

Answer on Question #42692 – Math - Trigonometry

If A, B, C, are the interior angles of a triangle ABC, show that $\csc^2 \frac{B+C}{2} - \tan^2 \frac{A}{2} = 1$.

Solution.

We need to prove that $\csc^2 \frac{B+C}{2} - \tan^2 \frac{A}{2} = 1$.

First, rewrite $\csc \frac{B+C}{2}$ as $\frac{1}{\sin \frac{B+C}{2}}$.

Also notice that $\tan^2 \frac{A}{2} = \frac{\sin^2 \frac{A}{2}}{\cos^2 \frac{A}{2}} = -1 + \frac{1}{\cos^2 \frac{A}{2}}$ (here we use that $\sin^2 \alpha + \cos^2 \alpha = 1$).

After these steps we get $\csc^2 \frac{B+C}{2} - \tan^2 \frac{A}{2} = \frac{1}{\sin^2 \frac{B+C}{2}} + 1 - \frac{1}{\cos^2 \frac{A}{2}}$.

So, it suffices to prove that $\frac{1}{\sin^2 \frac{B+C}{2}} = \frac{1}{\cos^2 \frac{A}{2}}$.

Since $\sin \alpha = \sin(90^\circ - \alpha)$ and $A + B + C = 180^\circ$, we get

$$\begin{aligned}\sin \frac{B+C}{2} &= \sin \frac{180^\circ - A}{2} = \sin \left(90^\circ - \frac{A}{2}\right) = \cos \frac{A}{2} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{\sin^2 \frac{B+C}{2}} = \frac{1}{\cos^2 \frac{A}{2}} \\ &\Rightarrow \frac{1}{\sin^2 \frac{B+C}{2}} + 1 - \frac{1}{\cos^2 \frac{A}{2}} = 1.\end{aligned}$$