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Paul Levrie · Amrik Singh Nimbran

Abstract We show how a couple of Ramanujan's series for $1/\pi$ can be deduced directly from Forsyth's series and from Wallis's product formula for π. The same method is used to obtain Bauer's alternating series.

1 Introduction

In 1883 the Cambridge mathematician A.R. Forsyth derived the following formula for $\frac{1}{\pi}$ using Legendre polynomials [5]:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\binom{2n}{n}^2}{(2n-1)^2 2^{4n}} = \frac{4}{\pi}. \tag{1}$$

J.W.L. Glaisher [6] used elliptic functions to prove in 1905 a number of similar formulas including the following one:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\binom{2n}{n}^2}{(n+1) 2^{4n}} = \frac{4}{\pi}. \tag{2}$$

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And there is also this series:

$$-\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\frac{\binom{2n}{n}^2}{(2n-1)2^{4n}}=\frac{2}{\pi}. \tag{3}$$

Both (2) and (3) are equivalent with Euler's version of Wallis's famous product formula for π derivable from the infinite product expansion of the sine function [14]:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\frac{\binom{2n}{n}^2}{(n+1)2^{4n}} &= 1+\frac{1}{2\cdot2^2}+\frac{1^23^2}{2\cdot4^26}+\frac{1^23^25^2}{2\cdot4^26^28}+\frac{1^23^25^27^2}{2\cdot4^26^28^210}+\cdots \\
&= \frac{3\cdot3}{2\cdot4}+\frac{1^23^2}{2\cdot4^26}+\frac{1^23^25^2}{2\cdot4^26^28}+\frac{1^23^25^27^2}{2\cdot4^26^28^210}+\cdots \\
&= \frac{3\cdot3}{2\cdot4}\cdot\frac{5\cdot5}{4\cdot6}+\frac{1^23^25^2}{2\cdot4^26^28}+\frac{1^23^25^27^2}{2\cdot4^26^28^210}+\cdots \\
&= \frac{3\cdot3}{2\cdot4}\cdot\frac{5\cdot5}{4\cdot6}\cdot\frac{7\cdot7}{6\cdot8}+\frac{1^23^25^27^2}{2\cdot4^26^28^210}+\cdots \\
&= \frac{3\cdot3}{2\cdot4}\cdot\frac{5\cdot5}{4\cdot6}\cdot\frac{7\cdot7}{6\cdot8}\cdots=\frac{4}{\pi}
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
-\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\frac{\binom{2n}{n}^2}{(2n-1)2^{4n}} &= 1-\frac{1}{2^2}-\frac{1^23}{2^24^2}-\frac{1^23^25}{2^24^26^2}-\frac{1^23^25^27}{2^24^26^28^2}-\cdots \\
&= \frac{1\cdot3}{2\cdot2}-\frac{1^23}{2^24^2}-\frac{1^23^25}{2^24^26^2}-\frac{1^23^25^27}{2^24^26^28^2}-\cdots \\
&= \frac{1\cdot3}{2\cdot2}\cdot\frac{3\cdot5}{4\cdot4}-\frac{1^23^25}{2^24^26^2}-\frac{1^23^25^27}{2^24^26^28^2}-\cdots \\
&= \frac{1\cdot3}{2\cdot2}\cdot\frac{3\cdot5}{4\cdot4}\cdot\frac{5\cdot7}{6\cdot6}-\frac{1^23^25^27}{2^24^26^28^2}-\cdots \\
&= \frac{1\cdot3}{2\cdot2}\cdot\frac{3\cdot5}{4\cdot4}\cdot\frac{5\cdot7}{6\cdot6}\cdots=\frac{2}{\pi}.
\end{aligned}$$

The following series is due to G. Bauer (1859) [10]:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}(-1)^n\frac{(4n+1)\binom{2n}{n}^3}{2^{6n}}=\frac{2}{\pi}. \tag{4}$$

