

MIT Integration Bee: 2023 Quarterfinal

Quarterfinal #1

Question 1

$$\int_0^1 \frac{x^4 (1-x)^2}{1+x^2} dx \quad (1.1)$$

Solution

$$I = \int_0^1 (x^4 - 2x^3 + 2x) dx - \int_0^1 \frac{2x}{1+x^2} dx = \frac{7}{10} - \ln 2. \quad (1.2)$$

Question 2

$$\int \left(\begin{array}{l} \cos(3x) \cos(5x) \cos(6x) \cos(7x) \\ - \cos(x) \cos(2x) \cos(4x) \cos(8x) \end{array} \right) dx \quad (2.1)$$

Solution Repeatedly using the trigonometric identity (**product-to-sum**), we have

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \frac{1}{8} \int \left(\begin{array}{l} \cos\{21x, 15x, 11x, 9x, 7x, 5x, 3x, x\} \\ - \cos\{15x, 13x, 11x, 9x, 7x, 5x, 3x, x\} \end{array} \right) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \int (\cos 21x - \cos 13x) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{8} \left(\frac{\sin 21x}{21} - \frac{\sin 13x}{13} \right) + C. \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

Quarterfinal #2

Question 1

$$\int_{\sqrt{e}}^{+\infty} x^{-\ln x} dx \quad (3.1)$$

Solution With the change of variable $t = \ln x$, we have

$$I = \int_{1/2}^{+\infty} e^{-t^2+t} dt = e^{1/4} \int_0^{+\infty} e^{-u^2} du = e^{1/4} \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}. \quad (3.2)$$

Question 2

$$\int \frac{1-2x}{(1+x)^2 x^{2/3}} dx \quad (4.1)$$

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \int \frac{1+x-3x}{(1+x)^2 x^{2/3}} dx = \int \frac{1}{(1+x)x^{2/3}} dx - \int \frac{3x^{1/3}}{(1+x)^2} dx \\ &= \frac{3x^{1/3}}{1+x} - \int 3x^{1/3} d\left(\frac{1}{1+x}\right) - \int \frac{3x^{1/3}}{(1+x)^2} dx = \frac{3x^{1/3}}{1+x} + C. \end{aligned} \quad (4.2)$$

Question 3

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{1}{n} \int_0^n \cos^2 \left(\frac{\pi x^2}{\sqrt{2}} \right) dx \right] \quad (5.1)$$

Solution

$$I = \frac{1}{2} + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{1}{n} \int_0^n \cos \left(\sqrt{2} \pi x^2 \right) dx \right] = \frac{1}{2}. \quad (5.2)$$

Note that the **Fresnel integral** converges to a finite value as $n \rightarrow \infty$, which implies that the average over the interval tends to zero.

Quarterfinal #3

Question 1

$$\int_0^{2^{10}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left\{ \frac{x}{2^n} \right\} dx \quad (6.1)$$

Solution The integral is evaluated as the sum of many elementary triangles, which is expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \sum_{n=0}^{10} 2^{10-n} \cdot 2^{n-1} + \sum_{n=11}^{\infty} 2^{10} \cdot 2^{10-n-1} \\ &= 11 \times 2^9 + \sum_{n=-\infty}^8 2^n = 12 \times 2^9 = 6144. \end{aligned} \quad (6.2)$$

Question 2

$$\int_0^{+\infty} \operatorname{sech}^2(x + \tan x) dx \quad (7.1)$$

Solution Based on the **Glasser's master theorem** (see [2024 Semifinal #1: Tiebreaker 2](#)), the integral is equivalent to

$$I = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \operatorname{sech}^2 x dx = \frac{1}{2} \tanh x \Big|_{-\infty}^{+\infty} = 1. \quad (7.2)$$

Note This is because $\tan z$ has the following pole expansion

$$\tan x = - \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \left[\frac{1}{z - (2n+1)\pi/2} + \frac{1}{z + (2n+1)\pi/2} \right]. \quad (7.3)$$

Another classic example is

$$\pi \cot \pi z = \frac{1}{z} + \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} \left[\frac{1}{z-n} + \frac{1}{z+n} \right]. \quad (7.4)$$

Quarterfinal #4

Question 1

$$\int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{dx}{1 + \cos x + \sin x} \quad (8.1)$$

Solution With the **universal change of variable**, we have

$$t = \tan \frac{x}{2} \in [0, 1], \quad \cos x = \frac{1 - t^2}{1 + t^2}, \quad \sin x = \frac{2t}{1 + t^2}, \quad dx = \frac{2 dt}{1 + t^2}. \quad (8.2)$$

The integral can thus be computed as

$$I = \int_0^1 \frac{2 dt}{(1 + t^2) + (1 - t^2) + 2t} = \int_0^1 \frac{dt}{1 + t} = \ln 2. \quad (8.3)$$

Question 2

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \varepsilon^4 \int_0^{\pi/2 - \varepsilon} \tan^5 x \, dx \quad (9.1)$$

Solution Denote the following function

$$f(\varepsilon) = \int_0^{\pi/2 - \varepsilon} \tan^5 x \, dx. \quad (9.2)$$

Its derivative can be analyzed from its **Laurent series**

$$f'(\varepsilon) = -\cot^5 \varepsilon = -\left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} - \frac{\varepsilon}{3} + O(\varepsilon)\right)^5 = -\varepsilon^{-5} + O(\varepsilon^{-3}). \quad (9.3)$$

Therefore, we have

$$f(\varepsilon) = \frac{1}{4}\varepsilon^{-4} + O(\varepsilon^{-2}). \quad (9.4)$$

The original problem can be evaluated as

$$I = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \varepsilon^4 f(\varepsilon) = \frac{1}{4}. \quad (9.5)$$

Question 3

$$\int_0^1 \left| \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{x}} \right| dx \quad (10.1)$$

Solution With the **change of variable**, we have

$$t = 1 + \frac{1}{x} \in [2, +\infty], \quad x = \frac{1}{t-1}, \quad dx = -\frac{1}{(t-1)^2}. \quad (10.2)$$

The integral becomes

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \int_2^{+\infty} \frac{[\sqrt{t}] dt}{(t-1)^2} = \int_2^4 \frac{dt}{(t-1)^2} + \sum_{k=2}^{+\infty} \int_{k^2}^{(k+1)^2} \frac{k dt}{(t-1)^2} \\ &= \frac{2}{3} + \sum_{k=2}^{+\infty} k \left[\frac{1}{k^2-1} - \frac{1}{(k+1)^2-1} \right] \\ &= \frac{2}{3} + \sum_{k=2}^{+\infty} \left[\frac{1}{(k-1)(k+1)} + \frac{1}{(k+1)(k+2)} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (10.3)$$

Eventually, we obtain the result

$$I = \frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} \right) + \frac{1}{3} = \frac{7}{4}. \quad (10.4)$$