

A Curious Integral:  $\int_0^1 x \cdot \sqrt{x \cdot \sqrt[3]{x \cdot \sqrt[4]{x \cdots}}} dx = \frac{1}{e}$

David Meyer

dmm613@gmail.com

Last update: January 19, 2024

## 1 Ok, but why?

Consider:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_0^1 x \cdot \sqrt{x \cdot \sqrt[3]{x \cdot \sqrt[4]{x \cdots}}} dx &= \int_0^1 x^{\frac{1}{1}} \cdot x^{\frac{1}{1 \cdot 2}} \cdot x^{\frac{1}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3}} \cdot x^{\frac{1}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4}} \cdots dx && \# \text{ radical} \rightarrow \text{exponent notation} \\
 &= \int_0^1 x^{\left[\frac{1}{1} + \frac{1}{1 \cdot 2} + \frac{1}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3} + \frac{1}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4} + \cdots\right]} dx && \# x^a \cdot x^b = x^{a+b} \\
 &= \int_0^1 x^{\left[\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!}\right]} dx && \# \frac{1}{1} + \frac{1}{1 \cdot 2} + \frac{1}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3} + \frac{1}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4} + \cdots = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} \\
 &= \int_0^1 x^{\left[\left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!}\right) - 1\right]} dx && \# \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} = \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!}\right) - \frac{1}{0!} = \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!}\right) - 1 \\
 &= \int_0^1 x^{e-1} dx && \# \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} = e \Rightarrow \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!}\right) - 1 = e - 1 [2] \\
 &= \frac{x^{(e-1)+1}}{(e-1)+1} \Big|_0^1 && \# \text{ by the power rule [1] and the FToC [3]} \\
 &= \frac{x^e}{e} \Big|_0^1 && \# (e-1)+1 = e \\
 &= \frac{1^e}{e} - \frac{0^e}{e} && \# \text{ evaluate at the endpoints} \\
 &= \frac{1}{e} - \frac{0}{e} && \# 1^e = 1 \text{ and } 0^e = 0 \\
 &= \frac{1}{e} && \# \int_0^1 x \cdot \sqrt{x \cdot \sqrt[3]{x \cdot \sqrt[4]{x \cdots}}} dx = \frac{1}{e}
 \end{aligned}$$

## 2 Conclusions

## Acknowledgements

## L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Source

<https://www.overleaf.com/read/ydvsjrpsjphm#b24ca3>

## References

- [1] Wikipedia Contributors. Power Rule — Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Power\\_rule&oldid=1111058436](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Power_rule&oldid=1111058436), 2022. [Online; accessed 27-September-2022].
- [2] Wikipedia Contributors. List of representations of e — Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List\\_of\\_representations\\_of\\_e&oldid=1194093427](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=List_of_representations_of_e&oldid=1194093427), 2024. [Online; accessed 17-January-2024].
- [3] Wolfram MathWorld. Fundamental Theory of Calculus. <https://mathworld.wolfram.com/FundamentalTheoremsofCalculus.html>, 2023. [Online; accessed 8-May-2023].