



Natural approximation of Masjed-Jamei's inequality

Ling Zhu¹ · Branko Malešević²

Received: 7 August 2019 / Accepted: 25 October 2019 / Published online: 7 December 2019
© The Royal Academy of Sciences, Madrid 2019

Abstract

In this paper, we obtain a general result on the natural approximation of the function $(\arctan x)^2 - (x \operatorname{arcsinh} x) / \sqrt{1+x^2}$, and prove a conjecture raised by Zhu and Malešević (J Inequal Appl 2019:93, 2019).

Keywords Conjecture · Inverse tangent function · Inverse hyperbolic sine function

Mathematics Subject Classification Primary 26D05 · 26D07 · 26D15; Secondary 33B10 · 41A58

1 Introduction

Masjed-Jamei [1] obtained the following inequality

$$(\arctan x)^2 \leq \frac{x \ln(x + \sqrt{1+x^2})}{\sqrt{1+x^2}}, \quad |x| < 1, \quad (1.1)$$

where $\ln(x + \sqrt{1+x^2})$ is the inverse hyperbolic sinefunction $\operatorname{arcsinh} x = \sinh^{-1} x$. In [1] the author conjectured that the above inequality is established in a larger interval $(-\infty, \infty)$. Recently, the authors of this paper [2] first affirmed Masjed-Jamei's conjecture, obtained some natural generalizations of this inequality, and pose a conjecture about a natural approach of Masjed-Jamei's inequality inspired by [3–9].

✉ Ling Zhu
zhuling0571@163.com

Branko Malešević
branko.malesevic@etf.rs

¹ Department of Mathematics, Zhejiang Gongshang University, Hangzhou City 310018, Zhejiang Province, China

² Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade, Bulevar kralja Aleksandra 73, Belgrade 11000, Serbia

Proposition 1.1 ([2], Theorem 1.1) *The inequality*

$$(\arctan x)^2 \leq \frac{x \ln(x + \sqrt{1 + x^2})}{\sqrt{1 + x^2}} \tag{1.2}$$

holds for all $x \in (-\infty, \infty)$, and the power number 2 is the best in (1.2).

Proposition 1.2 ([2], Theorem 1.3) *Let $-\infty < x < \infty$. Then we have*

$$-\frac{1}{45}x^6 \leq (\arctan x)^2 - \frac{x \ln(x + \sqrt{1 + x^2})}{\sqrt{1 + x^2}} \leq -\frac{1}{45}x^6 + \frac{4}{105}x^8, \tag{1.3}$$

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{1}{45}x^6 + \frac{4}{105}x^8 - \frac{11}{225}x^{10} &\leq (\arctan x)^2 - \frac{x \ln(x + \sqrt{1 + x^2})}{\sqrt{1 + x^2}} \\ &\leq -\frac{1}{45}x^6 + \frac{4}{105}x^8 - \frac{11}{225}x^{10} + \frac{586}{10395}x^{12}. \end{aligned} \tag{1.4}$$

Conjecture 1.1 ([2], Conjecture 8.1) *Let $x \in \mathbf{R}$, $m \geq 1$, and v_n be defined by*

$$v_n = \frac{1}{n} \left(\frac{n!2^{n-1}}{(2n-1)!!} - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2i-1} \right), n \geq 3. \tag{1.5}$$

Then the double inequality

$$\sum_{n=3}^{2m+1} (-1)^n v_n x^{2n} \leq (\arctan x)^2 - \frac{x \ln(x + \sqrt{1 + x^2})}{\sqrt{1 + x^2}} \leq \sum_{n=3}^{2m+2} (-1)^n v_n x^{2n} \tag{1.6}$$

holds.

Using flexible analysis tools this paper obtains a more general conclusion on the natural approximation of the function $(\arctan x)^2 - (x \operatorname{arcsinh} x) / \sqrt{1 + x^2}$, and proves the above conjecture.

