Exposé court

Mahler measure of successively exact polynomials

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The Mahler measure of a polynomial P with integer coefficients measures the complexity of P by taking a geometric average of P on the unit torus. Perhaps surprisingly, this invariant has been shown to be related to special values of L-functions by the seminal works of Boyd, Deninger and Rodriguez-Villegas at the end of the last century. More precisely, the Mahler measure of P is usually related to the special value at the origin of the L-function associated to the hypersurface defined by P. However, sometimes one sees special values of smaller dimensional objects appearing, whose appearance has been explained in work of Maillot and Lalin by introducing the exactness property of a polynomial. In this talk, based on joint work with François Brunault, I will explain how one can push this line of thought, getting a conjecturally complete list of special values which should potentially be related to the Mahler measure of the polynomial in question. If time permits, I will explain how one may hope to find such polynomials, and prove this kind of identities, by a generalization of a method of Rogers and Zudilin.