

# Cleo Bench Problem 1

$$\text{Integral } \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{x} \sqrt{\frac{1+x}{1-x}} \ln \left( \frac{2x^2+2x+1}{2x^2-2x+1} \right) dx$$

Derivation by Claude (Fable 5), closed-book\*

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## Problem

Evaluate in exact closed form

$$I = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{x} \sqrt{\frac{1+x}{1-x}} \ln \left( \frac{2x^2+2x+1}{2x^2-2x+1} \right) dx \approx 8.372211626601275661625747121 \dots$$

(The poster is also interested in the variants with only the numerator or only the denominator under the logarithm; these are treated in the Notes.)

## Result

$$\boxed{I = 4\pi \operatorname{arccot} \sqrt{\varphi}} \quad \text{where } \varphi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \text{ is the golden ratio.}$$

Equivalent forms:

$$I = 4\pi \arctan \frac{1}{\sqrt{\varphi}} = 4\pi \arctan \sqrt{\varphi-1} = 4\pi \arcsin \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2} = 2\pi \arccos(\sqrt{5}-2) = 4\pi \Re \arcsin(1+i).$$

Numerically,

$$I = 8.37221162660127566162574712109841263808172805388220741371708829675812473 \dots$$

## Derivation

**Notation.**  $\log$  and  $\sqrt{\cdot}$  denote the principal branches (cut along  $(-\infty, 0]$ ); thus  $\Re \sqrt{w} > 0$  for  $w \notin (-\infty, 0]$ , and  $\operatorname{Arg} \in (-\pi, \pi]$ . Throughout,  $\varphi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$ , so that

$$\varphi^2 = \varphi + 1, \quad \varphi^{-1} = \varphi - 1, \quad \varphi - \varphi^{-1} = 1.$$

All complex-valued integrals of a real variable are understood componentwise (real and imaginary parts), so real-variable theorems (FTC, substitution, Fubini, parity) apply verbatim.

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\*Problem originally posed on Mathematics Stack Exchange ([question 562694](#), CC BY-SA), famously answered by user Cleo. This derivation was produced independently, offline, without access to the published answer, as part of the Cleo benchmark.

## Step 0: convergence and reality

For all real  $x$ ,

$$2x^2 \pm 2x + 1 = (x \pm 1)^2 + x^2 > 0,$$

so the logarithm is a real logarithm of a positive quantity — no branch issues in the integrand. Behaviour at the three delicate points of  $(-1, 1)$ :

- $x \rightarrow 0$ :  $\ln(1 \pm 2x + 2x^2) = \pm 2x + O(x^3)$  (the  $x^2$ -terms cancel:  $2x^2 - \frac{(\pm 2x)^2}{2} = 0$ ), so the log factor is  $4x + O(x^3)$  and the integrand extends continuously with value 4 at  $x = 0$  (removable singularity).
- $x \rightarrow 1^-$ : the integrand is  $O((1-x)^{-1/2})$  — integrable.
- $x \rightarrow -1^+$ : the integrand is  $O((1+x)^{1/2}) \rightarrow 0$ .

Hence  $I$  converges absolutely.

## Step 1: a parameter representation of the logarithm

For real  $x, t$  put

$$P_{\pm}(t) = 1 \pm 2xt + 2x^2t^2 = (1 \pm xt)^2 + (xt)^2.$$

Each  $P_{\pm}$  is a sum of two squares that cannot vanish simultaneously ( $xt = \mp 1$  and  $xt = 0$  are incompatible), so  $P_{\pm}(t) > 0$  for **all** real  $t$ , and  $t \mapsto \ln \frac{P_+(t)}{P_-(t)}$  is smooth on  $\mathbb{R}$ . Moreover

$$P_+P_- = (1 + 2x^2t^2)^2 - (2xt)^2 = 1 + 4x^4t^4.$$

Differentiate:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \ln \frac{P_+(t)}{P_-(t)} = \frac{2x + 4x^2t}{P_+} - \frac{-2x + 4x^2t}{P_-} = \frac{(2x + 4x^2t)P_- - (-2x + 4x^2t)P_+}{1 + 4x^4t^4}.$$

