

Problem 11400

(American Mathematical Monthly, Vol.115, December 2008)

Proposed by P. Bracken (USA).

Let ζ be the Riemann zeta function. Evaluate

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\zeta(2n)}{n(n+1)}$$

in closed form.

Solution proposed by Roberto Tauraso, Dipartimento di Matematica, Università di Roma “Tor Vergata”, via della Ricerca Scientifica, 00133 Roma, Italy.

For $0 \leq x < 1$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\zeta(2n)}{n} x^n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\sqrt{x}}{k} \right)^{2n} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \left(\frac{\sqrt{x}}{k} \right)^{2n} = -\log \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \left(\frac{\sqrt{x}}{k} \right)^2 \right) = -\log \left(\frac{\sin(\pi\sqrt{x})}{\pi\sqrt{x}} \right).$$

Hence, because of uniform convergence of the series, we get the desired closed form

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\zeta(2n)}{n(n+1)} &= \int_0^1 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\zeta(2n)}{n} x^n = -\int_0^1 \log \left(\frac{\sin(\pi\sqrt{x})}{\pi\sqrt{x}} \right) dx \\ &= -\int_0^1 \log(\sin(\pi\sqrt{x})) dx + \int_0^1 \log(\pi) dx + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \log(x) dx \\ &= -\frac{2}{\pi^2} \int_0^{\pi} \log(\sin(t)) t dt + \log(\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \\ &= \log(2) + \log(\pi) - \frac{1}{2} = \log(2\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \approx 1.337877. \end{aligned}$$

Note that the nontrivial integral can be computed by exploiting symmetry:

$$I = \int_0^{\pi} \log(\sin(t)) t dt = \int_0^{\pi} \log(\sin(\pi-t)) (\pi-t) dt = \pi \int_0^{\pi} \log(\sin(t)) dt - I$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} J &= \int_0^{\pi} \log(\sin(t)) dt = \int_0^{\pi} \log(2 \sin(t/2) \cos(t/2)) dt \\ &= \pi \log(2) + 2 \int_0^{\pi/2} \log \sin(t) dt + 2 \int_0^{\pi/2} \log \cos(t) dt \\ &= \pi \log(2) + 2 \int_0^{\pi/2} \log \sin(t) dt + 2 \int_0^{\pi/2} \log \sin(\pi/2 - t) dt = \pi \log(2) + 2J \end{aligned}$$

therefore $J = -\pi \log(2)$ and $I = \pi J/2 = -\pi^2 \log(2)/2$. □