

Math Diversion Problem 849

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Lifelong learning is no longer a luxury but
a necessity for employment.

— Jay Samit

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

Title: Gamma Function - Part 11 - The Legendre Duplication Formula

Presenter: MrYouMath

1 Introduction

This is the eleventh 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 Preparation

$$B(s_1, s_2) = \frac{\Gamma(s_1)\Gamma(s_2)}{\Gamma(s_1 + s_2)} = \int_0^1 u^{s_1-1}(1-u)^{s_2-1} du. \quad (1)$$

3 The Legendre Duplication Formula

This formula looks like the following

$$\Gamma(2s) = \frac{2^{2s-1}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \Gamma(s)\Gamma(s + \frac{1}{2}). \quad (2)$$

We start with Eq. (1) and set $s_1 = s_2 = s$ to get

$$\frac{\Gamma(s)\Gamma(s)}{\Gamma(2s)} = \int_0^1 u^{s-1}(1-u)^{s-1} du. \quad (3)$$

Not let's make the following variable substitution to the integral on the RHS of this last equation, namely, $u \rightarrow \frac{1+x}{2}$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{RHS} &= \int_0^1 \left(\frac{1+x}{2}\right)^{s-1} \left(\frac{1-x}{2}\right)^{s-1} \frac{dx}{2} \\
 &= \frac{1}{2^{2s-1}} \int_{-1}^1 (1-x^2)^{s-1} dx \\
 &= \frac{1}{2^{2s}} \int_0^1 (1-x^2)^{s-1} dx.
 \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

But, using the Beta Function, we have that

$$B\left(\frac{1}{2}, s\right) = 2 \int_0^1 (1-x^2)^{s-1} dx. \tag{5}$$

Hence, from (1)

$$2^{2s-1} \Gamma(s) \Gamma(s) = \Gamma(2s) B\left(\frac{1}{2}, s\right) = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \Gamma(s)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2} + s\right)}. \tag{6}$$

With some manipulation we get

$$2^{2s-1} \Gamma(s) \Gamma(s) \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2} + s\right) = \sqrt{\pi} \Gamma(2s). \tag{7}$$

And, on solving for $\Gamma(2s)$, we have that

$$\Gamma(2s) = \frac{2^{2s-1}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \Gamma(s) \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2} + s\right). \tag{8}$$