

Sum of Sines

Submission deadline: May 31st 2018

Let α , β and γ denote the angles of a triangle. Show that

$$\sin(\alpha) + \sin(\beta) + \sin(\gamma) = 4 \cos\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) \cos\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right) \cos\left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right)$$

The problem was solved by

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Discussion:

Clearly,

$$\begin{aligned}\sin(\alpha) + \sin(\beta) + \sin(\gamma) &= \sin(\alpha) + \sin(\beta) + \sin(\pi - (\alpha + \beta)) \\ &= \sin(\alpha) + \sin(\beta) + \sin(\alpha + \beta) \\ &= \sin(\alpha) + \sin(\beta) + \sin(\alpha)\cos(\beta) + \cos(\alpha)\sin(\beta) \\ &= \sin(\alpha)(1 + \cos(\beta)) + \sin(\beta)(1 + \cos(\alpha)) \\ &= 2 \left(\sin(\alpha)\cos^2\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right) + \sin(\beta)\cos^2\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) \right) \\ &= 4 \cos\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right) \left(\sin\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right) + \sin\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) \right) \\ &= 4 \cos\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right)\sin\left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{2}\right) \\ &= 4 \cos\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\gamma}{2}\right)\end{aligned}$$