

Answer on Question #42095 – Math - Trigonometry

If $\tan(x) + \cot(x) = 2$ then $\tan^2(x) + \cot^2(x) = ?$

Solution:

We have

$$\tan(x) + \cot(x) = 2 \quad (1)$$

Square both sides of equation:

$$\begin{aligned} (\tan(x) + \cot(x))^2 &= 4 \\ \tan^2(x) + 2 \tan(x) \cdot \cot(x) + \cot^2(x) &= 4 \\ \tan^2(x) + \cot^2(x) &= 4 - 2 \tan(x) \cdot \cot(x) \quad (2) \end{aligned}$$

Formula for the tangent:

$$\tan(x) = \frac{1}{\cot(x)} \quad (3)$$

Take into account (3) and rewrite (2):

$$\tan^2(x) + \cot^2(x) = 4 - 2 \tan(x) \cdot \frac{1}{\tan(x)} = 4 - 2 = 2$$

Answer: $\tan^2(x) + \cot^2(x) = 2$