

A trigonometric inequality

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8313943/8313943-6402747949402644482>

Let $a, b \in (0, \pi/4)$, prove that

$$\frac{\sin^n a + \sin^n b}{(\sin a + \sin b)^n} \geq \frac{\sin^n 2a + \sin^n 2b}{(\sin 2a + \sin 2b)^n}, \text{ for all } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Solution by Arkady Alt, San Jose, California, USA.

Assume due to symmetry with respect to a, b that $a \geq b$ and denote

$$t := \frac{\sin a}{\sin b}, p := \frac{\sin 2a}{\sin 2b}.$$

Since $0 < b \leq a < \pi/4$ and $\sin x$ increase in $[0, \pi/2]$ we obtain that $t, p \geq 1$.

Also note that $t \geq p$ because $0 < b \leq a < \pi/4$ implies $\frac{\sin a}{\sin b} \geq \frac{\sin 2a}{\sin 2b} \Leftrightarrow$

$$1 \geq \frac{\cos a}{\cos b} \Leftrightarrow \cos b \geq \cos a. \text{ Since } \frac{\sin^n a + \sin^n b}{(\sin a + \sin b)^n} \geq \frac{\sin^n 2a + \sin^n 2b}{(\sin 2a + \sin 2b)^n} \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\frac{\left(\frac{\sin a}{\sin b}\right)^n + 1}{\left(\frac{\sin a}{\sin b} + 1\right)^n} \geq \frac{\left(\frac{\sin 2a}{\sin 2b}\right)^n + 1}{\left(\frac{\sin 2a}{\sin 2b} + 1\right)^n} \Leftrightarrow \frac{t^n + 1}{(t + 1)^n} \geq \frac{p^n + 1}{(p + 1)^n} \text{ suffices to prove}$$

that latter inequality holds for any $t \geq p \geq 1$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{We have } (t^n + 1)(p + 1)^n - (t + 1)^n(p^n + 1) &= (p + 1)^n - (t + 1)^n + t^n(p + 1)^n - p^n(t + 1)^n = \\ (t(p + 1) - p(t + 1)) \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (t(p + 1))^k (p(t + 1))^{n-1-k} - (t - p) \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (t + 1)^{n-1-k} (p + 1)^k &= \\ (t - p) \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (t^k (p + 1)^k p^{n-1-k} (t + 1)^{n-1-k} - (t + 1)^{n-1-k} (p + 1)^k) &= \\ (t - p) \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (t + 1)^{n-1-k} (p + 1)^k (t^k p^{n-1-k} - 1) &\geq 0. \end{aligned}$$