All the previous series converge very slowly. The last one can be found in S. Ramanujan's first letter to G. Hardy, dated January 31, 1913. In a paper published in 1914 [16] Ramanujan lists some more rapidly converging series for $1/\pi$ which he found using modular equations. These are two of them:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\frac{(6n+1)\binom{2n}{n}^3}{2^{8n}}=\frac{4}{\pi}, \tag{5}$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(42n+5)\binom{2n}{n}^3}{2^{12n}} = \frac{16}{\pi}.$$ (6)

In this paper we show how Ramanujan's series (5) and a number of other series for $\frac{1}{\pi}$ can be derived from Forsyth's in a straightforward way. The same method can also be applied to Glaisher's series (2) and to (3), leading to a proof of (4) and (6).

Series for $\frac{1}{\pi}$ have received much attention lately, see for instance the survey paper by Baruah, Berndt and Chan [2] and the work of Guillera [7,8] who uses the Wilf-Zeilberger method to find series of this form. Chu [3] and Liu [11, 12] have obtained similar results by manipulating hypergeometric series using Dougall's and Gauss's summation formulae.

2 A first recurrence

Note that all the series in the introduction contain the central binomial coefficients which can be rewritten using the Pochhammer symbol:

$$\binom{2n}{n} = 2^{2n} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_n}{n!} = 2^{2n} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_n}{(1)_n}.$$

Using this in the general term of (1) we find that:

$$\frac{\binom{2n}{n}^2}{(2n-1)^2 2^{4n}} = \frac{1}{(2n-1)^2} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_n^2}{(1)_n^2} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_{n-1}^2}{(1)_n^2} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_{n-1}^2}{(2)_{n-1}^2}.$$

Hence Forsyth's series can be written in the following form:

$$\frac{4}{\pi} = 1 + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_n^2}{(2)_n^2}.$$ (7)

This last series is a special case of the more general series

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n^2}{(a+b)_n^2} = {}_3F_2\left[\begin{matrix} a \ a \ 1 \\ a+b \ a+b \end{matrix}; 1\right]$$

with $a = \frac{1}{2}$ and $b = \frac{3}{2}$. In the rest of the paper we will use the abbreviation:

$$s(a,b) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n^2}{(a+b)_n^2}.$$ (8)

This expression satisfies the following recurrence relation:

Theorem 1 (+0, +1–scheme)

$$s(a,b) = \frac{2a+3b-2}{2(2b-1)} + \frac{b^3}{2(2b-1)(a+b)^2} \cdot s(a, b+1).$$ (9)

Proof Manipulation of the general term in the series $s(a, b+1)$ leads to the required result. We start by writing:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n^2}{(a+b+1)_n^2} = \frac{1}{b^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n^2(a+b+n-(a+n))^2}{(a+b+1)_n^2}.$$

If we work out the numerator, we get the following 3 series:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n^2(a+b+n)^2}{(a+b+1)_n^2} = (a+b)^2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n^2}{(a+b)_n^2} = (a+b)^2 s(a,b)$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n^2(a+n)^2}{(a+b+1)_n^2} = (a+b)^2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n+1}^2}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2} = (a+b)^2 (s(a,b)-1)$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n^2(a+b+n)(a+n)}{(a+b+1)_n^2} = (a+b)^2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n^2(a+n)}{(a+b)_n^2(a+b+n)}.$$

We now deal with this last series. Using a similar trick as before, we get:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n^2(a+n)}{(a+b)_n^2(a+b+n)} = \frac{1}{b} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n^2(a+n)(a+b+n-(a+n))}{(a+b)_n^2(a+b+n)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{b} \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n^2(a+n)}{(a+b)_n^2} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n+1}^2}{(a+b)_n^2(a+b+n)} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{b} \left(a + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n^2(a+n)}{(a+b)_n^2} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n+1}^2}{(a+b)_n^2(a+b+n)} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{b} \left(a + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n+1}^2(a+n+1)}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2} \right.$$

$$\left. - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n+1}^2}{(a+b)_n^2(a+b+n)} \right)$$

$$= \frac{a}{b} + \frac{1}{b} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n+1}^2(a+n+1-(a+b+n))}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2}$$

$$= \frac{a}{b} + \frac{1-b}{b} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n+1}^2}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2} = \frac{a}{b} + \frac{1-b}{b}(s(a,b)-1).$$

