

Solution (#1477) Using $\cos 2x = 2 \cos^2 x - 1$ we have

$$\int_0^{\pi/3} \sqrt{\cos x + \cos 2x} dx = \int_0^{\pi/3} \sqrt{\cos x + 2 \cos^2 x - 1} dx = \int_0^{\pi/3} \sqrt{(\cos x + 1)(2 \cos x - 1)} dx.$$

If we similarly use $\cos x = 2 \cos^2(x/2) - 1 = 1 - 2 \sin^2(x/2)$ then the above integral becomes

$$\int_0^{\pi/3} \sqrt{2 \cos^2(x/2)(1 - 4 \sin^2(x/2))} dx = \sqrt{2} \int_0^{\pi/3} \sqrt{1 - 4 \sin^2(x/2)} \cos(x/2) dx.$$

Now if we set $u = \sin(x/2)$ we find

$$\sqrt{2} \int_0^{\pi/3} \sqrt{1 - 4 \sin^2(x/2)} \cos(x/2) dx = \sqrt{2} \int_0^{1/2} \sqrt{1 - 4u^2} 2 du.$$

Finally setting $u = \frac{1}{2} \sin t$ we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned} 2\sqrt{2} \int_0^{1/2} \sqrt{1 - 4u^2} du &= 2\sqrt{2} \int_0^{\pi/2} \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 t} \frac{1}{2} \cos t dt \\ &= \sqrt{2} \int_0^{\pi/2} \cos^2 t dt \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \int_0^{\pi/2} (1 + \cos 2t) dt \\ &= \left[\frac{t}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{\sin 2t}{2\sqrt{2}} \right]_0^{\pi/2} \\ &= \frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{2}}. \end{aligned}$$