

ROMANIAN MATHEMATICAL MAGAZINE

Prove that:

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-x^2} \sqrt{(\cosh^2(x) - 1)} dx = \frac{e^{\frac{1}{4}}}{2} \sqrt{\pi} \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$$

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$$\begin{aligned}\sigma &= \int_0^\infty e^{-x^2} \sqrt{\cosh^2(x) - 1} dx = \int_0^\infty e^{-x^2} \sinh(x) dx \\&= \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-x^2}}{2} (e^x - e^{-x}) dx = \frac{1}{2} \left(\int_0^\infty e^{-x^2+x} dx - \right. \\&\quad \left. - \int_0^\infty e^{-x^2-x} dx \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\int_0^\infty e^{-(x-\frac{1}{2})^2 + \frac{1}{4}} dx - \int_0^\infty e^{-(x+\frac{1}{2})^2 + \frac{1}{4}} dx \right) = \\&= \frac{1}{2} e^{\frac{1}{4}} \left(\int_0^\infty e^{-(x-\frac{1}{2})^2} dx - \int_0^\infty e^{-(x+\frac{1}{2})^2} dx \right) = \frac{e^{\frac{1}{4}}}{2} (\sigma_1 - \sigma_2)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_1 &= \int_0^\infty e^{-(x-\frac{1}{2})^2} dx = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} [\operatorname{erf}\left(x - \frac{1}{2}\right)]_0^\infty = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} [\operatorname{erf}(\infty) - \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)] = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} \left(1 + \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \right) \\ \sigma_2 &= \int_0^\infty e^{-(x+\frac{1}{2})^2} dx = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} [\operatorname{erf}\left(x + \frac{1}{2}\right)]_0^\infty = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} [\operatorname{erf}(\infty) - \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)] = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} \left(1 - \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \right) \\ \sigma &= \int_0^\infty e^{-x^2} \sqrt{\cosh^2(x) - 1} dx = \frac{e^{\frac{1}{4}}}{2} (\sigma_1 - \sigma_2) = \frac{e^{\frac{1}{4}} \sqrt{\pi}}{2} \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\end{aligned}$$

Notes:

Error function: $\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^\infty e^{-z^2} dz = \operatorname{erf}[z]$; $\operatorname{erf}(\pm\infty) = \pm 1$; $\operatorname{erf}(\pm a) = \pm \operatorname{erf}(a)$