

$(\tau\sqrt{5}, \tau, \tau^{-2}), (2\tau, 2, 2\tau^{-1}), (\tau^2, \tau^2, \tau^{-1}\sqrt{5}), (\sqrt{5}, \sqrt{5}, \sqrt{5})$ . Symmetry is that of the cube.

6c. Edge-first of a  $\{5, 3, 3\}$  of edge  $2\tau^{-2}$ , with  $\alpha = 3^{-1/2}\tau^{-3}$ :  $(\tau^2, \tau^{-2}, \alpha\tau^4), (\tau^2, \tau^{-1}, \alpha\tau^2\sqrt{5}), (\tau^2, 1, \alpha), (\sqrt{5}, \tau^{-1}, \alpha\tau^5), (\sqrt{5}, 1, \alpha\tau^3\sqrt{5}), (\sqrt{5}, \tau, \alpha\tau), (2, 0, 2\alpha\tau^4), (2, 1, 3\alpha\tau^3), (2, \tau, \alpha\tau^4), (2, 2, 0), (\tau, 0, 4\alpha\tau^3), (\tau, \tau^{-1}, \alpha\tau^2(2\tau^2+1)), (\tau, \tau, \alpha(\tau^5+1)), (\tau, 2, 2\alpha\tau^3), (\tau, \sqrt{5}, \alpha\tau^3), (1, 0, \alpha(\tau^6+1)), (1, 1, \alpha\tau^6), (1, \tau, \alpha\tau^4\sqrt{5}), (1, \sqrt{5}, \alpha\tau^3\sqrt{5}), (1, \tau^2, \alpha\tau^2), (\tau^{-1}, \tau^{-1}, \alpha\tau(\tau^5+1)), (\tau^{-1}, 2, 2\alpha\tau^4), (\tau^{-1}, \tau^2, \alpha\tau^2\sqrt{5}), (0, \tau^{-2}, 3\alpha\tau^4), (0, \sqrt{5}, 3\alpha\tau^3), (0, \tau^2, 3\alpha\tau^2)$ . Symmetry is that of the hexagonal prism.

6d. Face-first of a  $\{5, 3, 3\}$  of edge  $2\tau^{-2}$ , with  $\beta = 5^{-1/4}\tau^{-5/2}$ :  $(\tau^2, 0, 2\beta\tau^2), (\tau^2, \tau^{-1}, \beta\tau^3), (\tau^2, 1, \beta\tau), (\sqrt{5}, 0, 2\beta\tau^3), (\sqrt{5}, 1, \beta\tau^4), (\sqrt{5}, \tau, \beta\tau^2), (2, \tau^{-1}, \beta\tau^3\sqrt{5}), (2, \tau, \beta\tau^2\sqrt{5}), (2, 2, 0), (\tau, \tau^{-2}, \beta\tau^5), (\tau, 1, \beta\tau^2(3\tau-1)), (\tau, \tau, 3\beta\tau^2), (\tau, 2, 2\beta\tau^2), (\tau, \sqrt{5}, \beta\tau), (1, \tau^{-1}, 3\beta\tau^3), (1, 1, \beta\tau^2(\tau+3)), (1, 2, 2\beta\tau^3), (1, \sqrt{5}, \beta\tau^4), (1, \tau^2, \beta), (\tau^{-1}, 0, 2\beta\tau^4), (\tau^{-1}, \tau, \beta\tau^5), (\tau^{-1}, \tau^2, \beta\tau^3)$ . Symmetry is that of the decagonal prism.

**Reference**

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**ON  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (1/n^{2k})$**

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In this note we give a simple proof of the well-known result ([1], [3])

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{2k}} = \frac{2^{2k-1}\pi^{2k}B_k}{(2k)!}, \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots,$$

where  $B_k$  is the  $k$ th Bernoulli number, defined by

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} B_k \frac{x^{2k}}{2k!} = 1 - \frac{x}{2} \cot \frac{x}{2}, \quad |x| < 2\pi.$$

The proof is accomplished by estimating the sum  $\sum_{r=1}^n \cot^{2k}(r\pi/2n+1)$ , for large  $n$ , in two different ways (Lemmas 1 and 2).

