

Problem 12254

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Prove

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{(-1)^n}{2n+1} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{n+k} \right) = \frac{3\pi}{8} \log(2) - G$$

where G is Catalan's constant $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k / (2k+1)^2$.

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

Solution. Let $H_n = \sum_{j=1}^n 1/j$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{(-1)^n}{2n+1} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{n+k} \right) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n H_{2n}}{2n+1} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n H_n}{2n+1} \\ &= \left(-\frac{\pi \log(2)}{8} \right) - \left(-\frac{\pi \log(2)}{2} + G \right) = \frac{3\pi}{8} \log(2) - G \end{aligned}$$

where the two series are evaluated below.

1) For $x \in [0, 1]$,

$$\begin{aligned} \arctan(x) \log(1+x^2) &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k x^{2k+1}}{2k+1} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k-1} x^{2k}}{k} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x^{2n+1} (-1)^{n-1} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{1}{(2k+1)(n-k)} \\ &= - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2n+1} (-1)^n}{2n+1} \left(\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{1}{n-k} + 2 \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{1}{2k+1} \right) = -2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2n+1} (-1)^n H_{2n}}{2n+1} \end{aligned}$$

and, by letting $x = 1$, we obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n H_{2n}}{2n+1} = -\frac{\pi \log(2)}{8}.$$

2) We have that

$$\int_0^1 \frac{\log(1+x^2)}{1+x^2} dx = \int_0^1 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k-1} x^{2k}}{k} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k x^{2k} dx = - \int_0^1 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x^{2n} (-1)^n H_n dx = - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n H_n}{2n+1}.$$

On the other hand, by letting $x = 1/t$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 \frac{\log(1+x^2)}{1+x^2} dx &= \int_1^{+\infty} \frac{\log(1+1/t^2)}{1+t^2} dt = \int_1^{+\infty} \frac{\log(1+t^2)}{1+t^2} dt - 2 \int_1^{+\infty} \frac{\log(t)}{1+t^2} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{\log(1+t^2)}{1+t^2} dt - \int_1^{+\infty} \frac{\log(t)}{1+t^2} dt = \frac{\pi \log(2)}{2} - G \end{aligned}$$

because

$$\int_0^{+\infty} \frac{\log(1+t^2)}{1+t^2} dt = -2 \int_0^{\pi/2} \log(\cos(\theta)) d\theta = \pi \log(2),$$

where the last step follows from

$$\int_0^{\pi/2} \log(\cos(\theta)) d\theta = \int_0^{\pi/2} \log(\sin(\theta)) dt = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\pi/2} \log(\sin(2\theta)/2) d\theta = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\pi/2} \log(\sin(\theta)) dt - \frac{\pi}{4} \log(2),$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \int_1^{\infty} \frac{\log(t)}{1+t^2} dt &= - \int_0^1 \frac{\log(x)}{1+x^2} dx = - \int_0^1 \log(x) d(\arctan(x)) = [-\log(x) \arctan(x)]_0^1 + \int_0^1 \frac{\arctan(x)}{x} dx \\ &= 0 + \int_0^1 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k x^{2k}}{2k+1} dx = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{(2k+1)^2} = G. \end{aligned}$$

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