

# Chasing Ramanujan Motives

**VIII Encuentro Regional de  
Teoría de Números**

**La Paloma, Rocha, Uruguay**



**Fernando Rodriguez Villegas, 27/10/2025**

# Ramanujan formulas

## THEOREMS STATED BY RAMANUJAN (XI)

G. N. WATSON\*.

In this paper I discuss five of the problems, numbered (3), (5), (9), (10), (11) in Ramanujan's second letter to Hardy, quoted on pp. xxviii and 352 of the *Collected Papers*.

(3)

$$1 - 5 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^5 + 9 \cdot \left(\frac{1 \cdot 3}{2 \cdot 4}\right)^5 - 13 \cdot \left(\frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5}{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6}\right)^5 + \dots = \frac{2}{\{\Gamma(\frac{3}{4})\}^4}.$$

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V Theorems on summations of series; e.g.

$$(1) \quad \frac{1}{1^3} \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2^3} \cdot \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^3} \cdot \frac{1}{2^3} + \frac{1}{4^3} \cdot \frac{1}{2^4} + \dots \\ = \frac{1}{8} (\log 2)^3 - \frac{\pi^2}{12} \log 2 + \left( \frac{1}{1^3} + \frac{1}{3^3} + \frac{1}{5^3} + \dots \right).$$

$$(2) \quad 1 + 9 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^4 + 17 \cdot \left(\frac{1 \cdot 5}{4 \cdot 8}\right)^4 + 25 \cdot \left(\frac{1 \cdot 5 \cdot 9}{4 \cdot 8 \cdot 12}\right)^4 + \dots = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{\pi} \cdot \left\{ \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{4}\right) \right\}^2}.$$

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$$\frac{4}{\pi} = 1 + \frac{7}{4} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 + \frac{13}{4^2} \left(\frac{1 \cdot 3}{2 \cdot 4}\right)^3 + \frac{19}{4^3} \left(\frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5}{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6}\right)^3 + \dots,$$

$(q = e^{-\pi \sqrt{3}}, 2kk' = \frac{1}{2}), \dots\dots\dots(28)$

$$\frac{16}{\pi} = 5 + \frac{47}{64} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 + \frac{89}{64^2} \left(\frac{1 \cdot 3}{2 \cdot 4}\right)^3 + \frac{131}{64^3} \left(\frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5}{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6}\right)^3 + \dots,$$

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$$\frac{32}{\pi} = (5\sqrt{5} - 1) + \frac{47\sqrt{5} + 29}{64} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 \left(\frac{\sqrt{5} - 1}{2}\right)^8$$

$$+ \frac{89\sqrt{5} + 59}{64^2} \left(\frac{1 \cdot 3}{2 \cdot 4}\right)^3 \left(\frac{\sqrt{5} - 1}{2}\right)^{16} + \dots,$$

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**Sum 1.** (Ramanujan)

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*J.M. BORWEIN, P.B. BORWEIN, AND D.H. BAILEY*

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**Algorithm 1.** Let  $\alpha_0 := 6 - 4\sqrt{2}$  and  $y_0 := \sqrt{2} - 1$ . Let

$$y_{n+1} := \frac{1 - (1 - y_n^4)^{1/4}}{1 + (1 - y_n^4)^{1/4}}$$

and

$$\alpha_{n+1} := (1 + y_{n+1})^4 \alpha_n - 2^{2n+3} y_{n+1} (1 + y_{n+1} + y_{n+1}^2).$$

Then

$$0 < \alpha_n - 1/\pi < 16 \cdot 4^n e^{-2 \cdot 4^n \pi}$$

and  $\alpha_n$  converges to  $1/\pi$  *quartically* (that is, with order four).  
[One hundred billion digits ...]

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$$c = 1, 2, \dots$$

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The series

$$\varpi(t) := \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n t^n$$

is a period function

Period functions are of the form

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where  $\omega, \gamma$  are a differential form and a cycle, respectively, on a family of algebraic varieties

$$Z_t, \quad t \in \mathbb{P}^1$$



# Ramanujan-type formulas

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$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_n^5}{n!^5 2^{10n}} (820n^2 + 180n + 13) = \frac{128}{\pi^2}, \quad (1-1)$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_n^3 \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)_n \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)_n}{n!^5 2^{4n}} (120n^2 + 34n + 3) = \frac{32}{\pi^2}, \quad (1-2)$$

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Boris Gourevitch [Gourevitch 02] has sent me, by email, the formula below for  $1/\pi^3$ . He has found it by using *integer relations algorithms*:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_n^7}{n!^7 2^{6n}} (168n^3 + 76n^2 + 14n + 1) = \frac{32}{\pi^3}. \quad (4-1)$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\frac{1}{2})_n^7 (\frac{1}{4})_n (\frac{3}{4})_n}{(1)_n^3} (43680n^4 + 20632n^3 + 4340n^2 + 466n + 21) \left(\frac{1}{4096}\right)^n = \frac{2048}{\pi^4}.$$

discovered by J. Cullen

We will focus on the following

$$\varpi_r(t) := \sum_{n \geq 0} \left( \frac{(1/2)_n}{n!} \right)^r t^n, \quad |t| < 1$$

