



Math for the people, by the people.

Euler reflection formula

Canonical name	EulerReflectionFormula
Date of creation	2013-03-22 16:23:37
Last modified on	2013-03-22 16:23:37
Owner	rm50 (10146)
Last modified by	rm50 (10146)
Numerical id	5
Author	rm50 (10146)
Entry type	Theorem
Classification	msc 30D30
Classification	msc 33B15

Theorem 1 (*Euler Reflection Formula*)

$$\Gamma(x)\Gamma(1-x) = \frac{\pi}{\sin(\pi x)}$$

Proof: We have

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma(x)} = x e^{\gamma x} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right) e^{-x/n} \right)$$

and thus

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma(x)} \frac{1}{\Gamma(-x)} = -x^2 e^{\gamma x} e^{-\gamma x} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right) e^{-x/n} \right) \left(\left(1 - \frac{x}{n}\right) e^{x/n} \right) = -x^2 \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{n^2} \right)$$

But $\Gamma(1-x) = -x\Gamma(-x)$ and thus

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma(x)} \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-x)} = x \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{n^2} \right)$$

Now, using the <http://planetmath.org/ExamplesOfInfiniteProductsformula> for $\sin x/x$, we have

$$\sin(\pi x) = \pi x \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{x^2}{n^2} \right)$$

so that

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma(x)} \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-x)} = \frac{\sin(\pi x)}{\pi}$$

and the result follows.