

欧拉与自然数平方倒数和*

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摘要:自然数平方倒数和是17世纪下半叶的著名数学难题之一,它困惑着欧洲当时一流的数学家.欧拉凭借类比思维方法,出人意料地解决了这个难题.该文对欧拉的几种鲜为人知的方法——幂级数法和“吉拉尔-牛顿公式”在作了考察和分析.

关键词:欧拉;平方倒数和;伯努利数

中图分类号: O11

文献标识码: A

文章编号: 1001-5337(2002)04-0029-05

平方倒数求和最早出现于17世纪意大利数学家蒙哥利(Mengoli P, 1626~1686)的《算术求和新法》(Novæ quadraturæ arithmeticae, 1650). 无穷级数

$$\zeta(2) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i^2} \quad (1)$$

是书中所论形数倒数求和问题中的一个特殊情形.

在发表于1689年的论文“具有有限和的无穷级数的算术命题”中,瑞士著名数学家雅各·伯努利(Jacob Bernoulli, 1654~1705)部分重复了蒙哥利的无穷级数工作,在论文最后,伯努利称,尽管级数

$$1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{15} + \dots$$

的求和问题易如反掌,但奇怪的是,(1)式的和却难以求出.他说:“如果有谁解决了这个迄今让我们束手无策的难题,并告知我们,我们将十分感激他.”^[1]

实际上,当时欧洲的一流数学家,如约翰·伯努利(Bernoulli J, 1667~1748)及其子丹尼尔·伯努利(Bernoulli D, 1700~1782)、哥德巴赫(Goldbach C, 1690~1764)、莱布尼茨(Leibniz G W, 1646~1716)、棣莫佛(Moivre A De, 1667~1754)、斯特林(Stirling J, 1692~1770)等都未能成功解决这一难题,其中哥德巴赫在与丹尼尔的通信(1729)中给出和的上、下限1.644和1.645;斯特林在其《微分法》(Methodus differentialis, 1730)中给出近似值1.644934066.

瑞士大数学家欧拉(Euler L, 1707~1783)最早于1735年解决了这个所谓的“巴塞尔难题”,这是他年轻时期最著名的成果之一.以后,欧拉又陆续获

得不同的解法.对欧拉的工作,国内很少见到专文介绍,美国著名数学史家M·克莱因在《古今数学思想》^[2]中亦语焉不详.直到今天,对这一课题作研究的仍不乏其人,本文试图对欧拉的工作作一考察和分析,以供教学和研究参考.

1 根与系数的关系

1735年,欧拉利用方程

$$\frac{\sin x}{x} = 0 \quad (2)$$

或无穷多项方程

$$1 - \frac{x^2}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{5!} - \frac{x^6}{7!} + \dots = 0 \quad (3)$$

的根与系数关系求得了(1)式的和.由于(2)的根为

$$\pm\pi, \pm 2\pi, \pm 3\pi, \pm 4\pi, \pm 5\pi, \dots$$

故(3)式的左边可以写成

$$\left(1 - \frac{x^2}{\pi^2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{4\pi^2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{9\pi^2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{16\pi^2}\right) \dots$$

比较二次项系数即得

$$-\left[\frac{1}{\pi^2} + \frac{1}{4\pi^2} + \frac{1}{9\pi^2} + \frac{1}{16\pi^2} + \dots\right] = -\frac{1}{3!}$$

因此有

$$\zeta(2) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i^2} = \frac{\pi^2}{6}. \quad (4)$$

波利亚(Pólya G, 1887~1985)在《数学与猜想》对上述方法作了介绍^[3].