Theorem 1.1 *Let $k \geq 3$ and v_n be defined by (1.5). Then the function*

$$G_k(x) = \frac{\sqrt{1 + x^2}}{x} \left((\arctan x)^2 - \frac{x \ln(x + \sqrt{1 + x^2})}{\sqrt{1 + x^2}} - \sum_{n=3}^k (-1)^n v_n x^{2n} \right) \tag{1.7}$$

is decreasing and negative on $(0, +\infty)$ when k is an even number, and is increasing and positive on $(0, +\infty)$ when k is an odd number. In particular, for $m \geq 1$,

(i) the inequality

$$(\arctan x)^2 - \frac{x \ln(x + \sqrt{1 + x^2})}{\sqrt{1 + x^2}} \leq \sum_{n=3}^{2m+2} (-1)^n v_n x^{2n} \tag{1.8}$$

holds for all $x \in [0, +\infty)$, the constant v_{2m+2} is best possible in (1.8);

(ii) the inequality

$$\sum_{n=3}^{2m+1} (-1)^n v_n x^{2n} \leq (\arctan x)^2 - \frac{x \ln(x + \sqrt{1 + x^2})}{\sqrt{1 + x^2}} \tag{1.9}$$

holds for all $x \in [0, +\infty)$, the constant $-v_{2m+1}$ is best possible in (1.9).

Obviously, the Conjecture 1.1 is from Theorem 1.1 immediately.

2 Lemmas

Lemma 2.1 *Let $|x| < 1$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\operatorname{arcsinh} x}{\sqrt{1+x^2}} &= \frac{\ln(x + \sqrt{1+x^2})}{\sqrt{1+x^2}} \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{n!2^{n-1}}{n(2n-1)!!} x^{2n-1} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1} (2x)^{2n-1}}{n \binom{2n}{n}}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

Lemma 2.2 *Let $|x| < 1$, and v_n be defined by (1.5). Then*

$$(\arctan x)^2 - \frac{x \ln(x + \sqrt{1+x^2})}{\sqrt{1+x^2}} = \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} (-1)^n v_n x^{2n}, \tag{2.2}$$

and $v_n > 0$ for $n \geq 3$.

Lemma 2.3 *Let v_n be defined by (1.5), and*

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_3 &= 45v_3 - 1, \\ \gamma_k &= k(2k-1)(2k-3)v_k - 2(k-1)(3k-4)(2k-3)v_{k-1} \\ &\quad + (k-2)(-44k+12k^2+41)v_{k-2} - 2(k-3)(2k-5)(k-2)v_{k-3}. \end{aligned}$$

Then $\gamma_k = 0$ for $k \geq 3$.

Lemma 2.4 *Let v_n be defined by (1.5). For $k \geq 3$,*

$$\begin{aligned} \mu &= (1+4k+12k^2)v_k - (4k^2-6k+2)v_{k-1} > 0, \\ \zeta &= 2k(3k-1)(2k-1)v_k - (k-1)(12k^2-20k+9)v_{k-1} \\ &\quad + 2(2k-3)(k-1)(k-2)v_{k-2} > 0. \end{aligned}$$

3 Proof of Lemma 2.1

Let

$$p(x) = \frac{\operatorname{arcsinh} x}{\sqrt{1+x^2}}, \quad |x| < 1. \tag{3.1}$$

Then $p(0) = 0$, and

$$\sqrt{1+x^2} p(x) = \operatorname{arcsinh} x. \tag{3.2}$$

Differentiating (3.2) gives

$$(1+x^2) p'(x) + x p(x) = 1. \tag{3.3}$$

Since $p(x)$ is an odd function, we can express it as a power series

$$p(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^{2n+1}. \tag{3.4}$$

Differentiation of (3.4) yields

$$p'(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2n + 1) a_n x^{2n},$$

Substituting the series of $p'(x)$ and $p(x)$ into (3.3) yields

$$a_0 + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} ((2n + 3) a_{n+1} + 2(n + 1) a_n) x^{2n+2} = 1.$$