The numerator is

$$2x(P_- + P_+) + 4x^2t(P_- - P_+) = 2x(2 + 4x^2t^2) + 4x^2t(-4xt) = 4x(1 - 2x^2t^2).$$

Since  $P_{\pm}(0) = 1$  and  $P_{\pm}(1) = 2x^2 \pm 2x + 1$ , the fundamental theorem of calculus gives, **for every real  $x$** ,

$$\ln \frac{2x^2 + 2x + 1}{2x^2 - 2x + 1} = \int_0^1 \frac{4x(1 - 2x^2t^2)}{1 + 4x^4t^4} dt. \quad (1)$$

(Where this comes from:  $P_+(t) = |1+(1+i)xt|^2$ , and (1) is the real form of  $\frac{d}{dt} \operatorname{Log} \frac{1+(1+i)xt}{1-(1+i)xt} = \frac{2(1+i)x}{1-2ix^2t^2}$ , whose doubled real part is exactly  $\frac{4x(1-2x^2t^2)}{1+4x^4t^4}$ . The identity (1) itself, however, is purely real and was verified above by direct differentiation, so no branch discussion is needed.)

## Step 2: insert and swap (Tonelli–Fubini)

On  $(-1, 1)$  we have  $\sqrt{\frac{1+x}{1-x}} = \frac{1+x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$ . For  $x \neq 0$  the factor  $\frac{1}{x}$  cancels the  $x$  in (1):

$$\frac{1}{x} \sqrt{\frac{1+x}{1-x}} \ln \frac{2x^2 + 2x + 1}{2x^2 - 2x + 1} = \int_0^1 \frac{1+x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} \cdot \frac{4(1-2x^2t^2)}{1+4x^4t^4} dt.$$

For  $(x, t) \in (-1, 1) \times [0, 1]$  we have  $|1 - 2x^2t^2| \leq 1$  and  $1 + 4x^4t^4 \geq 1$ , so the absolute value of the double integrand is at most  $\frac{4(1+x)}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$ , and

$$\int_{-1}^1 \frac{4(1+x)}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = 4\pi < \infty.$$

By Tonelli the double integral converges absolutely, and Fubini yields

$$I = \int_0^1 A(t) dt, \quad A(t) := \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1+x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} \cdot \frac{4(1-2x^2t^2)}{1+4x^4t^4} dx. \quad (2)$$

### Step 3: parity

Split  $\frac{1+x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} + \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$ . The factor  $\frac{4(1-2x^2t^2)}{1+4x^4t^4}$  is even in  $x$ ; the contribution of the odd part  $\frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$  is an absolutely integrable odd function on  $(-1, 1)$ , hence integrates to 0. Therefore

$$A(t) = 8 \int_0^1 \frac{1-2t^2x^2}{\sqrt{1-x^2}(1+4t^4x^4)} dx. \quad (3)$$

### Step 4: two lemmas

**Lemma 1.** For  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  with  $\Re\lambda > 0$ ,

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{d\tau}{1+\lambda^2\tau^2} = \frac{\pi}{2\lambda}.$$

