Lemma : For  $a \ge 0, \ b \ge 0$  and  $x \ge 0$  we have that (all quantities are reals)

$$f(x) = \frac{ax^2 + 2}{bx^2 + 2} \tag{1}$$

$$f(x) = 1 + \frac{(b-a)x^2}{bx^2 + 2} \tag{2}$$

$$f(x) = 1 + \frac{(b-a)}{b + \frac{2}{x^2}} \tag{3}$$

is a monotone function. We know that  $\frac{2}{x^2}$  is monotone decreasing when  $x \ge 0$ . Proof:

$$x_0 \le x_1 \implies x_0^2 \le x_1^2 \implies \frac{2}{x_1^2} \le \frac{2}{x_0^2}$$

It then follows that  $b + \frac{2}{x^2}$  is monotone decreasing when  $x \ge 0$ . Then  $\frac{1}{b + \frac{2}{x^2}}$  is monotone increasing. Since  $x_0 \le x_1 \implies \frac{1}{b + \frac{2}{x_0^2}} \ge \frac{1}{b + \frac{2}{x_1^2}}$ , due to inequality

flipping for division. Then if  $a \leq b$  it follows that f(x) is monotone increasing whilst if  $a \geq b$  then f(x) is monotone decreasing. With the special case of a = b giving the constant function f(x) = 1.