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proof of tangents law

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Entry type Proof Classification msc 51-00 To prove that

$$\frac{a-b}{a+b} = \frac{\tan(\frac{A-B}{2})}{\tan(\frac{A+B}{2})}$$

we start with the sines law, which says that

$$\frac{a}{\sin(A)} = \frac{b}{\sin(B)}.$$

This implies that

$$a\sin(B) = b\sin(A)$$

We can write sin(A) as

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

and sin(B) as

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

Therefore, we have

$$a(\sin(\frac{A+B}{2})\cos(\frac{A-B}{2})-\cos(\frac{A+B}{2})\sin(\frac{A-B}{2})) = b(\sin(\frac{A+B}{2})\cos(\frac{A-B}{2})+\cos(\frac{A+B}{2})\sin(\frac{A+B}{2})\cos(\frac{A+B}{2})) = b(\sin(\frac{A+B}{2})\cos(\frac{A+B}{2}))\cos(\frac{A+B}{2}$$

Dividing both sides by $\cos(\frac{A-B}{2})\cos(\frac{A+B}{2})$, we have,

$$a(\tan(\frac{A+B}{2})-\tan(\frac{A-B}{2}))=b(\tan(\frac{A+B}{2})+\tan(\frac{A-B}{2}))$$

This gives us

$$\frac{a}{b} = \frac{\tan(\frac{A+B}{2}) + \tan(\frac{A-B}{2})}{\tan(\frac{A+B}{2}) - \tan(\frac{A-B}{2})}$$

Hence we find that

$$\frac{a-b}{a+b} = \frac{\frac{a}{b}-1}{\frac{a}{b}+1} = \frac{\tan(\frac{A-B}{2})}{\tan(\frac{A+B}{2})}.$$