



**planetmath.org**

Math for the people, by the people.

## **digamma and polygamma function**

Canonical name	DigammaAndPolygammaFunction
Date of creation	2013-03-22 15:53:21
Last modified on	2013-03-22 15:53:21
Owner	rspuzio (6075)
Last modified by	rspuzio (6075)
Numerical id	13
Author	rspuzio (6075)
Entry type	Definition
Classification	msc 30D30
Classification	msc 33B15
Defines	digamma function
Defines	polygamma function

The *digamma function* is defined as the logarithmic derivative of the gamma function:

$$\psi(z) = \frac{d}{dz} \log \Gamma(z) = \frac{\Gamma'(z)}{\Gamma(z)}.$$

Likewise the *polygamma functions* are defined as higher order logarithmic derivatives of the gamma function:

$$\psi^{(n)}(z) = \frac{d^n}{dz^n} \log \Gamma(z).$$

These equations enjoy functional equations which are closely related to those of the gamma function:

$$\begin{aligned}\psi(z+1) &= \psi(z) + \frac{1}{z} \\ \psi(1-z) &= \psi(z) + \pi \cot \pi z \\ \psi(2z) &= \frac{1}{2}\psi(z) + \frac{1}{2}\psi\left(z + \frac{1}{2}\right) + \log 2 \\ \psi^{(n)}(z+1) &= \psi^{(n)}(z) + (-1)^n \frac{n!}{z^{n+1}}\end{aligned}$$

These functions have poles at the negative integers and can be expressed as partial fraction series:

$$\psi(z) = -\gamma - \frac{1}{z} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{k} - \frac{1}{z+k} \right), \quad (1)$$

$$\psi^{(n)}(z) = (-1)^n n! \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(z+k)^{n+1}} \quad (2)$$

Here,  $\gamma$  is <http://planetmath.org/EulerMascheroniConstant> Euler–Mascheroni constant. Substituting  $z = 1$  to (1), one gets the value

$$\Gamma'(1) = -\gamma.$$