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Summation of series defined by counting blocks of digits. (English summary)

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In a recent paper, Sondow [“New Vacca-type rational series for Euler’s constant and its ‘alternating’ analogue $\ln \frac{4}{\pi}$ ”, preprint, arxiv.org/abs/math.NT/0508042] gave the following two formulas:

$$\gamma^{\pm} = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{N_1(n) \pm N_0(n)}{2n(2n+1)},$$

where $\gamma^+ = \gamma = 0.57721\dots$ is the Euler constant, $\gamma^- = \log \frac{4}{\pi} = 0.24156\dots$ is the “alternating Euler constant”, and $N_1(n)$ (respectively $N_0(n)$) is the number of 1’s (respectively 0’s) in the binary expansion of the integer n . In particular, it follows that

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{N_1(n)}{2n(2n+1)} = \frac{\gamma + \log \frac{4}{\pi}}{2}.$$

The purpose of the paper under review is to show that the above result can be deduced from a general lemma given by Allouche and Shallit [in *Analytic number theory (Tokyo, 1988)*, 19–30, *Lecture Notes in Math.*, 1434, Springer, Berlin, 1990; [MR1071742 \(91i:11111\)](#)]. Furthermore, the two series

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{N_{w,2}(n)}{2n(2n+1)} \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{N_{w,2}(n)}{2n(2n+1)(2n+2)}$$

are summed, where $N_{w,B}(n)$ counts the number of occurrences of the block w in the B -ary expansion of the integer n . Finally, a generalization of these two results is given, including an extension to base $B > 2$, as well as a method for giving alternate proofs without using the general lemma referred to above.

Reviewed by *Herman J. J. te Riele*

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Note: This list reflects references listed in the original paper as accurately as possible with no attempt to correct errors.