

Math Diversion Problem 875

P. Reany

October 31, 2025

Intelligence — the ability to learn,
understand, and apply knowledge.
— Jamie Edwards
[Healthy Developer]

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnRn1JBecRg>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-fqe3BkBnE>
Title: Zeta Function - Part 12--13
Presenter: MrYouMath

1 Introduction

This is the twelfth and thirteenth parts of a 14-part series on the Zeta 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 From video 11

$$\pi^{-s/2} \Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right) \zeta(s) = \pi^{-\frac{1-s}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{1-s}{2}\right) \zeta(1-s). \quad (1)$$

3 The Zeta Function: Riemann Functional Eq. 2 (Part 12)

We will use the Riemann Functional Eq. (1) to derive its alternative form:

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

To accomplish this, we need two other results. To get the first one, we begin with the Legendre Duplication Formula,¹

$$\Gamma(2s) = \frac{2^{2s-1}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \Gamma(s) \Gamma(s + 1/2), \quad (3)$$

and then replace s by $s/2$ and rearrange factors to get:

$$\frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2^{s-1}} \Gamma(s) = \Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right). \quad (4)$$

Next, we need to get:

$$\Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right) = \frac{\pi}{\cos \frac{\pi s}{2}}. \quad (5)$$

We'll accomplish this by starting with the Euler reflection formula

$$\Gamma(s) \Gamma(1-s) = \frac{\pi}{\sin \frac{\pi s}{2}}, \quad (6)$$

and then let $s \rightarrow (s+1)/2$:

$$\Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(1 - \frac{s+1}{2}\right) = \frac{\pi}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi s}{2} + \frac{\pi}{2}\right)}, \quad (7)$$

which simplifies to

$$\Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{1-s}{2}\right) = \frac{\pi}{\cos \frac{\pi s}{2}}. \quad (8)$$

Now, multiply (1) through by $\Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right)$:

$$\pi^{-s/2} \Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right) \zeta(s) = \pi^{-\frac{1-s}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{1-s}{2}\right) \zeta(1-s). \quad (9)$$

So now we can use the Legendre duplication formula on the LHS and on the RHS we'll use (8):

$$\pi^{-s/2} \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2^{s-1}} \Gamma(s) \zeta(s) = \pi^{-\frac{1-s}{2}} \frac{\pi}{\cos \frac{\pi s}{2}} \zeta(1-s). \quad (10)$$

¹See MrYouMath: Gamma Function - Part 11 - Legendre Duplication Formula, Don't get confused! MrYouMath has two related series: one on the Riemann Zeta function and another one on the Gamma Function.

After some algebra, we have that

$$\zeta(1-s) = \frac{2}{(2\pi)^s} \cos \frac{\pi s}{2} \Gamma(s) \zeta(s). \quad (11)$$

Next, we do the replacement: $1-s \rightarrow s$. Then,

$$\zeta(s) = \frac{2}{(2\pi)^{1-s}} \cos \frac{\pi(1-s)}{2} \Gamma(1-s) \zeta(1-s). \quad (12)$$

On using standard trig identities as before, we have that

$$\zeta(s) = 2^s \pi^{s-1} \sin \frac{\pi s}{2} \Gamma(1-s) \zeta(1-s), \quad (13)$$

which concludes the establishment of (2).

4 Trivial Zeros of the Zeta Function (Part 13)

It's obvious from (13) that because the sine function has zeros at integer multiples of π , that the zeta function has zeros for $s = -2k$ where $k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. Or,

$$\zeta(-2k) = 0. \quad (14)$$

These zeroes are referred to as 'trivial' because it requires almost no effort to establish this fact.