* 收稿日期:2002-01-18

基金项目:上海市重点学科建设项目基金和数学天元青年基金资助(10226008)

2 无穷幂级数的积分

利用定积分

$$\int_0^1 \frac{\arcsin x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \frac{\pi^2}{8}$$

及反正弦函数级数展开式

$$\arcsin x = x + \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3} x^3 + \frac{1 \cdot 3}{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 5} x^5 + \frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5}{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 \cdot 7} x^7 + \dots$$

得

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^1 \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx + \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3} \int_0^1 \frac{x^3}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx + \\ & \frac{1 \cdot 3}{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 5} \int_0^1 \frac{x^5}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx + \\ & \frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5}{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 \cdot 7} \int_0^1 \frac{x^7}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx + \dots \\ & = \frac{\pi^2}{8}. \end{aligned}$$

不难证明

$$\int_0^1 \frac{x^{n+2}}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \frac{n+1}{n+2} \int_0^1 \frac{x^n}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx. \quad (5)$$

因此

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^1 \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = 1, \\ & \int_0^1 \frac{x^3}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \frac{2}{3} \int_0^1 \frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \frac{2}{3}, \\ & \int_0^1 \frac{x^5}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \frac{4}{5} \int_0^1 \frac{x^3}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \frac{2 \cdot 4}{3 \cdot 5}, \\ & \int_0^1 \frac{x^7}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \frac{6}{7} \int_0^1 \frac{x^5}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \frac{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7}, \\ & \dots \dots \end{aligned}$$

因此

$$1 + \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3} \cdot \frac{2}{3} + \frac{1 \cdot 3}{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 5} \cdot \frac{2 \cdot 4}{3 \cdot 5} + \frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5}{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 \cdot 7} \cdot \frac{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7} + \dots = \frac{\pi^2}{8}.$$

此即

$$1 + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \frac{1}{7^2} + \dots = \frac{\pi^2}{8}. \quad (6)$$

由 $\zeta(2) = 1 + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots$, 得

$$\frac{1}{4} \zeta(2) = \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \frac{1}{6^2} + \frac{1}{8^2} + \dots,$$

于是

$$\zeta(2) = \frac{1}{4} \zeta(2) + \left[1 + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \frac{1}{7^2} + \dots \right],$$

即

$$\frac{3}{4} \zeta(2) = 1 + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \frac{1}{7^2} + \dots = \frac{\pi^2}{8}.$$

因此得公式(4).

上述方法是通过(6)间接得到(4)的. 但欧拉又有直接推出(4)的方法. 设

$$y = \frac{1}{2} (\arcsin x)^2.$$

欧拉得到关于 y 的二阶微分方程

$$(1-x^2)y'' - xy' - 1 = 0.$$

另一方面, 设

$$y = \alpha_1 x^2 + \alpha_2 x^4 + \alpha_3 x^6 + \alpha_4 x^8 + \alpha_5 x^{10} + \dots$$

代入(7)解得

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_1 &= \frac{1}{2}, \\ \alpha_2 &= \frac{2 \cdot 2}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4}, \\ \alpha_3 &= \frac{2 \cdot 2 \cdot 4 \cdot 4}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 \cdot 6}, \\ \alpha_4 &= \frac{2 \cdot 2 \cdot 4 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 \cdot 6}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 \cdot 6 \cdot 7 \cdot 8}, \\ \alpha_5 &= \frac{2 \cdot 2 \cdot 4 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 \cdot 6 \cdot 8 \cdot 8}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 \cdot 6 \cdot 7 \cdot 8 \cdot 9 \cdot 10}, \\ &\dots \dots \end{aligned}$$

于是得

$$\begin{aligned} y &= \frac{1}{2} (\arcsin x)^2 = \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{x^4}{4} + \\ & \frac{2 \cdot 4}{3 \cdot 5} \cdot \frac{x^6}{6} + \frac{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7} \cdot \frac{x^8}{8} + \\ & \frac{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 \cdot 8}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 9} \cdot \frac{x^{10}}{10} + \dots \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

利用定积分

$$\int_0^1 \frac{(\arcsin x)^2}{2 \sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \frac{\pi^3}{48}$$

以及(8)式, 欧拉得到

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx + \frac{2}{3 \cdot 4} \int_0^1 \frac{x^4}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx + \\ & \frac{2 \cdot 4}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 6} \int_0^1 \frac{x^6}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx + \\ & \frac{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 8} \int_0^1 \frac{x^8}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx + \dots \\ & = \frac{\pi^3}{48}. \end{aligned}$$

由(5)得

$$\int_0^1 \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2},$$

$$\int_0^1 \frac{x^4}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \frac{3}{4} \int_0^1 \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \frac{1 \cdot 3}{2 \cdot 4} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2},$$

$$\int_0^1 \frac{x^6}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \frac{5}{6} \int_0^1 \frac{x^4}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} dx = \frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5}{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2},$$

因此

$$\frac{1}{2 \cdot 2} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{1}{4 \cdot 4} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{1}{6 \cdot 6} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} + \dots$$

$$\frac{1}{8 \cdot 8} \cdot \frac{\pi}{2} + \dots = \frac{\pi^3}{48},$$

故得(4).

