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NEW PANCAKE SERIES FOR π

YANNICK SAOUTER

Introduction. In [1], Dalzell proved that $\pi = \frac{22}{7} - \int_0^1 \frac{t^4(1-t)^4}{1+t^2} dt$. He then used this equation to derive a new series converging to π . In [2], Backhouse studied the general case of integrals of the form $\int_0^1 \frac{t^m(1-t)^n}{1+t^2} dt$ and derived conditions on m and n so that they could be used to evaluate π . As a sequel, he derived accurate rational approximations of π . This work was extended in [3] where new rational approximations of π are obtained. Some related integrals of the forms $\int_0^1 \frac{t^m(1-t)^n}{1+t^2} P(t) dt$ and $\int_0^1 \frac{t^m(1-t)^n}{\sqrt{1-t^2}} P(t) dt$ with P(t) being of polynomial form are also investigated. In [4], the author gives more new approximations and new series for the case m=n=4k. In [5], new series for π are obtained with the integral $\int_0^{\alpha} \frac{t^{12m}(\alpha-t)^{12m}}{1+t^2} dt$ where $\alpha=2-\sqrt{3}$. The general problem of improving the convergence speed of the arctan series by transformation of the argument has also been considered in [6, 7]. In this work, the author considers an alternative form for the denominators in integrals. As a result, new series are obtained for multiples of π by some algebraic numbers.

The alternative integral. In the following θ will be a real number with $0 < \theta < \pi$ and we define $I_{\theta} = \int_{0}^{1} \frac{dt}{t^{2}-2t \cos\theta+1}$. We have $t^{2}-2t \cos\theta+1=(t-e^{i\theta})(t-e^{-i\theta})$ and thus I_{θ} is a proper well-defined integral. The computation of I_{θ} is a classical exercise of integration. We have

$$I_{\theta} = \int_{0}^{1} \frac{dt}{(t - \cos \theta)^{2} + \sin^{2} \theta} = \frac{1}{\sin^{2} \theta} \int_{0}^{1} \frac{dt}{1 + (\frac{t - \cos \theta}{\sin \theta})^{2}}$$
$$= \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \int_{-\frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta}}^{\frac{1 - \cos \theta}{\sin \theta}} \frac{du}{1 + u^{2}}$$

Moreover:

$$\frac{1 - \cos \theta}{\sin \theta} = \frac{1 - \cos^2(\theta/2) + \sin^2(\theta/2)}{2\sin(\theta/2)\cos(\theta/2)} = \frac{\sin(\theta/2)}{\cos(\theta/2)} = \tan(\theta/2)$$
$$-\frac{\cos \theta}{\sin \theta} = -\frac{1}{\tan(\theta)} = -\tan\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta\right) = \tan\left(\theta - \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$$

Therefore:

$$I_{\theta} = \frac{1}{\sin \theta} \left[\arctan u \right]_{\tan \left(\theta - \frac{\pi}{2}\right)}^{\tan(\theta/2)} = \frac{\pi - \theta}{2 \sin \theta}$$

This integral can alternatively be computed by first decomposing the integrand as:

$$\frac{1}{t^2-2t\,\cos\!\theta+1}=\frac{1}{2i\,\sin\theta}\Big[\frac{1}{t-e^{i\theta}}-\frac{1}{t-e^{-i\theta}}\Big]$$

and then integrating with the function log extended to the complex domain.

Factorizing pancake functions. We let $P_{\theta}(x) = (x - e^{i\theta})(x - e^{-i\theta})$. Let now $A(x) = x^m (1-x)^n$ be a function with m, n integers such that $m, n \geq 1$. Such functions have been called pancake functions because of the shape of their graph. Following the steps of previous works, we are then looking for a factorization $A(x) = P_{\theta}(x)Q(x) + R$ where Q(x) is a polynomial with real coefficients and R is a real constant. In the following, such a decomposition will be called an acceptable factorization. We then prove the following theorem.

Theorem 1. Acceptable factorizations exist only for θ being a rational multiple of π . Let then $\theta = r\pi/s$ with r and s positive integers with 0 < r < s and (r, s) = 1. Then an acceptable factorization exists according to the following criteria:

- For any r and s values, the pair (m,n) with n even is a solution if only if m+n/2=0[mod s],
- If r and s are odd, the pair (m, n) with n odd is also a solution if and only if 2m + n = 0 [mod s].

