

Solución al problema de "The integral equals"

Enunciado:

The integral $\int_0^{\pi} \sqrt{1 + 4 \sin^2 \frac{x}{2} - 4 \sin \frac{x}{2}} dx$ equals: ?

Solución:

$$1 + 4 \sin^2 \frac{x}{2} - 4 \sin \frac{x}{2} = \left(1 - 2 \sin \frac{x}{2}\right)^2 \Leftrightarrow \sqrt{1 + 4 \sin^2 \frac{x}{2} - 4 \sin \frac{x}{2}} = \left|1 - 2 \sin \frac{x}{2}\right|$$

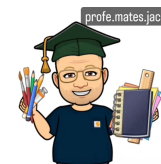
Y nuestra integral queda: $\int_0^{\pi} \sqrt{1 + 4 \sin^2 \frac{x}{2} - 4 \sin \frac{x}{2}} dx = \int_0^{\pi} \left|1 - 2 \sin \frac{x}{2}\right| dx$

Veamos el signo de $\left|1 - 2 \sin \frac{x}{2}\right|$ en el intervalo $[0, \pi]$.

Llamemos $g(x) = 1 - 2 \sin \frac{x}{2}$, $x \in [0, \pi]$.

$g(x) = 1 - 2 \sin \frac{x}{2} = 0 \Leftrightarrow \sin \frac{x}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow x = \frac{\pi}{3}$ en el intervalo $[0, \pi]$; al tratarse de una función continua (g) ($g\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right) = 0$, $g(0) > 0$ y $g(\pi) < 0$), g es positiva en $\left(0, \frac{\pi}{3}\right)$ y negativa en $\left(\frac{\pi}{3}, \pi\right)$.

$$\text{Luego: } f(x) = |g(x)| = \begin{cases} 1 - 2 \sin \frac{x}{2} & \text{si } x \in \left[0, \frac{\pi}{3}\right) \\ 2 \sin \frac{x}{2} - 1 & \text{si } x \in \left[\frac{\pi}{3}, \pi\right] \end{cases}$$



Por tanto:

$$\int_0^{\pi} \left| 1 - 2 \sin \frac{x}{2} \right| dx = \int_0^{\pi/3} 1 - 2 \sin \frac{x}{2} dx + \int_{\pi/3}^{\pi} 2 \sin \frac{x}{2} - 1 dx = \left(x + 4 \cos \frac{x}{2} \right) \Big|_0^{\pi/3} + \left(-x - 4 \cos \frac{x}{2} \right) \Big|_{\pi/3}^{\pi} =$$
$$= \frac{\pi}{3} + 4 \cos \frac{\pi}{6} - 4 \cos 0 - \pi - 4 \cos \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{\pi}{3} + 4 \cos \frac{\pi}{6} = \frac{\pi}{3} + 2\sqrt{3} - 4 - \pi + \frac{\pi}{3} + 2\sqrt{3} =$$
$$= 4\sqrt{3} - \frac{\pi}{3} - 4$$



José Antonio Cobalea