

Exemplar Problem

Trigonometric Functions

28. Find the general solution of the equation $\sin x - 3\sin 2x + \sin 3x = \cos x - 3\cos 2x + \cos 3x$

Solution:

According to the question,

$$\sin x - 3\sin 2x + \sin 3x = \cos x - 3\cos 2x + \cos 3x$$

Grouping $\sin x$ and $\sin 3x$ in LHS and, $\cos x$ and $\cos 3x$ in RHS,

We get,

$$\sin x + \sin 3x - 3\sin 2x = \cos x + \cos 3x - 3\cos 2x$$

Applying transformation formula,

$$\cos A + \cos B = 2\cos\left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{A-B}{2}\right)$$

$$\sin A + \sin B = 2\sin\left(\frac{A+B}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{A-B}{2}\right)$$

\Rightarrow

$$2\sin\left(\frac{3x+x}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{3x-x}{2}\right) - 3\sin 2x = 2\cos\left(\frac{3x+x}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{3x-x}{2}\right) - 3\cos 2x$$

$$\Rightarrow 2\sin 2x \cos x - 3\sin 2x = 2\cos 2x \cos x - 3\cos 2x$$

$$\Rightarrow 2\sin 2x \cos x - 3\sin 2x - 2\cos 2x \cos x + 3\cos 2x = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2\cos x (\sin 2x - \cos 2x) - 3(\sin 2x - \cos 2x) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (\sin 2x - \cos 2x)(2\cos x - 3) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos x = 3/2 \text{ or } \sin 2x = \cos 2x$$

As $\cos x \in [-1, 1]$

Hence, no value of x exists for which $\cos x = 3/2$

Therefore, $\sin 2x = \cos 2x$

$$\Rightarrow \tan 2x = 1 = \tan \pi/4$$

We know solution of $\tan x = \tan \alpha$ is given by,

$$x = n\pi + \alpha, n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Therefore, $2x = n\pi + (\pi/4)$

$$\Rightarrow x = n\pi/2 + (\pi/8), n \in \mathbb{Z}$$