## A GENERAL GENERALIZATION OF JORDAN'S INEQUALITY AND A REFINEMENT OF L. YANG'S INEQUALITY

FENG QI, DA-WEI NIU, AND JIAN CAO

ABSTRACT. In this article, for  $t \geq 2$ , a general generalization of Jordan's inequality  $\sum_{k=1}^{n} \mu_k \ \theta^t - x^{t-k} \leq \frac{\sin x}{x} - \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} \leq \sum_{k=1}^{n} \omega_k \ \theta^t - x^{t-k}$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\theta \in (0, \pi]$  is established, where the coefficients  $\mu_k$  and  $\omega_k$  defined by recursing formulas (11) and (12) are the best possible. As an application, L. Yang's inequality is refined.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The well known Jordan's inequality (see [2, 6], [4, p. 143], [8, p. 269] and [11, p. 33]) states that

$$\frac{2}{\pi} \le \frac{\sin x}{x} < 1 \tag{1}$$

for  $0 < |x| \le \frac{\pi}{2}$ . The equality in (1) is valid if and only if  $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$ .

Jordan's inequality has important applications in analysis and other branches of mathematics. Therefore, many mathematicians have struggled to refine, generalize and apply it. For more detailed information, please refer to [8, pp. 274–275] and [1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 31, 32, 33], especially [15], and the references therein.

In [1, 10, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19], among other things, Jordan's inequality had been refined as

$$\frac{1}{\pi^3}x(\pi^2 - 4x^2) \le \sin x - \frac{2}{\pi}x \le \frac{\pi - 2}{\pi^3}x(\pi^2 - 4x^2).$$
(2)

In [33], a stronger sharp double inequality for  $x \in (0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$  was obtained:

$$\frac{12-\pi^2}{16\pi^5} \left(\pi^2 - 4x^2\right)^2 \le \frac{\sin x}{x} - \frac{2}{\pi} - \frac{1}{\pi^3} \left(\pi^2 - 4x^2\right) \le \frac{\pi - 3}{\pi^5} \left(\pi^2 - 4x^2\right)^2.$$
(3)

Recently in [12], the following general refinement of Jordan's inequality was showed:

$$\frac{2}{\pi} + \sum_{k=1}^{n} \alpha_k \left(\pi^2 - 4x^2\right)^k \le \frac{\sin x}{x} \le \frac{2}{\pi} + \sum_{k=1}^{n} \beta_k \left(\pi^2 - 4x^2\right)^k,\tag{4}$$

where the constants

$$\alpha_k = \frac{(-1)^k}{(4\pi)^k k!} \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \left(\frac{2}{\pi}\right)^i c_{i-1}^k \sin\left(\frac{k+i}{2}\pi\right)$$
(5)

<sup>2000</sup> Mathematics Subject Classification. 26D05, 26D15.

 $Key\ words\ and\ phrases.$ Jordan's inequality, L<br/>. Yang's inequality, L'Hôspital's rule, refinement, application.

This paper was typeset using  $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{M}}S$ -IAT<sub>E</sub>X.

and

 $\mathbf{2}$ 

$$\beta_k = \begin{cases} \frac{1 - \frac{2}{\pi} - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \alpha_i \pi^{2i}}{\pi^{2n}}, & k = n\\ \alpha_k, & 1 \le k < n \end{cases}$$
(6)

with

$$c_i^k = \begin{cases} (i+k-1)c_{i-1}^{k-1} + c_i^{k-1}, & 0 < i \le k\\ 1, & i = 0 \end{cases}$$
(7)

in (4) are the best possible.

