

Problem No.11233 of Amer. Math. Monthly,  
Vol.113, No.6, June-July 2006

Jamal Rooin and Saeed Shaebani

rooin@iasbs.ac.ir

Department of Mathematics,

Institute for Advanced Studies in Basic Sciences (IASBS), Zanjan, Iran

**Solution:** It is sufficient to show that

$$\frac{d^n}{dx^n}(x^{n-1}e^{\frac{i}{x}}) = \frac{(-1)^n}{x^{n+1}}e^{i(\frac{1}{x} + \frac{n\pi}{2})}, \quad (1)$$

which yields that

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

and

$$\frac{d^n}{dx^n} \left( x^{n-1} \cos \frac{1}{x} \right) = \frac{(-1)^n}{x^{n+1}} \cos \left( \frac{1}{x} + \frac{n\pi}{2} \right).$$

Evidently (1) is hold for  $n = 1$ . Suppose that  $n \geq 1$  and (1) is hold for each  $k \leq n$ . Now, using the induction hypothesis, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^{n+1}}{dx^{n+1}}(x^n e^{\frac{i}{x}}) &= \frac{d^n}{dx^n} \frac{d}{dx}(x^n e^{\frac{i}{x}}) = \frac{d^n}{dx^n} \left( nx^{n-1}e^{\frac{i}{x}} - ix^{n-2}e^{\frac{i}{x}} \right) \\ &= \frac{n(-1)^n}{x^{n+1}}e^{i(\frac{1}{x} + \frac{n\pi}{2})} - i \frac{d^n}{dx^n} \left( \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{x^n}e^{i(\frac{1}{x} + \frac{(n-1)\pi}{2})} \right) \\ &= \frac{n(-1)^n}{x^{n+1}}e^{i(\frac{1}{x} + \frac{n\pi}{2})} - \frac{i(-1)^n n}{x^{n+1}}e^{i(\frac{1}{x} + \frac{(n-1)\pi}{2})} + \frac{(-1)^n}{x^{n+2}}e^{i(\frac{1}{x} + \frac{(n-1)\pi}{2})} \\ &= \frac{n(-1)^n}{x^{n+1}}e^{i(\frac{1}{x} + \frac{n\pi}{2})} - \frac{n(-1)^n}{x^{n+1}}e^{i(\frac{1}{x} + \frac{n\pi}{2})} + \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{x^{n+2}}e^{i(\frac{1}{x} + \frac{(n+1)\pi}{2})} \\ &= \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{x^{n+2}}e^{i(\frac{1}{x} + \frac{(n+1)\pi}{2})}, \end{aligned}$$

which yields (1) for  $n + 1$ , and the proof is complete.