If an acceptable factorization exists then necessarily $A(e^{i\theta}) = A(e^{-i\theta}) = R$. Since A(x) is a polynomial with real coefficients, we have $\bar{A}(x) = A(\bar{x})$ for any $x \in \mathbb{C}$. Thus we have $R = \bar{R}$ and R is a real number. Reciprocally if $A(e^{i\theta}) = R$ with R real, then by conjugacy $A(e^{-i\theta}) = R$. Then the polynomial A(x) - R has $x - e^{i\theta}$ and $x - e^{-i\theta}$ as factors. Since $0 < \theta < \pi$, both factors are distinct and A(x) - R admit $P_{\theta}(x)$ as a factor. We also have $A(e^{i\theta}) = e^{im\theta}(1 - e^{i\theta})^n = e^{i(m+n/2)\theta}(-2i\sin(\theta/2))^n$. Therefore $Arg(e^{i\theta}) = ((m+n/2)\theta - n\pi/2)[\text{mod } 2\pi]$ and $A(e^{i\theta})$ is real if and only if:

$$(1) \qquad (m+n/2)\theta = n\pi/2[\text{mod }\pi]$$

It is clear that if the latter equation has solutions then θ is necessarily a rational multiple of π . Therefore let r and s integers such that $\theta = r\pi/s$, 0 < r < s and (r,s) = 1. Equation (1) becomes then successively:

(2)
$$(m+n/2)r\pi = ns\pi/2[\text{mod } s\pi]$$

$$(2m+n)r\pi = ns\pi[\text{mod } 2s\pi]$$

$$(2m+n)r = ns[\text{mod } 2s]$$

We suppose first that n is even, so that n = 2n' with n' an integer. Then (2) successively becomes:

(3)
$$(2m + 2n')r = 0[\text{mod } 2s]$$

$$(m+n')r = 0[\text{mod } s]$$

$$m+n' = 0[\text{mod } s]$$

since (r, s) = 1. We suppose now that n is odd. Then (2) becomes:

$$(4) (2m+n)r = s[\text{mod } 2s]$$

Modulo 2, we obtain then r = s [mod 2]. Therefore, since (r, s) = 1, we have necessarily r = s = 1 [mod 2] and both r and s are odd. Modulo s, (4) gives

(5)
$$(2m+n)r = 0[\text{mod } s]$$

$$2m+n = 0[\text{mod } s]$$

Reciprocally if 2m + n = 0 [mod s] and r = s = 1 [mod 2] then (4) is satisfied.

If $\theta = \pi/2$, using Theorem 1, the criterion derived in [2] is recovered. Thus the latter theorem is a generalization of this work. Another remark that can be made is that, since acceptable factorizations exist only for values of θ being rational multiple of π , in these cases, corresponding values of I_{θ} are products of π by some real algebraic numbers.

Series development. We suppose now that this is the case and this factorization will be used to develop I_{θ} in series. For $x \in (0,1)$, we have $\frac{1}{P_{\theta}(x)} = \frac{Q(x)}{A(x)-R}$, so that:

(6)
$$I_{\theta} = -\int_{0}^{1} \frac{Q(x)}{R - A(x)} \\ = -\frac{1}{R} \int_{0}^{1} \frac{Q(x)}{1 - \frac{A(x)}{R}}$$

For any real number t such that $t \neq 1$ and any integer $K \geq 0$, we have

$$\sum_{k=0}^{K} t^k = \frac{1 - t^{K+1}}{1 - t}$$

We suppose then that $|A(x)/R| \leq M < 1$ for all x in (0,1). Therefore we have

(7)
$$RI_{\theta} + \sum_{k=0}^{K} \left[\int_{0}^{1} \left(\frac{A(x)}{R} \right)^{k} Q(x) dx \right] = -\int_{0}^{1} \frac{(A(x)/R)^{K+1} Q(x)}{1 - \frac{A(x)}{R}} dx$$

