

$$\Rightarrow 2 \sum_{1 \leq k \leq p} \left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) + 2\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) - \frac{\pi}{2}$$

(OR)

$$S = \pi p$$

(Answer)

Shivam Sharma

Third solution. Corrected setting:

Let p be an integer and a positive real number. Prove that

$$\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \arctan \left(\frac{a^p - a^{-p}}{a^n + a^{-n}} \right) = \begin{cases} \pi & \text{if } a > 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } a = 1 \\ -n\pi & \text{if } a \in (0, 1) \end{cases} .$$

Obvious that for $a = 1$ the sum equal to zero.

Let $a > 1$ and let $\alpha_n := \arctan a^n, n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $a^n = \tan \alpha_n, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \arctan \left(\frac{a^p - a^{-p}}{a^n + a^{-n}} \right) &= \arctan \left(\frac{a^n (a^p - a^{-p})}{a^n (a^n + a^{-n})} \right) = \arctan \left(\frac{a^{n+p} - a^{n-p}}{1 + a^{2n}} \right) = \\ &= \arctan \left(\frac{a^{n+p} - a^{n-p}}{1 + a^{n+p} \cdot a^{n-p}} \right) = \arctan (\tan (\alpha_{n+p} - \alpha_{n-p})) = \alpha_{n+p} - \alpha_{n-p} \end{aligned}$$

(because $\alpha_n \in (0, \infty), n \in \mathbb{Z} \implies \alpha_{n+p} - \alpha_{n-p} \in (-\pi/2, \pi/2), n, p \in \mathbb{Z}$).

Let $\beta_n := \alpha_{n+p} + \alpha_{n+p-1} + \dots + \alpha_{n-p+1}, n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Since

$\alpha_{n+p} - \alpha_{n-p} = \beta_n - \beta_{n-1}$ then

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=-n}^n \arctan \left(\frac{a^p - a^{-p}}{a^k + a^{-k}} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=-n}^n (\alpha_{k+p} - \alpha_{k-p}) = \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=-n}^n (\beta_k - \beta_{k-1}) = \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\beta_n - \beta_{-n-1}) = \end{aligned}$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \beta_n - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \beta_{-(n+1)} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\alpha_{n+p} + \alpha_{n+p-1} + \dots + \alpha_{n-p+1}) -$$

$$- \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\alpha_{-n-1+p} + \alpha_{-n+p-2} + \dots + \alpha_{-n-p}) = 2p \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} - 2p \cdot 0 = \pi p$$

because $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha_{n+k} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \arctan a^{n+k} = \frac{\pi}{2}$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \arctan a^{-n+k} = 0$ for any integer k .

If $a \in (0, 1)$ then $\frac{1}{a} > 1$ and

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \arctan \left(\frac{a^p - a^{-p}}{a^n + a^{-n}} \right) = \\ & = - \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \arctan \left(\frac{(1/a)^p - (1/a)^{-p}}{(1/a)^n + (1/a)^{-n}} \right) = -\pi p. \end{aligned}$$

Arkady Alt

Fourth solution. The result is partially correct. It should be

$$\pi p \frac{a-1}{|a-1|} \text{ if } a \neq 1, \quad 0 \text{ if } a = 1$$

If $a = 1$ we have

$$\arctan \frac{a^p - a^{-p}}{a^n + a^{-n}} = \arctan \frac{1-1}{a^n + a^{-n}} \equiv 0$$

Let $a > 1$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \arctan \left(\frac{a^p - a^{-p}}{a^n + a^{-n}} \right) &= \arctan \frac{a^p - a^{-p}}{2} + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \arctan \left(\frac{a^p - a^{-p}}{a^n + a^{-n}} \right) = \\ &= \arctan \frac{a^p - a^{-p}}{2} + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \arctan \left(\frac{a^{n+p} - a^{n-p}}{1 + a^{2n}} \right) = \\ &= \arctan \frac{a^p - a^{-p}}{2} + 2 \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=1}^N (\arctan a^{n+p} - \arctan a^{n-p}) = \\ &= \arctan \frac{a^p - a^{-p}}{2} + 2 \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \left[\sum_{n=p+1}^{N+p} \arctan a^k - \sum_{n=1-p}^{N-p} \arctan a^k \right] = \end{aligned}$$