

Problem 12222

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Prove

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{k^2} \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n2^n} = -\frac{13\zeta(3)}{24}.$$

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Solution. Since

$$\int_0^1 t^k \log(t) dt = \left[\frac{t^{k+1}}{k+1} \log(t) \right]_0^1 - \int_0^1 \frac{t^{k+1-1}}{k+1} dt = -\frac{1}{(k+1)^2},$$

it follows that the given double series has an integral representation

$$\begin{aligned} I &:= \int_0^1 \frac{\log(t+2) \log(t)}{t+1} dt = \int_0^1 \frac{(\log(2) + \log(1 + \frac{t}{2})) \log(t)}{t+1} dt \\ &= \log(2) \int_0^1 \frac{\log(t)}{t+1} dt + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n2^n} \int_0^1 \frac{t^n \log(t)}{t+1} dt \\ &= \log(2) \int_0^1 \log(t) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k t^k dt + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n2^n} \int_0^1 t^n \log(t) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k t^k dt \\ &= -\log(2) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{(k+1)^2} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n2^n} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{(n+k+1)^2} \\ &= -\frac{\log(2)\zeta(2)}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n2^n} \left(\frac{\zeta(2)}{2} + \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(-1)^k}{k^2} \right) \\ &= -\frac{\log(2)\zeta(2)}{2} + \frac{\zeta(2)}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n2^n} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n2^n} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(-1)^k}{k^2} \\ &= -\frac{\log(2)\zeta(2)}{2} + \frac{\log(2)\zeta(2)}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n2^n} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(-1)^k}{k^2} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{k^2} \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n2^n}. \end{aligned}$$

Now we evaluate the integral I . We introduce two auxiliary functions F_- and F_+ :

$$\begin{aligned} F_-(x) &:= \int_0^x \frac{\log^2(t)}{1-t} dt = -\log^2(x) \log(1-x) + 2 \int_0^x \frac{\log(t) \log(1-t)}{t} dt \\ &= -\log^2(x) \log(1-x) - 2 \int_0^x \log(t) \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{t^{k-1}}{k} dt \\ &= -\log^2(x) \log(1-x) - 2 \log(x) \text{Li}_2(x) + 2 \int_0^x \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{t^{k-1}}{k^2} dt \\ &= -\log^2(x) \log(1-x) - 2 \log(x) \text{Li}_2(x) + 2 \text{Li}_3(x) \end{aligned}$$

and, in a similar way,

$$F_+(x) := \int_0^x \frac{\log^2(t)}{1+t} dt = \log^2(x) \log(1+x) + 2 \log(x) \text{Li}_2(-x) - 2 \text{Li}_3(-x).$$

Hence

$$I = \int_0^1 \frac{\log(t+2) \log(t)}{t+1} dt = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \left(\frac{\log^2(t)}{t+1} + \frac{\log^2(t+2)}{t+1} - \frac{\log^2\left(\frac{t}{t+2}\right)}{t+1} \right) dt.$$

The first term is

$$\int_0^1 \frac{\log^2(t)}{t+1} dt = F_+(1) = -2\text{Li}_3(-1) = \frac{3\zeta(3)}{2}.$$

Moreover, by letting $s = 1/(t+2)$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 \frac{\log^2(t+2)}{t+1} dt &= -\int_{1/2}^{1/3} \frac{\log^2(s)}{s(1-s)} ds = \int_{1/3}^{1/2} \frac{\log^2(s)}{1-s} ds + \int_{1/3}^{1/2} \frac{\log^2(s)}{s} ds \\ &= F_-(1/2) - F_-(1/3) + \frac{\log^3(3)}{3} - \frac{\log^3(2)}{3} \end{aligned}$$

and, by letting $s = t/(t+2)$ we find

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 \frac{\log^2\left(\frac{t}{t+2}\right)}{t+1} dt &= 2 \int_0^{1/3} \frac{\log^2(s)}{1-s^2} ds = \int_0^{1/3} \frac{\log^2(s)}{1-s} ds + \int_0^{1/3} \frac{\log^2(s)}{1+s} ds \\ &= F_-(1/3) + F_+(1/3). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \frac{3\zeta(3)}{4} + \frac{\log^3(3)}{6} - \frac{\log^3(2)}{6} + \frac{F_-(1/2)}{2} - F_-(1/3) - \frac{F_+(1/3)}{2} \\ &= \frac{13\zeta(3)}{8} - \frac{\log^3(3)}{3} - \log(3) \left(2\text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1}{3}\right) - \text{Li}_2\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) \right) - \left(2\text{Li}_3\left(\frac{1}{3}\right) - \text{Li}_3\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) \right). \end{aligned}$$

Since it is known that (see Lewin's book *Polylogarithms and Associated Functions*)

$$2\text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1}{3}\right) - \text{Li}_2\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) = \frac{\pi^2}{6} - \frac{\log^2(3)}{2}$$

and

$$2\text{Li}_3\left(\frac{1}{3}\right) - \text{Li}_3\left(-\frac{1}{3}\right) = \frac{\log^3(3)}{6} - \frac{\log(3)\pi^2}{6} + \frac{13\zeta(3)}{6}$$

we finally find

$$I = -\frac{13\zeta(3)}{24}.$$

□