

Exercise 49

Find the limit.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi/4} \frac{1 - \tan x}{\sin x - \cos x}$$

Solution

Rewrite the limit.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \pi/4} \frac{1 - \tan x}{\sin x - \cos x} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \pi/4} \frac{1}{\cos x} \cdot \frac{1 - \tan x}{\frac{\sin x}{\cos x} - 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \pi/4} \frac{1}{\cos x} \cdot \frac{1 - \tan x}{\tan x - 1} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \pi/4} \frac{-1}{\cos x} \cdot \frac{1 - \tan x}{1 - \tan x} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \pi/4} \frac{-1}{\cos x} \\ &= -\frac{1}{\cos \frac{\pi}{4}} \\ &= -\sqrt{2} \end{aligned}$$