Equating coefficients of x^{2n+2} , we can obtain

$$\begin{aligned} a_0 &= 1, \\ a_{n+1} &= -2 \frac{n + 1}{2n + 3} a_n, n \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$a_n = (-2)^n \frac{n}{2n + 1} \frac{n - 1}{2n - 1} \cdots \frac{2}{5} \frac{1}{3} 1 = (-2)^n \frac{n!}{(2n + 1)!}, n \geq 0,$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} p(x) &= \frac{\operatorname{arcsinh} x}{\sqrt{1 + x^2}} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-2)^n \frac{n!}{(2n + 1)!} x^{2n+1} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-2)^{n-1} \frac{(n - 1)!}{(2n - 1)!} x^{2n-1} \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{n! 2^{n-1}}{n(2n - 1)!} x^{2n-1} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1} (2x)^{2n-1}}{n \binom{2n}{n}}. \end{aligned}$$

The last equation is true due to

$$\binom{2n}{n} = \frac{2^n (2n - 1)!}{n!}.$$

The proof of Lemma 2.1 is complete.

4 Proof of Lemma 2.2

First, by (2.1) we have

$$\frac{x \operatorname{arcsinh} x}{\sqrt{1 + x^2}} = \frac{x \ln(x + \sqrt{1 + x^2})}{\sqrt{1 + x^2}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{n! 2^{n-1}}{n(2n - 1)!} x^{2n}, |x| < 1. \tag{4.1}$$

Second, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} (\arctan x)^2 &= \frac{2}{1+x^2} \arctan x = 2 \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n x^{2n} \right) \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n+1}}{2n+1} \right) \\ &= 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2i-1} x^{2n-1}. \end{aligned} \tag{4.2}$$

Integrating two sides of (4.2) on $[0, x]$ we can obtain

$$(\arctan x)^2 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2i-1} \right) x^{2n}. \tag{4.3}$$

From (4.1) and (4.3) we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\arctan x)^2 - \frac{x \operatorname{arcsinh} x}{\sqrt{1+x^2}} &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2i-1} - \frac{n!2^{n-1}}{n(2n-1)!!} x^{2n} \right) x^{2n} \\ &= \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n} \left(\frac{n!2^{n-1}}{(2n-1)!!} - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{2i-1} \right) x^{2n} \\ &= \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} (-1)^n v_n x^{2n}, \end{aligned}$$

where v_n is defined by (1.5). The proof of $v_n > 0$ ($n \geq 3$) can be found in [2].

5 Proof of Lemma 2.3

The fact $v_1 = v_2 = 0$ and $v_3 = 1/45$ is directly derived from (1.5). Then $\gamma_3 = 45v_3 - 1 = 0$.

Below we assume $k \geq 4$. For convenience, we can order

$$\sum_{i=1}^{k-3} \frac{1}{2i-1} := \theta.$$

Substituting the expression of v_k defined by (1.5) to the left-hand side of the formula (1.6), we can easy verify that

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_k &= (2k-1)(2k-3) \left(\frac{k!2^{k-1}}{(2k-1)!!} - \left(\theta + \frac{1}{2k-5} + \frac{1}{2k-3} + \frac{1}{2k-1} \right) \right) \\ &\quad - 2(3k-4)(2k-3) \left(\frac{(k-1)!2^{k-2}}{(2k-3)!!} - \left(\theta + \frac{1}{2k-5} + \frac{1}{2k-3} \right) \right) \\ &\quad + (-44k + 12k^2 + 41) \left(\frac{(k-2)!2^{k-3}}{(2k-5)!!} - \left(\theta + \frac{1}{2k-5} \right) \right) \\ &\quad - 2(2k-5)(k-2) \left(\frac{(k-3)!2^{k-4}}{(2k-7)!!} - \theta \right) \\ &= 0 \cdot \theta = 0. \end{aligned}$$

