

**Problem 11423**

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Proposed by G. Minton (USA).

Show that if  $n$  and  $m$  are positive integers with  $n \geq m$  and  $n - m$  even, then

$$\int_0^{+\infty} \frac{(\sin x)^n}{x^m} dx$$

is a rational multiple of  $\pi$ .

Solution proposed by Roberto Tauraso, Dipartimento di Matematica, Università di Roma "Tor Vergata", via della Ricerca Scientifica, 00133 Roma, Italy.

If  $m > 2$  then by integrating by parts

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{(\sin x)^n}{x^m} dx &= -\frac{1}{m-1} \int_0^{+\infty} (\sin x)^n d\left(\frac{1}{x^{m-1}}\right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{m-1} \left[ \frac{(\sin x)^n}{x^{m-1}} \right]_0^{+\infty} + \frac{n}{m-1} \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{(\sin x)^{n-1} \cos x}{x^{m-1}} dx \\ &= -\frac{n}{(m-1)(m-2)} \int_0^{+\infty} (\sin x)^{n-1} \cos x d\left(\frac{1}{x^{m-2}}\right) \\ &= -\frac{n}{(m-1)(m-2)} \left[ \frac{(\sin x)^{n-1} \cos x}{x^{m-2}} \right]_0^{+\infty} \\ &\quad + \frac{n}{(m-1)(m-2)} \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{(n-1)(\sin x)^{n-2} (\cos x)^2 - (\sin x)^{n-1}}{x^{m-2}} dx \\ &= \frac{n(n-1)}{(m-1)(m-2)} \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{(\sin x)^{n-2}}{x^{m-2}} dx - \frac{n^2}{(m-1)(m-2)} \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{(\sin x)^n}{x^{m-2}} dx. \end{aligned}$$

Hence it suffices to consider the cases when  $m = 1$ ,  $n = 2a - 1$ , and  $m = 2$ ,  $n = 2a$  for some positive integer  $a$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{(\sin x)^{2a-1}}{x} dx &= \frac{1}{2^{2a-2}} \sum_{k=0}^{a-1} (-1)^{a+k-1} \binom{2a-1}{k} \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{\sin((2a-2k-1)x)}{x} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2^{2a-2}} \sum_{k=0}^{a-1} (-1)^{a+k-1} \binom{2a-1}{k} \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{\sin x}{x} dx \\ &= \frac{\pi}{2^{2a-1}} \sum_{k=0}^{a-1} (-1)^{a+k-1} \binom{2a-1}{k} = \frac{(2a-3)!!}{(2a-2)!!} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

In a similar way it can be seen that

$$\int_0^{+\infty} \frac{(\sin x)^{2a}}{x^2} dx = n \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{(\sin x)^{2a-1} \cos x}{x} dx = \frac{(2a-3)!!}{(2a-2)!!} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

□