

Math Diversion Problem 841

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You will never plough a field if you only
turn it over in your mind.
— Irish Proverb

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iBNo4j3vRo&list=PL3E4136E122545FBE>
Title: Gamma Function - Part 7 - The Euler Integral I
Presenter: MrYouMath

1 Introduction

This is the seventh 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 Euler Integral I – Part 7

Once again we begin with

$$\Gamma(s) = \int_0^{\infty} t^{s-1} e^{-t} dt, \quad (1)$$

and make the substitution $t \rightarrow pu^n$ where p is complex. Then

$$\Gamma(s) = \int_0^{\infty} np^s u^{ns-1} e^{-pu^n} du, \quad (2)$$

which can be put into the alternative form

$$\frac{\Gamma(s)}{np^s} = \int_0^{\infty} u^{ns-1} e^{-pu^n} du. \quad (3)$$

Okay, we will denote the complex conjugate by an overbar. In the last equation we can replace p by its complex conjugate, to get¹

$$\frac{\Gamma(s)}{np^s} = \int_0^{\infty} u^{ns-1} e^{-\bar{p}u^n} du. \quad (4)$$

¹We can do this because p was an arbitrary complex number to begin with.

On taking a combination of the last two equations, we get

$$\frac{\Gamma(s)}{np^s} \pm \frac{\Gamma(s)}{n\bar{p}^s} = \int_0^\infty u^{ns-1} e^{-pu^n} du \pm \int_0^\infty u^{ns-1} e^{-\bar{p}u^n} du. \quad (5)$$

Now, if we write p in the polar form, we get

$$p = |p| e^{i\alpha} = a + ib. \quad (6)$$

With this result, (5) becomes

$$\frac{\Gamma(s)}{n|p|^s} \left[\frac{1}{e^{-ias}} \pm \frac{1}{e^{i\alpha s}} \right] = \int_0^\infty u^{ns-1} e^{-\alpha u^n} (e^{isu^n} \pm e^{-isu^n}) du. \quad (7)$$

By taking first the + sign and then the - sign, and stacking them:

$$\frac{\Gamma(s)}{n|p|^s} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \cos(\alpha s) \\ 2 \sin(\alpha s) \end{bmatrix} = \int_0^\infty u^{ns-1} e^{-au^n} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(bu^n) \\ \sin(bu^n) \end{bmatrix} du, \quad (8)$$

where

$$\begin{cases} \tan \alpha = b/a & a \neq 0, \\ \alpha = \pi/2 & a = 0. \end{cases} \quad (9)$$