**LEMMA 1.**

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{(2n)^{2k}} \sum_{r=1}^n \cot^{2k} \left( \frac{r\pi}{2n+1} \right) = \frac{2^{2k-1}}{(2k)!} B_k, \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

*Proof.* For  $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ , let

$$s_n(k) = \frac{1}{(2n)^{2k}} \sum_{r=1}^n \cot^{2k} \left( \frac{r\pi}{2n+1} \right).$$

Now the numbers  $\cot(r\pi/2n+1)$ ,  $r = \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots, \pm n$ , are the  $2n$  roots of  $(z+i)^{2n+1} - (z-i)^{2n+1} = 0$ . This equation can be written

$$(1) \quad \binom{2n+1}{1} z^{2n} - \binom{2n+1}{3} z^{2n-2} + \cdots + (-1)^n \binom{2n+1}{2n+1} = 0.$$

We note that  $2(2n)^{2k} s_n(k)$  is the sum of the  $2k$ th powers of the roots of (1). Thus, by Newton's identity [2] for  $n \geq k$ , we have on dividing through by  $2(2n)^{2k} \binom{2n+1}{1}$

$$(2) \quad s_n(k) - \frac{\binom{2n+1}{3}}{\binom{2n+1}{1}(2n)^2} s_n(k-1) + \cdots \\ + (-1)^{k-1} \frac{\binom{2n+1}{2k-1}}{\binom{2n+1}{1}(2n)^{2k-2}} s_n(1) + (-1)^k \frac{\binom{2n+1}{2k+1}^k}{\binom{2n+1}{1}(2n)^{2k}} = 0.$$

Next we take  $k=1, 2, 3, \dots$ , successively in (2). As

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\binom{2n+1}{2r+1}}{\binom{2n+1}{1}(2n)^{2r}} = \frac{1}{(2r+1)!}$$

for  $r=1, 2, \dots, k$ , we see that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n(k)$  (exists)  $= d_k$  (say), where  $d_k (k=1, 2, 3, \dots)$  is given recursively by

$$(3) \quad d_k - \frac{d_{k-1}}{3!} + \cdots + (-1)^{k-1} \frac{d_1}{(2k-1)!} = (-1)^{k-1} \frac{k}{(2k+1)!}.$$

A simple inductive argument shows that  $|d_k| < 1$ ,  $k=1, 2, \dots$ , so that  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} d_k x^{2k}$  converges absolutely for  $|x| < 1$ . Thus using the product theorem for absolutely convergent series we have for  $|x| < 1$

$$\left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} d_k x^{2k} \right\} \sin x = \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} d_k x^{2k} \right\} \left\{ \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^l x^{2l+1}}{(2l+1)!} \right\} \\ = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \left\{ \frac{d_m}{1!} - \frac{d_{m-1}}{3!} + \cdots + (-1)^{m-1} \frac{d_1}{(2m-1)!} \right\} x^{2m+1} \\ = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-1)^{m-1} \frac{m}{(2m+1)!} x^{2m+1} \text{ (using (3))} \\ = \frac{1}{2} \{ \sin x - x \cos x \}$$

so that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} d_k x^{2k} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{x}{2} \cot x = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} B_k 2^{2k} \frac{x^{2k}}{2k!}.$$

Equating coefficients we have  $d_k = (2^{2k-1}/(2k)!)B_k$ , which proves the result.

LEMMA 2.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{(2n+1)^{2k}} \sum_{r=1}^n \cot^{2k} \left( \frac{r\pi}{2n+1} \right) = \frac{1}{\pi^{2k}} \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{r^{2k}}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

*Proof.* The function  $\cot^{2k} z$  has a pole of order  $2k$  at  $z=0$  and is analytic in the annulus  $0 < |z| < \pi$ . By Laurent's theorem there exist complex numbers  $a_{-2k} \neq 0, a_{-(2k-1)}, \dots, a_{-1}, a_0, a_1, \dots$  such that

$$\cot^{2k} z = \frac{a_{-2k}}{z^{2k}} + \dots + \frac{a_{-1}}{z} + a_0 + a_1 z + \dots,$$

valid for  $0 < |z| < \pi$ . Clearly  $a_{-2k} = \lim_{z \rightarrow 0} z^{2k} \cot^{2k} z = (\lim_{z \rightarrow 0} z \cot z)^{2k} = 1$ . Let  $a(z) = a_0 + a_1 z + a_2 z^2 + \dots$  so that  $a(z)$  is analytic in  $|z| < \pi$ . Thus in particular  $a(z)$  is continuous on the compact set  $\{z \mid |z| \leq \pi/2\}$  and so is bounded there, that is, there is a real number  $A(k) \geq 0$  such that  $|a(z)| \leq A(k)$ , for  $|z| \leq \pi/2$ . But

$$a(z) = \begin{cases} \cot^{2k} z - \frac{a_{-2k}}{z^{2k}} - \dots - \frac{a_{-1}}{z}, & 0 < |z| \leq \pi/2, \\ a_0, & z = 0, \end{cases}$$

so that

$$\left| \cot^{2k} z - \frac{a_{-2k}}{z^{2k}} - \dots - \frac{a_{-1}}{z} \right| \leq A(k), \quad 0 < |z| \leq \pi/2.$$