In [26], as a generalization of Jordan's inequality (1), the following sharp inequality

$$\frac{1}{2\tau^{2}} \left[ (1+\lambda) \left( \frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} - \cos\theta \right) - \theta \sin\theta \right] \left( 1 - \frac{x^{\tau}}{\theta^{\tau}} \right)^{2} \\
\leq \frac{\sin x}{x} - \frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} - \frac{1}{\lambda} \left( \frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} - \cos\theta \right) \left( 1 - \frac{x^{\lambda}}{\theta^{\lambda}} \right) \\
\leq \left[ 1 - \frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} - \frac{1}{\lambda} \left( \frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} - \cos\theta \right) \right] \left( 1 - \frac{x^{\tau}}{\theta^{\tau}} \right)^{2} \quad (8)$$

was obtained for  $0 < x \le \theta \in (0, \frac{\pi}{2}], \tau \ge 2$  and  $\tau \le \lambda \le 2\tau$ . The equalities in (8) holds if and only if  $x = \theta$ . The coefficients of the term  $(1 - \frac{x^{\tau}}{\theta^{\tau}})^2$  are the best possible. If  $1 \le \tau \le \frac{5}{3}$  and either  $\lambda \ne 0$  or  $\lambda \ge 2\tau$  then inequality (8) is reversed. Specially, when  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$ , inequality (8) becomes

$$\frac{4\lambda+4-\pi^2}{4\tau^2\pi^{2\tau+1}}\left(\pi^{\tau}-2^{\tau}x^{\tau}\right)^2 \leq \frac{\sin x}{x} - \frac{2}{\pi} - \frac{2}{\lambda\pi^{\lambda+1}}\left(\pi^{\lambda}-2^{\lambda}x^{\lambda}\right)$$
$$\leq \frac{\lambda\pi-2\lambda-2}{\lambda\pi^{2\tau+1}}\left(\pi^{\tau}-2^{\tau}x^{\tau}\right)^2 \quad (9)$$

for  $0 < x \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$ ,  $\tau \geq 2$  and  $\tau \leq \lambda \leq 2\tau$ . If  $1 \leq \tau \leq \frac{5}{3}$  and either  $\lambda \neq 0$  or  $\lambda \geq 2\tau$  then inequality (9) is reversed. If taking  $(\tau, \lambda) = (2, 2)$  in (9), then inequality (3) can be deduced.

For recent developments of the refinements, generalizations and applications of Jordan's inequality, please refer to the expository and summary article [15].

The first aim of this paper is to generalize inequalities (4) and (8). One of the main results of this paper is the following Theorem 1.

**Theorem 1.** For  $0 < x \le \theta < \pi$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $t \ge 2$ , inequality

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n} \mu_k \left(\theta^t - x^t\right)^k \le \frac{\sin x}{x} - \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} \le \sum_{k=1}^{n} \omega_k \left(\theta^t - x^t\right)^k \tag{10}$$

holds with the equalities if and only if  $x = \theta$ , where the constants

$$\mu_k = \frac{(-1)^k}{k!t^k} \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} a_{i-1}^k \theta^{k-i-kt} \sin\left(\theta + \frac{k+i-1}{2}\pi\right)$$
(11)

and

$$\omega_k = \begin{cases} \frac{1 - \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \mu_i \theta^{ii}}{\theta^{tn}}, & k = n\\ \mu_k, & 1 \le k < n \end{cases}$$
(12)

with

$$a_i^k = \begin{cases} a_i^{k-1} + [i + (k-1)(t-1)]a_{i-1}^{k-1}, & 0 < i \le k \\ 1, & i = 0 \\ 0, & i > k \end{cases}$$
(13)

in (10) are the best possible.

Remark 1. Taking t = 2 in (10) yields inequality (4). Letting n = 2 in (10) leads to (8) for  $\lambda = \tau = 2$ .

The second aim of this paper is to apply Theorem 1 to refine L. Yang's inequality [27] as follows.

