

Estimation of Pi

There are many ways to estimate pi. Here we introduce the simplest one : Leibniz's formula for pi. In order to derive Leibniz's formula, we need to start by reviewing "Chain Rule.doc" that :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Given } y &= f(x) \\ \text{then } f^{-1}(f) &= 1/f'(x) \\ \text{i.e. } \frac{df^{-1}(y)}{dy} &= \left(\frac{df(x)}{dx} \right)^{-1}_{x=f^{-1}(y)} \end{aligned}$$

Lets consider $\arctan(x)$.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \tan x &= \frac{d}{dx} \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} = \frac{\cos x}{\cos x} - \frac{\sin x}{\cos^2 x} (-\sin x) = 1 + \tan^2 x \\ \frac{d}{dy} \tan^{-1} y &= \frac{1}{1 + \tan^2 x} = \frac{1}{1 + (\tan(\tan^{-1} y))^2} = \frac{1}{1 + y^2} \\ \text{thus } \frac{d}{dx} \tan^{-1} x &= \frac{1}{1 + x^2} \\ \tan^{-1} x &= \int_0^x \frac{1}{1 + s^2} ds \\ &= \int_0^x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-s^2)^n ds && \text{geometric series } 1 + (-s^2) + (-s^2)^2 + (-s^2)^3 + \dots = 1/(1 + s^2) \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \int_0^x s^{2n} ds \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n+1}}{2n+1} && \text{this is called Leibniz seies} \end{aligned}$$

Lets put $x=1$, we have :

$$\begin{aligned} \pi/4 &= \tan^{-1}(1) \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{2n+1} \\ \pi &= 4 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{2n+1} \end{aligned}$$