We bring everything together:

$$s(a,b+1) = \frac{(a+b)^2}{b^2} \left(s(a,b) + s(a,b) - 1 - 2\left(\frac{a}{b} + \frac{1-b}{b}(s(a,b)-1) \right) \right).$$

Rearranging leads to (9).

Note that this theorem can be found in a slightly less general form in Knopp [9, p. 261-262]. It is a special case of Kummer's transformation of series.

Using Theorem 1 we are now able to rewrite $s(a,b)$:

Theorem 2

$$s(a,b) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{2a + 3(b+n) - 2}{2(2(b+n) - 1)} \cdot \frac{(b)_n^3}{2^{2n}(b - \frac{1}{2})_n(a+b)_n^2}. \tag{10}$$

Proof From (9) it follows that:

$$s(a, b+n) = \frac{2a + 3(b+n) - 2}{2(2(b+n) - 1)} + \frac{(b+n)^3}{2^2(b+n - \frac{1}{2})(a+b+n)^2} \cdot s(a, b+n+1).$$

Iterating this formula starting from $n = 0$ proves the result.

Ramanujan's formula (5) is an immediate consequence of Theorem 2:

Corollary 1

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(6n+1)\binom{2n}{n}^3}{2^{8n}} = \frac{4}{\pi}.$$

Proof Forsyth's formula is equivalent with (7):

$$\frac{16}{\pi} - 4 = s(\tfrac{1}{2}, \tfrac{3}{2}).$$

We rewrite the right-hand side using Theorem 2:

$$\begin{aligned}
s(\tfrac{1}{2}, \tfrac{3}{2}) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{2 + 3(3+2n) - 4}{2(2(3+2n) - 2)} \cdot \frac{(\tfrac{3}{2})_n^3}{2^{2n}(1)_n(2)_n^2} \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{6n+7}{8} \cdot \frac{8(\tfrac{1}{2})_{n+1}^3}{2^{2n}(1)_{n+1}^3} \\
&= 4 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(6n+1)\binom{2n}{n}^3}{2^{8n}}.
\end{aligned}$$

This leads to:

$$\frac{16}{\pi} = 4 + 4 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(6n+1)\binom{2n}{n}^3}{2^{8n}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{4}{\pi} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(6n+1)\binom{2n}{n}^3}{2^{8n}}.$$

3 Other recurrences

Note that the following recurrence relation:

$$s(a,b) = 1 + \frac{a^2}{(a+b)^2} s(a+1, b) \tag{11}$$

is related to the series (8) in the same way that (9) is related to (10). By combining (9) and (11) we get new recurrences.

Theorem 3 (+1, +1–scheme)

$$s(a, b) = \frac{(2a + 3b - 2)(a + b)^2 + b^3}{2(2b - 1)(a + b)^2} + \frac{a^2 b^3}{2(2b - 1)(a + b)^2(a + b + 1)^2} s(a+1, b+1).$$

The corresponding series is:

$$s(a, b) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(5n + 2a + 3b - 2)(a + b + 2n)^2 + (b + n)^3}{2(2(b + n) - 1)(a + b + 2n)^2} \cdot \frac{(a)_n^2 (b)_n^3}{2^{2n}(b - \frac{1}{2})_n (a + b)_{2n}^2}.$$

Proof We replace $s(a, b+1)$ in the right-hand side of (9) by the corresponding formula from (11):

$$s(a, b) = \frac{2a + 3b - 2}{2(2b - 1)} + \frac{b^3}{2(2b - 1)(a + b)^2} \cdot s(a, b + 1)$$

$$= \frac{2a + 3b - 2}{2(2b - 1)} + \frac{b^3}{2(2b - 1)(a + b)^2} \cdot \left(1 + \frac{a^2}{(a + b + 1)^2} s(a + 1, b + 1)\right).$$

The series follows immediately from this recurrence.