*Proof.* Write  $\lambda = \lambda_1 + i\lambda_2$ ,  $\lambda_1 > 0$ , and  $\mu = \text{Arg } \lambda \in (-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$ . Factor  $1 + \lambda^2\tau^2 = (1 + i\lambda\tau)(1 - i\lambda\tau)$ . For  $\tau > 0$ ,

$$\Im(1 + i\lambda\tau) = \lambda_1\tau > 0, \quad \Im(1 - i\lambda\tau) = -\lambda_1\tau < 0,$$

and both factors equal 1 at  $\tau = 0$ ; in particular both stay off  $(-\infty, 0]$  for all  $\tau \geq 0$  (so also  $1 + \lambda^2\tau^2 \neq 0$ ). Hence  $\tau \mapsto \text{Log}(1 \pm i\lambda\tau)$  are  $C^1$  on  $[0, \infty)$  with derivatives  $\frac{\pm i\lambda}{1 \pm i\lambda\tau}$ , and with the partial fractions  $\frac{1}{1+\lambda^2\tau^2} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{1+i\lambda\tau} + \frac{1}{1-i\lambda\tau} \right)$ ,

$$\int_0^R \frac{d\tau}{1+\lambda^2\tau^2} = \frac{1}{2i\lambda} \left[ \text{Log}(1 + i\lambda R) - \text{Log}(1 - i\lambda R) \right].$$

As  $R \rightarrow \infty$ :  $\frac{|1 + i\lambda R|}{|1 - i\lambda R|} \rightarrow 1$ , so the difference of the real parts of the Logs tends to 0. For the arguments,  $1 + i\lambda R = i\lambda R \left(1 + \frac{1}{i\lambda R}\right)$  and  $1 - i\lambda R = -i\lambda R \left(1 - \frac{1}{i\lambda R}\right)$ , where the parenthetical factors tend to 1; since  $\arg(i\lambda) = \mu + \frac{\pi}{2} \in (0, \pi)$  and  $\arg(-i\lambda) = \mu - \frac{\pi}{2} \in (-\pi, 0)$  are interior points of  $(-\pi, \pi)$  where  $\text{Arg}$  is continuous,

$$\text{Arg}(1 + i\lambda R) \rightarrow \mu + \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad \text{Arg}(1 - i\lambda R) \rightarrow \mu - \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

Hence the bracket tends to  $i[(\mu + \frac{\pi}{2}) - (\mu - \frac{\pi}{2})] = i\pi$ , and the integral equals  $\frac{i\pi}{2i\lambda} = \frac{\pi}{2\lambda}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.** For  $t \in [0, 1]$  and  $\beta := 2it^2$ ,

$$\int_0^1 \frac{dx}{\sqrt{1-x^2}(1-\beta x^2)} = \frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{1-\beta}} \quad (\text{principal root}).$$

*Proof.* Since  $\Re(1 - \beta x^2) = 1$ , we have  $|1 - \beta x^2| \geq 1$ : the integrand is well defined and absolutely integrable (the only singularity is the integrable  $(1 - x^2)^{-1/2}$  at  $x = 1$ ). Substitute  $x = \sin \theta$  ( $\theta \in [0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$ ), then  $\tau = \tan \theta$  ( $\tau \in [0, \infty)$ ), both monotone  $C^1$  bijections applied to an absolutely convergent integral; using  $\sin^2 \theta = \frac{\tau^2}{1 + \tau^2}$ ,  $d\theta = \frac{d\tau}{1 + \tau^2}$ ,

$$\int_0^1 \frac{dx}{\sqrt{1-x^2}(1-\beta x^2)} = \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{d\theta}{1-\beta \sin^2 \theta} = \int_0^\infty \frac{d\tau}{1+(1-\beta)\tau^2}.$$

Let  $\lambda = \sqrt{1-\beta}$  (principal). Since  $\Re(1-\beta) = 1 > 0$ , we get  $|\text{Arg}(1-\beta)| < \frac{\pi}{2}$ , hence  $|\text{Arg } \lambda| < \frac{\pi}{4}$  and  $\Re \lambda > 0$ , with  $\lambda^2 = 1-\beta$  exactly. Lemma 1 finishes the proof.  $\square$

### Step 5: evaluation of $A(t)$

For real  $s$ ,

$$\frac{1+i}{1-2is} = \frac{(1+i)(1+2is)}{1+4s^2} = \frac{(1-2s) + i(1+2s)}{1+4s^2} \implies \frac{1-2s}{1+4s^2} = \Re \frac{1+i}{1-2is}.$$

