

Problem 12194

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Proposed by M. Tetiva (Romania).

Evaluate

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(H_n - \ln(n) - \gamma - \frac{1}{2n} \right)$$

where $H_n = \sum_{k=1}^n 1/k$ and γ is the Euler-Mascheroni constant.

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

Solution. We have that for $N \geq 1$,

$$\sum_{n=1}^N H_n = \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{1}{k} \sum_{n=k}^N 1 = \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{N+1-k}{k} = (N+1)H_N - N.$$

Hence, as $N \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^N \left(H_n - \ln(n) - \gamma - \frac{1}{2n} \right) &= (N+1)H_N - N - \ln(N!) - \gamma N - \frac{H_N}{2} \\ &= \left(N + \frac{1}{2} \right) \left(\ln(N) + \gamma + \frac{1}{2N} + o(1/N) \right) - (1 + \gamma)N \\ &\quad - \left(\ln(\sqrt{2\pi}) + \frac{\ln(N)}{2} + N \ln(N) - N + o(1) \right) \\ &= \frac{1 + \gamma - \ln(2\pi)}{2} + o(1) \rightarrow \frac{1 + \gamma - \ln(2\pi)}{2}, \end{aligned}$$

where we used the following known asymptotic relations:

$$H_n = \ln(n) + \gamma + \frac{1}{2n} + o(1/n) \quad \text{and} \quad n! = \sqrt{2\pi n} \left(\frac{n}{e} \right)^n (1 + o(1)).$$

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