

For all real numbers x except 0 and 1,
the function f is defined by

$$f\left(\frac{x}{x-1}\right) = \frac{1}{x}$$

Suppose $0 < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$

What is $f(\sec^2 \theta)$?

Introduce a new variable

$$y = \frac{x}{x-1}$$

solve for x : $y(x-1) = x$

$$\Rightarrow yx - y = x$$

$$\Rightarrow yx - x = y$$

$$\Rightarrow x(y-1) = y$$

$$\Rightarrow x = \frac{y}{y-1} \quad (y \neq 1)$$

If $y=0$ then $x=0$ which is not possible

so for $y \neq 0, 1$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(y) &= f\left(\frac{x}{x-1}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{x} \\ &= \frac{1}{\left(\frac{y}{y-1}\right)} \\ &= \frac{y-1}{y} \\ &= 1 - \frac{1}{y} \end{aligned}$$

When $y = \sec^2 \theta$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(\sec^2 \theta) &= 1 - \frac{1}{\sec^2 \theta} \\ &= 1 - \cos^2 \theta \\ &= \sin^2 \theta \end{aligned}$$