Hence there exists a real number  $B(k) \geq 0$  such that

$$\left| \cot^{2k} z - \frac{1}{z^{2k}} \right| \leq A(k) + \frac{B(k)}{|z|^{2k-1}}, \quad 0 < |z| \leq \pi/2.$$

Taking  $z = r\pi/2n+1$  ( $r = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) we have

$$\left| \cot^{2k} \left( \frac{r\pi}{2n+1} \right) - \frac{(2n+1)^{2k}}{\pi^{2k} r^{2k}} \right| \leq A + \frac{B(k)(2n+1)^{2k-1}}{\pi^{2k-1} r^{2k-1}},$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{1}{(2n+1)^{2k}} \sum_{r=1}^n \cot^{2k} \left( \frac{r\pi}{2n+1} \right) - \frac{1}{\pi^{2k}} \sum_{r=1}^n \frac{1}{r^{2k}} \right| &\leq \sum_{r=1}^n \left| \frac{1}{(2n+1)^{2k}} \cot^{2k} \left( \frac{r\pi}{2n+1} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{1}{\pi^{2k} r^{2k}} \right| \leq \sum_{r=1}^n \left\{ \frac{A(k)}{(2n+1)^{2k}} + \frac{B(k)}{\pi^{2k-1} (2n+1) r^{2k-1}} \right\} \\ &\leq \frac{A(k)n}{(2n+1)^{2k}} + \frac{B(k)}{\pi} \frac{(1 + \log n)}{(2n+1)}, \end{aligned}$$

as

$$\sum_{r=1}^n \frac{1}{r^{2k-1}} \leq \sum_{r=1}^n \frac{1}{r} < 1 + \int_1^n \frac{dt}{t} = 1 + \log n.$$

Hence as

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \frac{A(k)n}{(2n+1)^{2k}} + \frac{B(k)}{\pi} \frac{(1 + \log n)}{2n+1} \right\} = 0$$

we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{(2n+1)^{2k}} \sum_{r=1}^n \cot^{2k} \left( \frac{r\pi}{2n+1} \right) = \frac{1}{\pi^{2k}} \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{r^{2k}}.$$

**THEOREM.**  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 1/n^{2k} = (2^{2k-1}\pi^{2k}B_k)/(2k)!$ ,  $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ .

*Proof.* This follows immediately from Lemmas 1 and 2 as  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (2n/2n+1)^{2k} = 1$ , for fixed  $k$ .

#### References

1. T. J. I' A. Bromwich, *An Introduction to the Theory of Infinite Series*, Macmillan, London, 1959, p. 298.
2. I. N. Herstein, *Topics in Algebra*, Blaisdell, New York, 1965, p. 208.
3. K. Knopp, *Theory and Application of Infinite Series*, Blackie, London, 1951, p. 237.

## PRODUCTS OF TRIANGULAR MATRICES

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
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The following theorem was given in [1] (with an interesting application), and given another proof in [2]. In the summer of 1971 some members of the above-named program gave the proof shown here, and the extension given below.

**THEOREM.** *Let  $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n$  be  $n \times n$  upper triangular matrices over a ring  $R$  such that the  $(i, i)$  entry of  $S_i$  is 0, then  $S_1 S_2 \cdots S_n = 0$ .*

For  $P = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in R^n$  we have  $PS_1 = (0, y_2, y_3, \dots, y_n)$ ,  $PS_1 S_2 = (0, 0, z_3, z_4, \dots, z_n)$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $PM = 0$  where  $M = S_1 S_2 \cdots S_n$ . Thus  $M$  is the zero map. That  $M = 0$  follows from taking  $P$  to be successively  $(1, 0, 0, \dots)$ ,  $(0, 1, 0, \dots)$ ,  $\dots$ . In case  $R$  has no identity we may adjoin an identity, obtaining a ring  $R'$  and apply the above argument to  $R'$  instead of  $R$ .

**EXTENSION.** The full force of the hypotheses was not used. For example, it is enough to assume about  $S_1$  that its first column is zero, about  $S_2$  that its first two columns are zero after the first term, and so on.

#### References

1. G. P. Barker, *Triangular matrices and the Cayley-Hamilton theorem*, this MAGAZINE, 44 (1971) 34-36.
2. M. Stojakovic, *On a theorem of G. P. Barker on triangular matrices*, this MAGAZINE, 44 (1971) 133-134.