Apply this with  $s = t^2 x^2 \geq 0$  inside (3) and pull  $\Re$  out of the absolutely convergent integral (linearity; the factor  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$  is real):

$$A(t) = 8 \Re \left[ (1+i) \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{\sqrt{1-x^2}(1-2it^2 x^2)} \right] \stackrel{\text{Lemma 2}}{=} 8 \Re \frac{(1+i)\pi}{2\sqrt{1-2it^2}} = 4\pi \Re \frac{1+i}{\sqrt{1-2it^2}}. \quad (4)$$

(Consistency check:  $A(0) = 4\pi$ , matching  $8 \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} = 4\pi$ .)

### Step 6: the final integration — explicit antiderivative with branch control

By (2) and (4),

$$I = 4\pi \Re \int_0^1 \frac{(1+i) dt}{\sqrt{1-2it^2}}. \quad (5)$$

Define on  $[0, 1]$

$$q(t) := i(1+i)t + \sqrt{1-2it^2} = -t + it + \sqrt{1-2it^2}, \quad \Phi(t) := -i \text{Log } q(t).$$

**(i) The path  $q(t)$  stays in the open right half-plane.** For  $w = u + iv \notin (-\infty, 0]$  the principal root satisfies

$$\Re \sqrt{w} = |w|^{1/2} \cos \frac{\alpha}{2} = \sqrt{\frac{|w|+u}{2}}, \quad \alpha = \text{Arg } w \in (-\pi, \pi),$$

(using  $\cos \frac{\alpha}{2} > 0$  and  $2 \cos^2 \frac{\alpha}{2} = 1 + \cos \alpha$ ). With  $w = 1 - 2it^2$  (so  $u = 1$ ,  $|w| = \sqrt{1+4t^4}$ ):

$$\Re q(t) = -t + \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{1+4t^4} + 1}{2}} \geq 1 - t > 0 \quad (0 \leq t < 1),$$

and at  $t = 1$ :  $\Re q(1) = \sqrt{\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}} - 1 = \sqrt{\varphi} - 1 > 0$ . So  $\Re q(t) > 0$  on all of  $[0, 1]$ ; in particular  $q(t) \neq 0$  and  $q(t)$  avoids the branch cut of  $\text{Log}$ .

**(ii)  $\Phi' = (1+i)(1-2it^2)^{-1/2}$ .** Since  $\Re(1-2it^2) = 1 > 0$ , the map  $t \mapsto \sqrt{1-2it^2}$  is  $C^1$  with derivative  $\frac{-2it}{\sqrt{1-2it^2}}$  (chain rule for the principal root off its cut). By (i),  $\text{Log } q(t)$  is  $C^1$  with derivative  $q'/q$ . Now

$$q'(t) = i(1+i) - \frac{2it}{\sqrt{1-2it^2}} = \frac{i[(1+i)\sqrt{1-2it^2} - 2t]}{\sqrt{1-2it^2}},$$

while, using  $i(1+i)^2 = i \cdot 2i = -2$ ,

$$(1+i)q(t) = i(1+i)^2t + (1+i)\sqrt{1-2it^2} = -2t + (1+i)\sqrt{1-2it^2}.$$

Comparing,  $q'(t) = \frac{i(1+i)q(t)}{\sqrt{1-2it^2}}$ , hence

$$\Phi'(t) = -i \frac{q'(t)}{q(t)} = \frac{1+i}{\sqrt{1-2it^2}}, \quad t \in [0, 1].$$

(iii) **FTC.**  $\Phi$  is  $C^1$  on  $[0, 1]$  and  $\Phi(0) = -i \operatorname{Log} 1 = 0$ , so

$$\int_0^1 \frac{(1+i) dt}{\sqrt{1-2it^2}} = \Phi(1) = -i \operatorname{Log}(\sqrt{1-2i} + i - 1).$$

