

Dr. K. Karuppasamy

(www.drk.in)

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Question: In any triangle ABC , prove that $(a - b)^2 \cos^2(c/2) + (a + b)^2 \sin^2(c/2) = c^2$?

Solution: LHS = $(a - b)^2 \cos^2(c/2) + (a + b)^2 \sin^2(c/2) = (a - b)^2(1 - \sin^2(c/2)) + (a + b)^2 \sin^2(c/2)$
= $\{(a + b)^2 - (a - b)^2\} \sin^2(c/2) + (a - b)^2 = 4ab \left(\frac{1 - \cos C}{2}\right) + (a - b)^2$
= $2ab - 2ab \cos C + (a^2 + b^2 - 2ab) = a^2 + b^2 - 2ab \cos C = c^2 = \text{RHS.}$