

# The Riemann Hypothesis

In Chapter 9, we meet perhaps the most prolific mathematician of all time: Euler. Dunham has written a lot in his career about Euler, and so we have two chapters to study his work. In this first chapter, our Great Theorem will investigate how Euler succeeded where Leibniz and Bernoulli failed to find the sum of  $\sum \frac{1}{n^2}$ . Euler didn't stop adding up series here, though, and has an impressive list of results similar to this one.

Euler's results, however, quickly bring up another question in the form of "how far can we really go, here?" It's natural at this point to introduce what's known as the Riemann hypothesis, since this famous unsolved problem in mathematics begins with Euler's work on series. Our second reading concerns this problem, and comes from a book titled "Trolling Euclid: An Irreverent Guide to Nine of Mathematics' Most Important Problems" by Tom Wright. Needless to say, the reading is a bit tongue-in-cheek, but I hope you'll enjoy it!

## Readings

First reading: Dunham, Chapter 9

Second reading: The Riemann Hypothesis

## Questions

**Question 1** *How many problems are in Hilbert's list in total?* 23  
given

**Question 2** *What is the value of  $\zeta(-2k)$  for  $k$  a positive integer?*

**Multiple Choice:**

- (a) *No one knows.*
- (b) *The function blows up to infinity there.*
- (c) *A purely imaginary number.*
- (d) 0 ✓