

Hence $\text{mod}(a_n^2, 5) \in \{1, 4\}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Let's take a look on $\text{mod}(L_n, 5)$, Here's a lemma :

$$\text{mod}(L_n, 5) = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } \text{mod}(n, 4) = 0; \\ 1 & \text{if } \text{mod}(n, 4) = 1; \\ 3 & \text{if } \text{mod}(n, 4) = 2; \\ 4 & \text{if } \text{mod}(n, 4) = 3. \end{cases} \quad (\text{lemma 1})$$

Proof : for $n \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ it is clearly true. suppose it is true for some integers $4k, 4k + 1, 4k + 2, 4k + 3$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{mod}(L_{4k+4}, 5) &= \text{mod}(L_{4k+3} + L_{4k+2}, 5) = \text{mod}(4 + 3, 5) = 2 \\ \text{mod}(L_{4k+5}, 5) &= \text{mod}(L_{4k+4} + L_{4k+3}, 5) = \text{mod}(2 + 4, 5) = 1 \\ \text{mod}(L_{4k+6}, 5) &= \text{mod}(L_{4k+5} + L_{4k+4}, 5) = \text{mod}(1 + 2, 5) = 3 \\ \text{mod}(L_{4k+7}, 5) &= \text{mod}(L_{4k+6} + L_{4k+5}, 5) = \text{mod}(3 + 1, 5) = 4 \end{aligned}$$

Which means that (lemma 1) is true for any integer n by strong induction.

For $n = 0$, we have $\text{mod}(b_0, 5) \in \{2, 3\}$, which means that $b_0 \notin \{0, 1, 4\}$, then b_0 is not a perfect square.

For $n > 1$, we have $2^n = 4k$ where $k \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}$, therefore : $\text{mod}(L_{2^n}, 5) = 2$, which implies that

$$\text{mod}(b_n, 5) = \text{mod}(2a_n^2, 5) \in \{2, 3\}$$

Which means that $b_n \notin \{0, 1, 4\}$, then b_n is not a perfect square for $n > 1$.

Conclusion : b_n is not a perfect square for any $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$.

Also solved by Omran Kouba, Higher Institute for Applied sciences and Technology, Damascus, Syria; and the proposer.

93. *Proposed by Anastasios Kotronis, Athens, Greece.* For $x \in (-1, 1)$, evaluate

$$\sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} (-1)^{n+1} n \left(\tan^{-1} x - x + \frac{x^3}{3} - \dots + (-1)^{n+1} \frac{x^{2n+1}}{2n+1} \right).$$

Solution 1 by Omran Kouba, Higher Institute for Applied Sciences and Technology, Damascus, Syria.

Let

$$f_n(x) = \tan^{-1} x - x + \frac{x^3}{3} - \dots + (-1)^{n+1} \frac{x^{2n+1}}{2n+1}$$

Clearly we have

$$f'_n(x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2} - \sum_{k=0}^{2n} (-x^2)^k = \frac{1}{1+x^2} - \frac{1 - (-x^2)^{n+1}}{1+x^2} = \frac{(-1)^{n+1} x^{2n+2}}{1+x^2}$$

Thus

$$f_n(x) = (-1)^{n+1} \int_0^x \frac{t^{2n+2}}{1+t^2} dt$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} n f_n(x) &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^x \frac{t^3}{1+t^2} \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (2n) t^{2n-1} \right) dt \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^x \frac{t^3}{1+t^2} \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} t^{2n} \right)' dt \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^x \frac{t^3}{1+t^2} \left(\frac{1}{1-t^2} \right)' dt \\ &= \int_0^x \frac{t^4}{(1+t^2)(1-t^2)^2} dt \end{aligned}$$

Finally, noting that

$$\frac{t^4}{(1+t^2)(1-t^2)} = \frac{1}{8} \left(\frac{1}{(1+t)^2} + \frac{1}{(1-t)^2} - \frac{2}{1-t} - \frac{2}{1+t} + \frac{2}{1+t^2} \right)$$

we conclude that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} n f_n(x) = \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{x}{1-x^2} + \ln \left(\frac{1-x}{1+x} \right) + \arctan x \right)$$

which is the desired conclusion.

