

# A Proof from THE BOOK: The Partial Fraction Expansion of the Cotangent

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## Abstract

In this article, I formalise a proof from THE BOOK [1, Chapter 23]; namely a formula that was called ‘one of the most beautiful formulas involving elementary functions’:

$$\pi \cot(\pi z) = \frac{1}{z} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{z+n} + \frac{1}{z-n} \right)$$

The proof uses Herglotz’s trick to show the real case and analytic continuation for the complex case.

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# 1 The Partial-Fraction Formula for the Cotangent Function

**theory** *Cotangent-PFD-Formula*  
**imports** *HOL-Complex-Analysis.Complex-Analysis HOL-Real-Asymp.Real-Asymp*

**begin**

## 1.1 Auxiliary lemmas

**lemma** *uniformly-on-image:*

*uniformly-on* ( $f \text{ ' } A$ )  $g = \text{filtercomap } (\lambda h. h \circ f)$  (*uniformly-on*  $A$  ( $g \circ f$ ))  
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**lemma** *uniform-limit-image:*

*uniform-limit* ( $f \text{ ' } A$ )  $g \ h \ F \longleftrightarrow \text{uniform-limit } A$  ( $\lambda x \ y. g \ x \ (f \ y)$ ) ( $\lambda x. h \ (f \ x)$ )  $F$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**lemma** *Ints-add-iff1* [*simp*]:  $x \in \mathbb{Z} \implies x + y \in \mathbb{Z} \longleftrightarrow y \in \mathbb{Z}$

$\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**lemma** *Ints-add-iff2* [*simp*]:  $y \in \mathbb{Z} \implies x + y \in \mathbb{Z} \longleftrightarrow x \in \mathbb{Z}$

$\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

If a set is discrete (i.e. the difference between any two points is bounded from below), it has no limit points:

**lemma** *discrete-imp-not-islimgt:*

**assumes**  $e: 0 < e$

**and**  $d: \forall x \in S. \forall y \in S. \text{dist } y \ x < e \longrightarrow y = x$

**shows**  $\neg x \text{ islimgt } S$

$\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

In particular, the integers have no limit point:

**lemma** *Ints-not-limgt:*  $\neg((x :: 'a :: \text{real-normed-algebra-1}) \text{ islimgt } \mathbb{Z})$

$\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

The following lemma allows evaluating telescoping sums of the form

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (f(n) - f(n+k))$$

where  $f(n) \longrightarrow 0$ , i.e. where all terms except for the first  $k$  are cancelled by later summands.

**lemma** *sums-long-telescope:*

**fixes**  $f :: \text{nat} \Rightarrow 'a :: \{\text{topological-group-add, topological-comm-monoid-add, ab-group-add}\}$

**assumes**  $\text{lim}: f \longrightarrow 0$

**shows**  $(\lambda n. f \ n - f \ (n + c)) \text{ sums } (\sum k < c. f \ k)$  (**is - sums ?S**)

$\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

## 1.2 Definition of auxiliary function

The following function is the infinite sum appearing on the right-hand side of the cotangent formula. It can be written either as

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{x+n} + \frac{1}{x-n} \right)$$

or as

$$2x \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2 - n^2} .$$

**definition** *cot-pfd* :: 'a :: {real-normed-field, banach}  $\Rightarrow$  'a **where**  
*cot-pfd* x =  $(\sum n. 2 * x / (x^2 - \text{of-nat } (\text{Suc } n)^2))$

The sum in the definition of *cot-pfd* converges uniformly on compact sets. This implies, in particular, that *cot-pfd* is holomorphic (and thus also continuous).

**lemma** *uniform-limit-cot-pfd-complex*:

**assumes**  $R \geq 0$

**shows** *uniform-limit* (cball 0 R :: complex set)

$(\lambda N x. \sum n < N. 2 * x / (x^2 - \text{of-nat } (\text{Suc } n)^2))$  *cot-pfd* sequentially

*<proof>*

**lemma** *sums-cot-pfd-complex*:

**fixes** x :: complex

**shows**  $(\lambda n. 2 * x / (x^2 - \text{of-nat } (\text{Suc } n)^2))$  *sums cot-pfd* x

*<proof>*

**lemma** *sums-cot-pfd-complex'-aux*:

**fixes** x :: 'a :: {banach, real-normed-field, field-char-0}

**assumes**  $x \notin \mathbb{Z} - \{0\}$

**shows**  $2 * x / (x^2 - \text{of-nat } (\text{Suc } n)^2) =$

$1 / (x + \text{of-nat } (\text{Suc } n)) + 1 / (x - \text{of-nat } (\text{Suc } n))$