3 吉拉尔——牛顿公式

所谓“吉拉尔——牛顿公式”是这样的: 设方程 $f(x) = 1 - a_1x + a_2x^2 - a_3x^3 + a_4x^4 - \dots = 0$ 的根为 $\alpha_i (i = 1, 2, 3, \dots)$, 并且

$$A_1 = \frac{1}{\alpha_1} + \frac{1}{\alpha_2} + \frac{1}{\alpha_3} + \frac{1}{\alpha_4} + \dots,$$

$$A_2 = \frac{1}{\alpha_1^2} + \frac{1}{\alpha_2^2} + \frac{1}{\alpha_3^2} + \frac{1}{\alpha_4^2} + \dots,$$

$$A_3 = \frac{1}{\alpha_1^3} + \frac{1}{\alpha_2^3} + \frac{1}{\alpha_3^3} + \frac{1}{\alpha_4^3} + \dots,$$

$$A_4 = \frac{1}{\alpha_1^4} + \frac{1}{\alpha_2^4} + \frac{1}{\alpha_3^4} + \frac{1}{\alpha_4^4} + \dots,$$

.....

则 $-\frac{f'(x)}{f(x)} = A_1 + A_2x + A_3x^2 + A_4x^3 + \dots$ (9)

事实上, 若将 $f(x)$ 写成 $\left(1 - \frac{x}{\alpha_1}\right) \left(1 - \frac{x}{\alpha_2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{x}{\alpha_3}\right) \left(1 - \frac{x}{\alpha_4}\right) \dots,$

则 $f'(x) = -\frac{1}{\alpha_1} \cdot \frac{f(x)}{1 - \frac{x}{\alpha_1}} - \frac{1}{\alpha_2} \cdot \frac{f(x)}{1 - \frac{x}{\alpha_2}} - \dots$

故有 $-\frac{f'(x)}{f(x)} = \frac{1}{\alpha_1} \left(1 + \frac{x}{\alpha_1} + \frac{x^2}{\alpha_1^2} + \frac{x^3}{\alpha_1^3} + \dots\right) + \frac{1}{\alpha_2} \left(1 + \frac{x}{\alpha_2} + \frac{x^2}{\alpha_2^2} + \frac{x^3}{\alpha_2^3} + \dots\right) + \dots$

$$\frac{1}{\alpha_3} \left(1 + \frac{x}{\alpha_3} + \frac{x^2}{\alpha_3^2} + \frac{x^3}{\alpha_3^3} + \dots\right) + \dots$$

$$= \left(\frac{1}{\alpha_1} + \frac{1}{\alpha_2} + \frac{1}{\alpha_3} + \frac{1}{\alpha_4} + \dots\right) + \left(\frac{1}{\alpha_1^2} + \frac{1}{\alpha_2^2} + \frac{1}{\alpha_3^2} + \frac{1}{\alpha_4^2} + \dots\right) x + \left(\frac{1}{\alpha_1^3} + \frac{1}{\alpha_2^3} + \frac{1}{\alpha_3^3} + \frac{1}{\alpha_4^3} + \dots\right) x^2 + \left(\frac{1}{\alpha_1^4} + \frac{1}{\alpha_2^4} + \frac{1}{\alpha_3^4} + \frac{1}{\alpha_4^4} + \dots\right) x^3 + \dots$$

