

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM #12398

Problem #12398. Proposed by L. Glasser (USA). Evaluate

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sinh(2^n)}.$$

Solution by Tewodros Amdeberhan, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, USA. Just use the definition $\frac{1}{\sinh(x)} = \frac{2}{e^x - e^{-x}} = \frac{2e^{-x}}{1 - e^{-2x}}$ and the geometric series $\frac{1}{1-y} = \sum_{k \geq 0} y^k$ to proceed in the manner

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{1}{\sinh(2^n)} = 2 \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{e^{-2^n}}{1 - e^{2 \cdot 2^n}} = 2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} e^{-2^n} e^{-2k \cdot 2^n} = 2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} e^{-(2k+1) \cdot 2^n}.$$

Since each positive integer j can be *uniquely* expressed as $j = (2k+1)2^n$, we may convert the double sum into a single sum and apply the formula $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} x^j = \frac{x}{1-x}$ to get

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{1}{\sinh(2^n)} = 2 \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} e^{-j} = \frac{2e^{-1}}{1 - e^{-1}} = \frac{2}{e - 1} \quad \square$$