

Problem 12228

(American Mathematical Monthly, Vol.128, January 2021)

Proposed by H. Grandmontagne (France).

Prove

$$\int_0^1 \frac{(\ln(x))^2 \ln(2\sqrt{x}/(x^2+1))}{x^2-1} dx = 2G^2,$$

where G is Catalan's constant $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n / (2n+1)^2$.

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

Solution.

We consider, for $x > 0$, the digamma function $\psi(x)$ and its derivatives of order $m \geq 1$:

$$\psi(x) = \frac{\Gamma'(x)}{\Gamma(x)} = -\gamma + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{n+1} - \frac{1}{n+x} \right), \quad \psi^{(m)}(x) = (-1)^{m+1} m! \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(n+x)^{m+1}}.$$

We recall some known values of $\psi(x)$ and $\psi^{(m)}(x)$ up to order 3 at $x = 1/2, 1/4, 3/4$:

$$\begin{aligned} \psi\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) &= -\gamma - 2\ln(2), & \psi'\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) &= \frac{\pi^2}{2}, & \psi''\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) &= -14\zeta(3), & \psi'''\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) &= \pi^4, \\ \psi\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) &= -\gamma - 3\ln(2) - \frac{\pi}{2}, & \psi'\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) &= 8G + \pi^2, & \psi''\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) &= -56\zeta(3) - 2\pi^3, \\ \psi\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) &= -\gamma - 3\ln(2) + \frac{\pi}{2}, & \psi'\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) &= -8G + \pi^2, & \psi''\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) &= -56\zeta(3) + 2\pi^3. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover

$$\psi'''\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) + \psi'''\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) = 16\pi^4.$$

We need also the following two identities. Let $H_k = \sum_{n=1}^k \frac{1}{n}$ then, for $x > 0$,

$$S_2(x) := \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{H_k}{(k+x)^2} = (\gamma + \psi(x)) \psi'(x) - \frac{\psi''(x)}{2}, \tag{1}$$

and

$$S_3(x) := \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{H_k}{(k+x)^3} = -\frac{(\psi'(x))^2}{2} - \frac{(\gamma + \psi(x)) \psi''(x)}{2} + \frac{\psi'''(x)}{4}. \tag{2}$$

Indeed, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} S_2(x) &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{H_k}{(k+x)^2} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(k+x)^2} \sum_{n=1}^k \frac{1}{n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(k+x)^2} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\psi'(x+n)}{n} \\ &= -\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \int_0^1 \frac{t^{x+n-1} \ln(t)}{1-t} dt = -\int_0^1 \frac{t^{x-1} \ln(t)}{1-t} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{t^n}{n} dt = \int_0^1 \frac{t^{x-1} \ln(t) \ln(1-t)}{1-t} dt \\ &= \lim_{y \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} \int_0^1 t^{x-1} (1-t)^{y-1} dt = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} \frac{\Gamma(x)\Gamma(y)}{\Gamma(x+y)} \\ &= \lim_{y \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\Gamma(x)\Gamma(y)}{\Gamma(x+y)} (\psi(x) - \psi(x+y)) \right) \\ &= \lim_{y \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\Gamma(x)\Gamma(y)}{\Gamma(x+y)} ((\psi(y) - \psi(x+y))(\psi(x) - \psi(x+y)) - \psi'(x+y)) \\ &= \lim_{y \rightarrow 0^+} \left(\frac{1}{y} - \gamma + O(y) \right) \left(\left(-\frac{1}{y} - \gamma + O(y) - \psi(x) \right) \left(-\psi'(x)y - \frac{\psi''(x)}{2}y^2 + O(y^3) \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - (\psi'(x) + \psi''(x)y + O(y^2)) \right) \\ &= (\gamma + \psi(x)) \psi'(x) - \frac{\psi''(x)}{2}, \end{aligned}$$

and the proof of (1) is complete. We obtain (2) by differentiating (1) with respect to x .

The given integral can be written as

$$\int_0^1 \frac{(\ln(x))^2 \ln(2\sqrt{x}/(x^2+1))}{x^2-1} dx = \ln(2)I_1 + \frac{I_2}{2} - I_3 = 2G^2$$

where at the last step we applied

$$I_1 := \int_0^1 \frac{\ln^2(x)}{x^2-1} dx = - \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \int_0^1 \ln^2(x)x^{2k} dx = -2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2k+1)^3} = -\frac{7\zeta(3)}{4},$$

$$I_2 := \int_0^1 \frac{\ln^3(x)}{x^2-1} dx = 6 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2k+1)^4} = \frac{\pi^4}{16},$$

and, by using (2) with the given evaluations listed at the beginning,

$$\begin{aligned} I_3 &:= \int_0^1 \frac{\ln^2(x) \ln(x^2+1)}{x^2-1} dx = 2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \int_0^1 \ln^2(x)x^{2k} \sum_{n=1}^k \frac{(-1)^n}{n} dx = 2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2k+1)^3} \sum_{n=1}^k \frac{(-1)^n}{n} \\ &= -2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{H_k}{(2k+1)^3} + 2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{H_k}{(4k+1)^3} + 2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{H_k}{(4k+3)^3} \\ &= -\frac{1}{4} S_3\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{32} \left(S_3\left(\frac{1}{4}\right) + S_3\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) \right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{4} \left(-\frac{\pi^4}{8} - 14 \ln(2)\zeta(3) + \frac{\pi^4}{4} \right) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{32} \left(-\frac{(8G+\pi^2)^2}{2} + \frac{(3\ln(2)+\frac{\pi}{2})(-56\zeta(3)-2\pi^3)}{2} - \frac{(-8G+\pi^2)^2}{2} + \frac{(3\ln(2)-\frac{\pi}{2})(-56\zeta(3)+2\pi^3)}{2} + 4\pi^4 \right) \\ &= -2G^2 + \frac{\pi^4}{32} - \frac{7\ln(2)\zeta(3)}{4}. \end{aligned}$$

□