



Definition 1. *The Riemann Zeta function is defined as*

$$\zeta(s) := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s} \quad (1)$$

for $\text{Re}(s) > 1$.

Theorem 1.

$$\zeta(m+s) = (-1)^{m-1} \frac{\sin(\pi s)}{\pi} \frac{\Gamma(s)}{\Gamma(s+m)} \int_0^{\infty} \psi^{(m)}(1+x) \frac{dx}{x^s} \quad (2)$$

for $0 < \text{Re}(s) < 1$ and $m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$.

Where $\psi(x) := \frac{d}{dx} \ln \Gamma(x) = \frac{\Gamma'(x)}{\Gamma(x)}$ is the Digamma function and $\psi^{(m)}(x)$ indicates the m -th derivative of the Digamma function.

Proof. This proof comes mainly from [1], our job here is just to translate and add some details to make it clearer, we will use the common notation $\sigma = \text{Re}(s)$.

Let's start by proving that:

$$\frac{1}{k^{s+m}} = \frac{\Gamma(m+1)}{\Gamma(s+m)\Gamma(1-s)} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^s(k+x)^{m+1}} \quad (3)$$

for $m \geq 0$.

Remark 1. In his article [1] de Bruijn commits an innocuous mistake in enunciating this formula. We give here a correct version with a rigorous proof. This is necessary to obtain the result of Theorem 2.

We will demonstrate this using induction. First notice that, changing variable to $tk = x$:

$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^s(x+k)} = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{kdt}{(kt)^s(kt+k)} = \frac{1}{k^s} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{dt}{t^s(t+1)}.$$

Recognize the integral $\int_0^\infty \frac{dt}{t^s(t+1)}$ as a special case of the so called "Beta function", defined as:

$$B(z_1, z_2) := \int_0^\infty \frac{t^{z_1-1}}{(1+t)^{z_1+z_2}} dt.$$

It's a known fact that

$$B(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\Gamma(z_1)\Gamma(z_2)}{\Gamma(z_1 + z_2)}.$$

Therefore:

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{dx}{x^s(x+k)} = \frac{1}{k^s} \int_0^\infty \frac{dt}{t^s(t+1)} = \frac{1}{k^s} B(1-s, s) = \frac{1}{k^s} \frac{\Gamma(1-s)\Gamma(s)}{\Gamma(1)}.$$

We have proven equation 3 for $m = 0$:

$$\frac{1}{k^s} = \frac{\Gamma(1)}{\Gamma(s)\Gamma(1-s)} \int_0^\infty \frac{dx}{x^s(x+k)}. \quad (4)$$

Now simply differentiate both sides with respect to k to obtain 3 for $m = 1$:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{k^s} &= \frac{\Gamma(1)}{\Gamma(s)\Gamma(1-s)} \int_0^\infty \frac{dx}{x^s(x+k)}. \\ &\Downarrow \\ \frac{-s}{k^{s+1}} &= \frac{\Gamma(1)}{\Gamma(s)\Gamma(1-s)} \int_0^\infty \frac{(-1)dx}{x^s(x+k)^2} \\ &\Downarrow \\ \frac{1}{k^{s+1}} &= \frac{1 \cdot \Gamma(1)}{s\Gamma(s)\Gamma(1-s)} \int_0^\infty \frac{dx}{x^s(x+k)^2}. \\ &\Downarrow \\ \frac{1}{k^{s+1}} &= \frac{\Gamma(2)}{\Gamma(s+1)\Gamma(1-s)} \int_0^\infty \frac{dx}{x^s(x+k)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Where we used Leibniz's Integral rule to differentiate under the integral sign and the known property of the Γ function: $s\Gamma(s) = \Gamma(s+1)$.