**Theorem 2.** Let  $0 \le \lambda \le 1$ ,  $0 < x \le \theta < \pi$ ,  $t \ge 2$  and  $A_i > 0$  with  $\sum_{i=1}^n A_i \le \pi$  for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . If  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n \ge 2$ , then

$$L_m(n,\lambda) \le H(n,\lambda) \le R_m(n,\lambda),\tag{14}$$

where

$$L_m(n,\lambda) = \binom{n}{2} \lambda^2 \pi^2 \left[ \frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} + \sum_{k=1}^m 2^{-kt} \mu_k \left( 2^t \theta^t - \lambda^t \pi^t \right)^k \right]^2 \cos^2 \left( \frac{\lambda}{2} \pi \right), \tag{15}$$

$$H(n,\lambda) = (n-1)\sum_{k=1}^{n} \cos^2(\lambda A_k) - 2\cos(\lambda \pi)\sum_{1 \le i < j \le n} \cos(\lambda A_i)\cos(\lambda A_j), \quad (16)$$

$$R_m(n,\lambda) = \binom{n}{2}\lambda^2\pi^2 \left[\frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} + \sum_{k=1}^m 2^{-kt}\omega_k \left(2^t\theta^t - \lambda^t\pi^t\right)^k\right]^2 \cos^2\left(\frac{\lambda}{2}\pi\right),\tag{17}$$

and  $\mu_k$  and  $\omega_k$  are defined by (11).

### 2. Lemmas

To prove our main results, the following lemmas are necessary.

**Lemma 1.** For x > 0, let  $u_0(x) = \frac{\sin x}{x}$  and  $u_k(x) = \frac{u'_{k-1}(x)}{x^r}$  for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $r \ge 1$ . Then

$$u_k(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \frac{a_{i-1}^k \sin\left(x + \frac{i+k-1}{2}\pi\right)}{x^{kr+i}},$$
(18)

where  $a_i^k$  is defined by (13).

*Proof.* It is apparent that  $u_1(x) = x^{-r} \left(\frac{\sin x}{x}\right)' = x^{-1-r} \cos x - x^{-2-r} \sin x$ , which tells us that formula (18) is valid for k = 1.

Now assume formula (18) holds for some given k > 1. Direct computation by using (13) gives

$$u_{k+1} = \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} a_{i-1}^k \left[ \frac{1}{x^{kr+i+r}} \cos\left(x + \frac{k+i-1}{2}\pi\right) \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} &-\frac{1}{x^{kr+i+r+1}}\sin\left(x+\frac{k+i-1}{2}\pi\right)\right] \\ &= \frac{a_0^k}{x^{kr+r+1}}\cos\left(x+\frac{k}{2}\pi\right) - \frac{(kr+k+1)a_k^k}{x^{kr+r+k+2}}\sin(x+k\pi) \\ &-\sum_{i=0}^{k-1}\frac{a_i^k(kr+1+i)+a_{i+1}^k}{x^{kr+r+i+2}}\sin\left(x+\frac{k+i}{2}\pi\right) \\ &= \frac{a_0^{k+1}}{x^{kr+r+1}}\sin\left(x+\frac{k+1}{2}\pi\right) + \frac{a_{k+1}^{k+1}}{x^{kr+r+k+2}}\sin[x+(k+1)\pi] \\ &+\sum_{i=0}^{k-1}\frac{a_{i+1}^{k+1}}{x^{kr+r+i+2}}\sin\left(x+\frac{k+i+2}{2}\pi\right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^{k+2}\frac{a_{i-1}^{k+1}}{x^{kr+i+r}}\sin\left(x+\frac{k+i}{2}\pi\right). \end{aligned}$$

By mathematical induction, Lemma 1 is proved.

4

**Lemma 2.** For x > 0 and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $v_1(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} a_{i-1}^k x^{k-i+1} \sin\left(x + \frac{k+i-1}{2}\pi\right)$ and  $v_{j+1}(x) = \frac{1}{x} v'_j(x)$  for  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then

$$v_j(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{k-j+1} b_i^j x^{k-i-j+1} \sin\left(x + \frac{k+i+j-1}{2}\pi\right)$$
(19)

is valid for  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ , where  $b_i^1 = a_i^k$ ,  $b_0^j = 1$  and

$$b_i^j = b_i^{j-1} - (k - i - j + 3)b_{i-1}^{j-1}, \qquad 0 < i \le k - j + 1, \quad j > 1.$$
(20)

*Proof.* When j = 1, formula (19) is valid clearly.

