

## Calculate

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$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}(4n+1)(2n-1)!!}{2^n(2n-1)(n+1)!}, \text{ where } (2n-1)!! = 1 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot (2n-1).$$

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

Note that  $(1+x)^{1/2} = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \binom{1/2}{n} x^n$ . Since  $\binom{1/2}{n} = \frac{1}{n!} \prod_{k=1}^n (1/2 - k + 1) = \frac{(-1)^{n-1}(2n-3)!!}{2^n n!} = \frac{(-1)^{n-1}(2n-1)!!}{2^n(2n-1)n!}$  then  $(1+x)^{1/2} = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}(2n-1)!!}{2^n(2n-1)n!} x^n$

Hence,  $\frac{2}{3} \left( (1+x)^{3/2} - 1 \right) = \int_0^x (1+t)^{1/2} dt = x + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}(2n-1)!!}{2^n(2n-1)(n+1)!} x^{n+1} \Leftrightarrow$

$$\frac{2}{3x} \left( (1+x)^{3/2} - 1 \right) = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}(2n-1)!!}{2^n(2n-1)(n+1)!} x^n.$$

Therefore,  $\frac{2 \left( (1+x^4)^{3/2} - 1 \right)}{3x^4} = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}(2n-1)!!}{2^n(2n-1)(n+1)!} x^{4n} \Leftrightarrow$

$$\frac{2 \left( (1+x^4)^{3/2} - 1 \right)}{3x^3} = x + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}(2n-1)!!}{2^n(2n-1)(n+1)!} x^{4n+1} \text{ implies}$$

$$\left( \frac{2 \left( (1+x^4)^{3/2} - 1 \right)}{3x^3} \right)' = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}(4n+1)(2n-1)!!}{2^n(2n-1)(n+1)!} x^{4n} \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}(4n+1)(2n-1)!!}{2^n(2n-1)(n+1)!} x^{4n} = \frac{2 \left( 2x^4 \sqrt{x^4+1} - (x^4+1) \sqrt{x^4+1} + 1 \right)}{x^4} - 1$$

Then for  $x = 1$  we obtain  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}(4n+1)(2n-1)!!}{2^n(2n-1)(n+1)!} = 1.$