

A TRIGONOMETRIC IDENTITY*

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We shall prove the following identity

$$(1) \quad \sum_{k=1}^n \cos^r \left(\varphi + \frac{2k\pi}{n} \right) = \frac{n}{2^r} \sum_{\nu} \binom{r}{\nu} e^{i\lambda n \varphi}$$

where $r \geq 0$ and $n \geq 1$ are integers; the right-hand sum is taken over all integers ν, λ satisfying $0 \leq \nu \leq r, \lambda n + r = 2\nu$.

Let us indicate some special cases of this identity.

(i) If $0 < r = 2m < n$ we get

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \cos^{2m} \left(\varphi + \frac{2k\pi}{n} \right) = \frac{n}{4^m} \binom{2m}{m}.$$

(ii) If $0 < r = 2m - 1 < n$ we get

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \cos^{2m-1} \left(\varphi + \frac{2k\pi}{n} \right) = 0.$$

(iii) If $r = n = 2m$ we get

$$\sum_{k=1}^{2m} \cos^{2m} \left(\varphi + \frac{k\pi}{m} \right) = \frac{2m}{4^m} \left[\binom{2m}{m} + 2 \cos 2m\varphi \right].$$

(iv) If $r = n = 2m - 1$ we get

$$\sum_{k=1}^{2m-1} \cos^{2m-1} \left(\varphi + \frac{2k\pi}{2m-1} \right) = \frac{2m-1}{4^{m-1}} \cos(2m-1)\varphi.$$

The following identity of A. Friedman [1]

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=1}^n \left(a \cos \frac{2k\pi}{n} + b \sin \frac{2k\pi}{n} \right)^r \\ &= \begin{cases} \frac{n}{4^m} \binom{2m}{m} (a^2 + b^2)^m & (0 < r = 2m < n) \\ 0 & (0 < r = 2m - 1 < n) \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

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is a simple variant of identities (i) and (ii). We have only to set $a = \rho \cos \varphi$, $b = -\rho \sin \varphi$ with $\rho = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$.

Now we proceed to the proof of (1). Let m be a non-negative integer such that $mn \leq r < (m+1)n$ and

$$f(z) = \frac{nz^{n-1}}{z^n - e^{in\varphi}} \left(\frac{z^2 + 1}{2z} \right)^r \left(\frac{z^n}{e^{in\varphi}} \right)^m.$$

If we denote the left-hand side of (1) by $F_r^n(\varphi)$, then

$$F_r^n(\varphi) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{|z|=R} f(z) dz \quad (R > 1).$$

Using

$$\frac{nz^{n-1}}{z^n - e^{in\varphi}} = \frac{n}{z} \sum_{\mu=0}^{+\infty} \left(\frac{e^{in\varphi}}{z^n} \right)^\mu \quad (|z| > 1),$$

we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} F_r^n(\varphi) &= \frac{n}{2\pi i} \cdot \frac{1}{2^r} \oint_{|z|=R} \sum_{v=0}^n \binom{r}{v} z^{2v} \cdot \sum_{\lambda=-m}^{+\infty} \frac{e^{i\lambda n\varphi}}{z^{\lambda n + r + 1}} dz \\ &= \frac{n}{2^r} \sum_{\substack{\lambda n + r = 2v \\ 0 \leq v \leq r}} \binom{r}{v} e^{i\lambda n\varphi}. \end{aligned}$$

The proof is complete.

REFERENCE

- [1] A. FRIEDMAN, *Mean values and polyharmonic polynomials* Mich. Math. J. 4 (1957), 67–74.