By induction, suppose that formula (19) holds for some j > 1. Since k - j + 1 > k - (j + 1) + 1, it deduced from (20) that  $b_{k-j+1}^{j+1} = b_{k-j+1}^j - b_{k-j}^j = 0$ . Thus,

$$\begin{split} v_{j+1}(x) &= \frac{1}{x} \Biggl\{ \sum_{i=0}^{k-j} b_i^j \Biggl[ (k-i-j+1)x^{k-i-j} \sin\left(x + \frac{k+i+j-1}{2}\pi\right) \\ &+ x^{k-i-j+1} \cos\left(x + \frac{k+i+j-1}{2}\pi\right) \Biggr] + b_{k-j+1}^j \cos(x+k\pi) \Biggr\} \\ &= b_0^j x^{k-j} \sin\left(x + \frac{k+j}{2}\pi\right) \\ &+ \sum_{i=0}^{k-j-1} \Bigl[ b_{i+1}^j - (k-i-j+1)b_i^j \Bigr] x^{k-i-j+1} \sin\left(x + \frac{k+i+j+1}{2}\pi\right) \\ &= b_0^j x^{k-j} \sin\left(x + \frac{k+j}{2}\pi\right) + \sum_{i=0}^{k-j-1} b_{i+1}^{j+1} x^{k-i-j+1} \sin\left(x + \frac{k+i+j+1}{2}\pi\right) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{k-j} b_i^{j+1} x^{k-i-j} \sin\left(x + \frac{k+i+j}{2}\pi\right). \end{split}$$

By mathematical induction, formula (19) is proved.

**Lemma 3** ([3]). Let f and g be continuous on [a, b] and differentiable in (a, b) such that  $g'(x) \neq 0$  in (a, b). If  $\frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$  is increasing (or decreasing) in (a, b), then the functions  $\frac{f(x)-f(b)}{g(x)-g(b)}$  and  $\frac{f(x)-f(a)}{g(x)-g(a)}$  are also increasing (or decreasing) in (a, b).

**Lemma 4.** Let  $0 < x < \theta < \pi$  and t > 2, then inequality

$$\frac{1}{t} \left( \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta^{1+t}} - \frac{\cos \theta}{\theta^{t}} \right) \left( \theta^{t} - x^{t} \right) \le \frac{\sin x}{x} - \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} \le \left( \frac{1}{\theta^{t}} - \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta^{1+t}} \right) \left( \theta^{t} - x^{t} \right)$$
(21)

holds with the equalities if and only if  $x = \theta$ , where the constants

$$\frac{1}{t}\left(\frac{\sin\theta}{\theta^{1+t}} - \frac{\cos\theta}{\theta^t}\right) \quad and \quad \left(\frac{1}{\theta^t} - \frac{\sin\theta}{\theta^{1+t}}\right)$$

are the best possible.

*Proof.* Let  $f(x) = \frac{\sin x}{x} - \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta}$ ,  $g(x) = \theta^t - x^t$ ,  $f_1(x) = x \cos x - \sin x$  and  $g_1(x) = -tx^{1+t}$ . Then

$$\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{f(x) - f(0)}{g(x) - g(0)}, \qquad \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)} = \frac{f_1(x) - f_1(0)}{g_1(x) - g_1(0)}, \qquad \frac{f'_1(x)}{g'_1(x)} = \frac{\sin x}{t(1+t)x^t}$$

Since  $\frac{\sin x}{x^t}$  is decreasing in  $(0,\pi]$ , then  $\frac{f'_1(x)}{g'_1(x)}$  is decreasing, and then, in virtue of Lemma 3, the function  $\frac{f'(x)}{q'(x)}$  is decreasing, further  $\frac{f(x)}{q(x)}$  is decreasing in  $(0, \pi]$ , thus,

$$\frac{1}{t} \left( \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta^{1+t}} - \frac{\cos \theta}{\theta^t} \right) = \lim_{x \to \theta^-} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \le \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \le \lim_{x \to 0^+} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{1}{\theta^t} \left( 1 - \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} \right)$$
  
he two constants are the best possible.

and the two constants are the best possible.