Writing  $\operatorname{Log} q = \ln |q| + i \operatorname{Arg} q$  gives  $\Re[-i \operatorname{Log} q] = \operatorname{Arg} q$ , so by (5)

$$I = 4\pi \operatorname{Arg}(\sqrt{1-2i} + i - 1). \quad (6)$$

(Remark:  $\Phi(1) = -i \operatorname{Log}(i(1+i) + \sqrt{1-(1+i)^2}) = \arcsin(1+i)$  in the principal branch, so (6) states  $I = 4\pi \Re \arcsin(1+i)$ .)

### Step 7: algebraic evaluation

Compute  $\sqrt{1-2i}$ : seek  $p-iq$  with  $p > 0$  and  $(p-iq)^2 = p^2 - q^2 - 2ipq = 1-2i$ , i.e.  $p^2 - q^2 = 1$ ,  $pq = 1$ . Then  $q = 1/p$  and  $p^4 - p^2 - 1 = 0$ , so  $p^2 = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} = \varphi$  (the positive root). Hence

$$\sqrt{1-2i} = \sqrt{\varphi} - \frac{i}{\sqrt{\varphi}},$$

which is indeed the principal root ( $\Re = \sqrt{\varphi} > 0$ ); as a check,  $(\sqrt{\varphi} - \frac{i}{\sqrt{\varphi}})^2 = \varphi - \varphi^{-1} - 2i = 1-2i$  by  $\varphi - \varphi^{-1} = 1$ .

Therefore, using  $1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{\varphi}} = \frac{\sqrt{\varphi}-1}{\sqrt{\varphi}}$ ,

$$q(1) = (\sqrt{\varphi} - 1) + i\left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{\varphi}}\right) = (\sqrt{\varphi} - 1)\left(1 + \frac{i}{\sqrt{\varphi}}\right).$$

Since  $\sqrt{\varphi} > 1$ , the scalar  $\sqrt{\varphi} - 1$  is a positive real, so

$$\operatorname{Arg} q(1) = \operatorname{Arg}\left(1 + \frac{i}{\sqrt{\varphi}}\right) = \arctan \frac{1}{\sqrt{\varphi}} = \operatorname{arccot} \sqrt{\varphi}.$$

By (6),

$$I = 4\pi \operatorname{arccot} \sqrt{\varphi}, \quad \varphi = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}.$$

**Equivalent forms.** Let  $\theta = \operatorname{arccot} \sqrt{\varphi} \in (0, \frac{\pi}{2})$ . Then  $\csc^2 \theta = 1 + \cot^2 \theta = 1 + \varphi = \varphi^2$ , so  $\sin \theta = \varphi^{-1} = \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}$ , giving

$$I = 4\pi \arcsin \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}.$$

Also  $\varphi^{-2} = 2 - \varphi$  gives  $\cos 2\theta = 1 - 2\varphi^{-2} = 2\varphi - 3 = \sqrt{5} - 2$ , whence  $I = 2\pi \arccos(\sqrt{5} - 2)$ ; and  $\varphi^{-1} = \varphi - 1$  gives  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{\varphi}} = \sqrt{\varphi - 1}$ , whence  $I = 4\pi \arctan \sqrt{\varphi - 1}$ .

(Interpretation: the computation is a rigorous implementation of “differentiation under the integral sign”: for the family  $F(a) = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{x} \sqrt{\frac{1+x}{1-x}} \ln \frac{1+ax}{1-ax} dx$  one finds  $F'(a) = \frac{2\pi}{\sqrt{1-a^2}}$ , i.e.  $F(a) = 2\pi \arcsin a$ ; our parameter path  $a = (1+i)t$ ,  $t \in 0 \rightarrow 1$ , evaluates the continuation at  $a = 1+i$  and its conjugate simultaneously, and Steps 1-6 supply exactly the branch bookkeeping that makes “ $I = 2\pi(\arcsin(1+i) + \arcsin(1-i)) = 4\pi \Re \arcsin(1+i)$ ” legitimate.)