However, by the mean value theorem, we have

(8)
$$\left| \int_{0}^{1} \frac{(A(x)/R)^{K+1} Q(x)}{1 - \frac{A(x)}{R}} \right| \leq \sup_{x \in (0,1)} \left| \frac{(A(x)/R)^{K+1} Q(x)}{1 - \frac{A(x)}{R}} \right| \\ \leq \frac{M^{K+1}}{1 - M} \sup_{x \in (0,1)} |Q(x)|$$

Now it is clear that the right-hand side of (8) tends to 0 when K goes to infinity. Therefore, passing to the limit, we obtain

(9)
$$I_{\theta} = -\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{R^{k+1}} \int_{0}^{1} Q(x) (A(x))^{k} dx$$

The same result can be obtained by using the uniform convergence of the series $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} t^k$ to the function $\frac{1}{1-t}$ in (0,M). The commutation of sum and integral is then justified and the result follows. It can also be remarked that functions $(A(x))^k$ are pancake functions and since Q(x) is a polynomial, integrands of (9) are sums of pancake functions. At this point, it is useful to recall definitions and well-known properties of the Beta and Gamma Eulerian functions.

Definition 2. The function $\Gamma(x)$ is defined for x>0 by $\Gamma(x)=\int_0^\infty e^{-t}t^{x-1}dt$. If $n\in\mathbb{N}$, we have $\Gamma(n+1)=n!$. The function B(x,y) is defined for x,y>0 by $B(x,y)=\int_0^1 t^{x-1}(1-t)^{y-1}dt$ and we have $B(x,y)=\frac{\Gamma(x)\Gamma(y)}{\Gamma(x+y)}$.

Therefore the integral I_{θ} is the sum of beta integrals and can be evaluated by the use of Definition 2. More precisely, if we set $Q(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\deg(Q)} q_i x^i$, we have, if

convergence is assumed:

$$I_{\theta} = -\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{R^{k+1}} \int_{0}^{1} \left[\sum_{i=0}^{\deg(Q)} q_{i} x^{i} \right] x^{mk} (1-x)^{nk} dx$$

$$= -\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{R^{k+1}} \left[\sum_{i=0}^{\deg(Q)} q_{i} \int_{0}^{1} x^{mk+i} (1-x)^{nk} dx \right]$$

$$= -\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{R^{k+1}} \left[\sum_{i=0}^{\deg(Q)} q_{i} B(mk+i+1, nk+1) \right]$$

$$= -\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{R^{k+1}} \left[\sum_{i=0}^{\deg(Q)} q_{i} \frac{\Gamma(mk+i+1)\Gamma(nk+1)}{\Gamma((m+n)k+i+2)} \right]$$

$$= -\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{R^{k+1}} \left[\sum_{i=0}^{\deg(Q)} q_{i} \frac{(mk+i)!(nk)!}{((m+n)k+i+1)!} \right]$$

Using Stirling's formula, i.e. $n! \sim \sqrt{2\pi n} (\frac{n}{e})^n$, it is then possible to find the order of convergence of the final right-hand side of (10). We have, for k large:

$$(11) \quad \frac{(mk+i)!(nk)!}{((m+n)k+i+1)!} \sim \\ \left(\frac{mk+i}{e}\right)^{mk+i} \left(\frac{nk}{e}\right)^{nk} \left(\frac{e}{(m+n)k+i+1}\right)^{(m+n)k+i+1} \times \\ \sqrt{\frac{2\pi(mk+i)(nk)}{(m+n)k+i+1}} \\ \sim e \frac{(mk+i)^{mk+i}(nk)^{nk}}{((m+n)k+i+1)^{(m+n)k+i+1}} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi mnk}{m+n}} \\ = e \frac{(mk)^{mk+i}(nk)^{nk}}{((m+n)k)^{(m+n)k+i+1}} \frac{(1+\frac{i}{mk})^{mk+i}}{(1+\frac{i+1}{(m+n)k})^{(m+n)k+i+1}} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi mnk}{m+n}} \\ \sim \frac{e}{k} \frac{(m)^{mk+i}(n)^{nk}}{((m+n))^{(m+n)k+i+1}} \frac{e^{i}}{e^{i+1}} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi mnk}{m+n}} \\ \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} \left(\frac{m^{m}n^{n}}{(m+n)^{m+n}}\right)^{k} \frac{m^{i}}{(m+n)^{i+1}} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi mn}{(m+n)}}$$

