

Preface

The 532-year cycle of the Easter date is a fundamental fact, and its representation as the product of the 19-year cycle of the Moon and the 28-year-cycle of the Sun in Bede's *De Temporum Ratione* is well-known and generally accepted. Nevertheless, this cycle is not quite as simple as is generally believed. In my paper I will argue that Bede's view is neither flawless, nor sufficient.

My main point is that the decomposition of the number 532 into a product must be supplemented by a decomposition into a sum.

My position is based on two arguments:

- Compound computistical cycles cannot be properly understood by a multiplicative analysis.
- The *cyclus magnus decemnovenalis* (the cycle of the Easter full moon and its weekday) and the *cyclus magnus paschalis* (the cycle of the Easter date) cannot be properly distinguished by a multiplicative analysis.

It took me quite a time to accept the fact that the Venerable Bede did not live up to the intricacies of the 532-year cycle. But considering that he did not discover it, and did not take into consideration the 95-year period which is an essential part of it, and after all was quite content with knowing its overall length of 532 years, the question if the Venerable Bede did understand the 532-year cycle, turns out to be a rhetorical question that demands the answer “No, not really.”

For a more elaborate representation of the computus of additive structures, see Ulrich Voigt, *Zyklen und Perioden. Grundlagen der Komputistik*.

For its historical implications, see Ulrich Voigt, *Paul of Middelburg and the 437-year Period*, and *Die 418-jährige Periode in der PRAEFATIO SANCTI CYRILLI*.

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