6 Proof of Lemma 2.4

We first verify the first inequality, which is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned}
 &(4k + 12k^2 + 1) \frac{1}{k} \left(\frac{k!2^{k-1}}{(2k - 1)!!} - \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{2i - 1} \right) \\
 &> 2(2k - 1) \left(\frac{(k - 1)!2^{k-2}}{(2k - 3)!!} - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{1}{2i - 1} \right),
 \end{aligned}$$

that is,

$$\frac{8(k + 1)!2^{k-1}}{(2k - 1)!!} > \frac{(2k + 1)(4k + 1)}{k} \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{1}{2i - 1} + \frac{4k + 12k^2 + 1}{k(2k - 1)}. \tag{6.1}$$

We use mathematical induction to prove (6.1). Obviously, the formula (6.1) holds for $k = 3$. Assuming that (6.1) holds for $k = m$, we have

$$\frac{8(m + 1)!2^{m-1}}{(2m - 1)!!} > \frac{(2m + 1)(4m + 1)}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{1}{2i - 1} + \frac{4m + 12m^2 + 1}{m(2m - 1)}. \tag{6.2}$$

Next, we prove that (6.1) is valid for $k = m + 1$. By (6.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{8(m + 2)!2^m}{(2m + 1)!!} &= \frac{2(m + 2)}{2m + 1} \frac{8(m + 1)!2^{m-1}}{(2m - 1)!!} \\
 &> \frac{2(m + 2)}{2m + 1} \left(\frac{(2m + 1)(4m + 1)}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{1}{2i - 1} + \frac{4m + 12m^2 + 1}{m(2m - 1)} \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

In order to complete the proof of (6.1) it suffices to show that

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\frac{2(m + 2)}{2m + 1} \left(\frac{(2m + 1)(4m + 1)}{m} \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{1}{2i - 1} + \frac{4m + 12m^2 + 1}{m(2m - 1)} \right) \\
 &> \frac{(2m + 3)(4m + 5)}{m + 1} \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{2i - 1} + \frac{28m + 12m^2 + 17}{(2m + 1)(m + 1)},
 \end{aligned}$$

which is

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m-1} \frac{1}{2i - 1} > \frac{4(4m^4 + 4m^3 - 4m^2 - 6m - 1)}{(2m - 1)(2m + 1)(7m + 4m^2 + 4)}. \tag{6.3}$$

Using mathematical induction again to prove (6.3). First, we can see that (6.3) holds for $m = 3$. Second, assuming that (6.3) holds for $m = k$, we have

$$\sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{1}{2i - 1} > \frac{4(4k^4 + 4k^3 - 4k^2 - 6k - 1)}{(2k - 1)(2k + 1)(7k + 4k^2 + 4)}.$$

Via the inequality above, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{2i-1} &= \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{1}{2i-1} + \frac{1}{2k-1} \\ &> \frac{4(4k^4 + 4k^3 - 4k^2 - 6k - 1)}{(2k-1)(2k+1)(7k+4k^2+4)} + \frac{1}{2k-1}. \end{aligned}$$

In order to prove that (6.3) is true for $m = k + 1$ it suffices to show that

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{4(4k^4 + 4k^3 - 4k^2 - 6k - 1)}{(2k-1)(2k+1)(7k+4k^2+4)} + \frac{1}{2k-1} \\ &> \frac{4(14k + 32k^2 + 20k^3 + 4k^4 - 3)}{(2k+1)(2k+3)(15k+4k^2+15)}, \end{aligned}$$

that is,

$$\frac{1}{2k-1} > \frac{4(172k + 184k^2 + 80k^3 + 12k^4 + 57)}{(2k+3)(2k-1)(7k+4k^2+4)(15k+4k^2+15)}.$$

The last inequality holds due to

$$\begin{aligned} &(2k+3)(2k-1)(7k+4k^2+4)(15k+4k^2+15) \\ &\quad - 4(2k-1)(172k + 184k^2 + 80k^3 + 12k^4 + 57) \\ &= (k+1)(121k + 80k^2 + 16k^3 + 48)(2k-1)^2 > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then we turn to the proof of second inequality. The desired one is equivalent to that

