

**W9.** Calculate

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{H_n H_{n+1}}{(n-1)n}$$

where  $H_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n}$  denotes the  $n$ -th harmonic number.

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

Note that  $\frac{H_n H_{n+1}}{(n-1)n} = \frac{H_n H_{n+1}}{n-1} - \frac{H_n H_{n+1}}{n} = \frac{H_n \left( H_n + \frac{1}{n+1} \right)}{n-1} - \frac{\left( H_{n+1} - \frac{1}{n+1} \right) H_{n+1}}{n} =$   
 $\frac{H_n^2}{n-1} - \frac{H_{n+1}^2}{n} + \frac{H_n}{(n-1)(n+1)} + \frac{H_{n+1}}{n(n+1)}.$

Since  $\frac{H_n}{(n-1)(n+1)} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{H_n}{n-1} - \frac{H_n}{n+1} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{H_{n-1} + \frac{1}{n}}{n-1} - \frac{H_{n+1} - \frac{1}{n+1}}{n+1} \right) =$   
 $\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{H_{n-1}}{n-1} - \frac{H_{n+1}}{n+1} \right) + \frac{1}{2(n-1)n} + \frac{1}{2(n+1)^2} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{H_{n-1}}{n-1} + \frac{H_n}{n} - \left( \frac{H_n}{n} + \frac{H_{n+1}}{n+1} \right) \right) +$

$\frac{1}{2(n-1)n} + \frac{1}{2(n+1)^2}$  and  $\frac{H_{n+1}}{n(n+1)} = \frac{H_{n+1}}{n} - \frac{H_{n+1}}{n+1} = \frac{H_n + \frac{1}{n+1}}{n} - \frac{H_{n+1}}{n+1} =$   
 $\frac{H_n}{n} - \frac{H_{n+1}}{n+1} + \frac{1}{n(n+1)}$  then

$\frac{H_n H_{n+1}}{(n-1)n} = \left( \frac{H_n^2}{n-1} + \frac{H_{n-1}}{2(n-1)} + \frac{3H_n}{2n} \right) - \left( \frac{H_{n+1}^2}{n} + \frac{H_n}{2n} + \frac{3H_{n+1}}{2(n+1)} \right) + \frac{1}{2(n-1)n} + \frac{1}{2(n+1)^2}$

and, therefore,

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{H_n H_{n+1}}{(n-1)n} = \frac{H_2^2}{2-1} + \frac{H_1}{2(2-1)} + \frac{3H_2}{2 \cdot 2} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(n-1)n} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} =$$

$$\left( \frac{3}{2} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{3 \cdot \frac{3}{2}}{4} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \left( \zeta(2) - 1 - \frac{1}{2^2} \right) = \frac{1}{12} \pi^2 + \frac{15}{4}.$$