Assuming they converge, evaluate the following integrals: Wenzhi Tseng

$$I = \int_0^1 \frac{\ln^2 x}{x^2 - 1} dx \qquad\qquad J = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \theta \ln(\cos\theta) \, d\theta$$

We first solve I. Using partial fractions,

$$\int \frac{\ln^2 x}{x^2 - 1} dx = \frac{1}{2}\left(\int \frac{\ln^2 x}{x - 1} dx - \int \frac{\ln^2 x}{x + 1} dx\right)$$

Substitute $u = x - 1$ and $u = x + 1$ in the first and second integrals respectively,

$$= \frac{1}{2}\left(\int \frac{\ln^2(u + 1)}{u} du - \int \frac{\ln^2(u - 1)}{u} du\right)$$

Now use integration by parts, noting we can write $\int u \, du = \ln(-u)$,

$$= \left[\frac{\ln(-u)\ln^2(u + 1)}{2} - \int \frac{\ln(-u)\ln(u + 1)}{u + 1} du\right] - \left[\frac{\ln u \ln^2(u - 1)}{2} - \int \frac{\ln u \ln(u - 1)}{u - 1} du\right]$$

Undoing the substitutions in the first and third terms and substituting $u = v - 1$ and $u = 1 - v$ in the integrals,

$$= \frac{1}{2}(\ln^2 x)\ln\left(\frac{1 - x}{1 + x}\right) + \int \frac{-\ln(1 - v)\ln(v)}{v} dv - \int \frac{-\ln(1 - v)\ln(-v)}{v} dv$$

From here on we make use of polylogarithms, see appendix for a brief review. We again use integration by parts,

$$= \frac{1}{2}(\ln^2 x)\ln\left(\frac{1 - x}{1 + x}\right) + \left[(\text{Li}_2(v))\ln(v) - \int \frac{\text{Li}_2(v)}{v} dv\right] - \left[(\text{Li}_2(v))\ln(-v) - \int \frac{\text{Li}_2(v)}{v} dv\right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}(\ln^2 x)\ln\left(\frac{1 - x}{1 + x}\right) + (\text{Li}_2(v))\ln(v) - \text{Li}_3(v) - (\text{Li}_2(v))\ln(-v) + \text{Li}_3(v)$$

Undoing the substitutions,

$$= \frac{1}{2}(\ln^2 x)\ln\left(\frac{1 - x}{1 + x}\right) + (\ln x)(\text{Li}_2(x) - \text{Li}_2(-x)) + \text{Li}_3(-x) - \text{Li}_3(x) + c, c \in \mathbb{R}$$

Let the above antiderivative be $F(x)$. So we need to compute $\lim_{x \to 1} F(x) - \lim_{x \to 0} F(x)$. Note that $\text{Li}_s(x)$ has the power series expansion $\text{Li}_s(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x^k / k^s$ for $|x| \leq 1$, and the sum converges absolutely by ratio test for $s > 0$. Then, we are justified in the following series manipulations:

$$\text{Li}_s(x) - \text{Li}_s(-x) = \left(x + \frac{x^2}{2^s} + \frac{x^3}{3^s} + \cdots\right) - \left(-x + \frac{x^2}{2^s} + \frac{x^3}{3^s} - \cdots\right) = 2\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2k+1}}{(2k + 1)^s}$$

Then,

$$F(x) = \frac{1}{2}(\ln^2 x)\ln\left(\frac{1 - x}{1 + x}\right) + 2(\ln x)\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2k+1}}{(2k + 1)^2} - 2\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2k+1}}{(2k + 1)^3} + c$$

We now compute the limits required to find $\lim_{x \to 0} F(x)$. The most troublesome limit is

$$\lim_{x \to 0} (\ln x) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)^2} = \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)^2}}{1/\ln x}$$

The sum clearly converges at $x = 1$, so it converges absolutely on $[-1, 1]$ and is thus infinitely differentiable and term-by-term differentiation is allowed and all derivatives will converge on $(0, 1)$. Then, by L'Hopital's,

$$= \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2k}}{2k+1}}{-1/x \ln^2 x} = \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{2k+1}}{2k+1}}{-1/\ln^2 x} = \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^{2k}}{2/x \ln^3 x} = \frac{1}{2} \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{x \ln^3 x}{1 - x^2} = 0$$

since $\lim_{x \to 0} x \ln^3 x = 0$ (also by repeated L'Hopital's).

