

Evaluate an integral

$$I = \int_0^1 \frac{x^{51}}{x^{50} + (1 - x^2)^{25}} dx$$



Let $x = \sin\theta$, $dx = \cos\theta d\theta$

$$I = \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{\sin^{51}\theta}{\sin^{50}\theta + (1 - \sin^2\theta)^{25}} \cos\theta d\theta = \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{\sin^{51}\theta \cos\theta}{\sin^{50}\theta + \cos^{50}\theta} d\theta \quad \dots (1)$$

Let $u = \frac{\pi}{2} - \theta$, $d\theta = -du$

$$I = \int_{\pi/2}^0 \frac{\cos^{51}u \sin u}{\cos^{50}u + \sin^{50}u} (-du) = \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{\cos^{51}\theta \sin\theta}{\sin^{50}\theta + \cos^{50}\theta} d\theta \quad \dots (2)$$

(1) + (2),

$$\begin{aligned} 2I &= \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{\sin^{51}\theta \cos\theta}{\sin^{50}\theta + \cos^{50}\theta} d\theta + \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{\cos^{51}\theta \sin\theta}{\sin^{50}\theta + \cos^{50}\theta} d\theta \\ &= \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{\sin\theta \cos\theta (\sin^{50}\theta + \cos^{50}\theta)}{\sin^{50}\theta + \cos^{50}\theta} d\theta = \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin\theta \cos\theta d\theta = \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin\theta d\sin\theta \\ &= \left[\frac{\sin^2\theta}{2} \right]_0^{\pi/2} = \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore I = \frac{1}{4}$$

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