$$\begin{aligned} &2k(3k-1)(2k-1) \frac{1}{k} \left(\frac{k!2^{k-1}}{(2k-1)!!} - \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{1}{2i-1} \right) \\ &\quad - (k-1)(12k^2 - 20k + 9) \frac{1}{(k-1)} \left(\frac{(k-1)!2^{k-2}}{(2k-3)!!} - \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{1}{2i-1} \right) \\ &\quad + 2(2k-3)(k-1)(k-2) \frac{1}{(k-2)} \left(\frac{(k-2)!2^{k-3}}{(2k-5)!!} - \sum_{i=1}^{k-2} \frac{1}{2i-1} \right) \\ &> 0, \end{aligned}$$

that is,

$$\frac{(k+1)!2^k}{(2k-3)!!} > (2k-1)(2k+1) \sum_{i=1}^{k-2} \frac{1}{2i-1} + \frac{12k^2 - 12k - 1}{2k-3},$$

or

$$\frac{(k+2)!2^{k+1}}{(2k-1)!!} > (2k+1)(2k+3) \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{1}{2i-1} + \frac{12k + 12k^2 - 1}{2k-1}. \tag{6.4}$$

By (6.1) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{(k+2)!2^{k+1}}{(2k-1)!!} &= \frac{k+2}{2} \frac{8(k+1)!2^{k-1}}{(2k-1)!!} \\ &> \frac{k+2}{2} \left(\frac{(2k+1)(4k+1)}{k} \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{1}{2i-1} + \frac{4k+12k^2+1}{k(2k-1)} \right). \end{aligned}$$

In order to complete the proof of (6.4) it suffices to show that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{1}{2i-1} > 1 - \frac{4k}{4k^2-1},$$

which is true due to

$$\sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \frac{1}{2i-1} > 1.$$

7 Proof of Theorem 1.1

Let $\arctan x = t, x \in (-\infty, \infty)$. Then $x = \tan t, t \in (-\pi/2, \pi/2)$. Because the functions involved in this section are all even functions, we only assume $x > 0$, which is corresponding to $t \in (0, \pi/2)$. Since

$$\begin{aligned} G_k(x) &= \frac{\sqrt{1+x^2}}{x} \left((\arctan x)^2 - \frac{x \ln(x + \sqrt{1+x^2})}{\sqrt{1+x^2}} - \sum_{n=3}^k (-1)^n v_n x^{2n} \right) \\ &= \frac{t^2 - (\sin t) \ln(\tan t + \sec t) - \sum_{n=3}^k (-1)^n v_n \tan^{2n} t}{\sin t} \\ &= \frac{t^2}{\sin t} - \ln \frac{1 + \sin t}{\cos t} - \frac{1}{\sin t} \sum_{n=3}^k (-1)^n v_n \tan^{2n} t \\ &:= F_k(t). \end{aligned}$$

we examine the properties of the function $F_k(t)$ ($k \geq 3$) as follows.

