

Math Diversion 730

P. Reany

July 19, 2025

Don't ever take a fence down until you know
the reason it was put up.
— Chesterton

The problem is found at:

Source: The Ether of Great Mathematical Ideas
Title: Mixed Rate
Presenter: Patrick

1 Lemma

$$\int \frac{x^2}{1+x^2} dx = \int 1 dx - \int \frac{dx}{1+x^2},$$

hence $\int \frac{x^2}{1+x^2} dx = x - \tan^{-1} x + C,$ (1)

2 Problem

Find the integral

$$I = \int \ln \sqrt{1+x^2} dx. \quad (2)$$

My first transformation is to this

$$I = \frac{1}{2} \int \ln(1+x^2) dx. \quad (3)$$

I begin with the Carrington equation

$$D_x[x \ln(1+x^2)] = \ln(1+x^2) + \frac{2x^2}{1+x^2}. \quad (4)$$

Next, we divide through by $1/2$ and then integrate:

$$\frac{1}{2}x \ln(1+x^2) = I + \int \frac{x^2}{1+x^2} dx. \quad (5)$$

Now, we solve this for I and employ (1), to get

$$I = \frac{1}{2}x \ln(1+x^2) - x + \tan^{-1} x + C. \quad (6)$$

And we're done.