现将上述方法应用于方程 $f(x) = 1 - \sin x = 0$ 或 $1 - x + \frac{x^3}{3!} - \frac{x^5}{5!} + \frac{x^7}{7!} - \dots = 0$. 由于方程的根分别为 $\frac{\pi}{2}, -\frac{3\pi}{2}, \frac{5\pi}{2}, -\frac{7\pi}{2}, \dots$, 故有

$$-\frac{f'(x)}{f(x)} = \frac{\cos x}{1 + \sin x} = \tan\left(\frac{x}{2} + \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$$

$$= 2 \left[\frac{2}{\pi} - \frac{2}{3\pi} + \frac{2}{5\pi} - \frac{2}{7\pi} + \dots \right] + 2 \left\{ \frac{4}{\pi^2} + \frac{4}{(3\pi)^2} + \frac{4}{(5\pi)^2} + \frac{4}{(7\pi)^2} + \dots \right\} x + 2 \left\{ \frac{8}{\pi^3} - \frac{8}{(3\pi)^3} + \frac{8}{(5\pi)^3} - \frac{8}{(7\pi)^3} + \dots \right\} x^2 + 2 \left\{ \frac{16}{\pi^4} + \frac{16}{(3\pi)^4} + \frac{16}{(5\pi)^4} + \frac{16}{(7\pi)^4} + \dots \right\} x^3 + 2 \left\{ \frac{32}{\pi^5} - \frac{32}{(3\pi)^5} + \frac{32}{(5\pi)^5} - \frac{32}{(7\pi)^5} + \dots \right\} x^4 + 2 \left\{ \frac{64}{\pi^6} + \frac{64}{(3\pi)^6} + \frac{64}{(5\pi)^6} + \dots \right\} x^5 + \dots, \tag{10}$$

另一方面, 欧拉设 $y = \tan\left(\frac{x}{2} + \frac{\pi}{4}\right) = 1 + \alpha_1x + \alpha_2x^2 + \alpha_3x^3 + \alpha_4x^4 + \alpha_5x^5 + \alpha_6x^6 + \alpha_7x^7 + \dots,$

因 y 满足一阶微分方程 $y' = \frac{1}{2}(1 + y^2)$, 故依次求得

$$\alpha_1 = 1, \alpha_2 = \frac{1}{2}, \alpha_3 = \frac{1}{3}, \alpha_4 = \frac{5}{24},$$

$$\alpha_5 = \frac{2}{15}, \alpha_6 = \frac{61}{720}, \alpha_7 = \frac{17}{315}, \dots,$$

于是有 $y = \tan\left(\frac{x}{2} + \frac{\pi}{4}\right) = 1 + x + \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{3}x^3 + \frac{5}{24}x^4 + \frac{2}{15}x^5 + \frac{61}{720}x^6 + \frac{17}{315}x^7 + \dots$ (11)

比较(10)式和(11)式依次可得

$$\begin{aligned}
1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{9} - \dots &= \frac{\pi}{4}, \\
1 + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \frac{1}{7^2} + \frac{1}{9^2} + \dots &= \frac{\pi^2}{8}, \\
1 - \frac{1}{3^3} + \frac{1}{5^3} - \frac{1}{7^3} + \frac{1}{9^3} - \dots &= \frac{\pi^3}{32}, \\
1 + \frac{1}{3^4} + \frac{1}{5^4} + \frac{1}{7^4} + \frac{1}{9^4} + \dots &= \frac{\pi^4}{96}, \\
1 - \frac{1}{3^5} + \frac{1}{5^5} - \frac{1}{7^5} + \frac{1}{9^5} - \dots &= \frac{\pi^5}{1536}, \\
1 + \frac{1}{3^6} + \frac{1}{5^6} + \frac{1}{7^6} + \frac{1}{9^6} + \dots &= \frac{\pi^6}{960}, \\
1 - \frac{1}{3^7} + \frac{1}{5^7} - \frac{1}{7^7} + \frac{1}{9^7} - \dots &= \frac{61\pi^7}{46080}, \\
1 + \frac{1}{3^8} + \frac{1}{5^8} + \frac{1}{7^8} + \frac{1}{9^8} + \dots &= \frac{17\pi^8}{161280}.
\end{aligned}$$

类似于第 2 节中的做法, 设

$$\zeta(n) = 1 + \frac{1}{2^n} + \frac{1}{3^n} + \frac{1}{4^n} + \frac{1}{5^n} + \dots,$$

则有

$$\frac{1}{2^n} \zeta(n) = \frac{1}{2^n} + \frac{1}{4^n} + \frac{1}{6^n} + \frac{1}{8^n} + \frac{1}{10^n} + \dots,$$

于是

$$\frac{2^n - 1}{2^n} \zeta(n) = 1 + \frac{1}{3^n} + \frac{1}{5^n} + \frac{1}{7^n} + \frac{1}{9^n} + \dots \quad (12)$$

欧拉在《无穷分析引论》中再次介绍了上述公式^[4].

