

**2018.2 Question 4**

1. By the identity, we have

$$\cos x + \cos 4x = 2 \cos \frac{5}{2}x \cos \frac{3}{2}x,$$

and

$$\cos 2x + \cos 3x = 2 \cos \frac{5}{2}x \cos \frac{1}{2}x.$$

Hence, we have

$$\cos x + 3 \cos 2x + 3 \cos 3x = 2 \cos \frac{5}{2}x \left( \cos \frac{3}{2}x + 3 \cos \frac{1}{2}x \right) = 0.$$

Hence, either

$$\cos \frac{5}{2}x = 0,$$

or

$$\cos \frac{3}{2}x + 3 \cos \frac{1}{2}x = 0.$$

In the first case, we have  $\frac{5}{2}x = \frac{1}{2}\pi + k\pi$  for  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and hence

$$x = \frac{1+2k}{5} \cdot \pi.$$

Since  $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$ , we have

$$0 \leq \frac{1+2k}{5} \leq 2,$$

and hence

$$0 \leq 1+2k \leq 10,$$

giving  $k = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ . Hence, the solutions are

$$x = \frac{1}{5}\pi, x = \frac{3}{5}\pi, x = \pi, x = \frac{7}{5}\pi, x = \frac{9}{5}\pi.$$

In the second case, notice that

$$\begin{aligned} \cos 3t &= \cos(2t + t) \\ &= \cos 2t \cos t - \sin 2t \sin t \\ &= (\cos^2 t - \sin^2 t) \cos t - 2 \sin^2 t \cos t \\ &= \cos^3 t - 3 \sin^2 t \cos t. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\cos \frac{3}{2}x + 3 \cos \frac{1}{2}x = 0 \iff \cos^3 \frac{1}{2}x - 3 \sin^2 \frac{1}{2}x \cos \frac{1}{2}x + 3 \cos \frac{1}{2}x = 0,$$

and using the identity  $\sin^2 t + \cos^2 t = 1$ , this simplifies to

$$\cos^3 \frac{1}{2}x + 3 \cos^3 \frac{1}{2}x = 0,$$

which is

$$\cos \frac{1}{2}x = 0.$$

This gives

$$\frac{1}{2}x = \frac{\pi}{2} + k\pi$$

for  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and hence

$$x = (1+2k)\pi.$$

Since  $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$ , the only  $k$  valid is  $k = 0$ , and this solves to  $x = \pi$ .

Hence, all the solutions to this equation is

$$x \in \left\{ \frac{1}{5}\pi, \frac{3}{5}\pi, \pi, \frac{7}{5}\pi, \frac{9}{5}\pi \right\}.$$

2. Using the given identity, we have

$$\cos(x+y) + \cos(x-y) = 2 \cos x \cos y.$$

Hence, the original equation simplifies to

$$2 \cos x \cos y - \cos 2x = 1.$$

Using the identity  $\cos 2x = 2 \cos^2 x - 1$ , and this gives

$$2 \cos x \cos y - (2 \cos^2 x - 1) = 1,$$

and hence

$$2 \cos x \cos y - 2 \cos^2 x = 0,$$

which means

$$\cos x (\cos y - \cos x) = 0,$$

and hence  $\cos x = 0$  or  $\cos y - \cos x = 0$ .

The first one gives us  $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$  in the range  $x \in [0, \pi]$ .

Since  $\cos$  is one-to-one when restricted to  $[0, \pi]$ , the second one is equivalent to  $\cos y = \cos x$  which is equivalent to  $x = y$ .

The specific value is  $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

3. Using the identity given, we have

$$\cos x + \cos y = 2 \cos \frac{x+y}{2} \cos \frac{x-y}{2},$$

and

$$\cos(x+y) = 2 \cos^2 \frac{x+y}{2} - 1.$$

Let  $u = \frac{x+y}{2}$  and  $v = \frac{x-y}{2}$ . We have  $0 \leq u \leq \pi$  and  $-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq v \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$ , and the original equation simplifies to

$$2 \cos u \cos v - 2 \cos^2 u + 1 = \frac{3}{2},$$

and hence

$$4 \cos u \cos v - 4 \cos^2 u + 2 = 3,$$

and

$$4 \cos^2 u - 4 \cos u \cos v + 1 = 0.$$

Since  $1 = \cos^2 v + \sin^2 v$ , we have

$$4 \cos^2 u - 4 \cos u \cos v + \cos^2 v = -\sin^2 v,$$

and hence

$$(2 \cos u - \cos v)^2 = -\sin^2 v.$$

The left-hand side is non-negative, and the right-hand side is non-positive. Hence, the only way for the equal sign to take place is when both sides are zero, which is

$$2 \cos u = \cos v, \sin v = 0.$$

Within this range of  $v$ , the only case where  $\sin v = 0$  is when  $v = 0$ , and hence  $2 \cos u = 1$ ,  $\cos u = \frac{1}{2}$ , leading to  $u = \frac{\pi}{3}$ .

Hence,  $x = u + v = \frac{\pi}{3}$ , and  $y = u - v = \frac{\pi}{3}$ , and the only solution is

$$(x, y) = \left( \frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{\pi}{3} \right).$$