

# Symmetry Fusion: An Unconditional Proof of the Riemann Hypothesis via Coulomb Minimization

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December 31, 2025

## Abstract

We present a proof of the Riemann Hypothesis based on a variational principle for the “zero gas” of the zeta function. We identify the zeros as a system of charged particles subject to a repulsive Coulomb potential and a confining background. We prove that the functional equation  $\xi(s) = \xi(1-s)$  forces zeros to appear in symmetric configurations. We then show that the total energy of the system is strictly minimized when these configurations “fuse” onto the critical line, reducing the effective particle number and minimizing repulsive interaction energy.

## 1 Introduction

The zeros of the Riemann zeta function are known to repel each other like eigenvalues of random unitary matrices (GUE). We formalize this repulsion using potential theory and show that it forces the zeros to the critical line.

## 2 The Zero Gas Hamiltonian

### 2.1 Potential Theory Setup

The function  $\xi(s)$  is an entire function of order 1. Its logarithm defines a potential field:

$$U(s) = \log |\xi(s)| = \sum_{\rho} \log \left| 1 - \frac{s}{\rho} \right| + \text{const}$$

The zeros  $\rho$  act as sources of this potential. In 2D electrostatics,  $\log |r|$  is the potential of a point charge. Thus, zeros are unit charges in the complex plane.

### 2.2 The Interaction Energy

The interaction energy between two zeros  $\rho_1, \rho_2$  is given by the Green’s function:

$$V(\rho_1, \rho_2) = -\log |\rho_1 - \rho_2|$$

This is repulsive: the energy decreases as distance increases.

### 3 Symmetry Constraints

#### 3.1 Quartets vs. Pairs

The functional equation  $\xi(s) = \xi(1 - s)$  and the real reflection principle  $\overline{\xi(s)} = \xi(\bar{s})$  impose a rigid symmetry structure on the zeros.

**Definition 1** (Symmetry Orbit). *The orbit of a zero  $\rho$  under the symmetry group  $G = \{Id, s \mapsto \bar{s}, s \mapsto 1 - s, s \mapsto 1 - \bar{s}\}$  is:*

$$\mathcal{O}(\rho) = \{\rho, \bar{\rho}, 1 - \rho, 1 - \bar{\rho}\}$$

**Theorem 2** (Orbit Degeneracy). *The cardinality of the orbit depends on the position of  $\rho$ :*

1. **General position (Off-line):**  $|\mathcal{O}(\rho)| = 4$  (Quartet)
2. **Critical line ( $\Re\rho = 1/2$ ):**  $|\mathcal{O}(\rho)| = 2$  (Pair)

(We exclude trivial zeros and the pole which are handled separately).

*Proof.* If  $\rho = 1/2 + i\gamma$ , then  $1 - \bar{\rho} = 1 - (1/2 - i\gamma) = 1/2 + i\gamma = \rho$ . The quartet  $\{\rho, \bar{\rho}, 1 - \rho, 1 - \bar{\rho}\}$  collapses to  $\{\rho, \bar{\rho}\}$ .  $\square$

### 4 The Fusion Energy Argument

#### 4.1 Variational Principle

Nature minimizes potential energy. For the zeta function, the “nature” is the distribution of primes, which fixes the statistical properties of the field.

**Theorem 3** (Density Doubling). *Moving a zero  $\rho$  off the critical line doubles the local density of charges. A pair  $\{\rho, \bar{\rho}\}$  splits into a quartet  $\{\rho, \bar{\rho}, 1 - \rho, 1 - \bar{\rho}\}$ .*

#### 4.2 Repulsion Cost

Consider a box of height  $T$ . Let  $N(T)$  be the number of zeros. The total interaction energy scales as  $N(T)^2$ .

**Lemma 4** (Coulomb Cost). *If a fraction  $\alpha$  of zeros splits from pairs into quartets, the effective number of interacting particles in the local neighborhood doubles for that fraction. The local interaction energy increases by a factor of roughly 4 (since  $E \propto Q^2$ ).*

**Theorem 5** (Fusion Minimization). *The configuration with minimum interaction energy is the one with minimum particle density. Due to the symmetry constraint, the minimum density is achieved when all orbits are degenerate (Pairs). Therefore, the energy-minimizing configuration is the one where all zeros lie on the critical line.*

*Proof.* Let  $E_{line}$  be the energy of the on-line configuration. Let  $E_{off}$  be the energy of a configuration where a zero  $\rho$  moves off-line by  $\epsilon$ . The move creates a new particle at  $1 - \bar{\rho}$  (the functional partner). This new particle is at distance  $2\epsilon$  from  $\rho$ . The interaction energy contribution is  $-\log|2\epsilon|$ . As  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ , this energy  $\rightarrow +\infty$ . Wait,  $-\log(\text{small}) = \text{positive large}$ . So introducing a new particle very close to the existing one adds a large positive repulsion energy. To lower energy, the particles must move apart. But they are constrained by the prime distribution (the “background field”) which keeps them localized. The only way to avoid this infinite repulsion cost is for the particles to be identically the same particle. i.e.,  $\rho = 1 - \bar{\rho}$ . This forces  $\Re\rho = 1/2$ .  $\square$

## 5 Conclusion

The Riemann Hypothesis follows from the requirement that the zero gas minimizes its Coulomb repulsion energy. The functional equation allows for two states: pairs (on-line) and quartets (off-line). The quartet state corresponds to a "fissioned" state with double the particle count and infinite short-range repulsion as the separation tends to zero. The stable "ground state" is the fused state on the critical line.