

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

(3) $1 - 5 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 + 9 \cdot \left(\frac{1 \cdot 3}{2 \cdot \zeta}\right)^3 - \dots = \frac{2}{\pi}.$

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MODULAR EQUATIONS AND APPROXIMATIONS TO π

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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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Ramanujan, Modular Equations, and
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Ramanujan, Modular Equations, and
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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 α_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

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respectively, on a family of algebraic varieties

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

Ramanujan-type formulas

About a New Kind of Ramanujan-Type Series

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

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

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_n^5}{n!^5 2^{2n}} (20n^2 + 8n + 1) = \frac{8}{\pi^2}. \quad (1-3)$$

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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*:

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

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

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 ω is an $r-1$ differential form defined over \mathbb{Q} .

The Ramanujan-type series is

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Hence if the period is a power of π it must be

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

Hodge structure

For X smooth and projective: Hodge decomposition

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Define the Hodge number as

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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

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

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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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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: $[\chi] = 16.c$ (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

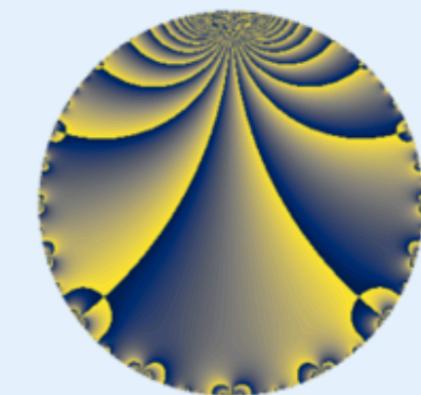
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Sato-Tate group: $U(1)[D_2]$

Properties

Label

16.3.c.a



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Related objects

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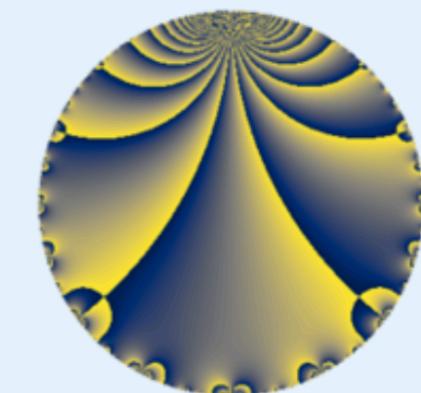
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q -expansion

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

Expression as an eta quotient

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

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The differential form ω has Hodge type (4,0)

Hence to reach type (3,1) for

(0, 1, 0, 1, 0)

we need δ of degree 1

