

Conditions

$x = \sec t + \tan t$, show that $x + 1/x = 2 \sec t$

Solution

$$x = \sec t + \tan t$$

Consider:

$$x + \frac{1}{x} = \sec t + \tan t + \frac{1}{\sec t + \tan t} =$$

$$\sec t = \frac{1}{\cos t}; \tan t = \frac{\sin t}{\cos t}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\cos t} + \frac{\sin t}{\cos t} + \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\cos t} + \frac{\sin t}{\cos t}} = \frac{\sin t + 1}{\cos t} + \frac{\cos t}{1 + \sin t} = \frac{(\sin t + 1)^2 + \cos^2 t}{\cos t (1 + \sin t)} =$$

$$= \frac{\sin^2 t + 2 \sin t + 1 + \cos^2 t}{\cos t (1 + \sin t)} = \frac{2 \sin t + 2}{\cos t (1 + \sin t)} = 2 \frac{1 + \sin t}{\cos t (1 + \sin t)} = \frac{2}{\cos t} = \mathbf{2 \sec t}$$