STEP Project Year 2023 Paper 2

## 2023.2 Question 1

1. If  $x = \frac{1}{t}$ , we have

 $\frac{\mathrm{d}x}{\mathrm{d}t} = -\frac{1}{t^2}$ 

and hence

 $\mathrm{d}x = -\frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t^2}.$ 

Hence,

$$\int_{a}^{b} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{(1+x^{2})^{\frac{3}{2}}} = \int_{a^{-1}}^{b^{-1}} \frac{-\mathrm{d}t}{t^{2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{t^{2}}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$
$$= \int_{a^{-1}}^{b^{-1}} \frac{-t \, \mathrm{d}t}{t^{3} \left(1 + \frac{1}{t^{2}}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$
$$= \int_{a^{-1}}^{b^{-1}} \frac{-t \, \mathrm{d}t}{(1+t^{2})^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

as desired.

2. We have

$$\int_{a^{-1}}^{b^{-1}} \frac{-t \, \mathrm{d}t}{(1+t^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} = \left[ \left( 1 + t^2 \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right]_{a^{-1}}^{b^{-1}}.$$

(a)

$$\int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{(1+x^{2})^{\frac{3}{2}}} = \int_{2}^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{-t \, \mathrm{d}t}{(1+t^{2})^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

$$= \left[ (1+t^{2})^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right]_{2}^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$= \left( 1 + \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)^{2} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} - \left( 1 + (2)^{2} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{5}{4}}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$$

$$= \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}.$$

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(b) Notice that the integrand is even, we have

$$\int_{-2}^{2} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{(1+x^{2})^{\frac{3}{2}}} = 2 \int_{0}^{2} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{(1+x^{2})^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

$$= 2 \lim_{u \to 0^{+}} \int_{u}^{2} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{((1+x^{2}))^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

$$= 2 \lim_{u \to 0^{+}} \int_{\frac{1}{u}}^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{-t \, \mathrm{d}t}{(1+t^{2})^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

$$= 2 \lim_{u \to \infty} \int_{u}^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{-t \, \mathrm{d}t}{(1+t^{2})^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

$$= 2 \lim_{u \to \infty} \left[ \left(1+t^{2}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right]_{u}^{2}$$

$$= 2 \cdot \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} - \lim_{u \to \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+u^{2}}}\right)$$

$$= 2 \cdot \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} - 0\right)$$

$$= \frac{4}{\sqrt{5}}.$$

3. (a) Starting from the left, we have

$$\int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{(1+x^{2})^{2}} = \int_{2}^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{-\frac{1}{t^{2}} \, \mathrm{d}t}{(1+\frac{1}{t^{2}})^{2}}$$
$$= \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \frac{\frac{1}{t^{2}} \cdot t^{4} \, \mathrm{d}t}{t^{4} \left(1+\frac{1}{t^{2}}\right)^{2}}$$
$$= \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \frac{t^{2} \, \mathrm{d}t}{(1+t^{2})^{2}},$$

and therefore the first equal sign is true.

As for the second equal sign, we notice that

$$\int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{(1+x^{2})^{2}} + \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \frac{x^{2} \, \mathrm{d}x}{(1+x^{2})^{2}} = \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \frac{(1+x^{2}) \, \mathrm{d}x}{(1+x^{2})^{2}}$$
$$= \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{1+x^{2}},$$

which means that

$$\int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{(1+x^2)^2} = \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \frac{x^2 \, \mathrm{d}x}{(1+x^2)^2} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{1+x^2}.$$

Hence,

$$\begin{split} \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{(1+x^{2})^{2}} &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \frac{\mathrm{d}x}{1+x^{2}} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[ \arctan x \right]_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \arctan 2 - \frac{1}{2} \arctan \frac{1}{2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \arctan 2 - \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\pi}{2} - \arctan 2 \right) \\ &= \arctan 2 - \frac{\pi}{4}. \end{split}$$

(b) Let  $x = \frac{1}{u}$ , we have  $dx = -\frac{1}{u^2} du$ .

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Let the integral be I, and we have

$$I = \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \frac{1 - x}{x (1 + x^{2})^{\frac{1}{2}}} dx$$

$$= \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \frac{1 - \frac{1}{u}}{\frac{1}{u} (1 + \frac{1}{u^{2}})^{\frac{1}{2}}} \cdot \frac{1}{u^{2}} du$$

$$= \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \frac{u - 1}{u^{2} (1 + \frac{1}{u^{2}})^{\frac{1}{2}}} du$$

$$= \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \frac{u - 1}{u (1 + u^{2})^{\frac{1}{2}}} du$$

$$= -I.$$

This therefore means

$$I = \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{2} \frac{1 - x}{x (1 + x^{2})^{\frac{1}{2}}} dx = 0.$$

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