting $t = 0$ we see that $\beta = 1 - \alpha$. Equivalent derivation yields the result for sine with $\beta = -\alpha$. \square