

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{ax}}{1+e^x} dx = \frac{\pi}{\sin(a\pi)}, \quad 0 < a < 1$$

Proof. To begin, consider the following substitutions: $u = e^x$ and $t^2 = u$, then:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{ax}}{1+e^x} dx = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{u^{a-1}}{1+u} du = 2 \int_0^{\infty} \frac{t^{2a-1}}{1+t^2} dt$$

We can complexify this latter integrand, and set $f(z) = \frac{z^{2a-1}}{1+z^2}$. Consider the path $\gamma = [-R, -r] \cup \gamma_r \cup [r, R] \cup \gamma_R$, where $\gamma_r(t) = re^{it}$ for $0 \leq t \leq \pi$ and $\gamma_R(t) = Re^{it}$ for $0 \leq t \leq \pi$. Then, the integral around γ can be broken up as:

$$\int_{\gamma} \frac{z^{2a-1}}{1+z^2} dz = \int_{-R}^{-r} \frac{x^{2a-1}}{1+x^2} dx + \int_{\gamma_r} \frac{z^{2a-1}}{1+z^2} dz + \int_r^R \frac{x^{2a-1}}{1+x^2} dx + \int_{\gamma_R} \frac{z^{2a-1}}{1+z^2} dz$$

Next, define $\log_1(z) = \log|z| + i \arg(z)$ for all z with $-\frac{\pi}{2} < \arg(z) < \frac{3\pi}{2}$. Then:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-R}^{-r} \frac{x^{2a-1}}{1+x^2} dx &= \int_r^R \frac{(-x)^{2a-1}}{1+x^2} dx = \int_r^R \frac{e^{(2a-1)(\log_1(x))}}{1+x^2} dx = \int_r^R \frac{e^{(2a-1)(\log|-x|+\pi i)}}{1+x^2} dx = \\ &= \int_r^R \frac{e^{(2a-1)(\log(x))+2a\pi i-\pi i}}{1+x^2} dx = e^{(2a-1)\pi i} \int_r^R \frac{e^{(2a-1)(\log(x))}}{1+x^2} dx = -e^{2a\pi i} \int_r^R \frac{x^{2a-1}}{1+x^2} dx \end{aligned}$$

Next, consider the integrals:

$$\int_{\gamma_R} \frac{z^{2a-1}}{1+z^2} dz, \text{ and } \int_{\gamma_r} \frac{z^{2a-1}}{1+z^2} dz$$

When $0 < a < 1$, as per our assumption, we see that

$$\left| \int_{\gamma_R} \frac{z^{2a-1}}{1+z^2} dz \right| \leq \int_{\gamma_R} \frac{|z|^{2a-1}}{|1+z^2|} dz \leq \pi R \frac{R^{2a-1}}{-1+R^2} = \frac{\pi R^{2a}}{R^2-1} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } R \rightarrow \infty$$

For the second integral, when $0 < a < 1$, as per our assumption, we have

$$\left| \int_{\gamma_r} \frac{z^{2a-1}}{1+z^2} dz \right| \leq \int_{\gamma_r} \frac{|z|^{2a-1}}{|1+z^2|} dz \leq \pi r \frac{r^{2a-1}}{-1+r^2} = \frac{\pi r^{2a}}{r^2-1} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } r \rightarrow 0$$

Then, as $R \rightarrow \infty$ and $r \rightarrow 0$, we see that:

$$\int_{\gamma} \frac{z^{2a-1}}{1+z^2} dz = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x^{2a-1}}{1+x^2} dx - e^{2a\pi i} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x^{2a-1}}{1+x^2} dx$$

Then, by The Residue Theorem we know that

$$2\pi i \operatorname{Res}(f, i) = \int_{\gamma} \frac{z^{2a-1}}{1+z^2} dz = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x^{2a-1}}{1+x^2} dx - e^{2a\pi i} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x^{2a-1}}{1+x^2} dx$$

because $f(z)$ has a single simple pole at $z = i$ which is enclosed by the path γ . Calculating $\text{Res}(f, i)$, we have:

$$2\pi i \text{Res}(f, i) = 2\pi i \lim_{z \rightarrow i} \frac{(z - i)z^{2a-1}}{(z - i)(z + i)} = \pi i^{2a-1} = \pi e^{(2a-1)\log_1(i)} = e^{\frac{-i\pi}{2}} \pi e^{a\pi i} = -\pi i e^{a\pi i}$$

and, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} -\pi i e^{a\pi i} &= \int_{\gamma} \frac{z^{2a-1}}{1+z^2} dz = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x^{2a-1}}{1+x^2} dx - e^{2a\pi i} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x^{2a-1}}{1+x^2} dx \implies \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{ax}}{1+e^x} dx &= 2(1 - e^{2a\pi i}) \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x^{2a-1}}{1+x^2} dx = -2\pi i e^{a\pi i} \implies \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{ax}}{1+e^x} dx &= 2 \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x^{2a-1}}{1+x^2} dx = \frac{-2\pi i e^{a\pi i}}{1 - e^{2a\pi i}} = \frac{2\pi i}{e^{a\pi i} - e^{-a\pi i}} = \frac{2\pi i}{2i \sin(2\pi)} = \frac{\pi i}{\sin(2\pi)} \end{aligned}$$

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