

Problem 11874

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Evaluate the limits below,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=2}^{n-1} \frac{\zeta(k)}{\Gamma(n-k)}, \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^{n-2} (-1)^{k-1} \frac{\zeta(n-k)}{\Gamma(k)}.$$

Solution proposed by Moubinool Omarjee, Lycée Henri IV, Paris, France, and Roberto Tauraso, Dipartimento di Matematica, Università di Roma "Tor Vergata", Italy.

We first note that

$$\sum_{k=2}^{\infty} (\zeta(k) - 1) = \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^k} = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^k} = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1/n^2}{1-1/n} = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(n-1)} = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{n-1} - \frac{1}{n} \right) = 1.$$

Moreover for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^{k-1}}{\Gamma(k)} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^k}{k!} = e^z.$$

The Cauchy product of these two absolutely convergent series is

$$\sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{k=2}^{n-1} \frac{(\zeta(k) - 1)z^{n-k+1}}{\Gamma(n-k)} \right) = e^z$$

where the convergence is given by Mertens' theorem.

Since the general term of the series goes to zero, we have that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=2}^{n-1} \frac{(\zeta(k) - 1)z^{n-k+1}}{\Gamma(n-k)} = 0.$$

Therefore

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=2}^{n-1} \frac{\zeta(k)z^{n-k+1}}{\Gamma(n-k)} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=2}^{n-1} \frac{z^{n-k+1}}{\Gamma(n-k)} + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=2}^{n-1} \frac{(\zeta(k) - 1)z^{n-k+1}}{\Gamma(n-k)} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^{n-2} \frac{z^{k-1}}{\Gamma(k)} = e^z.$$

Finally we apply this result for $z = 1$ and $z = -1$ to the given limits,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=2}^{n-1} \frac{\zeta(k)}{\Gamma(n-k)} \stackrel{z=1}{=} e \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^{n-2} (-1)^{k-1} \frac{\zeta(n-k)}{\Gamma(k)} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=2}^{n-1} \frac{\zeta(k)(-1)^{n-k-1}}{\Gamma(n-k)} \stackrel{z=-1}{=} e^{-1}.$$

□