

**Problem 11299**

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Show that

$$\prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{e} \left( \frac{n^2}{n^2-1} \right)^{n^2-1} \right) = \frac{e\sqrt{e}}{2\pi}.$$

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Taking the logarithm the infinite product (which converges) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left( -1 + (n^2 - 1) \log \left( \frac{1}{1 - 1/n^2} \right) \right) &= \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left( -1 + (n^2 - 1) \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{kn^{2k}} \right) \\ &= \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left( -1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{kn^{2k-2}} - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{kn^{2k}} \right) \\ &= \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(k+1)n^{2k}} - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{kn^{2k}} \right) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\zeta(2k) - 1}{k+1} - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\zeta(2k) - 1}{k} \end{aligned}$$

Now the second series yields

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\zeta(2k) - 1}{k} &= \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{kn^{2k}} = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \log \left( \frac{n^2}{n^2 - 1} \right) \\ &= \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \log \left( \prod_{n=2}^N \frac{n^2}{(n-1)(n+1)} \right) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \log \left( \frac{2N}{N+1} \right) = \log 2. \end{aligned}$$

So it suffices to prove that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\zeta(2k) - 1}{k+1} = \frac{3}{2} - \log \pi$$

which is interesting by itself. Since the *cotangent identity*

$$\cot x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x - n\pi}.$$

holds in the interval  $0 < x < \pi$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 \cot x - x + \frac{x^2}{x - \pi} - \frac{x^2}{x + \pi} &= 2 \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{x}{x^2 - (n\pi)^2} = -2 \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{x^3/\pi^2}{1 - (x/(n\pi))^2} \\ &= -2x \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{x}{n\pi} \right)^{2k} = -2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2k+1}}{\pi^{2k}} (\zeta(2k) - 1). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\zeta(2k) - 1}{k+1} &= \frac{2}{\pi^2} \int_0^{\pi} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2k+1}}{\pi^{2k}} (\zeta(2k) - 1) dx \\
&= -\frac{1}{\pi^2} \int_0^{\pi} \left( x^2 \cot x - x - \frac{x^2}{x-\pi} - \frac{x^2}{x+\pi} \right) dx \\
&= \frac{1}{\pi^2} \int_0^{\pi} \left( x + \frac{x^2}{x+\pi} \right) dx + \frac{1}{\pi^2} \lim_{t \rightarrow \pi^-} \left( \int_0^t \frac{x^2}{x-\pi} dx - \int_0^t x^2 \cot x dx \right) \\
&= \log 2 + \frac{1}{\pi^2} \lim_{t \rightarrow \pi^-} \left( \left[ \frac{x^2}{2} + \pi x + \pi^2 \log(\pi - x) \right]_0^t - \pi^2 \log(\pi - t) - \pi^2 \log 2 + o(1) \right) \\
&= \frac{3}{2} - \log \pi
\end{aligned}$$

where we used the following asymptotic estimate as  $t \rightarrow \pi^-$

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_0^t x^2 \cot x dx &= \int_0^t x^2 d(\log(\sin x)) = [x^2 \log(\sin x)]_0^t - 2 \int_0^t x \log(\sin x) dx \\
&= \pi^2 \log((\pi - t)(1 + o(1))) - 2 \int_0^t x \log(\sin x) dx \\
&= \pi^2 \log(\pi - t) + \pi^2 \log 2 + o(1)
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\int_0^{\pi} x \log(\sin x) dx = -\frac{\pi^2}{2} \log 2.$$

The last integral can be evaluated in the following way

$$\int_0^{\pi} x \log(\sin x) dx = \int_0^{\pi} (\pi - x) \log(\sin(\pi - x)) dx = \pi \int_0^{\pi} \log(\sin x) dx - \int_0^{\pi} x \log(\sin x) dx$$

and therefore

$$\int_0^{\pi} x \log(\sin x) dx = \frac{\pi}{2} \int_0^{\pi} \log(\sin x) dx = -\frac{\pi^2}{2} \log 2$$

because

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_0^{\pi} \log(\sin x) dx &= 2 \int_0^{\pi/2} \log(\sin x) dx \\
&= 2 \int_0^{\pi/2} \log(\sin(\pi/2 - x)) dx = 2 \int_0^{\pi/2} \log(\cos x) dx \\
&= \int_0^{\pi/2} \log(\sin(2x)/2) dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\pi} \log((\sin x)/2) dx \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\pi} \log(\sin x) dx - \frac{\pi}{2} \log 2.
\end{aligned}$$

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