Solution 2 by Paolo Perfetti, Department of Mathematics, Tor Vergata University, Rome, Italy. Clearly

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} n \left(\tan^{-1} x - x + \frac{x^3}{3} - \dots + (-1)^{n+1} \frac{x^{2n+1}}{2n+1} \right) &= \\ = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} n \sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} (-1)^{k+1} \frac{x^{2k+1}}{2k+1} \end{aligned}$$

Since $|x| < 1$, we can rearrange the series as

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} n \sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} (-1)^{k+1} \frac{x^{2k+1}}{2k+1} = \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} (-1)^k \frac{x^{2k+1}}{2k+1} \sum_{n=1}^{k-1} (-1)^n n$$

$\sum_{n=1}^{k-1} (-1)^n n$ is equal to $-k/2$ if k is even and $(k-1)/2$ if k is odd. It follows

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} (-1)^k \frac{x^{2k+1}}{2k+1} \sum_{n=1}^{k-1} (-1)^n n &= \\ = - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{k x^{4k+1}}{4k+1} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} (2k-1) \frac{x^{4k-1}}{4k-1} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{x^{4k-1}}{4k-1} &= \\ = - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x^{4k+1} + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{4k+1}}{4k+1} - \frac{1}{4} \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} x^{4k-1} + \frac{3}{4} \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{x^{4k-1}}{4k-1}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x^{4k+1} = \frac{x^5}{1-x^4}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{4k+1}}{4k+1} &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x^{4k+1} \int_0^1 y^{4k} dy = \\ &= x \int_0^1 \frac{x^4 y^4}{1-x^4 y^4} dy = \int_0^x \frac{y^4}{1-y^4} dy = -x + \frac{1}{4} \ln \frac{1+x}{1-x} + \frac{1}{2} \arctan x. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover

$$\sum_{k=2}^{\infty} x^{4k-1} = \frac{x^7}{1-x^4}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} x^{4k-1} \int_0^1 y^{4k-2} dy &= \frac{1}{x} \int_0^1 \frac{x^8 y^6}{1-(xy)^4} dy = \int_0^x \frac{t^6}{1-t^4} dt = \\ &= \int_0^x \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{1+t^2} + \frac{1}{4} \frac{t^2}{1+t} + \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{1-t} - \frac{t+1}{4} - t^2 \right) dt = \\ &= \frac{x}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \arctan x + \frac{x^2}{8} - \frac{x}{4} + \frac{1}{4} \ln(1+x) - \frac{1}{4} \ln(1-x) - \frac{x^2}{8} - \frac{x}{4} - \frac{x^3}{3} = \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \arctan x + \frac{1}{4} \ln(1+x) - \frac{1}{4} \ln(1-x) - \frac{x^3}{3}. \end{aligned}$$

By summing up the three contributions we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &-\frac{1}{4} \frac{x^5}{1-x^4} - \frac{x}{4} + \frac{1}{16} \ln \frac{1+x}{1-x} + \frac{1}{8} \arctan x - \frac{1}{4} \frac{x^7}{1-x^4} + \\ &+ \frac{3}{4} \left(-\frac{1}{2} \arctan x + \frac{1}{4} \ln(1+x) - \frac{1}{4} \ln(1-x) - \frac{x^3}{3} \right) = \\ &= -\frac{1}{4} \frac{x}{1-x^2} - \frac{1}{4} \arctan x - \frac{1}{4} \ln \frac{1-x}{1+x}. \end{aligned}$$

Solution 3 by Arkady Alt, San Jose, California, USA.

$$\text{Let } S(x) := \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} (-1)^{n+1} n \left(\tan^{-1}(x) - \left(x - \frac{x^3}{3} + \dots + (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n+1}}{2n+1} \right) \right).$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } S'(x) &= \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} (-1)^{n+1} n \left(\frac{1}{1+x^2} - (1-x^2 + \dots + (-x^2)^n) \right) = \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} (-1)^{n+1} n \left(\frac{1}{1+x^2} - \frac{1-(-x^2)^{n+1}}{1+x^2} \right) = \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} n \frac{x^{2(n+1)}}{1+x^2} = \frac{x^4}{1+x^2} \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} n (x^2)^{n-1} = \\ &= \frac{x^4}{1+x^2} \cdot \frac{1}{(1-x^2)^2} = \frac{1}{4(x-1)} - \frac{1}{4(x+1)} + \frac{1}{8(x-1)^2} + \frac{1}{8(x+1)^2} + \frac{1}{4(x^2+1)} \\ \text{and, therefore, } S(x) &= \int_0^x \frac{t^4 dt}{(1+t^2)(1-t^2)^2} = \frac{1}{4} \left(\ln \frac{1-t}{1+t} + \frac{t}{1-t^2} + \tan^{-1}(t) \right)_0^x = \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \left(\ln \frac{1-x}{1+x} + \frac{x}{1-x^2} + \tan^{-1}(x) \right). \end{aligned}$$