

Problem 11333

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Proposed by P. F. Refolio (Spain).

Show that

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

Solution proposed by Roberto Tauraso, Dipartimento di Matematica, Università di Roma "Tor Vergata", via della Ricerca Scientifica, 00133 Roma, Italy.

First we consider the finite telescopic product

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{n=2}^N \left(\frac{n+1}{n-1} \right)^n &= \frac{3^2}{1^2} \cdot \frac{4^3}{2^3} \cdot \frac{5^4}{3^4} \cdots \frac{N^{N-1}}{(N-2)^{N-1}} \cdot \frac{(N+1)^N}{(N-1)^N} \\ &= \frac{N^{N-1}(N+1)^N}{2((N-1)!)^2} = \frac{N^{2N+1}}{2(N!)^2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{N} \right)^N \\ &= \frac{e^{2N+1}}{4\pi} (1 + o(1)) \end{aligned}$$

where in the last step we used

$$N! = \sqrt{2\pi N} (N/e)^N (1 + o(1)) \quad \text{and} \quad (1 + 1/N)^N = e(1 + o(1)).$$

Now we consider another finite telescopic product

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{n=2}^N \left(\frac{n^2-1}{n^2} \right)^{n^2-1} &= \prod_{n=2}^N \frac{(n-1)^{n^2-1} (n+1)^{n^2-1}}{n^{2(n^2-1)}} \\ &= \frac{1^3 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 2^8 \cdot 4^8 \cdot 3^{15} \cdot 5^{15} \cdots (N-1)^{N^2-1} \cdot (N+1)^{N^2-1}}{2^6 \cdot 3^{16} \cdot 4^{30} \cdots N^{2(N^2-1)}} \\ &= \frac{((N-1)!)^2 \cdot (N+1)^{N^2-1}}{N^{N^2+2N-2}} = \frac{((N)!)^2}{N^{2N+1}} \cdot \left(1 + \frac{1}{N} \right)^{N^2-1} \\ &= \frac{2\pi}{e^{2N}} \cdot e^{N-\frac{1}{2}} (1 + o(1)) = \frac{2\pi}{e^{N+\frac{1}{2}}} (1 + o(1)) \end{aligned}$$

where in the last step we used the Stirling approximation and

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{N} \right)^{N^2-1} = \exp \left((N^2-1) \left(\frac{1}{N} - \frac{1}{2N^2} + o(1/N^2) \right) \right) = \exp \left(N - \frac{1}{2} + o(1) \right) = e^{N-\frac{1}{2}} (1 + o(1)).$$

Finally

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{n=2}^N \left(\left(\frac{n^2-1}{n^2} \right)^{2(n^2-1)} \left(\frac{n+1}{n-1} \right)^n \right) &= \left(\prod_{n=2}^N \left(\frac{n^2-1}{n^2} \right)^{n^2-1} \right)^2 \cdot \prod_{n=2}^N \left(\frac{n+1}{n-1} \right)^n \\ &= \frac{4\pi^2}{e^{2N+1}} (1 + o(1)) \cdot \frac{e^{2N+1}}{4\pi} (1 + o(1)) \rightarrow \pi. \end{aligned}$$

□