

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{x^2}{x^4 + x^2 + 1} dx = \frac{\pi\sqrt{3}}{6}$$

Proof. Notice first that because f is an even function, we have

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{x^2}{x^4 + x^2 + 1} dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^\infty \frac{x^2}{x^4 + x^2 + 1} dx$$

Then, consider the interval $[-R, R]$ and the half circle $\gamma_R(t) = Re^{it}$ for $0 \leq t \leq \pi$. Clearly, when R is sufficiently large, the complex valued function $f(z) = \frac{z^2}{z^4 + z^2 + 1}$ has two simple poles located at $z_1 = e^{\frac{\pi i}{3}}$ and $z_2 = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}$. Then, by the residue theorem we know that

$$\int_{[-R, R] \cup \gamma_R} \frac{z^2}{z^4 + z^2 + 1} dz = \int_{-R}^R \frac{x^2}{x^4 + x^2 + 1} dx + \int_\gamma \frac{z^2}{z^4 + z^2 + 1} dz = 2\pi i \sum_{k=1}^2 \text{Res}(f(z), z_k)$$

and therefore it follows that we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty \frac{x^2}{x^4 + x^2 + 1} dx &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^\infty \frac{x^2}{x^4 + x^2 + 1} dx = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2} \int_{-R}^R \frac{x^2}{x^4 + x^2 + 1} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[2\pi i \sum_{k=1}^2 \text{Res}(f(z); z_k) + \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \int_\gamma \frac{z^2}{z^4 + z^2 + 1} dz \right] = \frac{1}{2} \left[2\pi i \sum_{k=1}^2 \text{Res}(f(z); z_k) \right] \end{aligned}$$

by Jordan's Lemma since $k = 0$ and $\deg(z^2) \leq \deg(z^4 + z^2 + 1) + 2$. Then, to calculate the values of the residues:

$$\text{Res}(f; e^{\frac{\pi i}{3}}) = \lim_{z \rightarrow e^{\frac{\pi i}{3}}} (z - e^{\frac{\pi i}{3}}) \frac{z^2}{z^4 + z^2 + 1} = \lim_{z \rightarrow e^{\frac{\pi i}{3}}} \frac{z^3 - z^2 e^{\frac{\pi i}{3}}}{z^4 + z^2 + 1} = \lim_{z \rightarrow e^{\frac{\pi i}{3}}} \frac{3z^2 - 2ze^{\frac{\pi i}{3}}}{4e^{\frac{3\pi i}{3}} + 2e^{\frac{\pi i}{3}}} = \frac{e^{\frac{\pi i}{3}}}{4e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}} + 2}$$

Through a nearly identical calculation, we get

$$\text{Res}(f; e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}) = \frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}}{4e^{\frac{4\pi i}{3}} + 2}$$

Combining these, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty \frac{x^2}{x^4 + x^2 + 1} dx &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^\infty \frac{x^2}{x^4 + x^2 + 1} dx = \frac{1}{2} \left[2\pi i \left(\frac{e^{\frac{\pi i}{3}}}{4e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}} + 2} + \frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}}{4e^{\frac{4\pi i}{3}} + 2} \right) \right] \\ &= \pi i \left[\frac{e^{\frac{\pi i}{3}}}{4e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}} + 2} + \frac{e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}}{4e^{\frac{4\pi i}{3}} + 2} \right] = \pi i \left[\frac{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}i}{2}}{-\frac{4}{2} + \frac{4\sqrt{3}i}{2} + \frac{4}{2}} + \frac{-\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}i}{2}}{-\frac{4}{2} - \frac{4\sqrt{3}i}{2} + \frac{4}{2}} \right] \\ &= \pi i \left[\frac{1 + \sqrt{3}i}{4\sqrt{3}i} + \frac{-1 + \sqrt{3}i}{-4\sqrt{3}i} \right] = \frac{\pi i}{2\sqrt{3}i} = \frac{\pi\sqrt{3}}{6} \end{aligned}$$

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