ELLIPTIC FUNCTIONS AND ELLIPTIC INTEGRALS

DONG SUK KIM

Abstract. In this article, we briefly browse the history of elliptic functions and addition theorem.

1. Addition Theorem

Definition 1.1. An addtion theorem for a function f is a formula expressing $f(u+v)$ in terms of $f(u)$ and $f(v)$.

Here f is an one variable function.

Example 1.2. For $F(x)=\int_0^x \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^2}}\,du$,

$$\int_0^{\sin(x)} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^2}}\,du + \int_0^{\sin(y)} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^2}}\,du = \int_0^{\sin(x+y)} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^2}}\,du.$$

Example 1.3 (Euler's addition theorem)**.** For $F(x)=\int_0^x \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^4}}\,du$,

$$\int_0^{x} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^4}}\,du + \int_0^{y} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^4}}\,du = \int_0^{\frac{x\sqrt{1-y^4}+y\sqrt{1-x^4}}{1+x^2y^2}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^4}}\,du.$$

If we set $f(s)=x, f(t)=y$, then

$$\int_0^{f(s)} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^4}}\,du + \int_0^{f(t)} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^4}}\,du = \int_0^{f(s+t)} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^4}}\,du.$$

Here f is the inverse of F. In short, an addition theorem is related to the inverse functions of the antiderivative of a function.

Note that the integral is an elliptic integral. Elliptic integral is $\int R(x,\sqrt{P(x)})\,dx$ where $R(x,y)$ is a rational function of two variables x, y and $P(x)$ is a polynomial of degree 3 or 4. That such integrals cannot be evaluated in terms of the elementary functions was finally proved by Liouville.

Let

$$P(x) = a_0x^{2n-1} + a_1x^{2n-2} + ... + a_{2n-1}$$

set $x = c + 1/y$, where c is not a root of $P(x)$. Then

$$P(x) = P(c) + P'(c)\frac{1}{y} + ... + \frac{P^{2n-1}(c)}{(2n-1)!}\frac{1}{y^{2n-1}} = \frac{P_1(y)}{y^{2n}}.$$

Then $P_1(x)$ has degree 2n. Thus $\int R(x,\sqrt{P(x)})\,dx$=$\int R_1(x,\sqrt{P_1(x)})\,dx$.

Legendre showed that integration of the elliptic integral of fourth degree, can be reduced to the integration of the three integrals,

$$\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^2}\sqrt{1-l^2u^2}}\,du, \int \frac{u^2}{\sqrt{1-u^2}\sqrt{1-l^2u^2}}\,du, \int \frac{1}{(u-a)\sqrt{1-u^2}\sqrt{1-l^2u^2}}\,du.$$

Next, Weierstrass showed that

$$u(p) = \int_0^p \frac{1}{\sqrt{4t^3-g_2t-g_3}}\,dt,$$

where g_2 and g_3 are constants such that $g_2^3 - 27g_3^2 \neq 0$ is the fundamental elliptic function. the fundamentality means every elliptic function could be expressed in terms of $p(u)$ and $p'(u)$. It also related to the inverse function of the function defined by antiderivative.

Abel generalized an addition theorem.

Theorem 1.4. *Let $\psi x = \int R(x, \sqrt{P(x)})\,dx$. Let n be positive integers, and $h_1, .., h_n$ rational numbers. Then there exist g that*

$$h_1\psi x_1 + .. + h_n\psi x_n = v + \psi x_1' + .. + \psi x_g'$$

where v is an elementary function of $x_1, .., x_n$ and $x_1', .., x_g'$ are algebraic function of $x_1, .., x_n$ and g is minimal : given algebraic functions $x_1', .., x_{g-1}'$ of $x_1, .., x_g$, for any constant v, there exists ψx such that

$$\psi x_1 + .. + \psi x_g \neq \psi x_1' + .. + \psi x_{g-1}' + v$$

Here ψ is another bounded integral made by $\sqrt{P(x)}$.

Next time We shall discuss what g means.

References

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