

# R M M

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

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**Prove or disprove:**

$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{\sin(ax)}{(1-x^2)(2^2-x^2)\cdots(n^2-x^2)} \frac{dx}{x} = \frac{\pi 2^{2n-1}}{(n!)^2} (1 - (-1)^a)$$

*Proposed by Ghazaly Abiodun-Nigeria*

*Solution by Syed Shahabudeen-India*

Let us check for  $a \in 2k + 1, k \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $n = 2$ .

$$\begin{aligned} LHS &= \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\sin(ax)}{x(1-x^2)(4-x^2)} dx = \\ &= \lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^z \sin(ax) \left( \frac{1}{4x} - \frac{1}{6(x+1)} + \frac{1}{6(1-x)} + \frac{1}{24(2-x)} + \frac{1}{24(x+2)} \right) dx = \\ &= \lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1}{4} \int_0^{az} \frac{\sin t}{t} dt + \frac{1}{6} \int_{a\pi}^{a\pi(1+z)} \frac{\sin t}{t} dt - \frac{1}{6} \int_{a\pi}^{a\pi(1-z)} \frac{\sin t}{t} dt - \frac{1}{24} \int_{2a\pi}^{a\pi(2-z)} \frac{\sin t}{t} dt \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{24} \int_{2a\pi}^{a\pi(2+z)} \frac{\sin t}{t} dt \right) = \end{aligned}$$

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$$= \lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{24} (6Si(a\pi z) + 4Si(a\pi + \pi z) - 4Si(a\pi - \pi z) - Si(2a\pi - 2z) + Si(2a\pi + 2z)) = \frac{2^3 \pi}{4!} = \frac{\pi}{3}$$

If we check the RHS then it gives:  $RHS = \frac{2^4 \pi}{(2!)^2} \Rightarrow LHS \neq RHS$

If we observe the pattern in LHS for different values of  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  it should be

$$\frac{\pi 2^{2n-1}}{(n!)^2} (1 - (-1)^a)$$

Therefore,

$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{\sin(a\pi x)}{(1-x^2)(2^2-x^2) \cdot \dots \cdot (n^2-x^2)} \frac{dx}{x} = \frac{\pi 2^{2n-2}}{(2n!)^2} (1 - (-1)^a)$$

**Note by editor:**

**Many thanks to Florică Anastase-Romania for typed solution.**