

Let $y = \sin x$

Prove by induction that $\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = \sin\left(x + \frac{n\pi}{2}\right)$, $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$

Let $P(n)$ be the proposition that $\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = \sin\left(x + \frac{n\pi}{2}\right)$, $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$

Show true for $n = 1$

$$y = \sin x$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \cos x$$

$$\frac{d^1 y}{dx^1} = \sin\left(x + \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$

$$\sin(A + B) \equiv \sin A \cos B + \cos A \sin B$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \sin x \cos \frac{\pi}{2} + \cos x \sin \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\cos \frac{\pi}{2} = 0$$

$$\sin \frac{\pi}{2} = 1$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \sin x \times 0 + \cos x \times 1$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \cos x$$

Hence true for $n = 1$

We do not have to use the compound angle formula to prove this. There is another way involving a simple trigonometric identity:

$$\cos x = \sin\left(x + \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$

We will use this identity later on in the proof

Assume true for $n = k$

Assume that $\frac{d^k y}{dx^k} = \sin\left(x + \frac{k\pi}{2}\right)$ is true

Show true for $n = k + 1$

Show that $\frac{d^{k+1} y}{dx^{k+1}} = \sin\left(x + \frac{(k+1)\pi}{2}\right)$ is true

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^{k+1} y}{dx^{k+1}} &= \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{d^k y}{dx^k} \right) \\ &= \frac{d}{dx} \left(\sin\left(x + \frac{k\pi}{2}\right) \right) \\ &= \cos\left(x + \frac{k\pi}{2}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Let's use that identity now

$$\cos x \equiv \sin\left(x + \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$
$$\cos\left(x + \frac{k\pi}{2}\right) \equiv \sin\left(\left(x + \frac{k\pi}{2}\right) + \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$

$$\frac{d^{k+1}y}{dx^{k+1}} = \sin\left(\left(x + \frac{k\pi}{2}\right) + \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$
$$= \sin\left(x + \frac{k\pi}{2} + \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$
$$= \sin\left(x + \frac{(k+1)\pi}{2}\right)$$

Hence true for $n = k + 1$

Concluding statement

True for $n = 1$

Assuming it is true for $n = k$ then it is true for $n = k + 1$

Therefore it is true for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$