

INDEED SHALOSHABLE!

SHALOSH B. EKHAD AND T. AMDEBERHAN

Department of Mathematics, Temple University, Philadelphia PA 19122, USA
DeVry institute, North Brunswick, NJ 08902
tewodros@euclid.math.temple.edu

In an article posted at the `sci.math.research` newsgroup and found at `gopher://davinci.lfc.edu:70/0R373926-376715/MathRelItems/scimathArchive/scimathres.archive`, it was mentioned that a certain identity was seemingly not provable by Ekhad. Here, we shall refute this and actually demonstrate how much *shaloshable* it is!

CLAIM: The alleged identity

$$(1) \quad \frac{1}{4} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{2n-1}{n}^2 \frac{1}{2^{4n}(n+1)} = \frac{1}{\pi}$$

is indeed shaloshable!!

Proof: Denote $(a)_k := a(a+1)\cdots(a+k-1)$, then we have

$$(2) \quad s(n) := \sum_k \frac{(1/2)_k (-n)_k (n+1)(n+3/4)!(n+1/4)!}{k!(3/2+n)_k (2n+2k+3)(n+1/2)!^2} \equiv \text{CONSTANT}.$$

The Maple package *EKHAD* supplies the recurrence $s(n+1) - s(n) = 0$ and a WZ "certificate",

$$\frac{-k(3n+4+4nk+6k)}{4(n-k+1)(2n+3)(n+1)}.$$

Check at, say $n = 0$ and determine the constant, which is $\sqrt{2}/4$. To prove the claim, first rewrite equation (2) as

$$\sum_k \frac{(1/2)_k (-n)_k (n+1)}{k!(3/2+n)_k (2n+2k+3)} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} \frac{(n+1/2)!^2}{(n+3/4)!(n+1/4)!}$$

and then "plug-in" $n = -1/2$. The rest is trivial. \square