

Problem 11842

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Proposed by I. Mezó (China).

Let ψ be the Digamma function, that is, $\psi(x) = (\log \Gamma(x))'$. Let $\phi = (1 + \sqrt{5})/2$. Prove that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\psi(n + \phi) - \psi(n - 1/\phi)}{n^2 + n - 1} = \frac{\pi^2}{2\sqrt{5}} + \frac{\pi^2 \tan^2(\sqrt{5}\pi/2)}{\sqrt{5}} + \frac{4\pi \tan(\sqrt{5}\pi/2)}{5}.$$

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

Since $\psi(n + z) = \psi(a) + \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{1}{k+z}$, it follows that if a and b are not non-positive integers then for all integers $N \geq 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^N \frac{\psi(n + a) - \psi(n + b)}{(n + a)(n + b)} &= (\psi(a) - \psi(b)) \sum_{n=0}^N \frac{1}{(n + a)(n + b)} \\ &+ \frac{(b - a)}{2} \left(\left(\sum_{n=0}^N \frac{1}{(n + a)(n + b)} \right)^2 - \sum_{n=0}^N \frac{1}{((n + a)(n + b))^2} \right). \end{aligned}$$

In our case $a = \phi$ and $b = -1/\phi$, and as N goes to infinity we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\psi(n + \phi) - \psi(n - 1/\phi)}{n^2 + n - 1} &= (\psi(\phi) - \psi(-1/\phi)) \left(1 + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2 + n - 1} \right) \\ &- \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2} \left(\left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2 + n - 1} \right)^2 - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(n^2 + n - 1)^2} \right). \end{aligned}$$

The required formula is proved as soon as we compute $\psi(\phi) - \psi(-1/\phi)$ and the two series.

i) By the reflection formula,

$$\psi(\phi) - \psi(-1/\phi) = \psi(\phi) - \psi(1 - \phi) = -\frac{\pi}{\tan(\pi\phi)} = \pi \tan(\sqrt{5}\pi/2).$$

ii) By the residue formula, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2 + n - 1} &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2 + n - 1} = \frac{\pi}{2} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \operatorname{Res} \left(\frac{\cot(\pi z)}{z^2 + z - 1}, z \right) \\ &= -\frac{\pi}{2} \left(\operatorname{Res} \left(\frac{\cot(\pi z)}{z^2 + z - 1}, -\phi \right) + \operatorname{Res} \left(\frac{\cot(\pi z)}{z^2 + z - 1}, 1/\phi \right) \right) \\ &= -\frac{\pi \cot(\pi\phi)}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{\pi \tan(\sqrt{5}\pi/2)}{\sqrt{5}}. \end{aligned}$$

ii) By the residue formula, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(n^2 + n - 1)^2} &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(n^2 + n - 1)^2} = \frac{\pi}{2} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \operatorname{Res} \left(\frac{\cot(\pi z)}{(z^2 + z - 1)^2}, z \right) \\ &= -\frac{\pi}{2} \left(\operatorname{Res} \left(\frac{\cot(\pi z)}{(z^2 + z - 1)^2}, -\phi \right) + \operatorname{Res} \left(\frac{\cot(\pi z)}{(z^2 + z - 1)^2}, 1/\phi \right) \right) \\ &= -\frac{\pi}{5} \left(-\frac{\pi}{\sin^2(\pi\phi)} - \frac{2 \cot(\pi\phi)}{\sqrt{5}} \right) = \frac{\pi^2}{5} + \frac{\pi^2 \tan^2(\sqrt{5}\pi/2)}{5} - \frac{2\pi \tan(\sqrt{5}\pi/2)}{5\sqrt{5}}. \end{aligned}$$

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