## 3. Proofs of theorems

Proof of Theorem 1. If n = 1, inequality (10) becomes (21) in Lemma 4. For  $n \geq 2$ , let t = r + 1,

$$\varphi(x) = \frac{\sin x}{x} - \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} - \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \mu_k (\theta^{r+1} - x^{r+1})^k, \quad \psi(x) = (\theta^{r+1} - x^{r+1})^n,$$
$$\varphi_1(x) = \frac{\varphi(x)}{x^r}, \quad \varphi_{i+1}(x) = \frac{\varphi'_i(x)}{x^r}, \quad \psi_1(x) = \frac{\psi'(x)}{x^r}, \quad \psi_{i+1}(x) = \frac{\psi'_i(x)}{x^r},$$

where  $2 \leq i \leq n$ . Then for  $1 \leq k \leq n-2$ ,

$$\varphi_k(x) = u_k(x) - [-(r+1)]^k k! \mu_k - \sum_{i=1}^{n-k-1} \frac{(i+k)!}{i!} \mu_{i+k} (\theta^{1+r} - x^{1+r})^i,$$
  
$$\varphi_{n-1}(x) = u_{n-1}(x) - (n-1)! [-(r+1)]^{n-1} \mu_{n-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_n(x) = u_n(x).$$

where  $u_k(x)$  for  $1 \le k \le n$  is defined by (18).

In view of (18), it is deduced that  $[-(1+r)]^k k! \mu_k = u_k(\theta)$  for  $1 \le k \le n-1$ , hence  $\varphi_i(\theta) = 0$  for  $1 \le i \le n-1$ . A simple calculation gives  $\psi_i(x) = [-(1+r)]^i \prod_{\ell=0}^{i-1} (n-\ell)(\theta^{r+1} - x^{r+1})^{n-i}$  for  $1 \le i \le n$ , consequently  $\psi_i(\theta) = 0$  for  $1 \le i \le n-1$ . As a result, for  $1 \leq i \leq n-1$ ,

Let  $h_1(x) = x^{nr+n+1}$  and  $h_{i+1}(x) = \frac{1}{x}h'_i(x)$  for  $1 \le i \le n$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then it is easy to see that  $h_{i+1}(x) = \prod_{\ell=1}^{i} (nr+n-2\ell+3)x^{nr+n-2i+1}$  for  $1 \le i \le n$ . Utilization of Lemma 1 and Lemma 2 leads to

$$\frac{\varphi_{n-1}'(x)}{\psi_{n-1}'(x)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n+1} a_{i-1}^n x^{n-i+1} \sin\left(x + \frac{n+i-1}{2}\pi\right)}{n![-(1+r)]^n x^{rn+n+1}} = \frac{v_1(x)}{n![-(1+r)]^n h_1(x)}$$

and, since  $v_i(0) = h_i(0) = 0$  for  $1 \le i \le n + 1$ ,

$$\frac{v_1(x)}{h_1(x)} = \frac{v_1(x) - v_1(0)}{h_1(x) - h_1(0)}, \qquad \frac{v_j'(x)}{h_j'(x)} = \frac{v_{j+1}(x) - v_{j+1}(0)}{h_{j+1}(x) - h_{j+1}(0)},$$
$$\frac{v_n'(x)}{h_n'(x)} = \frac{v_{n+1}(x) - v_{n+1}(0)}{h_{n+1}(x) - h_{n+1}(0)} = \frac{(-1)^n \sin x}{\prod_{\ell=1}^i (nr + n - 2\ell + 3)x^{nr - n + 1}}$$