## Numerical verification

All computations with mpmath (scripts `verify.py`, `steps.py`, `bonus.py` in the work directory).

**Direct evaluation of  $I$  (dps = 130).**

- Raw form: tanh–sinh quadrature of the original integrand over  $[-1, -\frac{1}{2}, 0, \frac{1}{2}, 1]$  gives 8.3722116266012756616257471210984126380817280538822074137170882967578... — agrees with the closed form to **67 significant digits** (limited only by quadrature error at the  $(1-x)^{-1/2}$  endpoint).

- Transformed form: by the parity argument of Step 3 applied to the original integrand (the log factor is odd under  $x \mapsto -x$ , and  $\frac{1+x}{x\sqrt{1-x^2}} = \underbrace{\frac{1}{x\sqrt{1-x^2}}}_{\text{odd}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}}_{\text{even}}$ ),  $I = 2 \int_0^1 \frac{1}{x\sqrt{1-x^2}} \ln \frac{2x^2+2x+1}{2x^2-2x+1} dx$ ; substituting  $x = \sin \theta$ ,

$$I = 2 \int_0^{\pi/2} \ln \left( \frac{1 + 2 \sin \theta + 2 \sin^2 \theta}{1 - 2 \sin \theta + 2 \sin^2 \theta} \right) \frac{d\theta}{\sin \theta},$$

whose quadrature agrees with the closed form to **at least 130 significant digits** (difference exactly 0 at working precision).

**Closed form (dps = 130).**

$$4\pi \operatorname{arccot} \sqrt{\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}} = 8.3722116266012756616257471210984126380817280538822074137170882967581247324454...$$

This also reproduces all 28 digits quoted in the original post, 8.372211626601275661625747121...

**Step-by-step checks** (dps = 60, script `steps.py`):

- identity (1) at  $x = 0.3, -0.77, 0.999, \pm 1$ : quadrature vs. logarithm — exact to working precision; also verified symbolically with sympy ( $\frac{d}{dt} \ln \frac{P_+}{P_-} - \frac{4x(1-2x^2t^2)}{1+4x^4t^4} \equiv 0$  and  $P_+P_- = 1 + 4x^4t^4$ );
- (3) vs. (4) at  $t = 0.25, 0.7, 1.0$ : agreement to  $\sim 10^{-32}$ ;
- Lemma 2 at  $t = 0.33, 0.9$ :  $\sim 10^{-33}$ ; Lemma 1 for three test  $\lambda$ 's with  $\Re \lambda > 0$ :  $\leq 10^{-61}$ ;
- $\Phi'$  vs.  $(1+i)(1-2it^2)^{-1/2}$  at  $t = 0.2, 0.6, 0.95$  (central differences):  $\sim 10^{-37}$ ;  $\min_{[0,1]} \Re q(t) = 0.2720196495\dots = \sqrt{\varphi} - 1$  attained at  $t = 1$ ;
- $\int_0^1 (1+i)(1-2it^2)^{-1/2} dt = \Phi(1) = \arcsin(1+i) = 0.66623943249251525510\dots + 1.06127506190503565203\dots i$  (three ways, identical);
- $\sqrt{1-2i} = \sqrt{\varphi} - i/\sqrt{\varphi}$  and  $\operatorname{Arg} q(1) = \arctan(1/\sqrt{\varphi}) = \Re \arcsin(1+i) = \arcsin \frac{\sqrt{5}-1}{2}$ : all equal to 0.6662394324925152551040048959777927206675...

**Conclusion:** direct numerics and the closed form agree to  $\geq 67$  significant digits (raw form) and  $\geq 130$  digits (exactly transformed form) — far beyond coincidence.

