

RMT and $\int_0^\infty \frac{\sin(x)}{x} dx$

1 Introduction

It is known that,

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{\sin(x)}{x} dx = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

The above result can be easily derived using contour integration, Laplace transform, Leibniz rule, Riemann sum, infinite series, double integration or by using any other technique. Here, I prove this result using Ramanujan's master theorem.

2 Main proof

Ramanujan's master theorem states that, if the Taylor series of a function is given by,

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\phi(k)(-x)^k}{k!}$$

then, its Mellin transform is given by,

$$\int_0^\infty x^{n-1} f(x) dx = \Gamma(n) \phi(-n)$$

Now let, $f(x) = \sin(x)$, then $\phi(k) = -\sin(\frac{\pi k}{2})$, thus Mellin transform of $\sin(x)$ is given by,

$$\int_0^\infty x^{n-1} \sin(x) dx = -\Gamma(n) \sin\left(\frac{\pi(-n)}{2}\right) = \Gamma(n) \sin\left(\frac{\pi n}{2}\right) \quad (1)$$

using Euler's reflection formula for gamma function, we have

$$\int_0^\infty x^{n-1} \sin(x) dx = \frac{\pi}{\Gamma(1-n) \sin(\pi n)} \sin\left(\frac{\pi n}{2}\right)$$

taking limit of both the sides as $n \rightarrow 0$, we get,

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{\sin(x)}{x} dx = \lim_{n \rightarrow 0} \frac{\pi}{\Gamma(1-n) \sin(\pi n)} \sin\left(\frac{\pi n}{2}\right) = \pi \lim_{n \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(\frac{\pi n}{2})}{\sin(\pi n)}$$

thus,

$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{\sin(x)}{x} dx = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

hence, proved.

(1) can be further generalised by substituting $x = t^m$ and then replacing t by x and n by $\frac{n}{m}$,

$$\int_0^{\infty} x^{n-1} \sin(x^m) dx = \frac{1}{m} \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{m}\right) \sin\left(\frac{\pi n}{2m}\right) \quad (2)$$

Thus, substituting $n = 1$ and $m = 2$, we obtain,

$$\int_0^{\infty} \sin(x^2) dx = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}}$$

the famous Fresnel integral.

Differentiating (2) w.r.t. n , we obtain,

$$\int_0^{\infty} x^{n-1} \sin(x^m) \ln(x) dx = \frac{1}{m^2} \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{m}\right) \left(\frac{\pi}{2} \cos\left(\frac{\pi n}{2m}\right) + \psi\left(\frac{n}{m}\right) \sin\left(\frac{\pi n}{2m}\right) \right)$$

Thus, we can obtain the following equalities,

$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{\sin(x) \ln(x)}{\sqrt{x}} dx = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \gamma - \ln(4) \right)$$
$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{\sin(x) \ln(x)}{x} dx = -\frac{\pi\gamma}{2}$$

3 References

- [1] B.C. Berndt, Ramanujans Notebooks: Part I. New York: SpringerVerlag, p. 298, 1985.

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