

① Prove that

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

② Use the formula above to show that the least value of $\sin \theta + \cos \theta$ is $-\sqrt{2}$ and the greatest value is $\sqrt{2}$.

Solution:

① let $\frac{A+B}{2} = x$, $\frac{A-B}{2} = y$. Then $\begin{cases} x+y = A \\ x-y = B \end{cases}$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \sin A + \sin B &= \sin(x+y) + \sin(x-y) \\ &= \sin x \cos y + \cos x \sin y + \sin x \cos y - \cos x \sin y \\ &= 2 \sin x \cos y = 2 \sin \frac{A+B}{2} \cos \frac{A-B}{2} \end{aligned}$$

② We transform the given sum into a product:

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \theta + \cos \theta &= \sin \theta + \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta\right) \\ &= 2 \sin \frac{\pi}{4} \cos\left(\theta - \frac{\pi}{4}\right) = \sqrt{2} \cos\left(\theta - \frac{\pi}{4}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Since $-1 \leq \cos \square \leq 1$, $-\sqrt{2} \leq (\cos \square)\sqrt{2} \leq \sqrt{2}$

$$-\sqrt{2} \leq \sin \theta + \cos \theta \leq \sqrt{2}$$