

Evaluate:

$$I := \int_{-1}^1 \frac{\sqrt{1-x^2}}{1+x^2} dx$$

Since the integrand is nonnegative and defined on  $[-1, 1]$  and  $\sqrt{1-x^2} \leq 1$  on  $[-1, 1]$ ,

$$0 \leq \int_{-1}^1 \frac{\sqrt{1-x^2}}{1+x^2} \leq \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{1+x^2} = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

hence the integral converges.

We have:

$$I := \int_{-1}^1 \frac{\sqrt{1-x^2}}{1+x^2} dx = \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\cos^2 x}{1+\sin^2 x} dx = 2 \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\cos^2 x}{1+\sin^2 x} dx \quad (1)$$

$$= 2 \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{1-\sin^2 x}{1+\sin^2 x} dx = 2 \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{1+\sin^2 x}{1+\sin^2 x} - \frac{2\sin^2 x}{1+\sin^2 x} dx = \pi - 4 \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\sin^2 x}{1+\sin^2 x} dx \quad (2)$$

Equate the right-hand sides of (1) and (2),

$$\begin{aligned} &\Rightarrow \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\cos^2 x}{1+\sin^2 x} dx = \frac{\pi}{2} - 2 \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\sin^2 x}{1+\sin^2 x} dx \\ &\Rightarrow \left( \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\cos^2 x}{1+\sin^2 x} dx + \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\sin^2 x}{1+\sin^2 x} dx \right) + \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\sin^2 x}{1+\sin^2 x} dx = \frac{\pi}{2} \\ &\Rightarrow \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{1}{1+\sin^2 x} dx + \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\sin^2 x}{1+\sin^2 x} dx = \frac{\pi}{2} \quad (3) \end{aligned}$$

Note:

$$\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{1}{1+\sin^2 x} dx = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\sec^2 x}{\sec^2 x + \tan^2 x} dx = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{dx}{2x^2 + 1} = \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \arctan(x\sqrt{2}) \right]_0^{\infty} = \frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{2}}$$

Substituting into (3),

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\sin^2 x}{1+\sin^2 x} dx = \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{2}}$$

But returning to (1) and (2), we have:

$$I = \pi - 4 \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\sin^2 x}{1+\sin^2 x} dx = \pi - 4 \left( \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{2}} \right) = \pi(\sqrt{2} - 1)$$

Details:

1<sup>st</sup> equality: Substitute  $x \mapsto \sin x$ .

2<sup>nd</sup> equality: Even integrand.

10<sup>th</sup> equality: Substitute  $x \mapsto \arctan x$  and use  $\sec^2 x = 1 + \tan^2 x$ .

For alternate solution using complex analysis, see “complex\_integrals” document.