将前面的结果依次代入上面的公式, 欧拉得到

$$\zeta(2) = 1 + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \dots = \frac{2}{3!} \cdot \frac{1}{2}\pi^2,$$

$$\zeta(4) = 1 + \frac{1}{2^4} + \frac{1}{3^4} + \frac{1}{4^4} + \frac{1}{5^4} + \dots = \frac{2^3}{5!} \cdot \frac{1}{6}\pi^4,$$

$$\zeta(6) = 1 + \frac{1}{2^6} + \frac{1}{3^6} + \frac{1}{4^6} + \frac{1}{5^6} + \dots = \frac{2^5}{7!} \cdot \frac{1}{6}\pi^6,$$

$$\zeta(8) = 1 + \frac{1}{2^8} + \frac{1}{3^8} + \frac{1}{4^8} + \frac{1}{5^8} + \dots = \frac{2^7}{9!} \cdot \frac{3}{10}\pi^8,$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\zeta(10) &= 1 + \frac{1}{2^{10}} + \frac{1}{3^{10}} + \frac{1}{4^{10}} + \frac{1}{5^{10}} + \dots \\
&= \frac{2^9}{11!} \cdot \frac{5}{6}\pi^{10},
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\zeta(12) &= 1 + \frac{1}{2^{12}} + \frac{1}{3^{12}} + \frac{1}{4^{12}} + \frac{1}{5^{12}} + \dots \\
&= \frac{2^{11}}{13!} \cdot \frac{691}{210}\pi^{12},
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\zeta(14) &= 1 + \frac{1}{2^{14}} + \frac{1}{3^{14}} + \frac{1}{4^{14}} + \frac{1}{5^{14}} + \dots \\
&= \frac{2^{13}}{15!} \cdot \frac{35}{2}\pi^{14},
\end{aligned}$$

$$\zeta(16) = 1 + \frac{1}{2^{16}} + \frac{1}{3^{16}} + \frac{1}{4^{16}} + \frac{1}{5^{16}} + \dots$$

$$= \frac{2^{15}}{17!} \cdot \frac{3617}{30}\pi^{16},$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\zeta(18) &= 1 + \frac{1}{2^{18}} + \frac{1}{3^{18}} + \frac{1}{4^{18}} + \frac{1}{5^{18}} + \dots \\
&= \frac{2^{17}}{19!} \cdot \frac{43867}{42}\pi^{18},
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\zeta(20) &= 1 + \frac{1}{2^{20}} + \frac{1}{3^{20}} + \frac{1}{4^{20}} + \frac{1}{5^{20}} + \dots \\
&= \frac{2^{19}}{21!} \cdot \frac{1222277}{110}\pi^{20},
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\zeta(22) &= 1 + \frac{1}{2^{22}} + \frac{1}{3^{22}} + \frac{1}{4^{22}} + \frac{1}{5^{22}} + \dots \\
&= \frac{2^{21}}{23!} \cdot \frac{854513}{6}\pi^{22},
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\zeta(24) &= 1 + \frac{1}{2^{24}} + \frac{1}{3^{24}} + \frac{1}{4^{24}} + \frac{1}{5^{24}} + \dots \\
&= \frac{2^{23}}{25!} \cdot \frac{1181820455}{546}\pi^{24},
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\zeta(26) &= 1 + \frac{1}{2^{26}} + \frac{1}{3^{26}} + \frac{1}{4^{26}} + \frac{1}{5^{26}} + \dots \\
&= \frac{2^{25}}{27!} \cdot \frac{76977927}{2}\pi^{26}.
\end{aligned}$$