for  $1 \leq j \leq n-1$ . Since  $\frac{\sin x}{x}$  and  $x^{-n(r-1)}$  is decreasing on  $(0,\pi)$ , then the function  $\frac{\sin x}{x^{nr-n+1}}$  is decreasing and  $\frac{(-1)^n v'_n(x)}{h'_n(x)}$  is decreasing. Accordingly, from Lemma 3, it follows that the functions  $\frac{(-1)^n v'_1(x)}{h'_1(x)}$  and  $\frac{(-1)^n v'_{i-1}(x)}{h'_{i-1}(x)}$  for  $2 \leq i \leq n$  are decreasing. Thus, the functions  $\frac{(-1)^n v'_1(x)}{h'_1(x)}$  and  $\frac{(-1)^n v_1(x)}{h_1(x)}$  are decreasing, and then  $\frac{\varphi'_{n-1}(x)}{\psi'_{n-1}(x)}$  is decreasing in  $(0,\pi)$ . Utilizing Lemma 3 again reveals that the functions  $\frac{\varphi'_{i-1}(x)}{\psi'_{j}(x)}$  and  $\frac{\varphi'_{j-1}(x)}{\psi'_{j-1}(x)}$  for  $2 \leq j \leq n-1$  are decreasing, which implies the deceasingly monotonicity of  $\frac{\varphi(x)}{\psi(x)}$  in  $(0,\pi)$ . By L'Hôspital's rule, it is easy to deduce that  $\lim_{x\to\theta-}\frac{\varphi(x)}{\psi(x)} = \lim_{x\to\theta-}\frac{\varphi'(x)}{\psi'(x)} = \lim_{x\to\theta-}\frac{\varphi'(x)}{\psi'_{i}(x)} = \lim_{n \to 0-}\frac{\varphi(x)}{\psi'_{i}(x)} \leq \omega_n$  and the constants  $\mu_k$  and  $\omega_k$  are the best possible.

By the mathematical induction, inequality (10) is proved.

Proof of Theorem 2. It was proved in [29] and [30, (2.13)] that

$$\sin^{2}(\lambda\pi) \leq \cos^{2}(\lambda A_{i}) + \cos^{2}(\lambda A_{j}) - 2\cos(\lambda A_{i})\cos(\lambda A_{j})\cos(\lambda\pi)$$
$$\triangleq H_{ij} \leq 4\sin^{2}\left(\frac{\lambda}{2}\pi\right). \quad (22)$$

Summing up (22) for  $1 \le i < j \le n$  yields

$$\binom{n}{2}\sin^2(\lambda\pi) \le \sum_{1\le i< j\le n} H_{ij} = H(n,\lambda) \le 4\binom{n}{2}\sin^2\left(\frac{\lambda}{2}\pi\right).$$
(23)

By virtue of inequality (10) in Theorem 1,

$$4\sin^2\left(\frac{\lambda}{2}\pi\right) \le \lambda^2 \pi^2 \left[\frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} + \sum_{k=1}^m 2^{-kt} \omega_k \left(2^t \theta^t - \lambda^t \pi^t\right)^k\right]^2,\tag{24}$$

$$\sin^{2}(\lambda\pi) = 4\cos^{2}\left(\frac{\lambda}{2}\pi\right)\sin^{2}\left(\frac{\lambda}{2}\pi\right)$$

$$\geq \lambda^{2}\pi^{2}\left[\frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} + \sum_{k=1}^{m} 2^{-kt}\mu_{k}\left(2^{t}\theta^{t} - \lambda^{t}\pi^{t}\right)^{k}\right]^{2}\cos^{2}\left(\frac{\lambda}{2}\pi\right).$$
(25)

Substituting (24) and (25) into (23) leads to (14). The proof of Theorem 2 is complete.  $\hfill \Box$ 

