

Reciprocal Trig Identities

$$\begin{aligned} \tan^2\theta + 1 &= \sec^2\theta & 1 + \cot^2\theta &= \csc^2\theta \\ \tan^2\theta &= \sec^2\theta - 1 & \cot^2\theta &= \csc^2\theta - 1 \\ &= (\sec\theta - 1)(\sec\theta + 1) & &= (\csc\theta - 1)(\csc\theta + 1) \end{aligned}$$

ex. Prove $\frac{1 + \tan^2\theta}{\tan^2\theta} = \csc^2\theta$

| | Left-Hand Side | | Right-Hand Side |
|---|--|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Replace $1 + \tan^2\theta$ with $\sec^2\theta$ because they are equal | $\frac{\sec^2\theta}{\tan^2\theta}$ | | $\csc^2\theta$ |
| Replace $\sec^2\theta$ and $\tan^2\theta$ with equivalent trig ratios so they have a common denominator of $\cos^2\theta$ | $\frac{\frac{1}{\cos^2\theta}}{\frac{\sin^2\theta}{\cos^2\theta}}$ | | |
| Divide fractions and cancel | $\frac{\cancel{\cos^2\theta}}{\cancel{\cos^2\theta} \frac{\sin^2\theta}{\cancel{\cos^2\theta}}} = \frac{1}{\sin^2\theta} = \csc^2\theta$ | $\therefore \text{QED}$ | |

ex. $\frac{\sin^2x}{\sec x + 1} = \cos x - \cos^2x$

| | Left-Hand Side | | Right-Hand Side |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Multiply $\sec x + 1$ by it's conjugate $(\sec x - 1)$ | $\frac{\sin^2x (\sec x - 1)}{(\sec x + 1)(\sec x - 1)}$ | | $\cos x - \cos^2x$ |
| Replace $\sec^2x - 1$ with \tan^2x because they are equal | $\frac{\sin^2x (\sec x - 1)}{\sec^2x - 1} = \frac{\sin^2x (\sec x - 1)}{\tan^2x}$ | | |
| Turn \tan^2x into \sin^2x/\cos^2x and divide fractions | $\frac{\cos^2x \cancel{\sin^2x} (\sec x - 1)}{\cancel{\sin^2x}}$ | | |
| Change $\sec x$ into reciprocal $1/\cos x$. | $\cos^2x \cdot \sec x - \cos^2x = \cos^2x \cdot \frac{1}{\cancel{\cos x}} - \cos^2x$ | | |
| Divide out $\cos x$ | $\cos x - \cos^2x$ | $\therefore \text{LHS} = \text{RHS}$ | |

ex. $\frac{1 - \sec^2\theta}{\sin\theta\csc\theta} = -\tan^2\theta$

| | Left-Hand Side | Right-Hand Side |
|---|--|----------------------|
| Turn $\csc\theta$ into its reciprocal $1/\sin\theta$ | $\frac{1 - \sec^2\theta}{\sin\theta \cdot \frac{1}{\sin\theta}}$ | $-\tan^2\theta$ |
| Replace $\sec^2\theta$ with $\tan^2\theta$ because they are equal | $1 - (\tan^2\theta + 1)$ | |
| Cancel +1 and -1 | $\cancel{1} - \tan^2\theta - \cancel{1}$ $-\tan^2\theta$ | $\therefore \square$ |

ex. $\frac{\sin\theta + \cos\theta}{\sec\theta + \csc\theta} = \frac{\sin\theta}{\sec\theta}$

| | Left-Hand Side | Right-Hand Side |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Turn $\sec\theta$ and $\csc\theta$ into their reciprocal functions | $\frac{\sin\theta + \cos\theta}{(\sin\theta)\frac{1}{\cos\theta} + \frac{1}{\sin\theta}(\cos\theta)}$ | $\frac{\sin\theta}{\cos\theta}$ |
| Multiply by opposite function to make a common denominator ($\sin\theta\cos\theta$) | $\frac{\sin\theta + \cos\theta}{\frac{\sin\theta + \cos\theta}{\sin\theta\cos\theta}}$ | $\sin\theta \cdot \cos\theta$ |
| Divide fractions and cancel reciprocal | $\frac{\sin\theta + \cos\theta \cdot \sin\theta\cos\theta}{\cancel{\sin\theta + \cos\theta}}$ $\sin\theta\cos\theta$ | $\therefore \text{Q.E.D.}$ |