Computing to give

$$\begin{aligned} F'_k(t) &= -\frac{1}{\sin^2 t} (t^2 \cos t - 2t \sin t) - \frac{1}{\cos t} + \frac{\cos t}{\sin^2 t} \sum_{n=3}^k (-1)^n v_n \tan^{2n} t \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{\sin t} \sum_{n=3}^k (-1)^n 2n v_n (\tan^{2n-1} t + \tan^{2n+1} t) \\ &:= \frac{\cos t}{\sin^2 t} g_k(t), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 g_k(t) &= -(t - \tan t)^2 - 2 \sum_{n=3}^k (-1)^n n v_n \tan^{2n+2} t - \sum_{n=3}^k (-1)^n v_n (2n - 1) \tan^{2n} t \\
 &= -(t - \tan t)^2 - 2 \left((-1)^k k v_k \tan^{2k+2} t + \sum_{n=3}^{k-1} (-1)^n n v_n \tan^{2n+2} t \right) \\
 &\quad - \left((-1)^3 5 v_3 \tan^6 t + \sum_{n=4}^k (-1)^n v_n (2n - 1) \tan^{2n} t \right) \\
 &= -(t - \tan t)^2 - 2 (-1)^k k v_k \tan^{2k+2} t - 2 \sum_{n=3}^{k-1} (-1)^n n v_n \tan^{2n+2} t \\
 &\quad + 5 v_3 \tan^6 t - \sum_{n=4}^k (-1)^n v_n (2n - 1) \tan^{2n} t \\
 &= -(t - \tan t)^2 + 5 v_3 \tan^6 t - 2 \sum_{n=3}^{k-1} (-1)^n n v_n \tan^{2n+2} t \\
 &\quad - \sum_{n=4}^k (-1)^n v_n (2n - 1) \tan^{2n} t - 2 (-1)^k k v_k \tan^{2k+2} t \\
 &= -(t - \tan t)^2 + 5 v_3 \tan^6 t - 2 \sum_{n=4}^k (-1)^{n-1} (n - 1) v_{n-1} \tan^{2n} t \\
 &\quad - \sum_{n=4}^k (-1)^n v_n (2n - 1) \tan^{2n} t - 2 (-1)^k k v_k \tan^{2k+2} t \\
 &= -(t - \tan t)^2 + 5 v_3 \tan^6 t \\
 &\quad - \sum_{n=4}^k (-1)^{n-1} (2(n - 1) v_{n-1} - (2n - 1) v_n) \tan^{2n} t \\
 &\quad - 2 (-1)^k k v_k \tan^{2k+2} t.
 \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 g'_k(t) &= 2(t \tan^2 t - \tan^3 t) + 30 v_3 (\tan^7 t + \tan^5 t) \\
 &\quad - \sum_{n=4}^k (-1)^{n-1} 2n (2(n - 1) v_{n-1} - (2n - 1) v_n) (\tan^{2n+1} t + \tan^{2n-1} t) \\
 &\quad - 2 (-1)^k k (2k + 2) v_k (\tan^{2k+3} t + \tan^{2k+1} t) \\
 &:= (\tan^2 t) f'_k(t),
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_k(t) &= 2(t - \tan t) \\
 &\quad - \sum_{i=3}^k (-1)^{i-1} 2i [2(i-1)v_{i-1} - (2i-1)v_i] \left(\tan^{2i-1} t + \tan^{2i-3} t \right) \\
 &\quad - 2(-1)^k k(2k+2)v_k \left(\tan^{2k+1} t + \tan^{2k-1} t \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

Computing to get

$$\begin{aligned}
 f'_k(t) &= -2 \tan^2 t \\
 &\quad + \sum_{i=3}^k (-1)^{i-1} 2i [2(i-1)v_{i-1} - (2i-1)v_i] \cdot \\
 &\quad \left[(1-2i) \tan^{2i} t + 4(1-i) \tan^{2i-2} t + (3-2i) \tan^{2i-4} t \right] \\
 &\quad - 2(-1)^k k(2k+2)v_k \left[(2k+1) \tan^{2k+2} t + 4k \tan^{2k} t + (2k-1) \tan^{2k-2} t \right] \\
 &:= -2(1-45v_3) \tan^2 t + \sum_{i=4}^k (-1)^{i-1} 2\gamma_i \tan^{2i-4} t \\
 &\quad + 2(-1)^{k+1} \left(\tan^{2k-2} t \right) (\lambda \tan^4 t + k\mu \tan^2 t + \zeta) \\
 &= \sum_{i=3}^k (-1)^{i-1} 2\gamma_i \tan^{2i-4} t + 2(-1)^{k+1} \left(\tan^{2k-2} t \right) (\lambda \tan^4 t + k\mu \tan^2 t + \zeta), \\
 &= 2(-1)^{k+1} \left(\tan^{2k-2} t \right) (\lambda \tan^4 t + k\mu \tan^2 t + \zeta)
 \end{aligned}$$

by Lemm 2.3, where

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lambda &= k(2k+2)(2k+1)v_k, \\
 \mu &= (1+4k+12k^2)v_k - (4k^2-6k+2)v_{k-1}, \\
 \zeta &= 2k(3k-1)(2k-1)v_k - (k-1)(12k^2-20k+9)v_{k-1} \\
 &\quad + 2(2k-3)(k-1)(k-2)v_{k-2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