We have therefore proven that the formula is true for $m = 1$, assuming it true for m let's prove it now for $m + 1$, simply by differentiating again:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{k^{s+m}} &= \frac{\Gamma(m+1)}{\Gamma(s+m)\Gamma(1-s)} \int_0^\infty \frac{dx}{x^s(k+x)^{m+1}} \\ &\Downarrow \\ \frac{-(s+m)}{k^{s+m+1}} &= \frac{\Gamma(m+1)}{\Gamma(s+m)\Gamma(1-s)} \int_0^\infty \frac{-(m+1)dx}{x^s(k+x)^{m+1+1}} \\ &\Downarrow \\ \frac{1}{k^{s+m+1}} &= \frac{\Gamma(m+1+1)}{\Gamma(s+m+1)\Gamma(1-s)} \int_0^\infty \frac{dx}{x^s(k+x)^{m+1+1}} \end{aligned}$$

Where we used the exact same results as before. This proves [3](#).

Remember now the expression for the derivatives of the Digamma function (also know as polygamma functions):

$$\psi^{(m)}(x) = (-1)^{m-1} m! \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(x+k)^{m+1}}$$

therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} \psi^{(m)}(1+x) &= (-1)^{m-1} m! \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1+x+k)^{m+1}} = (-1)^{m-1} m! \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(x+k)^{m+1}} \\ &\Downarrow \\ \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(x+k)^{m+1}} &= (-1)^{m-1} \frac{\psi^{(m)}(1+x)}{m!} \end{aligned}$$

Proceed now to sum each side of equation [3](#):

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k^{s+m}} = \frac{\Gamma(m+1)}{\Gamma(s+m)\Gamma(1-s)} \int_0^{\infty} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(k+x)^{m+1}} \frac{dx}{x^s} \quad (5)$$

Therefore, using the fact that, by definition, $\zeta(m+s) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k^{s+m}}$, going back to [5](#) we have, for $0 < \sigma < 1$:

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(m+s) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k^{s+m}} = \frac{\Gamma(m+1)}{\Gamma(s+m)\Gamma(1-s)} \int_0^{\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(k+x)^{m+1}} \frac{dx}{x^s} \\ &= \frac{\Gamma(m+1)}{\Gamma(s+m)\Gamma(1-s)} \int_0^{\infty} (-1)^{m-1} \frac{\psi^{(m)}(1+x)}{m!} \frac{dx}{x^s} \\ &= (-1)^{m-1} \frac{\Gamma(m+1)}{m!\Gamma(s+m)\Gamma(1-s)} \int_0^{\infty} \psi^{(m)}(1+x) \frac{dx}{x^s} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Where we can justify the exchange of limit and integral using Lebesgue's dominated convergence theorem because

$$\left| \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{(k+x)^{m+1}} \right| \leq \left| \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(k+x)^{m+1}} \right| \leq |\psi^{(m)}(1+x)|$$

To obtain formula [2](#), utilize the [Relation to the Sine Function](#):

$$\Gamma(s)\Gamma(1-s) = \frac{\pi}{\sin(\pi s)} \implies \Gamma(1-s) = \frac{\pi}{\sin(\pi s)} \cdot \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)}$$

and the [basic property of the Gamma Function](#) $s! = \Gamma(s+1)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(m+s) &= (-1)^{m-1} \frac{\Gamma(m+1)}{m!\Gamma(s+m)\Gamma(1-s)} \int_0^{\infty} \psi^{(m)}(1+x) \frac{dx}{x^s} \\ &= (-1)^{m-1} \frac{\Gamma(m+1)}{\Gamma(m+1)\Gamma(s+m)\Gamma(1-s)} \int_0^{\infty} \psi^{(m)}(1+x) \frac{dx}{x^s} \\ &= (-1)^{m-1} \frac{\sin(\pi s)}{\pi} \frac{\Gamma(s)}{\Gamma(s+m)} \int_0^{\infty} \psi^{(m)}(1+x) \frac{dx}{x^s}. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

□

References

- [1] NG de Bruijn. “Integralen voor de zeta -functie van Riemann”. In: *Mathematica: tijdschrift voor studeerenden voor de acten wiskunde MO en voor studeerenden aan Universiteiten. Afdeling B* 5 (1937), pp. 170–180.