#### References

- U. Abel and D. Caccia, A sharpening of Jordan's inequality, Amer. Math. Monthly 93 (1986), no. 7, 568–569.
- [2] M. Abramowitz and I. A. Stegun (Eds), Handbook of Mathematical Functions with Formulas, Graphs, and Mathematical Tables, 4th printing, with corrections, Applied Mathematics Series 55, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, 1965.
- [3] G. D. Anderson, M. K. Vamanamurthy and M. Vuorinen, Conformal Invariants, Inequalities, and Quasiconformal Maps, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1997.
- [4] P. S. Bullen, A Dictionary of Inequalities, Pitman Monographs and Surveys in Pure and Applied Mathematics 97, Addison Wesley Longman Limited, 1998.
- [5] L. Debnath and Ch.-J. Zhao, New strengthened Jordan's inequality and its applications, Appl. Math. Lett. 16 (2003), no. 4, 557–560.
- [6] Y.-F. Feng (Feng Yuefeng), Proof without words: Jordan's inequality  $\frac{2x}{\pi} \leq \sin x \leq x, 0 \leq x \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$ , Math. Mag. **69** (1996), 126.
- [7] W.-D. Jiang and Y. Hua, Sharpening of Jordan's inequality and its applications, J. Inequal. Pure Appl. Math. 7 (2006), no. 3, Art. 102; Available online at http://jipam.vu.edu.au/ article.php?sid=719. Bùděngshì Yānjiū Tōngxùn (Communications in Studies on Inequalities) 12 (2005), no. 3, 288-290.
- [8] J.-Ch. Kuang, Chángyòng Bùděngshì (Applied Inequalities), 3rd ed., Shāndong Kēxué Jìshù Chūbǎn Shè (Shandong Science and Technology Press), Jinan City, Shandong Province, China, 2004. (Chinese)
- [9] Q.-M. Luo, Z.-L. Wei and F. Qi, Lower and upper bounds of  $\zeta(3)$ , Adv. Stud. Contemp. Math. (Kyungshang) 6 (2003), no. 1, 47–51. RGMIA Res. Rep. Coll. 4 (2001), no. 4, Art. 7, 565–569; Available online at http://rgmia.vu.edu.au/v4n4.html.
- [10] A. McD. Mercer, Problem E 2952, Amer. Math. Monthly 89 (1982), no. 6, 424.
- [11] D. S. Mitrinovic, Analytic Inequalities, Springer-Verlag, 1970.
- [12] D.-W. Niu, J. Cao and F. Qi, A general refinement of Jordan's inequality and a refinement of L. Yang's inequality, submitted.
- [13] A. Y. Özban, A new refined form of Jordan's inequality and its applications, Appl. Math. Lett. 19 (2006), no. 2, 155–160.
- [14] F. Qi, Extensions and sharpenings of Jordan's and Kober's inequality, Gongke Shuxué (Journal of Mathematics for Technology) 12 (1996), no. 4, 98–102. (Chinese)
- [15] F. Qi, Jordan's inequality: Refinements, generalizations, applications and related problems, Bùděngshì Yānjiū Tōngxùn (Communications in Studies on Inequalities) 13 (2006), no. 3, 243-259. RGMIA Res. Rep. Coll. 9 (2006), no. 3, Art. 12; Available online at http://rgmia. vu.edu.au/v9n3.html.
- [16] F. Qi, L.-H. Cui, and S.-L. Xu, Some inequalities constructed by Tchebysheff's integral inequality, Math. Inequal. Appl. 2 (1999), no. 4, 517–528.
- [17] F. Qi and B.-N. Guo, Extensions and sharpenings of the noted Kober's inequality, Jiāozuò Kuàngyè Xuéyuàn Xuébào (Journal of Jiaozuo Mining Institute) 12 (1993), no. 4, 101–103. (Chinese)
- [18] F. Qi and B.-N. Guo, On generalizations of Jordan's inequality, Méitàn Gāoděng Jiàoyù (Coal Higher Education), suppl., November/1993, 32–33. (Chinese)
- [19] F. Qi and Q.-D. Hao, Refinements and sharpenings of Jordan's and Kober's inequality, Mathematics and Informatics Quarterly 8 (1998), no. 3, 116–120.
- [20] R. Redheffer, *Correction*, Amer. Math. Monthly **76** (1969), no. 4, 422.
- [21] R. Redheffer, Problem 5642, Amer. Math. Monthly 75 (1968), no. 10, 1125.
- [22] J. P. Williams, A delightful inequality, Amer. Math. Monthly 76 (1969), no. 10, 1153–1154.
- [23] Sh.-H. Wu, On generalizations and refinements of Jordan type inequality, Octogon Math. Mag. 12 (2004), no. 1, 267–272.
- [24] Sh.-H. Wu, On generalizations and refinements of Jordan type inequality, RGMIA Res. Rep. Coll. 7 (2004), Suppl., Art. 2; Available online at http://rgmia.vu.edu.au/v7(E).html

