Remembering trig formulas

Which trig formulas should you remember? Certainly not all of them. Which ones, then? Here's some guidance. (I've taken some liberties with formatting MATHEMATICA's output below!)

- 1. Definitions of $\sin z$ and $\cos z$ in terms of power series.
- 2. Some other definitions are the same as in the real case, e.g., $\tan z = \frac{\sin z}{\cos z}$. So there's nothing really new to remember there.
- 3. Many trig identities are the same as in the real case, e.g., $\sin^2 z + \cos^2 z = 1$. So there's nothing really new to remember there.
- 4. Formulas for derivatives of trig functions, and of the inverse trig functions, are the same as in the real case, so there's nothing really new to remember there.
- 5. You should certainly know the identity $\exp(i z) = \cos z + i \sin z$. But that's easy to remember because it just generalizes the formula you already know in the case when z is real.
- 6. A number of the other trig formulas follow from the one for $\exp(iz)$, provided you also use it to get first a formula for $\exp(-iz)$. For example: $\sin z = \frac{1}{2i} \left(e^{iz} e^{-iz}\right)$, and the corresponding formula for $\cos z$. But if you get stuck, MATHEMATICA is your friend:

TrigToExp[Cos[z]] Exp[I z]/2 + Exp[-I z]/2

7. You can quickly recover the definitions of sinh and cosh also by using MATHEMATICA's TrigToExp. Thus:

TrigToExp[Sinh[z]]
E^z/2 - E^(-z)/2

8. Some other formulas to express trig functions in terms of functions of their real and imaginary parts are also quickly recovered by using ComplexExpand in MATHEMATICA. For example:

ComplexExpand[Cosh[x + I y]] Cos[y] Cosh[x] + I Sin[y] Sinh[x]

9. Problem the only "troublesome" formulas are the ones that express the inverse trig and inverse hyperbolic functions in terms of logs. Again MATHEMATICA's TrigToExp comes to your aid. For example:

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TrigToExp[ArcSin[z]]
-I Log[I z + Sqrt[1 - z^2]]
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TrigToExp[ArcTan[z]]
(I/2) (Log[1 - I*z] - (I/2)*Log[1 + I*z]
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Then to get the corresponding multi-valued functions, just replace the upper-case characters in "Arc" and "Log" with the corresponding lower-case characters so as to get "arc" and "log", etc.

The formula just shown for differs just a bit from what you find in the text, namely,

$$\arctan z = \frac{i}{2} \log \left(\frac{i+z}{i-z}\right)$$

but you can readily combine the difference of the two Log terms to get the log of a quotient as in the text's formula.