*<proof>*

**lemma** *sums-cot-pfd-complex'*:

**fixes** x :: complex

**assumes**  $x \notin \mathbb{Z} - \{0\}$

**shows**  $(\lambda n. 1 / (x + \text{of-nat } (\text{Suc } n)) + 1 / (x - \text{of-nat } (\text{Suc } n)))$  *sums cot-pfd*

x

*<proof>*

**lemma** *summable-cot-pfd-complex*:

**fixes** x :: complex

**shows** *summable*  $(\lambda n. 2 * x / (x^2 - \text{of-nat } (\text{Suc } n)^2))$

*<proof>*

**lemma** *summable-cot-pfd-real*:

**fixes**  $x :: \text{real}$

**shows** *summable*  $(\lambda n. 2 * x / (x \wedge 2 - \text{of-nat } (\text{Suc } n) \wedge 2))$

*<proof>*

**lemma** *sums-cot-pfd-real*:

**fixes**  $x :: \text{real}$

**shows**  $(\lambda n. 2 * x / (x \wedge 2 - \text{of-nat } (\text{Suc } n) \wedge 2))$  *sums cot-pfd*  $x$

*<proof>*

**lemma** *cot-pfd-complex-of-real [simp]*: *cot-pfd* (*complex-of-real*  $x$ ) = *of-real* (*cot-pfd*  $x$ )

*<proof>*

**lemma** *uniform-limit-cot-pfd-real*:

**assumes**  $R \geq 0$

**shows** *uniform-limit* (*cball*  $0 R :: \text{real set}$ )

$(\lambda N x. \sum n < N. 2 * x / (x \wedge 2 - \text{of-nat } (\text{Suc } n) \wedge 2))$  *cot-pfd sequentially*

*<proof>*

### 1.3 Holomorphicity and continuity

**lemma** *has-field-derivative-cot-pfd-complex*:

**fixes**  $z :: \text{complex}$

**assumes**  $z: z \in -(\mathbb{Z} - \{0\})$

**shows** (*cot-pfd has-field-derivative*  $(-\text{Polygamma } 1 (1 + z) - \text{Polygamma } 1 (1 - z))$ ) (*at*  $z$ )

*<proof>*

**lemma** *has-field-derivative-cot-pfd-complex'* [*derivative-intros*]:

**assumes** (*g has-field-derivative*  $g'$ ) (*at*  $x$  *within*  $A$ ) **and**  $g x \notin \mathbb{Z} - \{0\}$

**shows**  $((\lambda x. \text{cot-pfd } (g x :: \text{complex}))$  *has-field-derivative*

$(-\text{Polygamma } 1 (1 + g x) - \text{Polygamma } 1 (1 - g x)) * g'$ ) (*at*  $x$  *within*

$A$ )

*<proof>*

**lemma** *Polygamma-real-conv-complex*:  $x \neq 0 \implies \text{Polygamma } n x = \text{Re } (\text{Polygamma } n (\text{of-real } x))$

*<proof>*

**lemma** *has-field-derivative-cot-pfd-real* [*derivative-intros*]:

**assumes** (*g has-field-derivative*  $g'$ ) (*at*  $x$  *within*  $A$ ) **and**  $g x \notin \mathbb{Z} - \{0\}$

**shows**  $((\lambda x. \text{cot-pfd } (g x :: \text{real}))$  *has-field-derivative*

$(-\text{Polygamma } 1 (1 + g x) - \text{Polygamma } 1 (1 - g x)) * g'$ ) (*at*  $x$  *within*

$A$ )

*<proof>*

**lemma** *holomorphic-on-cot-pfd* [*holomorphic-intros*]:

**assumes**  $A \subseteq -(\mathbb{Z} - \{0\})$

**shows** *cot-pfd holomorphic-on A*  
 ⟨*proof*⟩

**lemma** *holomorphic-on-cot-pfd'* [*holomorphic-intros*]:  
**assumes** *f holomorphic-on A*  $\wedge x. x \in A \implies f x \notin \mathbb{Z} - \{0\}$   
**shows**  $(\lambda x. \text{cot-pfd } (f x))$  *holomorphic-on A*  
 ⟨*proof*⟩

