

Exemplar Problem

Trigonometric Functions

6. Prove that $\cos \theta \cos \frac{\theta}{2} - \cos 3\theta \cos \frac{9\theta}{2} = \sin 7\theta \sin 4\theta$

[Hint: Express L.H.S. = $\frac{1}{2} [2\cos \theta \cos \frac{\theta}{2} - 2\cos 3\theta \cos \frac{9\theta}{2}]$]

Solution:

Using transformation formula, we get,

$$2 \cos A \cos B = \cos(A + B) + \cos(A - B)$$

$$-2 \sin A \sin B = \cos(A + B) - \cos(A - B)$$

Multiplying and dividing the expression by 2.

$$\therefore \text{LHS} = \frac{1}{2} \left(2 \cos \theta \cos \frac{\theta}{2} - 2 \cos 3\theta \cos \frac{9\theta}{2} \right)$$

Applying transformation formula, we get,

$$\text{LHS} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\cos \left(\theta + \frac{\theta}{2} \right) + \cos \left(\theta - \frac{\theta}{2} \right) - \left\{ \cos \left(3\theta + \frac{9\theta}{2} \right) + \cos \left(3\theta - \frac{9\theta}{2} \right) \right\} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{LHS} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\cos \frac{3\theta}{2} + \cos \frac{\theta}{2} - \cos \left(\frac{15\theta}{2} \right) - \cos \left(-\frac{3\theta}{2} \right) \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{LHS} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\cos \frac{3\theta}{2} + \cos \frac{\theta}{2} - \cos \frac{15\theta}{2} - \cos \frac{3\theta}{2} \right) \{ \because \cos(-x) = \cos x \}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{LHS} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\cos \frac{\theta}{2} - \cos \frac{15\theta}{2} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{LHS} = \frac{1}{2} \left(2 \sin \left(\frac{\frac{\theta}{2} + \frac{15\theta}{2}}{2} \right) \sin \left(\frac{\frac{15\theta}{2} - \frac{\theta}{2}}{2} \right) \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{LHS} = \frac{1}{2} \left(2 \sin \left(\frac{8\theta}{2} \right) \sin \left(\frac{7\theta}{2} \right) \right)$$

$$\therefore \text{LHS} = \sin 4\theta \sin \left(\frac{7\theta}{2} \right) = \text{RHS}$$

Hence,

$$\cos \theta \cos \frac{\theta}{2} - \cos 3\theta \cos \frac{9\theta}{2} = \sin 4\theta \sin \left(\frac{7\theta}{2} \right)$$