

### Question

Show that the elliptic integral

$$I(m) = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} d\theta \sqrt{1 - m^2 \sin^2 \theta}$$

has the expansion

$$I(m) = \frac{\pi}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{4}m - \frac{3}{64}m^2 - \frac{5}{256}m^3 - \frac{175}{16384}m^4 + \dots \right)$$

as  $m \rightarrow 0$ .

$$\mathbf{Hint} : \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sin 2n\theta \theta = \pi \frac{(2n)!}{\{2^{n+1}n!\}}$$

### Answer

Do it the dirty way!  $m$  is small so a binomial expansion may work!

$$\sqrt{1 - m^2 \sin^2 \theta} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{m^2 \sin^2 \theta}{1!} + \frac{(\frac{1}{2})(-\frac{1}{2})}{2!} m^4 \sin^4 \theta + \dots$$

Need  $m^2 \sin^2 \theta < 1$  for convergence.

So if  $0 < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2} \Rightarrow 0 < \sin \theta < 1$  this last bit means  $|m^2| < 1$  to be safe.

General expansion is:

$$\sqrt{1 - m^2 \sin^2 \theta} = 1 - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{m^2 \sin^{2n} \theta}{n!} \quad m^2 > 1$$

so integrating term by term  $\int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} d\theta$  we get from the hint in the question

$$I(m) = \frac{\pi}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{4}m - \frac{3}{64}m^2 - \frac{5}{256}m^3 - \frac{175}{16384}m^4 + \dots \right) \text{ etc.}$$