

Problem 12246

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Proposed by S. Stewart (Australia).

Prove

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{\zeta(n)}{n^2} + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{\zeta(n)H_n}{n} = \frac{\pi^2}{6}.$$

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

Solution. We have that

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{\zeta(n)}{n^2} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(1/k^n)}{n^2} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1}{k}\right) - \frac{1}{k} \right).$$

Moreover, for $x \in [0, 1)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{H_n x^n}{n} &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k} \right) \int_0^x t^{n-1} dt = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k} \int_0^x \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} t^{n-1} dt \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k} \int_0^x \frac{t^{k-1}}{1-t} dt = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k} \int_0^x \left(\frac{t^k}{1-t} + t^{k-1} \right) dt \\ &= \int_0^x \frac{1}{1-t} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k} dt + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \int_0^x \frac{t^{k-1}}{k} dt \\ &= - \int_0^x \frac{\ln(1-t)}{1-t} dt + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k^2} \\ &= \frac{\ln^2(1-x)}{2} + \text{Li}_2(x) = - \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{x}{x-1}\right) \end{aligned}$$

where at the last step we applied the Landen's identity. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{\zeta(n)H_n}{n} &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{H_n (-1/k)^n}{n} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(- \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{-1/k}{-1/k-1}\right) - (-1/k) \right) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(- \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1}{k+1}\right) + \frac{1}{k} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Finally

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{\zeta(n)}{n^2} + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{\zeta(n)H_n}{n} &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1}{k}\right) - \frac{1}{k} \right) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(- \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1}{k+1}\right) + \frac{1}{k} \right) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left(\text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1}{k}\right) - \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1}{k+1}\right) \right) = \text{Li}_2(1) = \zeta(2) = \frac{\pi^2}{6}. \end{aligned}$$

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