

Math Diversion Problem 829

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Truth, like oil, will in time rise to surface.

— Charlie Chan

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iBNo4j3vRo&list=PL3E4136E122545FBE>

Title: Gamma Function - Part 1 - Functional Equation

Presenter: MrYouMath

1 Introduction

This is the first part of a 12 -part series on the Gamma function. What I'm presenting here is what I refer to as the 'read-a-long notes' to the videos. They are brief on explanations. For better explanations, please see the videos by MrYouMath, as listed above.

2 The Gamma Function – Part 1

Let s be a complex variable. Then the Gamma function of s is given as

$$\Gamma(s) \equiv \int_0^{\infty} t^{s-1} e^{-t} dt \quad \text{where } \operatorname{Re}(s) > 0. \quad (1)$$

Something profound is the result of merely letting $s \rightarrow s+1$ and then integrating by parts:

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(s+1) &= \int_0^{\infty} t^s e^{-t} dt \\ &= -e^{-t} t^s \Big|_0^{\infty} - \int_0^{\infty} \frac{dt^s}{dt} (-e^{-t}) dt \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} s t^{s-1} e^{-t} dt \\ &= s \int_0^{\infty} t^{s-1} e^{-t} dt \\ &= s \Gamma(s). \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Hence, for n a positive integer:

$$\Gamma(n + 1) = n! . \tag{3}$$