**lemma** *continuous-on-cot-pfd-complex* [*continuous-intros*]:  
**assumes** *continuous-on A f*  $\wedge z. z \in A \implies f z \notin \mathbb{Z} - \{0\}$   
**shows** *continuous-on A*  $(\lambda x. \text{cot-pfd } (f x :: \text{complex}))$   
 ⟨*proof*⟩

**lemma** *continuous-on-cot-pfd-real* [*continuous-intros*]:  
**assumes** *continuous-on A f*  $\wedge z. z \in A \implies f z \notin \mathbb{Z} - \{0\}$   
**shows** *continuous-on A*  $(\lambda x. \text{cot-pfd } (f x :: \text{real}))$   
 ⟨*proof*⟩

## 1.4 Functional equations

In this section, we will show three few functional equations for the function *cot-pfd*. The first one is trivial; the other two are a bit tedious and not very insightful, so I will not comment on them.

*cot-pfd* is an odd function:

**lemma** *cot-pfd-complex-minus* [*simp*]:  $\text{cot-pfd } (-x :: \text{complex}) = -\text{cot-pfd } x$   
 ⟨*proof*⟩

**lemma** *cot-pfd-real-minus* [*simp*]:  $\text{cot-pfd } (-x :: \text{real}) = -\text{cot-pfd } x$   
 ⟨*proof*⟩

$1 / x + \text{cot-pfd } x$  is periodic with period 1:

**lemma** *cot-pfd-plus-1-complex*:  
**assumes**  $x \notin \mathbb{Z}$   
**shows**  $\text{cot-pfd } (x + 1 :: \text{complex}) = \text{cot-pfd } x - 1 / (x + 1) + 1 / x$   
 ⟨*proof*⟩

**lemma** *cot-pfd-plus-1-real*:  
**assumes**  $x \notin \mathbb{Z}$   
**shows**  $\text{cot-pfd } (x + 1 :: \text{real}) = \text{cot-pfd } x - 1 / (x + 1) + 1 / x$   
 ⟨*proof*⟩

*cot-pfd* satisfies the following functional equation:

$$2f(x) = f\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) + f\left(\frac{x+1}{2}\right) + \frac{2}{x+1}$$

**lemma** *cot-pfd-funeq-complex*:

**fixes**  $x :: \text{complex}$   
**assumes**  $x \notin \mathbb{Z}$   
**shows**  $2 * \text{cot-pfd } x = \text{cot-pfd } (x / 2) + \text{cot-pfd } ((x + 1) / 2) + 2 / (x + 1)$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**lemma** *cot-pfd-funeq-real*:  
**fixes**  $x :: \text{real}$   
**assumes**  $x \notin \mathbb{Z}$   
**shows**  $2 * \text{cot-pfd } x = \text{cot-pfd } (x / 2) + \text{cot-pfd } ((x + 1) / 2) + 2 / (x + 1)$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

## 1.5 The limit at 0

**lemma** *cot-pfd-real-tendsto-0*:  $\text{cot-pfd } -0 \rightarrow (0 :: \text{real})$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

## 1.6 Final result

To show the final result, we first prove the real case using Herglotz's trick, following the presentation in 'Proofs from THE BOOK'. [1, Chapter 23].

**lemma** *cot-pfd-formula-real*:  
**assumes**  $x \notin \mathbb{Z}$   
**shows**  $\pi * \cot (\pi * x) = 1 / x + \text{cot-pfd } x$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

We now lift the result from the domain  $\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Z}$  to  $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{Z}$ . We do this by noting that  $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{Z}$  is connected and the point  $\frac{1}{2}$  is both in  $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{Z}$  and a limit point of  $\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Z}$ .

**lemma** *one-half-limit-point-Reals-minus-Ints*:  $(1 / 2 :: \text{complex}) \text{ islimpt } \mathbb{R} - \mathbb{Z}$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**theorem** *cot-pfd-formula-complex*:  
**fixes**  $z :: \text{complex}$   
**assumes**  $z \notin \mathbb{Z}$   
**shows**  $\pi * \cot (\pi * z) = 1 / z + \text{cot-pfd } z$   
 $\langle \text{proof} \rangle$

**end**

## References

- [1] M. Aigner and G. M. Ziegler. *Proofs from THE BOOK*. Springer, 4th edition, 2009.