If we take $a = \frac{1}{2}$, $b = \frac{3}{2}$, we get the following series:

$$\frac{4}{\pi} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{168n^3 - 36n^2 + 6n + 1}{(2n - 1)^2} \frac{\binom{2n}{n}^3}{2^{12n}}. \tag{12}$$

By combining the two recurrences (9) and (11) we can derive other series. For instance, if we use (11) again in the recurrence of Theorem 3, we get this series (+2, +1–scheme):

$$\frac{4}{\pi} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{18560n^5 - 20736n^4 + 8160n^3 - 992n^2 + 30n + 9}{(4n - 1)^2(4n - 3)^2} \frac{\binom{2n}{n}\binom{4n}{n}^2}{2^{16n}}.$$

And this is the series we obtain if we use (9) again in the recurrence of Theorem 3 (+1, +2–scheme):

$$\frac{4}{\pi} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{186368n^5 - 128000n^4 + 22304n^3 - 152n^2 + 2n + 1}{(2n - 1)(4n - 1)^3} \frac{\binom{4n}{2n}\binom{4n}{n}^2}{2^{20n}}.$$

4 Recurrences related to Glaisher's and Wallis's series

Glaisher's series (2) can be written in the following form:

$$\frac{4}{\pi} = 1 + \frac{1}{4} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)_n^2}{(2)_n (2)_{n+1}}.$$

The series on the right-hand side is the special case $a = \frac{3}{2}$, $b = \frac{1}{2}$ of this series:

$$t(a,b) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n^2}{(a+b)_n(a+b)_{n+1}}.$$

In a similar way as in the previous sections we can prove the two recurrences equivalent with (9) and (11) for t:

$$t(a,b) = \frac{1}{a+b} + \frac{a^2}{(a+b)^2} t(a+1,b),$$

$$t(a,b) = \frac{a+2ab+b+3b^2}{2(2b+1)b(a+b)} + \frac{b(b+1)^2}{2(2b+1)(a+b)^2} t(a,b+1).$$

Using only the last recurrence $(+0,+1$–scheme) with $a = \frac{3}{2}$ and $b = \frac{1}{2}$ we get the following new series:

$$\frac{4}{\pi} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{12n^2 + 4n + 1}{(2n-1)^2(n+1)} \frac{\binom{2n}{n}^3}{2^{8n}}.$$

With the $+1,+1$-scheme we again obtain the series (12).

The series (3) can be rewritten like this:

$$\frac{2}{\pi} = 1 - \frac{1}{8} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)_{n-1} \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)_n}{(2)_n^2}.$$

where the series on the right is a special case of

$$u(a,b) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n-1}(a)_n}{(a+b)_n^2}$$

with corresponding recurrences:

$$u(a,b) = \frac{1}{a-1} + \frac{a^2}{(a+b)^2} u(a+1,b),$$

$$u(a,b) = \frac{a+2ab+3b^2-1}{2(2b+1)b(a-1)} + \frac{b(b+1)^2}{2(2b+1)(a+b)^2} u(a,b+1).$$

The $+0,+1$–scheme leads in this case to the series:

$$\frac{2}{\pi} = -\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{12n^2 - 1}{(2n-1)^2} \frac{\binom{2n}{n}^3}{2^{8n}}.$$

With the $+1,+1$ –scheme we find this series:

$$\frac{2}{\pi} = -\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{168n^3 + 20n^2 - 2n - 1}{(2n-1)^2} \frac{\binom{2n}{n}^3}{2^{12n}}. \tag{13}$$

With these series we can prove (6):

Corollary 2

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(42n+5)\binom{2n}{n}^3}{2^{12n}} = \frac{16}{\pi}.$$