It can also be shown that $\lim_{x \to 0} (\ln^2 x) \ln \left(\frac{1-x}{1+x} \right) = \lim_{x \to 1} (\ln^2 x) \ln \left(\frac{1-x}{1+x} \right) = 0$ using repeated L'Hopital's. Putting everything together, we have $\lim_{x \to 0} F(x) = 0$ and thus

$$\int_0^1 \frac{\ln^2 x}{x^2 - 1} dx = \lim_{x \to 1} F(x) - \lim_{x \to 0} F(x) = -2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2k+1)^3}$$

But notice,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2k+1)^3} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2k)^3} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^3} = \zeta(3)$$

So the second sum is just $\zeta(3)/8$. Then $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} 1/(2k+1)^3 = 7\zeta(3)/8$, so

$$\int_0^1 \frac{\ln^2 x}{x^2 - 1} dx = \boxed{-\frac{7}{4}\zeta(3)}$$

Now we solve J. We will freely use the following result, which is proved (using symmetry tricks) in my document "ln(sinx) and related integrals"

$$\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \ln(\sin \theta) \, d\theta = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \ln(\cos \theta) \, d\theta = -\frac{\pi}{2} \ln 2 \qquad (1)$$

Substituting $\theta \mapsto \pi/2 - \theta$ and using law of logs,

$$J = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \theta \ln(\cos \theta) \, d\theta = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta \right) \ln(\sin \theta) \, d\theta = \frac{\pi}{2} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \ln(\sin \theta) \, d\theta - \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \theta \ln(\sin \theta) \, d\theta$$

Rearranging and using (1),

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \theta \ln(\cos \theta) \, d\theta + \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \theta \ln(\sin \theta) \, d\theta = -\frac{\pi^2}{4} \ln 2 \qquad (2)$$

On the other hand, by laws of logs,

$$\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \theta \ln(\sin \theta) \, d\theta - \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \theta \ln(\cos \theta) \, d\theta = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \theta \ln(\tan \theta) \, d\theta \qquad (3)$$

Define the following function for $t \geq 0$,

$$J(t) = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (\arctan(t \tan \theta)) \ln(\tan \theta) \, d\theta$$

Now differentiate under the integral. We skip over verifying the convergence/uniform convergence of the relevant integrals.

$$\Rightarrow J'(t) = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\tan \theta}{1 + t^2 \tan^2 \theta} \ln(\tan \theta) \, d\theta$$

Substitute $u = \tan \theta$,

$$= \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x \ln x}{(1 + t^2 x^2)(1 + x^2)} \, dx$$

This integral suggests contour integration due to the polynomial in the denominator and the rather straightforward function $x \ln x$ in the numerator. We choose $\log z$ with branch cut $[0, \infty)$ and $\arg z \in (0, 2\pi)$ and integrate the function $f(z) = \frac{z \log^2 z}{(1+t^2 z^2)(1+z^2)}$ over the corresponding keyhole contour. For $t \neq 0$ and $t \neq 1$, note f has four simple poles $\pm i, \pm i/t$ on the imaginary axis inside the contour. By residue theorem, we find

$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{x(\ln x)^2}{(1 + t^2 x^2)(1 + x^2)} \, dx - \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x(\ln x + 2\pi i)^2}{(1 + t^2 x^2)(1 + x^2)} \, dx = 2\pi i \sum \text{Res}$$

$$-4\pi i \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x \ln x}{(1 + t^2 x^2)(1 + x^2)} \, dx + 4\pi^2 \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x}{(1 + t^2 x^2)(1 + x^2)} \, dx = 2\pi i \frac{\ln^2 t - 2\pi i \ln t}{t^2 - 1}$$

