

Problem 12241

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Proposed by O. Furdui and A. Sintamarian (Romania).

Prove

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n n \left(\frac{1}{4n} - \ln(2) + \sum_{k=n+1}^{2n} \frac{1}{k} \right) = \frac{\ln(2) - 1}{8}.$$

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

Solution. For $N \geq 1$, let

$$S_N = \frac{1}{8} \left((-1)^N - 1 + 2 \ln(2) - \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{k} + 2(-1)^N (2N+1) \left(\sum_{k=1}^{2N} \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{k} - \ln(2) \right) \right).$$

Then, as $N \rightarrow +\infty$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^N (-1)^n n \left(\frac{1}{4n} - \ln(2) + H_{2n} - H_n \right) &= \sum_{n=1}^N (S_n - S_{n-1}) = S_N \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \left((-1)^N - 1 + 2 \ln(2) - \ln(2) + o(1) + 2(-1)^N (2N+1) \left(-\frac{1}{4N} + o(1/N) \right) \right) \\ &= \frac{\ln(2) - 1}{8} + o(1) \rightarrow \frac{\ln(2) - 1}{8} \end{aligned}$$

where we used the fact that

$$\sum_{k=1}^N \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{k} = \ln(2) - \frac{(-1)^N}{2N} + o(1/N).$$

□