

2147. Evaluate:

$$\prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n^4 + 4}{n^4 - 1}$$

Solution. We start by factoring and completing squares:

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n^4 + 4}{n^4 - 1} &= \prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n^4 + 4n^2 + 4 - 4n^2}{(n^2 + 1)(n^2 - 1)} \\ &= \prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(n^2 + 2)^2 - (2n)^2}{(n^2 + 1)(n + 1)(n - 1)} \\ &= \prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(n^2 + 2n + 2)(n^2 - 2n + 2)}{(n^2 + 1)(n + 1)(n - 1)} \\ &= \prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(n^2 + 2n + 1 + 1)(n^2 - 2n + 1 + 1)}{(n^2 + 1)(n + 1)(n - 1)} \\ &= \prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{((n + 1)^2 + 1)((n - 1)^2 + 1)}{(n^2 + 1)(n + 1)(n - 1)} \end{aligned}$$

At this point we can split the expression into five products, and change their indexes:

$$\prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{((n + 1)^2 + 1)((n - 1)^2 + 1)}{(n^2 + 1)(n + 1)(n - 1)} = ABCDE$$

$$A = \prod_{n=2}^{\infty} (n + 1)^2 + 1 = \prod_{n=3}^{\infty} n^2 + 1 = \frac{1}{(1^2 + 1)(2^2 + 1)} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} n^2 + 1 = \frac{1}{10} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} n^2 + 1$$

$$B = \prod_{n=2}^{\infty} (n - 1)^2 + 1 = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} n^2 + 1$$

$$C = \prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2 + 1} = (1^2 + 1) \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2 + 1} = 2 \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2 + 1}$$

$$D = \prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n + 1} = \prod_{n=3}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} = (1)(2) \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} = 2 \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$$

$$E = \prod_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n - 1} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$$

Joining the products again, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned}
ABCDE &= \frac{2}{5} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(n^2 + 1)(n^2 + 1)}{(n^2 + 1)(n)(n)} \\
&= \frac{2}{5} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2 + 1}{n^2} \\
&= \frac{2}{5} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} 1 + \frac{1}{n^2}
\end{aligned}$$

This expression can be simplified with the well-known formula for \sinh :

$$\begin{aligned}
\sinh(x) &= x \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} 1 + \frac{x^2}{n^2 \pi^2} \\
\sinh(\pi x) &= \pi x \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} 1 + \frac{(\pi x)^2}{n^2 \pi^2} \\
\frac{\sinh(\pi x)}{\pi x} &= \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} 1 + \frac{x^2}{n^2}
\end{aligned}$$

By using $x = 1$, we arrive at the final expression:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{2}{5} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} 1 + \frac{1}{n^2} &= \frac{2}{5} \left(\frac{\sinh(\pi)}{\pi} \right) \\
&= \frac{2 \sinh(\pi)}{5\pi}
\end{aligned}$$