

Solution to Particularly General

For any real number x :

$$\begin{aligned} (1-x)(1+x+x^2+x^3) &= 1+x+x^2+x^3-x-x^2-x^3-x^4 \\ \Leftrightarrow (1-x)(1+x+x^2+x^3) &= 1-x^4 \end{aligned}$$

For any real number x :

$$\begin{aligned} (1-x)((1+x)(1+x^2)(1+x^4)) &= (1-x^2)(1+x^2)(1+x^4) \\ \Leftrightarrow (1-x)((1+x)(1+x^2)(1+x^4)) &= (1-x^4)(1+x^4) = (1-x^8) \end{aligned}$$

For the last expression, we can first remember that for a real number,

$$\sin(2a) = 2\cos(a)\sin(a)$$

That's why for $\sin(2a) \neq 0$, $\cos(a) = \frac{\sin(2a)}{2\sin(a)}$

Now we can evaluate the expression:

$$\cos\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{x}{4}\right)\cos\left(\frac{x}{8}\right)\cos\left(\frac{x}{16}\right) = \frac{\sin(x)\sin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)\sin\left(\frac{x}{4}\right)\sin\left(\frac{x}{8}\right)}{16\sin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)\sin\left(\frac{x}{4}\right)\sin\left(\frac{x}{8}\right)\sin\left(\frac{x}{16}\right)} = \frac{\sin(x)}{16\sin\left(\frac{x}{16}\right)}$$

Which is true only when $\sin\left(\frac{x}{16}\right) \neq 0 \Leftrightarrow x$ is not a multiple of 16π

Now that we have prove those three particular expressions, let's evaluate the general forms.

We can make the assumption that: $(1-x)(1+x+x^2+x^3+\dots+x^n) = 1-x^{n+1}$

Let's prove it. By developping, we notice:

$$(1-x)(1+x+x^2+x^3+\dots+x^n) = 1+x+x^2+x^3+\dots+x^n - x - x^2 - x^3 - x^{n+1} = 1-x^{n+1}$$

And we get the answer.

Regarding $(1-x)((1+x)(1+x^2)(1+x^4)\dots(1+x^{2^n}))$, we can make the assumption that it is equal to $1-x^{2^{n+1}}$.

Let's prove this by induction. We have the statement $P(n)$: $(1-x)((1+x)(1+x^2)(1+x^4)\dots(1+x^{2^n}))$

For $n=0$, $(1-x)(1+x) = (1-x^2)$, then $P(1)$ is true.

Let's suppose $P(n)$ is true.

We have: $(1-x)((1+x)(1+x^2)(1+x^4)\dots(1+x^{2^n})) = (1-x^{2^{n+1}})$

$$(1-x)((1+x)(1+x^2)(1+x^4)\dots(1+x^{2^n})(1+x^{2^{n+1}})) = (1+x^{2^{n+1}})(1-x^{2^{n+1}}) = (1-(x^{2^{n+1}})^2) = (1-x^{2^{n+2}})$$

Then we get that if $P(n)$ true, then $P(n+1)$ is true, thus by the axiom of induction, we conclude:

$$(1-x)((1+x)(1+x^2)(1+x^4)\dots(1+x^{2^n})) = 1-x^{2^{n+1}}$$

Finally, regarding $\cos\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{x}{4}\right)\cos\left(\frac{x}{8}\right)\cos\left(\frac{x}{16}\right)\dots\cos\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right)$, we can conjecture that it equals to $\frac{\sin(x)}{2^n\sin\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right)}$

We have the statement $P(n)$: $\cos\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{x}{4}\right)\cos\left(\frac{x}{8}\right)\cos\left(\frac{x}{16}\right)\dots\cos\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right) = \frac{\sin(x)}{2^n\sin\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right)}$

For $n=1$, $\cos\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) = \frac{\sin(x)}{2\sin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)}$

Let's suppose $P(n)$ is true, we have: $P(n+1) = P(n)\cos\left(\frac{x}{2^{n+1}}\right)$

$$\Leftrightarrow P(n+1) = \frac{\sin(x)}{2^n\sin\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right)}\cos\left(\frac{x}{2^{n+1}}\right)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow P(n+1) = \frac{\sin(x)}{2^n\sin\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right)}\frac{\sin\left(\frac{x}{2^{n+1}}\right)}{2\sin\left(\frac{x}{2^{n+1}}\right)}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow P(n+1) = \frac{\sin(x)}{2^{n+1}\sin\left(\frac{x}{2^{n+1}}\right)}$$

$P(n+1)$ is true, thus by the axiom of induction $\cos\left(\frac{x}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{x}{4}\right)\cos\left(\frac{x}{8}\right)\cos\left(\frac{x}{16}\right)\dots\cos\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right) = \frac{\sin(x)}{2^n\sin\left(\frac{x}{2^n}\right)}$