

问题 试证恒等式： $\arctan a - \arctan b = \arctan \frac{a-b}{1+ab}$ ($a > 0, b > 0$),

并证明 $S_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \arctan \frac{1}{2k^2} < \frac{\pi}{4}$.

证 记 $\alpha = \arctan a \in (0, \frac{\pi}{2})$, $\beta = \arctan b \in (0, \frac{\pi}{2})$, 则 $\alpha - \beta \in (-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$. 而

$$\tan(\alpha - \beta) = \frac{\tan \alpha - \tan \beta}{1 + \tan \alpha \cdot \tan \beta} = \frac{a - b}{1 + ab},$$

故 $\alpha - \beta = \arctan \frac{a-b}{1+ab}$, 即 $\arctan a - \arctan b = \arctan \frac{a-b}{1+ab}$.

注意 $\arctan \frac{1}{2k^2} = \arctan \frac{(2k+1) - (2k-1)}{1 + (2k+1)(2k-1)} = \arctan(2k+1) - \arctan(2k-1)$,

$$\begin{aligned} S_n &= \sum_{k=1}^n \arctan \frac{1}{2k^2} = \sum_{k=1}^n [\arctan(2k+1) - \arctan(2k-1)] \\ &= \arctan(2n+1) - \arctan 1 < \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{4} = \frac{\pi}{4}. \end{aligned}$$

课堂问题 讨论函数 $y = f(x) = \frac{1+x^2}{1+x^4}$ 的有界性, 并求函数 $f(x)$ 的最大值.

解 显然 $f(x) = \frac{1+x^2}{1+x^4} > 0$, 注意 $1+x^4 \geq 2x^2$, 又有

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{1+x^4} + \frac{x^2}{1+x^4} < 1 + \frac{1}{2},$$

故 $f(x)$ 有界.

令 $1+x^2 = t$, 则 $t \geq 1$.

$$y = f(x) = \frac{t}{t^2 - 2t + 2} = \frac{1}{t + \frac{2}{t} - 2},$$

由平均值不等式知 $t + \frac{2}{t} \geq 2\sqrt{2}$, 且在 $t = \sqrt{2}$ 时等式成立. 故

$$y = f(x) \leq \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2} - 2} = \frac{\sqrt{2} + 1}{2},$$

函数最大值 f_{\max} 为 $\frac{\sqrt{2} + 1}{2}$, 在 $x = \pm\sqrt{\sqrt{2} - 1}$ 时取得.