- [25] Sh-H. Wu and L. Debnath, A new generalized and sharp version of Jordan's inequality and its applications to the improvement of the Yang Le inequality, Appl. Math. Lett. 19 (2006), no. 12, 1378–1384.
- [26] Sh.-H. Wu and L. Debnath, A new generalized and sharp version of Jordan's inequality and its applications to the improvement of the Yang Le inequality, II, Appl. Math. Lett. 20 (2007), 532–538.
- [27] L. Yang, Zhí Fēnbù Lilùn Jíqí Xin Yánjiū (The Theory of Distribution of Values of Functions and Recent Researches), Kēxué Chūbăn Shè (Science Press), Beijing, 1982. (Chinese)
- [28] X.-H. Zhang, G.-D. Wang, Y.-M. Chu, Extensions and sharpenings of Jordan's and Kober's inequalities, J. Inequal. Pure Appl. Math. 7 (2006), no. 2, Art. 63; Avaiable online at http: //jipam.vu.edu.au/article.php?sid=680.
- [29] Ch.-J. Zhao, The extension and strength of Yang Le inequality, Shùxué de Shíjiàn yũ Rènshí (Math. Practice Theory) 30 (2000), no. 4, 493–497. (Chinese)
- [30] Ch.-J. Zhao and L. Debnath, On generalizations of L. Yang's inequality, J. Inequal. Pure Appl. Math. 3 (2002), no. 4, Art. 56; Available online at http://jipam.vu.edu.au/article. php?sid=208.
- [31] L. Zhu, Sharpening of Jordan's inequalities and its applications, Math. Inequal. Appl. 9 (2006), no. 1, 103–106.
- [32] L. Zhu, Sharpening Jordan's inequality and the Yang Le inequality, Appl. Math. Lett. 19 (2006), no. 3, 240–243.
- [33] L. Zhu, Sharpening Jordan's inequality and the Yang Le inequality, II, Appl. Math. Lett. 19 (2006), no. 9, 990–994.

(F. Qi) RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICAL INEQUALITY THEORY, HENAN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, JIAOZUO CITY, HENAN PROVINCE, 454010, CHINA

# *E-mail address*: qifeng618@gmail.com, qifeng618@hotmail.com, qifeng618@msn.com, qifeng618@qq.com, qifeng@hpu.edu.cn, fengqi618@member.ams.org

#### URL: http://rgmia.vu.edu.au/qi.html

(D.-W. Niu) School of Mathematics and Informatics, Henan Polytechnic University, Jiaozuo City, Henan Province, 454010, China

E-mail address: nnddww@163.com, nnddww@hotmail.com, nnddww@gmail.com, nnddww@tom.com

(J. Cao) School of Mathematics and Informatics, Henan Polytechnic University, Jiaozuo City, Henan Province, 454010, China

E-mail address: 21caojian@163.com, goodfriendforeve@163.com

8