Proof If we add (12) and (13), we get a new series:

$$\frac{3}{\pi} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{-28n^2 + 4n + 1}{(2n-1)^2} \frac{\binom{2n}{n}^3}{2^{12n}}.$$

If we substract (13) from 6 times the previous series, the sum of the new series is $\frac{16}{\pi}$, and the polynomial in the numerator is given by:

$$6(-28n^2 + 4n + 1) + 168n^3 + 20n^2 - 2n - 1 = (42n+5)(2n-1)^2.$$

Hence the resulting series is Ramanujan's series (6).

Note that (3) can also be written in this form:

$$\frac{2}{\pi} = 1 - \frac{1}{4} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)_n \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)_n}{(2)_n^2} \tag{14}$$

and hence is a special case ($a = \frac{1}{2}$, $b = \frac{3}{2}$) of this series:

$$v(a,b) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n (b)_n}{(a+b)_n^2} = {}_3F_2 \begin{bmatrix} a \ b \ 1 \\ a+b \ a+b \end{bmatrix} ; 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The corresponding recurrences are:

Theorem 4

$$v(a,b) = \frac{a+2b-1}{a+b-1} - \frac{b^3}{(a+b)^2(a+b-1)} \cdot v(a, b+1),$$

$$v(a,b) = \frac{2a+b-1}{a+b-1} - \frac{a^3}{(a+b)^2(a+b-1)} \cdot v(a+1, b).$$

Proof We prove the first one. The second one follows by symmetry. Note that the identity we want to prove can be rewritten like this:

$$v(a, b+1) = \frac{(a+b)^2}{b^2} \left(1 - \frac{a+b-1}{b}(v(a,b) - 1) \right)$$

or

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n (b+1)_n}{(a+b+1)_n^2} = \frac{(a+b)^2}{b^2} \left(1 - \frac{a+b-1}{b}(v(a,b) - 1) \right).$$

We use the definition of the pochhammer symbol to rewrite the left-hand side and at the same time we add a factor:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n (b+1)_n}{(a+b+1)_n^2} = \frac{(a+b)^2}{b^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n (b)_{n+1}}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2}(a+b+n - (a+n)).$$

After simplifying and using the definition of v, what we have to prove becomes:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n (b)_{n+1}}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2} (a+b+n) - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n+1}(b)_{n+1}}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2} = 1 - \frac{a+b-1}{b} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n+1}(b)_{n+1}}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2}.$$

Note that two sums cancel out, and we are left with:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n (b)_{n+1}}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2}(a+b+n) = 1 - \frac{a-1}{b} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n+1}(b)_{n+1}}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2}.$$

We multiply by b and rewrite the left-hand side:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n (b)_{n+1}}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2}(a+b+n)(a+b+n-(a+n)) = b - (a-1)\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n+1}(b)_{n+1}}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n (b)_{n+1}}{(a+b)_n^2} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n+1}(b)_{n+1}}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2}(a+b+n)$$
$$= b - (a-1)\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n+1}(b)_{n+1}}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n (b)_{n+1}}{(a+b)_n^2} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n+1}(b)_{n+1}}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2}(b+n) = b + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n+1}(b)_{n+1}}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2}.$$

If we change the index of summation in the first term on the left, the b at the right cancels out:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n+1}(b)_{n+1}(b+n+1)}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2} - \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n+1}(b)_{n+1}(b+n)}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_{n+1}(b)_{n+1}}{(a+b)_{n+1}^2}.$$

It is now easy to see that both sides are equal.

