

Evaluate

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8313943/8313943-6430298795304722434>

$\Sigma(k = 1 \text{ to } \infty) (1/2^k) \tan (\pi/2^{k+1})$.

Solution by Arkady Alt , San Jose, California, USA

Since $\cot \alpha - \tan \alpha = 2 \cot 2\alpha$ then $\tan \alpha = \cot \alpha - 2 \cot 2\alpha$ and for $\alpha = \frac{\pi}{2^{n+1}}$ we obtain

$$\tan \frac{\pi}{2^{n+1}} = \cot \frac{\pi}{2^{n+1}} - 2 \cot \frac{\pi}{2^n} \quad n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

$$\text{Hence, } \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{2^k} \tan \frac{\pi}{2^{k+1}} = \sum_{k=1}^n \left(\frac{1}{2^k} \cot \frac{\pi}{2^{k+1}} - \frac{1}{2^{k-1}} \cot \frac{\pi}{2^k} \right) =$$

$$\frac{1}{2^n} \cot \frac{\pi}{2^{n+1}} - \frac{1}{2^{1-1}} \cot \frac{\pi}{2^1} = \frac{1}{2^n} \cot \frac{\pi}{2^{n+1}} \text{ and, therefore,}$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n} \tan \frac{\pi}{2^{n+1}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^n} \cot \frac{\pi}{2^{n+1}} = \frac{2}{\pi} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{\pi}{2^{n+1}}}{\sin \frac{\pi}{2^{n+1}}} \cdot \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \cos \frac{\pi}{2^{n+1}} = \frac{2}{\pi}.$$