

1187. Proposed by Brian Bradie, Christopher Newport University.

Evaluate

$$\int_0^1 \frac{\ln(1+x)}{x} dx.$$

Solution by the **Armstrong Problem Solvers**, Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah, GA.

$$\int_0^1 \frac{\ln(1+x)}{x} dx = \frac{\pi^2}{12}.$$

For $-1 < x \leq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} \ln(1+x) &= \int_0^x \frac{1}{1+t} dt \\ &= \int_0^x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n t^n dt \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1} \\ \frac{\ln(1+x)}{x} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^n}{n+1} \\ \int \frac{\ln(1+x)}{x} dx &= C + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{n+1}}{(n+1)^2} \\ \int_0^1 \frac{\ln(1+x)}{x} dx &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n^2}. \end{aligned}$$

If we call this alternating sum S , then since $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = \Gamma(2) = \frac{\pi^2}{6}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\pi^2}{6} - S &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{n^2} - \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n^2} \right) \\ &= 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n)^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \\ &= \frac{\pi^2}{12}, \end{aligned}$$

and $S = \frac{\pi^2}{6} - \frac{\pi^2}{12} = \frac{\pi^2}{12}$.

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