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$$1) \quad \varpi_r(4^r \lambda) = \frac{1}{(2\pi i)^r} \int_{|x_i|=1} \frac{1}{1 - \lambda(1 + x_1)(1 + x_1^{-1}) \cdots (1 + x_r)(1 + x_r^{-1})} \frac{dx_1}{x_1} \cdots \frac{dx_r}{x_r}$$

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$$3) \quad Z_\lambda : \quad 0 = 1 - \lambda(1 + x_1)(1 + x_1^{-1}) \cdots (1 + x_r)(1 + x_r^{-1})$$

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By the residue theorem in say  $x_r$

$$\varpi(t) = \frac{1}{(2\pi i)^{r-1}} \int_{\gamma} \omega$$

where  $\omega$  is an  $r-1$  differential form defined over  $\mathbb{Q}$ ,

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# Yoga of weights

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Hence if the period is a power of  $\pi$  it must be

$$\frac{1}{\pi^{\frac{1}{2}(r-1)}}$$

## Hodge structure

For  $X$  smooth and projective: Hodge decomposition

$$H_{dR}^n(X) \otimes \mathbb{C} = \bigoplus H^{p,q}(X)$$

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Hodge vector

$$h = (1, 1)$$



For an Artin L-function of degree  $d$

$$h = (d)$$

For a modular form of weight  $k$

$$h = \overbrace{(1, 0, \dots, 0, 1)}^k$$

For (a smooth compactification of)  $Z_t$

$$h = \overbrace{(1, 1, \dots, 1)}^r$$

Generically, this Hodge structure is irreducible  
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For example, for  $r$  odd it might split as

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$$(42\partial + 5)\varpi = \frac{16}{\pi}, \quad \partial := \frac{td}{dt}$$

For the first page example

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The decomposition is

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So we expect a modular form of weight 3

# Newform orbit 16.3.c.a

## Introduction

Overview Random  
Universe Knowledge

## L-functions

Rational All

## Modular forms

Classical Maass  
Hilbert Bianchi  
Siegel

## Varieties

Elliptic curves  
over  $\mathbb{Q}$   
Elliptic curves  
over  $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$   
Genus 2 curves  
over  $\mathbb{Q}$

## Newspace parameters

Show commands: [Magma](#) / [Pari/GP](#) / [SageMath](#) 

Level:  $N = 16 = 2^4$   
Weight:  $k = 3$   
Character orbit:  $[\chi] = \text{16.c}$  (of order 2, degree 1, minimal)

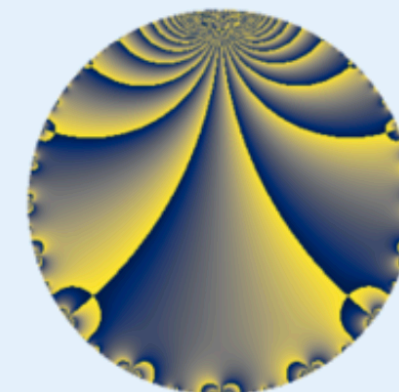
## Newform invariants

Self dual: yes  
Analytic conductor: 0.435968422976  
Analytic rank: 0  
Dimension: 1  
Coefficient field:  $\mathbb{Q}$   
Coefficient ring:  $\mathbb{Z}$   
Coefficient ring index: 1  
Twist minimal: yes  
Sato-Tate group:  $\text{U}(1)[D_2]$

## Properties



**Label** 16.3.c.a



**Level** 16  
**Weight** 3  
**Character orbit** 16.c  
**Self dual** yes  
**Analytic conductor** 0.436  
**Analytic rank** 0  
**Dimension** 1

## Related objects

# Newform orbit 16.3.c.a

## Introduction

[Overview](#) [Random](#)  
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## L-functions

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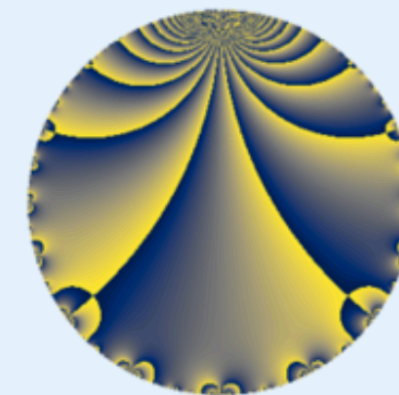
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## Related objects

## $q$ -expansion

$$f(q) = q - 6q^5 + 9q^9 + 10q^{13} - 30q^{17} + 11q^{25} + 42q^{29} - 70q^{37} + 18q^{41} - 54q^{45} + \\ 49q^{49} + 90q^{53} - 22q^{61} - 60q^{65} - 110q^{73} + 81q^{81} + 180q^{85} - 78q^{89} + \dots + \\ 130q^{97} + O(q^{100})$$

## Expression as an eta quotient

$$f(z) = \eta(4z)^6 = q \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^{4n})^6$$

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Hence to reach type (3,1) for

$$(0, 1, 0, 1, 0)$$

we need  $\delta$  of degree 1

