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## trick to sum all the reciprocal triangular numbers

 ${\bf Canonical\ name} \quad {\bf Trick To Sum All The Reciprocal Triangular Numbers}$ 

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The following trick to sum all the reciprocals of the triangular numbers is funny:

$$\sigma = 1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{15} + \frac{1}{21} + \frac{1}{28} + \frac{1}{36} + \frac{1}{45} + \frac{1}{55} + \frac{1}{66} + \frac{1}{78} + \dots$$

$$= 1 + \left(\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{15}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{21} + \frac{1}{28}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{36} + \frac{1}{45}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{55} + \frac{1}{66}\right) + \dots$$

$$= 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{15} + \dots$$

$$= 1 + \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{15} + \dots\right)$$

which implies  $\sigma = 1 + \sigma/2$  and hence

$$1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{15} + \frac{1}{21} + \frac{1}{28} + \frac{1}{36} + \frac{1}{45} + \frac{1}{55} + \frac{1}{66} + \frac{1}{78} + \dots = 2$$