## Notes

**The two sub-questions.** With the same tools one gets closed forms for the numerator-only and denominator-only variants:

$$N := \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{x} \sqrt{\frac{1+x}{1-x}} \ln(2x^2+2x+1) dx = \pi \ln \frac{\varphi + \sqrt{\varphi}}{2} + 2\pi \operatorname{arccot} \sqrt{\varphi} \approx 5.342613660915948744102794714,$$

$$D := \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{x} \sqrt{\frac{1+x}{1-x}} \ln(2x^2-2x+1) dx = \pi \ln \frac{\varphi + \sqrt{\varphi}}{2} - 2\pi \operatorname{arccot} \sqrt{\varphi} \approx -3.029597965685326917522952407.$$

Sketch (each step of the same rigor level as above):  $N - D = I$ ; for the sum,  $(2x^2 + 2x + 1)(2x^2 - 2x + 1) = 1 + 4x^4$  is even, so by the parity argument of Step 3,  $N + D = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{\ln(1+4x^4)}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = 2 \int_0^{\pi/2} \ln(1 + 4 \sin^4 \theta) d\theta$ . Writing  $1 + 4 \sin^4 \theta = |1 - 2i \sin^2 \theta|^2$ , one needs  $G(s) := \int_0^{\pi/2} \operatorname{Log}(1 - 2is \sin^2 \theta) d\theta$  at  $s = 1$  (then  $N + D = 4 \Re G(1)$ ). Since  $\Re(1 - 2is \sin^2 \theta) = 1$ , the derivative  $\partial_s$ -integrand  $\frac{-2i \sin^2 \theta}{1 - 2is \sin^2 \theta}$  is bounded by 2; dominated convergence permits differentiation under the integral, and for  $s > 0$ , by Lemma 2,

$$G'(s) = \frac{1}{s} \int_0^{\pi/2} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{1 - 2is \sin^2 \theta} \right] d\theta = \frac{1}{s} \left[ \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{1 - 2is}} \right].$$

The function  $\tilde{G}(s) := \pi \operatorname{Log} \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - 2is}}{2}$  is well defined ( $\Re \sqrt{1 - 2is} \geq 1$ ) with the same derivative: putting  $w = 1 - 2is$ ,  $s = \frac{i(w-1)}{2} = \frac{i}{2}(\sqrt{w}-1)(\sqrt{w}+1)$ , one checks  $\frac{\pi}{2s} \frac{\sqrt{w}-1}{\sqrt{w}} = \frac{-i\pi}{\sqrt{w}(1+\sqrt{w})} = \tilde{G}'(s)$ . Both vanish at  $s = 0$ , so  $G \equiv \tilde{G}$  on  $[0, 1]$  and

$$N + D = 4\pi \ln \left| \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - 2i}}{2} \right| = 2\pi \ln \frac{(1 + \sqrt{\varphi})^2 + \varphi^{-1}}{4} = 2\pi \ln \frac{\varphi + \sqrt{\varphi}}{2},$$

using  $(1 + \sqrt{\varphi})^2 + \varphi^{-1} = 1 + 2\sqrt{\varphi} + \varphi + (\varphi - 1) = 2(\varphi + \sqrt{\varphi})$ . Both  $N$  and  $D$  were confirmed numerically to  $\sim 30$  digits (**bonus.py**).

**Caveats.** None of substance for the main result: every interchange (Fubini in Step 2,  $\Re \leftrightarrow \int$  in Step 5), every substitution, and every branch of  $\operatorname{Log}/\sqrt{\cdot}$  used is justified in the text; the two lemmas are proved from scratch; no special-function identities are quoted beyond the principal-branch definitions themselves. The only steps taken from the standard toolbox are Tonelli–Fubini, the fundamental theorem of calculus, dominated convergence (Notes only), and continuity of  $\operatorname{Arg}$  off the cut. The final answer also matches the numeric value quoted in the original post to all 28 posted digits.