

Exemplar Problem

Trigonometric Functions

23. If $a \cos 2\theta + b \sin 2\theta = c$ has α and β as its roots, then prove that $\tan \alpha + \tan \beta = 2b/(a + c)$

[Hint: Use the identities $\cos 2\theta = ((1 - \tan^2 \theta)/(1 + \tan^2 \theta))$ and $\sin 2\theta = 2\tan \theta/(1 + \tan^2 \theta)$]

Solution:

According to the question,

$$a \cos 2\theta + b \sin 2\theta = c$$

α and β are the roots of the equation.

Using the formula of multiple angles,

We know that,

$$\cos 2\theta = \frac{1 - \tan^2 \theta}{1 + \tan^2 \theta} \text{ and } \sin 2\theta = \frac{2 \tan \theta}{1 + \tan^2 \theta}$$

$$\therefore a \left(\frac{1 - \tan^2 \theta}{1 + \tan^2 \theta} \right) + b \left(\frac{2 \tan \theta}{1 + \tan^2 \theta} \right) - c = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow a(1 - \tan^2 \theta) + 2b \tan \theta - c(1 + \tan^2 \theta) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (-c - a)\tan^2 \theta + 2b \tan \theta - c + a = 0 \dots(i)$$

We know that,

The sum of roots of a quadratic equation, $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ is given by $(-b/a)$

Therefore,

$$\tan \alpha + \tan \beta = -2b/-(c + a) = 2b/(c + a)$$

Hence, $\tan \alpha + \tan \beta = 2b/(c + a)$