

Math Diversion 1096

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He who would ride two camels, finds he can ride neither.

— From an old movie

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ALDtCgeXhg>

Title: This AP Calculus BC Integral Looks Impossible

Presenter: Dr PK Math

1 Problem

Given the relation

$$I = \int_0^1 \frac{5x + 8}{3x^2 + 2x + 2} dx, \quad (1)$$

solve for I .

2 Solution

The basic idea for this solution, at least the way I intend to do it, is to transform the integrand to conform to two familiar integrands, the first being

$$\int \frac{dY}{Y} = \ln |Y| + C, \quad (2)$$

and the second being

$$\int \frac{dZ}{Z^2 + 1} = \tan^{-1} Z + C. \quad (3)$$

So, let's begin.

If

$$Y = 3x^2 + 2x + 2, \quad (4)$$

from (1), then

$$dY = (6x + 2)dx. \quad (5)$$

So, the trick is to replace the $5x$ in the numerator of (1) with a $6x$. This requires just a bit of arithmetic, thus

$$\begin{aligned}
I &= \frac{5}{6} \frac{6}{5} \int_0^1 \frac{5x+8}{3x^2+2x+2} dx = \frac{5}{6} \int_0^1 \frac{6x+48/5}{3x^2+2x+2} dx \\
&= \frac{5}{6} \int_0^1 \frac{6x+2+38/5}{3x^2+2x+2} dx \\
&= \frac{5}{6} \int_0^1 \frac{6x+2}{3x^2+2x+2} dx + \frac{5}{6} \int_0^1 \frac{38/5}{3x^2+2x+2} dx. \tag{6}
\end{aligned}$$

We already know how to integrate the first term:

$$\frac{5}{6} \int_0^1 \frac{6x+2}{3x^2+2x+2} dx = \frac{5}{6} \ln |3x^2+2x+2| \Big|_0^1 = \frac{5}{6} \ln 7/2. \tag{7}$$

That leaves us with the second term to integrate. So, let

$$J = \int_0^1 \frac{38/5}{3x^2+2x+2} dx. \tag{8}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
J &= \frac{1/3}{1/3} \int_0^1 \frac{38/5}{3x^2+2x+2} dx = \int_0^1 \frac{38/15}{x^2+\frac{2}{3}x+\frac{2}{3}} dx \\
&= \frac{38}{15} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{(x+\frac{1}{3})^2 - \frac{1}{9} + \frac{2}{3}} dx = \frac{38}{15} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{(x+\frac{1}{3})^2 + \frac{5}{9}} dx \\
&= \frac{38}{15} \int_0^1 \frac{9/5}{\frac{9}{5}(x+\frac{1}{3})^2 + 1} dx = \frac{38}{15} \frac{9}{5} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{[\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}(x+\frac{1}{3})]^2 + 1} dx \\
&= \frac{38}{15} \frac{9}{5} \int_0^1 \frac{\frac{\sqrt{5}}{3}}{[\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}(x+\frac{1}{3})]^2 + 1} d[\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}(x+\frac{1}{3})] \\
&= \frac{38}{15} \frac{9}{5} \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{[\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}(x+\frac{1}{3})]^2 + 1} d[\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}(x+\frac{1}{3})] = \frac{38}{5\sqrt{5}} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{[\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}(x+\frac{1}{3})]^2 + 1} d[\frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}(x+\frac{1}{3})] \\
&= \frac{38}{5\sqrt{5}} \tan^{-1} \frac{3}{\sqrt{5}}(x+\frac{1}{3}) \Big|_0^1 \\
&= \frac{38}{5\sqrt{5}} [\tan^{-1} \frac{4}{\sqrt{5}} - \tan^{-1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}]. \tag{9}
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
I &= \frac{5}{6} \ln 7/2 + \frac{5}{6} \frac{38}{5\sqrt{5}} [\tan^{-1} \frac{4}{\sqrt{5}} - \tan^{-1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}] \\
&= \frac{5}{6} \ln 7/2 + \frac{19}{3\sqrt{5}} [\tan^{-1} \frac{4}{\sqrt{5}} - \tan^{-1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}]. \tag{10}
\end{aligned}$$