

Infinite sum in the third degree.

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6727361719741628416>

Find the value of

$$\left(1 + \frac{2}{6} + \frac{2 \cdot 5}{6 \cdot 12} + \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8}{6 \cdot 12 \cdot 18} + \dots\right)^3$$

Solution by Arkady Alt, San Jose, California, USA.

Since $(1-x)^{-2/3} = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-x)^n \binom{-2/3}{n}$, $|x| < 1$ then

$$\begin{aligned} 1 + \frac{2}{6} + \frac{2 \cdot 5}{6 \cdot 12} + \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8}{6 \cdot 12 \cdot 18} + \dots &= 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\prod_{k=1}^n (3k-1)}{6^n n!} = \\ 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \prod_{k=1}^n \frac{1-3k}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{n!} &= 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \frac{1}{n!} \prod_{k=1}^n \left(\frac{1}{3} - k\right) = \\ 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \frac{1}{n!} \prod_{k=1}^n \left(-\frac{2}{3} - (k-1)\right) &= 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \binom{-2/3}{n} = \\ \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right)^{-2/3} &= 2 \frac{2}{3} \end{aligned}$$

and, therefore, $\left(1 + \frac{2}{6} + \frac{2 \cdot 5}{6 \cdot 12} + \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8}{6 \cdot 12 \cdot 18} + \dots\right)^3 = 4$.