

Problem 12199

(American Mathematical Monthly, Vol.127, August-September 2020)

Proposed by S. Sharma (India).

Prove

$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{x \sinh(x)}{3 + 4 \sinh^2(x)} dx = \frac{\pi^2}{24}.$$

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

Solution. By letting $e^{-x} = t$, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x \sinh(x)}{3 + 4 \sinh^2(x)} dx &= -\frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{\log(t)(1/t - t)}{3 + (1/t^2 + t^2 - 2)} \frac{dt}{t} = -\frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{\log(t)(1 - t^2)}{t^4 + t^2 + 1} dt \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{\log(t)(1 - t^2)^2}{1 - t^6} dt = -\frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \log(t)(1 - 2t^2 + t^4) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} t^{6k} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(-\int_0^1 \log(t) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} t^{6k} dt + 2 \int_0^1 \log(t) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} t^{6k+2} dt - \int_0^1 \log(t) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} t^{6k+4} dt \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(-\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \int_0^1 \log(t) t^{6k} dt + 2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \int_0^1 \log(t) t^{6k+2} dt - \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \int_0^1 \log(t) t^{6k+4} dt \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(6k+1)^2} - 2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(6k+3)^2} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(6k+5)^2} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2k+1)^2} - 3 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(6k+3)^2} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{3}{3^2} \right) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2k+1)^2} = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2k+1)^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{24} \end{aligned}$$

where the interchange of summation and integration is justified by Fubini's theorem and we applied

$$\int_0^1 \log(t) t^n dt = -\int_0^{\infty} x e^{-(n+1)x} dx = -\frac{1}{(n+1)^2} \int_0^{\infty} s e^{-s} ds = -\frac{1}{(n+1)^2}.$$

□