Therefore the final right-hand side of (10) is convergent if and only if $\frac{m^m n^n}{(m+n)^{m+n}} < |R|$. In order to justify the passage to the limit in (10), we need to check that |A(x)| < |R| on the entire interval (0,1). Therefore, we are now looking for an upper bound for function A(x). Since the function log is concave on the positive

real axis, for $x \in (0,1)$, we have, successively:

$$\frac{m\log(nx) + n\log(m - mx)}{m + n} \le \log\left(\frac{mn}{m + n}\right)$$
$$(nx)^m (m - mx)^n \le \left(\frac{mn}{m + n}\right)^{m + n}$$
$$A(x) = \frac{(nx)^m (m - mx)^n}{n^m m^n} \le \frac{m^m n^n}{(m + n)^{m + n}} = A\left(\frac{m}{m + n}\right)$$

Therefore we obtain the same condition as in the previous paragraph. Moreover, since the bound is tight, the condition cannot be relaxed.

With a little work, it is also possible to find an upper bound independent of m and n. For m, $n \ge 1$, we have

$$\left(\frac{m}{n+m}\right)^m \left(\frac{n}{n+m}\right)^n \le \frac{mn}{(m+n)^2} = \frac{1}{2 + \frac{m}{n} + \frac{n}{m}} \le \frac{1}{4}$$

However, we have $R = A(e^{i\theta})$ and from preceding computations, we obtain $|R| = (2\sin(\theta/2))^n$. Therefore if we have

$$2^{n+2}\sin^n(\theta/2) > 1$$

the convergence criterion is met and the series development of (9) is valid. Alternatively, the following sensitive criterion can also be used:

$$2^n \sin^n(\theta/2) > \frac{m^m n^n}{(n+m)^{m+n}}$$

Examples. In this section, we detail computations for some values of θ in both cases of Theorem 1 if possible. The case $\theta = \pi/2$ is the classical case already exposed in [2] and is thus not addressed.

• $\theta = \pi/3$. We have then r = 1, s = 3, $I_{\pi/3} = \frac{2\pi}{3\sqrt{3}}$ and $P_{\pi/3}(x) = x^2 - x + 1$. From what precedes, acceptable pairs are of the form (m, 2n) with m+n=0 [mod 3] and of the form (m, n) with n odd and 2m+n=0 [mod 3]. The simplest case for odd n is obtained with the pair (m, n) = (1, 1). We have then A(x) = x(1-x), R = 1 and Q(x) = -1. We have $2^{n+2} \sin^n(\theta/2) = 4$ and the convergence criterion is met. From (10), we have then:

$$\frac{2\pi}{3\sqrt{3}} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(k!)^2}{(2k+1)!}$$

From (11), the convergence of the series is of order $\mathcal{O}(k^{-1/2}.4^{-k})$. This series was already obtained by Euler [8] using his transformation of the arctan summation series. For even n, the simplest case is obtained by the pair (m,n)=(2,2). We have then $A(x)=(x(1-x))^2$, R=1 and $Q(x)=x^2-x-1$. Since $2^{n+2}\sin^n(\theta/2)=4$, the series development is valid and (10) gives

$$\frac{2\pi}{3\sqrt{3}} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left[\frac{(2k)!(2k)!}{(4k+1)!} + \frac{(2k+1)!(2k)!}{(4k+2)!} - \frac{(2k+2)!(2k)!}{(4k+3)!} \right]$$
$$= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2k)!^2}{(4k+3)!} (20k^2 + 24k + 7)$$

The general term of this series is then of order $\mathcal{O}(k^{-1/2}.16^{-k})$.