Using the first recurrence in the same way as in Theorem 2, we get the following result:

Theorem 5

$$v(a,b) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{a+2(b+n)-1}{a+b+n-1} \frac{(b)_n^3}{(a+b)_n^2 (a+b-1)_n}. \qquad (15)$$

An immediate consequence is (4):

Corollary 3

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{(4n+1)\binom{2n}{n}^3}{2^{6n}} = \frac{2}{\pi}.$$

Proof We rewrite the right-hand side of (14) using Theorem 5:

$$v(\tfrac{1}{2}, \tfrac{3}{2}) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1 + 2(3 + 2n) - 2}{2n + 2} \cdot \frac{(\tfrac{3}{2})_n^3}{(1)_n (2)_n^2}$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{4n + 5}{2} \cdot \frac{8(\tfrac{1}{2})_{n+1}^3}{(1)_{n+1}^3}$$

$$= 4 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{(4n + 1)\binom{2n}{n}^3}{2^{6n}}.$$

This leads to:

$$\frac{2}{\pi} = 1 - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{(4n + 1)\binom{2n}{n}^3}{2^{6n}} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{(4n + 1)\binom{2n}{n}^3}{2^{6n}}.$$

Other consequences of Theorem 5 are:

Corollary 4

$$\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2\pi} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n (6n + 1) \frac{(\tfrac{1}{3})_n^3}{n!^3} \qquad \frac{3}{\pi} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n (12n + 1) \frac{(\tfrac{1}{6})_n^3}{n!^3}$$

$$\frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\pi} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n (8n + 1) \frac{(\tfrac{1}{4})_n^3}{n!^3} \qquad \frac{4\sqrt{2 - \sqrt{2}}}{\pi} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n (16n + 1) \frac{(\tfrac{1}{8})_n^3}{n!^3}$$

$$\frac{5\sqrt{5 - \sqrt{5}}}{2\sqrt{2}\pi} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n (10n + 1) \frac{(\tfrac{1}{5})_n^3}{n!^3} \qquad \frac{5(\sqrt{5} - 1)}{2\pi} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n (20n + 1) \frac{(\tfrac{1}{10})_n^3}{n!^3}$$

Proof These series follow from the Wallis-type products for π which can be found in [1] (see also [13], formulas (10), (11) and (19)):

$$\frac{\sin(\pi m/k)}{\pi m/k} = \prod_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{nk + k - m}{nk + k} \frac{nk + k + m}{nk + k}$$

for m, k positive integers with $m < k$. The choice $m = 1, k = 2$ leads to Wallis's product. If we take $m = 1, k = 3$, the product takes this form:

$$\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2\pi} = \frac{2 \cdot 4}{3 \cdot 3} \cdot \frac{5 \cdot 7}{6 \cdot 6} \cdot \frac{8 \cdot 10}{9 \cdot 9} \cdots .$$

As we did in the introduction with Wallis's product, we can rewrite this product as a series:

$$\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2\pi} = 1 - \frac{1}{3^2} - \frac{2 \cdot 4}{3^2 \cdot 6^2} - \frac{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 \cdot 7}{3^2 \cdot 6^2 \cdot 9^2} - \cdots$$

$$= 1 - \frac{1}{3^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\tfrac{2}{3})_n (\tfrac{4}{3})_n}{(n + 1)!^2}$$

$$= 1 - \frac{1}{3^2} v(\tfrac{2}{3}, \tfrac{4}{3}).$$

Using Theorem 5, we get the first formula. The second formula is found by taking $m = 1, k = 4$, the third one by taking $m = 1, k = 5$, and so on.

Concluding remarks.

1. The method used above to convert a product to a series can be applied directly to Euler's product formula for the sine-function:

$$\sin \pi x = \pi x \prod_{m=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{m^2} \right).$$

The result is the following series:

$$\frac{\sin \pi x}{\pi x} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-x)_n (x)_n}{n!^2}. \qquad (16)$$

which converges (by Raabe's test) for all $x \neq 0$.

2. Applying Theorem 5 to (16) results in this series:

$$\frac{\sin \pi x}{\pi x} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{2n + x}{x} \frac{(x)_n^3}{n!^3}.$$

It can be found in Dougall's paper [4, p. 124 formula (16)]. All series in Corollary 4 are special cases of this general formula.

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