Equating real and imaginary parts yields

$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{x \ln x}{(1 + t^2 x^2)(1 + x^2)} \, dx = \frac{\ln^2 t}{2(1 - t^2)} \qquad \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x}{(1 + t^2 x^2)(1 + x^2)} \, dx = \frac{\ln t}{t^2 - 1}$$

So $J'(t) = \frac{\ln^2 t}{2(1-t^2)}$ for $t > 0, t \neq 1$. But note $\lim_{t \to 1} \frac{\ln^2 t}{2(1-t^2)} = 0$ by L'Hopital's so we can extend $J'(t) = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x \ln x}{(1+t^2 x^2)(1+x^2)} \, dx$ to a continuous function on $(0, \infty)$ where we define $J'(1) = 0$.

The antiderivative of $\frac{\ln^2 t}{2(1-t^2)}$ was computed previously,

$$\Rightarrow J(t) = -\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} (\ln^2 t) \ln \left| \frac{1 - t}{1 + t} \right| + (\ln t)(\text{Li}_2(t) - \text{Li}_2(-t)) - \text{Li}_3(t) + \text{Li}_3(-t) \right) + c$$

for some $c \in \mathbb{R}$. However, since $J(0) = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} (\arctan(0 \tan \theta)) \ln(\tan \theta) \, d\theta = 0$, taking $t \to 0$ in the above expression (also done previously) and solving for c shows that $c = 0$.

Recall our original goal was to find the value of $J(1)$ and substitute it into (3). The computation of $J(1)$ was also done previously, so we have

$$\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \theta \ln(\tan \theta)\, d\theta = J(1) = \frac{7}{8}\zeta(3)$$

Look familiar? That's right. Our integrals I and J are related:

$$\int_0^1 \frac{\ln^2 x}{x^2 - 1}\, dx = -2\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \theta \ln(\tan \theta)\, d\theta = -\frac{7}{4}\zeta(3)$$

How coincidental. But now we finish this question. Returning to (3), we now have

$$\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \theta \ln(\sin \theta)\, d\theta - \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \theta \ln(\cos \theta)\, d\theta = \frac{7}{8}\zeta(3)$$

And from (2), we had

$$\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \theta \ln(\cos \theta)\, d\theta + \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \theta \ln(\sin \theta)\, d\theta = -\frac{\pi^2}{4}\ln 2$$

Solving simultaneously yields:

$$\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \theta \ln(\sin \theta)\, d\theta = \frac{7}{16}\zeta(3) - \frac{\pi^2}{8}\ln 2 \qquad\qquad \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \theta \ln(\cos \theta)\, d\theta = -\frac{7}{16}\zeta(3) - \frac{\pi^2}{8}\ln 2$$

Appendix: The Polylogarithm

In its most general form, the polylogarithm $\mathrm{Li}_s(z)$ of order s is a complex-valued function defined as a power series and extended via analytic continuation, but for the purposes of our integration problem, we will only consider $s = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$ and z to be a real number.

For $|x| \le 1$ and $s = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$ the following power series converges absolutely by ratio test and is defined to be $\mathrm{Li}_s(x)$.

$$\mathrm{Li}_s(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k^s} = x + \frac{x^2}{2^s} + \frac{x^3}{3^s} + \cdots$$

Consequently, we can differentiate term-by-term,

$$\frac{d}{dx}\mathrm{Li}_{s+1}(x) = \frac{d}{dx}\left[x + \frac{x^2}{2^{s+1}} + \frac{x^3}{3^{s+1}} + \cdots\right] = 1 + \frac{x}{2^s} + \frac{x^2}{3^s} + \cdots$$

$$= \frac{1}{x}\left(x + \frac{x^2}{2^s} + \frac{x^3}{3^s} + \cdots\right) = \frac{\mathrm{Li}_s(x)}{x}$$

So $\mathrm{Li}_{s+1}(x)$ is an antiderivative of $\mathrm{Li}_s(x)/x$.