• $\theta = \pi/4$. We have then r = 1, s = 4, $I_{\pi/4} = \frac{3\sqrt{2}\pi}{8}$ and $P_{\pi/4}(x) = x^2 - \sqrt{2}x + 1$. From Theorem 1, acceptable factorizations exist only for even values of n and the condition is then $m + n/2 = 0[\mod 4]$. The simplest case is then (m, n) = (3, 2) for which $R = 2 - \sqrt{2}$. We have $2^{n+2} \sin^n(\theta/2) \sim 2.34 > 1$, so that the convergence criterion is met. After computations the following series is obtained from (10).

$$\frac{3\sqrt{2}\pi}{8} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(3k)!(2k)!}{(5k+4)!} \frac{1}{(2-\sqrt{2})^{k+1}} \times \left[(163-20\sqrt{2})k^3 + (298-46\sqrt{2})k^2 + (177-34\sqrt{2})k + 34-8\sqrt{2} \right]$$

Using (11), it is found that the general term of this series is of order $\mathcal{O}(k^{-1/2})$. $\left(\frac{108}{3125(2-\sqrt{2})}\right)^k$. The second simplest case is (m,n)=(2,4) for which we have $R=-6+4\sqrt{2}$. We have then $2^{n+2}\sin^n(\theta/2)\sim 1.37>1$ and the convergence criterion is met. We obtain

$$\frac{3\sqrt{2}\pi}{8} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2k+1)!(4k)!}{(6k+5)!} \frac{1}{(-6+4\sqrt{2})^{k+1}} \times \\ [(-2576+1560\sqrt{2})k^3 + (-4648+2800\sqrt{2})k^2 + (-2592+1550\sqrt{2})k^2 + (-424+250\sqrt{2})k^2 + (-4648+2800\sqrt{2})k^2 + (-4648+2$$

The general term of this series is $\mathcal{O}(k^{-1/2}.(\frac{16}{729.(6-4\sqrt{2})})^k)$.

• $\theta=\pi/6$. In this case, we have then r=1, s=6, $I_{\pi/6}=\frac{5\pi}{6}$ and $P_{\pi/6}(x)=x^2-\sqrt{3}x+1$. Again acceptable factorizations only exist for even values of n. The two simplest cases are (m,n)=(5,2) and (m,n)=(4,4). In the first case, we have $2^{n+2}\sin^n(\theta/2)\sim 1.07$ and the convergence criterion is met. In the second case, we have $2^{n+2}\sin^n(\theta/2)\sim 0.28$. However, we also have $2^n\sin^n(\theta/2)\sim 0.07$ and $m^mn^n/(m+n)^{m+n}=1/256\sim 0.004$ and thus the sensitive convergence criterion is met. We obtain then the following two series.

$$\frac{5\pi}{6} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2k)!(5k)!}{(7k+6)!} \frac{1}{(2-\sqrt{3})^{k+1}} \times \\ [(19149 - 2072\sqrt{3})k^5 + (55007 - 7068\sqrt{3})k^4 + (61627 - 9464\sqrt{3})k^3 \\ + (33685 - 6240\sqrt{3})k^2 + (9008 - 2036\sqrt{3})k + 948 - 264\sqrt{3}]$$

$$\frac{5\pi}{6} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(4k)!(4k+3)!}{(8k+7)!} \frac{1}{(-7+4\sqrt{3})^{k+1}} \times$$

$$\frac{1}{6} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(8k+7)!}{(8k+7)!} \frac{(-7+4\sqrt{3})^{k+1}}{(-7+4\sqrt{3})^{k+1}} \times [(-13888+7552\sqrt{3})k^3 + (-26544+14448\sqrt{3})k^2 + (-16184+8828\sqrt{3})k - 3144+1722\sqrt{3}]$$

General terms of these series are respectively $\mathcal{O}\left(k^{-1/2}.\left(\frac{12500}{823543.(2-\sqrt{3})}\right)^k\right)$ and $\mathcal{O}\left(k^{-1/2}.\left(\frac{1}{256.(7-4\sqrt{3})}\right)^k\right)$.

• $\theta = \pi/15$. In this case, we have r = 1 and s = 15. From Theorem (1), acceptable factorizations exist for (m,n) such that n is odd and 2m + n = 0[mod 15]. A possible case is (m,n) = (5,5). However, we have then $2^n \sin^n(\theta/2) \sim 0.0004$ while $m^m n^n/(m+n)^{m+n} = 1/1024 \sim 0.00097$. Therefore, in this case, the

sensitive convergence criterion fails. Equation (6) still holds but the right-hand side of (7) is then diverging, so that (10) is no more justified. Therefore the existence of an acceptable factorization is not a sufficient condition to obtain convergent series. However, in this case, other choices of parameters, like (m, n) = (7, 1), give proper convergent series.

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