

## 1 Lemma 1

Given some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $j = 0, 1, \dots, n$ , and  $x \in \mathbb{C}$

$$\begin{aligned} C_j &= \frac{1}{(0x-jx)(1x-jx)\dots((j-1)x-jx)((j+1)x-jx)\dots(nx-j)} \\ &= \frac{(-1)^j}{n!x^n} \binom{n}{j} \end{aligned}$$

### 1.1 Proof

Consider the terms  $(0x-jx)(1x-jx)\dots((j-1)x-jx)$   
By factoring out  $(-1)^j x^j$  and reversing the order  
of the product, this is equal to  $(-1)^j x^j (1)(2)\dots(j-1)(j)$   
 $= (-1)^j x^j j!$ . The same argument can be made for  
the remaining terms. This shows that

$$C_j = \frac{(-1)^j}{j!(n-j)!x^n} = \frac{(-1)^j}{n!x^n} \binom{n}{j}$$

## 2 Proof

Given an integer  $n$  and unique  $x_0, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}^+$   
Let  $P(x) = (x-x_0)(x-x_1)\dots(x-x_n)$  and now  
with partial fraction decomposition,

$$\frac{1}{P(x)} = \sum_{j=0}^n \frac{C_j}{x+x_j} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{where } C_j = \frac{1}{(x_0-x_j)(x_1-x_j)\dots(x_{j-1}-x_j)(x_{j+1}-x_j)\dots(x_n-x_j)}$$

for  $j = 0, 1, \dots, n$ . Now, using this:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{P(m)} &= \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^n \frac{C_j}{m+x_j} \quad (2) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^n \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{C_j}{m+x_j} + \frac{C_j}{m} - \frac{C_j}{m} \right) \\ &= \left( \sum_{j=0}^n C_j \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m} \right) - \sum_{j=0}^n C_j \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{m} - \frac{1}{m+x_j} \right) * \\ &= \left( \sum_{j=0}^n C_j \right) \left( \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{m} \right) - \sum_{j=0}^n C_j H_{x_j} \end{aligned}$$

where  $H_x$  is the  $x$ th harmonic number.

The separation of sums is the step we're unsure about.

By taking equation 1 and multiplying both sides by  $P(x)$  and then comparing coefficients of  $x^n$ , it can be seen that  $\sum_{j=0}^n C_j = 0$ . This step is analogous to algebraically cancelling it out, which can be seen by doing this process for a specific  $n$ . I'm not sure how to prove that this is valid generally though.

$$\begin{aligned} &= -\sum_{j=0}^n C_j H_{x_j} = -\sum_{j=0}^n C_j \int_0^1 \frac{1-t^{x_j}}{1-t} dt \\ &= -\int_0^1 \frac{(\sum_{j=0}^n C_j) - \sum_{j=0}^n C_j t^{x_j}}{1-t} dt \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So, we have that } \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{P(m)} = \int_0^1 \frac{\sum_{j=0}^n C_j t^{x_j}}{1-t} dt$$

Assuming all other steps are valid, taking the limit as  $(x_0, \dots, x_n) \rightarrow (0, \dots, 0)$  should yield  $\zeta(n+1)$  from the LHS of equation 2, which converges with a P-series test. Now, by parametrizing  $x_j$  into  $x_j = jv$  for some  $x$ . Using this:

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(n+1) &= \lim_{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \rightarrow (0, \dots, 0)} \int_0^1 \frac{\sum_{j=0}^n C_j t^{x_j}}{1-t} dt \\ &= \lim_{v \rightarrow 0} \int_0^1 \frac{\sum_{j=0}^n C_j t^{jv}}{1-t} dt \text{ with lemma 1} \\ &= \lim_{v \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{n!v^n} \int_0^1 \frac{\sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} (-t^v)^j}{1-t} dt \\ &= \lim_{v \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{n!v^n} \int_0^1 \frac{(1-t^v)^n}{1-t} dt \end{aligned}$$

Now, using repeated application of L'Hopital's:

$$\begin{aligned} &= \lim_{v \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{n!^2} \int_0^1 \frac{\ln(t)^n \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} j^n (-t^v)^j}{1-t} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{n!^2} \int_0^1 \frac{\ln(t)^n \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} j^n (-1)^j}{1-t} dt \\ &= \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \int_0^1 \frac{\ln(t)^n}{1-t} dt \end{aligned}$$

This can be verified for each  $n$  by using the infinite series for  $(1-t)^{-1}$  and repeated integration by parts. It appears to hold for non-integer values of  $n$  with numerical evaluation, but I think that this proof requires  $n$  to be an integer.

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