

Exemplar Problem

Trigonometric Functions

12. If $\cos\alpha + \cos\beta = 0 = \sin\alpha + \sin\beta$, then prove that $\cos 2\alpha + \cos 2\beta = -2\cos(\alpha + \beta)$.

[Hint: $(\cos\alpha + \cos\beta)^2 - (\sin\alpha + \sin\beta)^2 = 0$]

Solution:

According to the question,

$$\cos\alpha + \cos\beta = 0 = \sin\alpha + \sin\beta \dots(i)$$

Since, LHS = $\cos 2\alpha + \cos 2\beta$

We know that,

$$\cos 2x = \cos^2 x - \sin^2 x$$

Therefore,

$$\text{LHS} = \cos^2 \alpha - \sin^2 \alpha + (\cos^2 \beta - \sin^2 \beta)$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{LHS} = \cos^2 \alpha + \cos^2 \beta - (\sin^2 \alpha + \sin^2 \beta)$$

Also, since,

$$a^2 + b^2 = (a+b)^2 - 2ab$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{LHS} = (\cos\alpha + \cos\beta)^2 - 2\cos\alpha \cos\beta - (\sin\alpha + \sin\beta)^2 + 2\sin\alpha \sin\beta$$

From equation (i),

$$\Rightarrow \text{LHS} = 0 - 2\cos\alpha \cos\beta - 0 + 2\sin\alpha \sin\beta$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{LHS} = -2(\cos\alpha \cos\beta - \sin\alpha \sin\beta)$$

$$\because \cos(\alpha + \beta) = \cos\alpha \cos\beta - \sin\alpha \sin\beta$$

Therefore, LHS = $-2 \cos(\alpha + \beta) = \text{RHS}$

Hence, $\cos 2\alpha + \cos 2\beta = -2\cos(\alpha + \beta)$