

Answer on Question #60533 – Math – Trigonometry

Question

$2\cos\alpha - \sin\alpha = x$, $\cos\alpha - 2\sin\alpha = y$, then prove that $2x^2 + y^2 - 2xy = 5$

Solution

$$\begin{cases} 2\cos\alpha - \sin\alpha = x \\ \cos\alpha - 2\sin\alpha = y \end{cases}$$

$$x^2 = 4\cos^2\alpha + \sin^2\alpha - 4\cos\alpha \cdot \sin\alpha$$

$$y^2 = \cos^2\alpha + 4\sin^2\alpha - 4\cos\alpha \cdot \sin\alpha$$

$$\begin{aligned} xy &= (2\cos\alpha - \sin\alpha)(\cos\alpha - 2\sin\alpha) = 2\cos^2\alpha - 4\cos\alpha \cdot \sin\alpha - \cos\alpha \cdot \sin\alpha + 2\sin^2\alpha \\ &= 2 - 5\cos\alpha \cdot \sin\alpha \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2x^2 + y^2 - 2xy &= 2(4\cos^2\alpha + \sin^2\alpha - 4\cos\alpha \cdot \sin\alpha) + \\ &+ (\cos^2\alpha + 4\sin^2\alpha - 4\cos\alpha \cdot \sin\alpha) - 2(2 - 5\cos\alpha \cdot \sin\alpha) = \\ &= 8\cos^2\alpha + 2\sin^2\alpha - 8\cos\alpha \cdot \sin\alpha + \cos^2\alpha + 4\sin^2\alpha - 4\cos\alpha \cdot \sin\alpha - 4 + \\ &+ 10\cos\alpha \cdot \sin\alpha = 9\cos^2\alpha + 6\sin^2\alpha - 2\cos\alpha \cdot \sin\alpha = 3\cos^2\alpha + 6(\cos^2\alpha + \sin^2\alpha) - 2\cos\alpha \cdot \sin\alpha = \\ &= 3\cos^2\alpha + 6 - 2\cos\alpha \cdot \sin\alpha = 5. \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$3\cos^2\alpha + 1 - 2\cos\alpha \cdot \sin\alpha = 0,$$

$$3\cos^2\alpha + \cos^2\alpha + \sin^2\alpha - 2\cos\alpha \cdot \sin\alpha = 0,$$

$$4\cos^2\alpha - 2\cos\alpha \cdot \sin\alpha + \sin^2\alpha = 0 \quad (1)$$

If $\cos\alpha = 0$ then it follows from (1) that $\sin\alpha = 0$, which does not hold, because $\cos^2\alpha + \sin^2\alpha = 1$ according to the Pythagorean identity.

If $\cos\alpha \neq 0$ then dividing by $\cos^2\alpha$ in (1) one gets

$$\tan^2\alpha - 2\tan\alpha + 4 = 0 \quad (2)$$

Equation (2) does not have real solutions, because its discriminant is negative:

$$D = 2^2 - 4 \cdot 1 \cdot 4 < 0.$$

Thus, $2x^2 + y^2 - 2xy \neq 5$ when $x = 2\cos\alpha - \sin\alpha$, $y = \cos\alpha - 2\sin\alpha$.