

Problem 12338

(American Mathematical Monthly, Vol.129, August-September 2022)

Proposed by I. Mezó (China).

Prove

$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{\cos(x) - 1}{x(e^x - 1)} dx = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{\pi}{\sinh(\pi)} \right).$$

Solution proposed by Roberto Tauraso, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy.

Solution. We have that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\cos(x) - 1}{x(e^x - 1)} dx &= \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\cos(x) - 1}{x} \cdot \frac{e^{-x}}{1 - e^{-x}} dx \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\cos(x) - 1}{x} \cdot \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{-nx} dx \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\cos(x) - 1}{x} \cdot e^{-nx} dx \quad (\text{Fubini-Tonelli theorem}) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{L} \left(\frac{\cos(x) - 1}{x} \right) (n) \quad (\text{Laplace transform}) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_n^{\infty} \mathcal{L}(\cos(x) - 1)(s) ds \quad (\text{Frequency-domain integration}) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_n^{\infty} \left(\frac{s}{s^2 + 1} - \frac{1}{s} \right) ds = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{s^2 + 1}{s^2} \right) \right]_n^{\infty} \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \ln \left(1 + \frac{1}{n^2} \right) = -\frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n^2} \right) \right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{\sin(i\pi)}{i\pi} \right) \quad (\text{Euler infinite product}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{\pi}{\sinh(\pi)} \right) \end{aligned}$$

where at beginning we applied Fubini-Tonelli theorem,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\infty} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left| \frac{\cos(x) - 1}{x} \cdot e^{-nx} \right| dx &= \int_0^{\infty} \frac{1 - \cos(x)}{x^2} \cdot \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x e^{-nx} dx \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} x e^{-nx} dx = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} < +\infty, \end{aligned}$$

and at the end we used the Euler infinite product for the sine function,

$$\frac{\sin(z)}{z} = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{z^2}{n^2 \pi^2} \right).$$

□