

Problem 11715

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Proposed by M. Stofka (Slovakia).

Prove that

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(6k+1)^5} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{2^5-1}{2^5} \cdot \frac{3^5-1}{3^5} \zeta(5) + \frac{11\pi^5}{8 \cdot 3^5 \sqrt{3}} \right).$$

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

For $1 \leq j \leq 5$, let

$$S_j = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(6k+j)^5}.$$

Then it is easy to see that

$$\begin{aligned} S_3 &= \frac{1}{3^5} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2k+1)^5} = \frac{1}{3^5} \left(\zeta(5) - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2k)^5} \right) = \frac{2^5-1}{6^5} \zeta(5), \\ S_2 + S_4 &= \frac{1}{2^5} \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(3k+1)^5} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(3k+2)^5} \right) = \frac{1}{2^5} \left(\zeta(5) - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(3k)^5} \right) = \frac{3^5-1}{6^5} \zeta(5), \\ S_1 + S_2 + S_3 + S_4 + S_5 &= \zeta(5) - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(6k)^5} = \frac{6^5-1}{6^5} \zeta(5). \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$S_1 + S_5 = \frac{6^5 - 3^5 - 2^5 + 1}{6^5} \zeta(5) = \frac{2^5-1}{2^5} \cdot \frac{3^5-1}{3^5} \zeta(5).$$

By the the partial fraction expansion of the cotangent function, we know that for $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{Z}$,

$$\frac{\pi}{\tan(\pi z)} = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{z-k}.$$

Moreover, the following power series converges for all z such that $|z| < 1$, and since the sum of the terms with $n > 1$ converges absolutely, we may interchange the order of summation. So we have

$$F(z) := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(6k+1)^n} \right) z^n = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{(6k+1)^n} = -z \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{z - (6k+1)} = -\frac{\pi z}{6 \tan(\pi(z-1)/6)},$$

which implies that

$$S_1 - S_5 = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(6k+1)^5} = \frac{1}{5!} \frac{d^5 F}{dz^5}(0) = \frac{11\pi^5}{8 \cdot 3^5 \sqrt{3}}.$$

Finally, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} S_1 &= \frac{(S_1 + S_5) + (S_1 - S_5)}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{2^5-1}{2^5} \cdot \frac{3^5-1}{3^5} \zeta(5) + \frac{11\pi^5}{8 \cdot 3^5 \sqrt{3}} \right), \\ S_5 &= \frac{(S_1 + S_5) - (S_1 - S_5)}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{2^5-1}{2^5} \cdot \frac{3^5-1}{3^5} \zeta(5) - \frac{11\pi^5}{8 \cdot 3^5 \sqrt{3}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

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