

# R M M

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

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**Prove without any software:**

$$\int_{2-\sqrt{3}}^1 e^{-x^2} dx < \frac{\pi}{6} \quad \text{and} \quad \int_1^{2+\sqrt{3}} e^{-x^2} dx < \frac{\pi}{6}$$

*Proposed by Neculai Stanciu-Romania*

*Solution by Ravi Prakash-New Delhi-India*

Let  $f(x) = (1 + x^2)e^{-x^2} - 1; x \geq 0$ , then

$$f'(x) = 2xe^{-x^2} - 2x(1 + x^2)e^{-x^2} = 2xe^{-x^2}(1 - 1 - x^2) = -2x^3e^{-x^2} < 0; \forall x > 0$$

$\Rightarrow f$  -is strictly decreasing on  $[0, \infty) \Rightarrow f(x) < f(0), \forall x > 0$

$$\Rightarrow (1 + x^2)e^{-x^2} < 1; \forall x \geq 0 \Rightarrow e^{-x^2} < \frac{1}{1 + x^2}; \forall x > 0$$

$$\int_{2-\sqrt{3}}^1 e^{-x^2} dx < \tan^{-1} x \Big|_{2-\sqrt{3}}^1 = \frac{\pi}{4} - \frac{\pi}{12} = \frac{\pi}{6}$$

Also,

$$\int_1^{2+\sqrt{3}} e^{-x^2} dx = \tan^{-1} x \Big|_1^{2+\sqrt{3}} = \frac{5\pi}{12} - \frac{\pi}{4} < \frac{\pi}{6}$$