By Lemmas 2.2 and 2.4 respectively, we have $\lambda > 0$, and $\mu, \zeta > 0$. So we have

$$\lambda \tan^4 t + k\mu \tan^2 t + \zeta > 0,$$

which leads to that $f'_k(t) < 0$ for all $t \in (0, \pi/2)$ when k is an even number and $f'_k(t) > 0$ for all $t \in (0, \pi/2)$ when k is an odd number. Noticing these facts $F_k(0^+) = g_k(0) = f_k(0) = 0$, by differential method we get the conclusion that $F_k(t)$ is decreasing and negative on $(0, \pi/2)$ when k is an even number, and is increasing and positive on $(0, \pi/2)$ when k is an odd number. Because the transformation $x = \tan t$ increases monotonically on the interval $(0, \pi/2)$, the function $G_k(x)$ involved in Theorem 1.1 has the same properties as $F_k(t)$, that is to say, $G_k(x)$ is decreasing and negative on $(0, +\infty)$ when k is an even number and is increasing and positive on $(0, +\infty)$ when k is an odd number.

In view of

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(\arctan x)^2 - \frac{x \ln(x + \sqrt{1+x^2})}{\sqrt{1+x^2}} - \sum_{n=3}^{k-1} (-1)^n v_n x^{2n}}{x^{2k}} = (-1)^k v_k \quad (7.1)$$

by Lemma 2.2, the proof of Theorem 1.1 is complete.

Remark 7.1 We know that the inequality (1.1) can be traced back to the generalization of the famous Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, which can be found in [10] and the references cited therein.

Acknowledgements The authors are grateful to anonymous referees for their careful corrections to and valuable comments on the original version of this paper. The first author was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 61772025). The second author was supported in part by the Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, under projects ON 174032 and III 44006.

References

- Masjed-Jamei, M.: A main inequality for several special functions. *Comput. Math. Appl.* **60**, 1280–1289 (2010). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.camwa.2010.06.007>
- Zhu, L., Malešević, B.: Inequalities between the inverse hyperbolic tangent and the inverse sine and the analogue for corresponding functions. *J. Inequal. Appl.* **2019**, 93 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13660-019-2046-2>
- Malešević, B., Lutovac, T., Rašajski, M., Mortici, C.: Extensions of the natural approach to refinements and generalizations of some trigonometric inequalities. *Adv. Differ. Equ.* **2018**, 90 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13662-018-1545-7>
- Lutovac, T., Malešević, B., Mortici, C.: The natural algorithmic approach of mixed trigonometric-polynomial problems. *J. Inequal. Appl.* **2017**, 116 (2017). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13660-017-1392-1>
- Lutovac, T., Malešević, B., Rašajski, M.: A new method for proving some inequalities related to several special functions. *Results Math.* **73**, 100 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00025-018-0862-1>
- Malešević, B., Rašajski, M., Lutovac, T.: Refinements and generalizations of some inequalities of Shafer-Fink's type for the inverse sine function. *J. Inequal. Appl.* **2017**, 275 (2017). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13660-017-1554-1>
- Rašajski, M., Lutovac, T., Malešević, B.: About some exponential inequalities related to the sinc function. *J. Inequal. Appl.* **2018**, 150 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13660-018-1740-9>
- Banjac, B., Makragić, M., Malešević, B.: Some notes on a method for proving inequalities by computer. *Results Math.* **69**, 161–176 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00025-015-0485-8>
- Nenezić, M., Zhu, L.: Some improvements of Jordan-Steckin and Becker-Stark inequalities. *Appl. Anal. Discrete Math.* **12**, 244–256 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.2298/AADM1801244N>
- Masjed-Jamei, M., Dragomir, S.S., Srivastava, H.M.: Some generalizations of the Cauchy–Schwarz and the Cauchy–Bunyakovsky inequalities involving four free parameters and their applications. *Math. Comput. Model.* **49**, 1960–1968 (2009). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mcm.2008.09.014>

Publisher's Note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.