4 与伯努利数的奇妙关系

显然, 上面的结果都可以写成

$$\zeta(2n) = \frac{2^{2n-1}}{(2n+1)!} E_{2n} \pi^{2n}$$

的形式. 其中 $E_2 = \frac{1}{2}$, $E_4 = \frac{1}{6}$, $E_6 = \frac{1}{6}$, $E_8 = \frac{3}{10}$, $E_{10} = \frac{5}{6}$, $E_{12} = \frac{691}{210}$, ..., 那么, 一般的 E_{2n} 是否有某种规律可寻呢? 欧拉敏锐地发现, 它们满足如下求和公式:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_0^n f(x) &= \int_0^n f(x) dx - \frac{1}{2}[f(n) - f(0)] + \\
&\frac{1}{3!} E_2 [f'(n) - f'(0)] - \frac{1}{5!} E_4 [f'''(n) - f'''(0)] + \\
&\frac{1}{7!} E_6 [f^{(5)}(n) - f^{(5)}(0)] - \dots \quad (13)
\end{aligned}$$

英国数学家马克劳林 (Maclaurin C, 1698 ~ 1746) 在其《流数论》(Treatise of Fluxions, 1742) 中独立于欧拉获得了 (13) 式, 因此它现在通常被称作欧拉-马克劳林求和公式. 易见, (13) 式是雅各·伯努利的自然数幂和公式

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{r=1}^{n-1} r^p &= \frac{1}{p+1} n^{p+1} - \frac{1}{2} n^p + \frac{p}{2} B_2 n^{p-1} + \\
&\frac{p(p-1)(p-2)}{4!} B_4 n^{p-3} +
\end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{p(p-1)(p-2)(p-3)(p-4)}{6!} B_6 n^{p-5} + \tag{14}$$

的推广. 在(13)式中令 $f(x) = x^p$, 与(14)式相比较, 易得

$$E_2 = 3B_2, E_4 = -5B_4,$$

$$E_6 = 7B_6, E_8 = 9B_8, \dots$$

一般地

$$E_{2n} = (-1)^{n-1} (2n+1) B_{2n}, n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

于是, 在出版于 1755 年的《微分基础》(Institutiones calculi differentialis)中, 欧拉建立了著名的公式

$$\zeta(2n) = \frac{2^{2n-1}}{(2n)!} |B_{2n}| \pi^{2n}. \tag{15}$$

5 余 论

类比这一重要的数学方法曾被 17 世纪德国著名数学家和天文学家开普勒 (Kepler J, 1571 ~ 1630) 视为“知道大自然一切秘密”的“导师”, 被波利亚称作科学发现的“伟大的引路人”. 的确, 翻开数学历史的画卷, 我们往往能看到: 数学家在作出数学发现时, 类比思维起了关键作用. 阿基米德 (Archimedes, 前 287 ~ 前 212) 球表面积公式的获得, 牛顿 (Newton I, 1642 ~ 1727) 一般有理数指数情形的二项式定理的发现, 不过是这种思维方法的

两个典型例子而已. 在解决平方数倒数和的过程中, 类比一直是欧拉所应用的最重要的思维方法. 本文所论第一种推导方法将有限次代数方程根与系数关系类比到无限次方程; 第二种推导方法将有限项的积分类比到无限项幂级数的积分; 而第三种方法中的“吉拉尔——牛顿公式”也恰恰欧拉对有限项方程所具有的规律的类比. 诚然, 这种类比缺乏严密的逻辑基础(欧拉也没有考虑幂级数的收敛性和一致收敛性), 欧拉的第一种方法也的确受到尼古拉·伯努利 (Nicolaus Bernoulli, 1687 ~ 1759) 的批评, 但欧拉获得了正确的结果, 而且推导、归纳出一般的偶次幂倒数和的精彩结果. 就数学发现而言, 欧拉的思想将永不过时, 今天我们仍然可以重复拉普拉斯的话——“读读欧拉, 他是我们大家的老师.”

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EULER L AND THE SUM OF THE RECIPROCAL OF SQUARE NUMBERS

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Abstract: The sum of the reciprocals of square numbers, one of the famous problems in the 17th century, was unexpectedly solved by Euler L through analogy. Euler’s different methods of solving this problem——the relation between roots and coefficients of an equation, the power series and Girard-Newton Formule is dealt with.

Key words: Euler L; sum of reciprocals of the squares of natural numbers; the Bernoulli numbers