

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

Prove that:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n 2^{2n}} \binom{2n}{n} \sum_{k=1}^{2n} \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{k} = \frac{\pi^2}{12}$$

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$$\sigma = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n 2^{2n}} \binom{2n}{n} \sum_{k=1}^{2n} \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{k};$$

Notes:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Skew harmonic series: } H_n^- = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{k}, \quad H_{2n}^- = \sum_{k=1}^{2n} \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{k} = \int_0^1 \frac{1 - x^{2n}}{1+x} dx \\ \qquad \qquad \qquad = H_{2n} - H_n \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Generating Binomial series: } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2n-1}}{4^n} \binom{2n}{n} = \frac{1}{x\sqrt{1-x^2}} - \frac{1}{x}; \quad \int \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2n-1}}{4^n} \binom{2n}{n} dx \\ \qquad \qquad \qquad = \int \frac{1 - \sqrt{1-x^2}}{x\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx \\ \qquad \qquad \qquad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2n}}{n 4^n} \binom{2n}{n} = -2 \ln(x) - 2 \tanh^{-1} \sqrt{1-x^2} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{H_{2n}^-}{n 4^n} \binom{2n}{n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{H_{2n} - H_n}{n 4^n} \binom{2n}{n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n 4^n} \binom{2n}{n} \int_0^1 \frac{1 - x^{2n}}{1+x} dx = \\ &= \int_0^1 \frac{1}{1+x} \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n 4^n} \binom{2n}{n} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2n}}{n 4^n} \binom{2n}{n} \right) dx \\ &\qquad \qquad \qquad = \int_0^1 \frac{-2\ln(1) - 2\tanh^{-1}(0) + 2\tanh^{-1}\sqrt{1-x^2} + 2\ln(x)}{1+x} dx = \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= 2 \int_0^1 \frac{\tanh^{-1}\sqrt{1-x^2}}{1+x} dx - 2 \int_0^1 \frac{\ln(x)}{1+x} dx \quad \text{Using IBP method: } \{v = \ln(1+x), u \\ &\qquad \qquad \qquad = \tanh^{-1}\sqrt{1-x^2}, \frac{du}{dx} = -\frac{1}{x\sqrt{1-x^2}}\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\sigma = 2[\ln(1+x) \tanh^{-1}\sqrt{1-x^2}]_0^1 + 2 \int_0^1 \frac{\ln(1+x)}{x\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx - \frac{\pi^2}{6} = 2 \int_0^1 \frac{\ln(1+x)}{x\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx - \frac{\pi^2}{6}$$

Using Feynman's integration method

$$I(a) = 2 \int_0^1 \frac{\ln(1+ax)}{x\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx, \quad \frac{d}{da} I(a) = 2 \int_0^1 \frac{1}{(1+ax)\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx$$

Substitution {x = sin(t), dx = cos(t) dt}

$$I'(a) = 2 \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{1}{a \sin(t) + 1} dt, \quad \left\{ \tan\left(\frac{t}{2}\right) = u, dt = \frac{2du}{1+u^2}, \sin(t) = \frac{2u}{1+u^2}, u[1; 0] \right\}$$

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$$I'(a) = 4 \int_0^1 \frac{1}{\frac{2au}{1+u^2} + 1} \frac{du}{1+u^2} = 4 \int_0^1 \frac{1}{u^2 + 2ua + 1} du = 4 \left[\frac{\tan^{-1} \left(\frac{u+a}{\sqrt{1-a^2}} \right)}{\sqrt{1-a^2}} \right]_0^1 =$$

$$= \frac{4}{\sqrt{1-a^2}} \left(\tan^{-1} \left(\frac{1+a}{\sqrt{1-a^2}} \right) - \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{a}{\sqrt{1-a^2}} \right) \right); \quad \{I(1) = \sigma \quad I(0) = 0\}$$

$$I = 4 \int_0^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-a^2}} \left(\tan^{-1} \left(\frac{1+a}{\sqrt{1-a^2}} \right) - \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{a}{\sqrt{1-a^2}} \right) \right) da$$

$$\text{Substitution: } \left\{ \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{a+1}{\sqrt{1-a^2}} \right) - \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{a}{\sqrt{1-a^2}} \right); \quad d\theta = -\frac{1}{2\sqrt{1-a^2}}; \quad \theta \left[0; \frac{\pi}{4} \right] \right\}$$

$$I = 8 \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{4}} \theta d\theta = 8 \left[\frac{\theta^2}{2} \right]_0^{\frac{\pi}{4}} = \frac{8\pi^2}{32} = \frac{\pi^2}{4}$$

$$\sigma = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n 2^{2n}} \binom{2n}{n} \sum_{k=1}^{2n} \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{k} = \frac{\pi^2}{4} - \frac{\pi^2}{6} = \frac{\pi^2}{12}$$