

Riemann Zeta Function

Ben Dulaney
Jonathan Gerhard

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What is the ζ function?

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Example

$$Z(1) = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots$$

This is the harmonic series, which we know diverges.

What is the ζ function?

Euler was able to show that

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This probability actually ends up being $\frac{1}{Z(s)}$.



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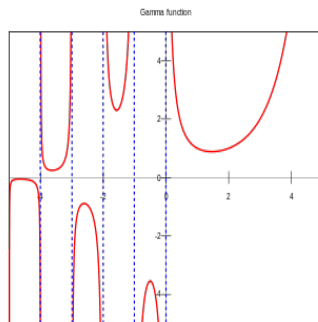
First, the Gamma function $\Gamma(s)$ is the analytic continuation of the factorial, and was found by Euler. That is, for integer $s > 1$, we have $\Gamma(s) = (s - 1)!$.

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$$\Gamma(s) = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{dt}{t} t^s e^{-t}, \Re(s) > 0.$$



The Riemann ζ Function

Consider the integral

$$\begin{aligned}L &= \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x^{s-1}}{e^x - 1} dx = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{x^{s-1} e^{-x}}{1 - e^{-x}} dx \\&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int_0^{\infty} x^{s-1} e^{-(n+1)x} dx \\&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\Gamma(s)}{(n+1)^s} \\&= \Gamma(s)\zeta(s).\end{aligned}$$

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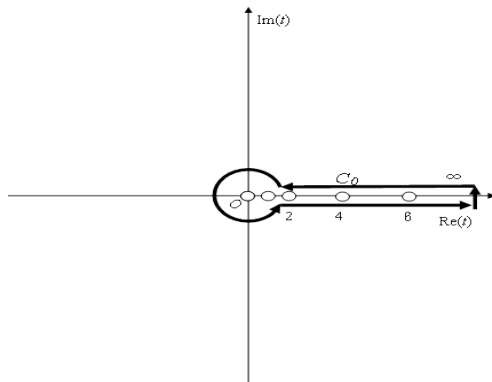
Since we know $L = \Gamma(s)\zeta(s)$, we have

$$\zeta(s) = \frac{L}{\Gamma(s)}.$$

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Since $\Gamma(s)\Gamma(1-s) = \frac{\pi}{\sin(\pi s)}$, we get the final form of the ζ function as

$$\zeta(s) = \frac{\Gamma(1-s)}{2\pi i} \int_C \frac{(-z)^{s-1}}{e^z - 1} dz.$$

Some Surprising Results

Using this analytic continuation, we can obtain some fascinating results.

$$\zeta(0) = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$\zeta(-1) = -\frac{1}{12}$$

$$\zeta(-2m) = 0$$

$$\zeta(-3) = \frac{1}{120}$$

$$\zeta(2m) = \frac{(2\pi)^{2m}}{2(2m)!} |B_{2m}|$$

$$\zeta(1 - 2m) = -\frac{B_{2m}}{2m}$$

References

- <http://www.nhn.ou.edu/~milton/p5013/zeta.pdf>
- <http://www.math.jhu.edu/~wright/RH2.pdf>
- <http://mathworld.wolfram.com/RiemannZetaFunction.html>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riemann_zeta_function

Thank You!