

MR1990621 (2004b:11102) 11J72 (05A19)

Sondow, Jonathan

Criteria for irrationality of Euler's constant. (English summary)

Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. **131** (2003), no. 11, 3335–3344 (*electronic*).

In this interesting paper, the author considers a sequence of integrals similar to the famous integrals related to $\zeta(2)$ and $\zeta(3)$ introduced by Beukers, namely:

$$I_n = - \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \frac{x^n(1-x)^n y^n(1-y)^n}{(1-xy) \log(xy)} dx dy.$$

He remarks that, for any integer $n \geq 1$, $I_n = \binom{2n}{n} \gamma + L_n + A_n$, where γ is Euler's constant, $d_{2n} L_n \in \mathbb{Z} \log(n) + \mathbb{Z} \log(n+1) + \dots + \mathbb{Z} \log(2n)$, $d_{2n} A_n$ is an integer and $d_{2n} = \text{l.c.m.}(1, 2, \dots, 2n)$. Amongst other things, he shows that if the fractional part of $d_{2n} L_n$ satisfies

$$(i) \quad \{d_{2n} L_n\} \geq 2^{-n} \quad \text{for infinitely many } n$$

(a condition for which he also gives numerical evidence), then γ is irrational. Condition (i) suggests that Baker's theory of linear forms in logarithms of algebraic numbers could be useful. Unfortunately, using the pigeonhole principle, the author has recently constructed a sequence of linear forms in logarithms, similar to L_n , which fails to satisfy (i). Hence, if a proof of (i) exists it must use particular properties of L_n and not be based solely on the general theory of these forms.

Reviewed by *Tanguy Rivoal*

References

1. R. Ap'ery, *Irrationalit'e de $\xi(2)$ et $\xi(3)$* , *Ast'erisque* **61** (1979), 12–14.
2. F. Beukers, *A note on the irrationality of $\xi(2)$ and $\xi(3)$* , *Bull. London Math. Soc.* **12** (1979), 268–272. [MR0554391 \(81j:10045\)](#)
3. N. Bleistein and R. Handelsman, *Asymptotic expansion of integrals*, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1975. (review of 2nd edition) [MR 89d:41049](#)
4. K. Ball and T. Rivoal, *Irrationalit'e d'une infinit'e de valeurs de la fonction z'eta aux entiers impairs*, *Invent. Math.* **156** (2001), 193–207. [MR1859021 \(2003a:11086\)](#)
5. D. Huylebrouck, *Similarities in irrationality proofs for $\pi, \ln 2, \xi(2)$, and $\xi(3)$* , *Amer. Math. Monthly* **118** (2001), 222–231. [MR1834702 \(2002b:11095\)](#)
6. Y. Nesterenko, *A few remarks on $\xi(3)$* , *Math. Notes* **59** (1996), 625–636. [MR1445472 \(98b:11088\)](#)
7. A. van der Poorten, *A proof that Euler missed. . . Ap'ery's proof of the irrationality of $\xi(3)$* , *Math. Intelligencer* **1** (1979), 195–203. [MR0547748 \(80i:10054\)](#)
8. J. B. Rosser and L. Schoenfeld, *Approximate formulas for some functions of prime numbers*, *Illinois J. of Math.* **6** (1962), 64–94. [MR0137689 \(25 #1139\)](#)
9. P. Sebah, personal communication, 30 July 2002.

10. J. Sondow, *Hypergeometric and double integrals for Euler's constant*, Amer. Math. Monthly, submitted.
11. , *A hypergeometric approach, via linear forms involving logarithms, to irrationality criteria for Euler's constant*, CRM Conference Proceedings of CNTA 7 (May, 2002), to appear.
12. , *An irrationality measure for Liouville numbers and conditional measures for Euler's constant*, in preparation.
13. W. Zudilin, *One of the numbers $\xi(5)$, $\xi(7)$, $\xi(9)$, $\xi(11)$ is irrational*, Russian Math. Surveys **56:4** (2001), 774–776. MR **2002g:11090** [MR1861452 \(2002g:11098\)](#)

Note: This list, extracted from the PDF form of the original paper, may contain data conversion errors, almost all limited to the mathematical expressions.

© Copyright American Mathematical Society 2004, 2008