

On the Dirichlet Eta Function

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Abstract

This paper gives a proof of the following result: if $\eta(\rho)=0$ and $\Re(\rho)>0$, then:

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\chi_k(\rho)}{\eta_k(\rho)} = 2.$$

η is the *Dirichlet eta function* defined for $\Re(s)>0$ by $\eta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \chi_n(s)$ with $\chi_n(s) = (-1)^{n-1} n^{-s}$ and $\eta_k(s) = \sum_{n=1}^k \chi_n(s)$.

Keywords: *Dirichlet eta function; Riemann zeta function; Complex variable*

Introduction

We know that the *Riemann zeta function* ζ is the analytic function of the complex variable s , defined in the half-plane $\Re(s)>1$ by Sarnak [1]

$$\zeta(s) = \sum n^{-s} = \prod (1 - p^{-s})^{-1} \quad (1)$$

where the series $\sum n^{-s}$ is absolutely convergent for $\Re(s)>1$ and the product $\prod (1 - p^{-s})^{-1}$ extends over all the prime numbers $p \in P = \{2, 3, 5, 7, \dots\}$ and as shown by *Riemann*, ζ can be continued analytically to $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{1\}$ as a meromorphic function and has a simple pole at $s=1$ with residue 1 [2]. We also know that ζ is defined for any complex number $s \neq 1$ and having $\Re(s)>0$ by

$$\zeta(s) = (1 - 2^{1-s})^{-1} \eta(s) \quad (2)$$

where η is the *Dirichlet eta function* which is defined in the half-plane $\Re(s)>0$ by [3]

$$\eta(s) = \sum (-1)^{n-1} n^{-s} \quad (3)$$

so, noticing that $\forall s \in \mathbb{C}: (1 - 2^{1-s})^{-1} \neq 0$, we deduce that [4]:

"if $\zeta(s)=0$ and $\Re(s)>0$, then $\eta(s)=0$ ".

On the other hand, we know that $\zeta(s)$ is related to $\zeta(1-s)$ by the *Riemann functional equation* [5]

$$\zeta(s) = \zeta(1-s) \quad (4)$$

where $\Lambda(s) = \pi^{-s/2} \Gamma(s/2) \zeta(s)$ and Γ is the *Euler gamma function*. So, by the two in eqns. (2) and (4), we obtain:

$$\forall 0 < \Re(s) < 1: \frac{\eta(1-s)}{\eta(s)} = \frac{f(s)}{f(1-s)}; f(s) = \pi^{-s/2} \Gamma(s/2) (1 - 2^s)^{-1}$$

And we have $\Gamma(s)$ does not vanish for any s in \mathbb{C} and has an infinity of simple poles with residue $(-1)^n/n!$ at $s = -n$ where $n=0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$ etc.,

So

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow \rho} \frac{f(s)}{f(1-s)} = 0 \Rightarrow \rho = 3, 5, 7, 9, \dots$$

And

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow \rho} \frac{f(s)}{f(1-s)} = \infty \Rightarrow \dots, -8, -6, -4, -2 = \rho$$

Then

$$\forall 0 < \Re(\rho) < 1: \lim_{s \rightarrow \rho} \frac{f(s)}{f(1-s)} \neq 0, \infty$$

that is to say for every complex number ρ with $0 < \Re(\rho) < 1$, we have:

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow \rho} \frac{\eta(s)}{\eta(1-s)} \neq 0, \infty$$

this means that: "if $\eta(\rho)=0$ and $0 < \Re(\rho) < 1$, then $\eta(1-\rho)=0$ ".

So, for $\Re(s)>0$, we have:

$$\eta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \chi_n(s) \text{ with } \chi_n(s) = (-1)^{n-1} n^{-s}$$

let's denote:

$$\eta_k(s) = \sum_{n=1}^k \chi_n(s) \text{ for } k \geq 1,$$

if $\eta(\rho)=0$ and $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\chi_k(\rho)}{\eta_k(\rho)} = \infty$ then,

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\chi_{k+1}(\rho)}{\eta_{k+1}(\rho)} = \infty$$

and knowing that $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\chi_{k+1}(\rho)}{\chi_k(\rho)} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} (-1) \left(\frac{k}{k+1} \right)^{\rho} = -1$ we have

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\chi_{k+1}(\rho)}{\eta_{k+1}(\rho)} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{\chi_{k+1}(\rho)}{\chi_k(\rho)}}{\frac{\eta_{k+1}(\rho)}{\chi_k(\rho)}} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{\chi_{k+1}(\rho)}{\chi_k(\rho)}}{\frac{\eta_k(\rho) + \chi_{k+1}(\rho)}{\chi_k(\rho)}} = \frac{-1}{\frac{1}{\infty}} = \infty,$$

this implies $1 = \infty$, and this result is absurd, so if $\eta(\rho)=0$, then

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\chi_k(\rho)}{\eta_k(\rho)} \neq \infty,$$

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if $\eta(\rho)=0$ and $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)}{\eta_k(\rho)} = \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$, then

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathcal{X}_k+1(\rho)}{\eta_k+I(\rho)} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{\mathcal{X}_k+1(\rho)}{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)}}{\frac{\eta_k+I(\rho)}{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)}} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{\mathcal{X}_k+1(\rho)}{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)}}{\frac{\eta_k(\rho)}{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)} + \frac{\mathcal{X}_k+1(\rho)}{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)}} = \frac{-1}{\frac{1}{\lambda} - 1} = \lambda,$$

that is to say

$$\lambda=2,$$

if $\eta(\rho)=0$ and $0 < \Re(\rho) < 1$, then

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)}{\eta_k(\rho)} = 0, 2, \text{Z} \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathcal{X}_k(1-\rho)}{\eta_k(\rho)} = 0, 2, \text{Z} \quad (e.g. \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} e^{ik} = \text{Z})$$

and

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)}{\eta_k(\rho)}}{\frac{\mathcal{X}_k(1-\rho)}{\eta_k(1-\rho)}} = \begin{cases} 0, 2, \text{Z} \\ 0, 2, \text{Z} \end{cases} = 0, 1, \gamma \neq 1, \infty, \text{Z} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\eta_k(1-\rho)}{\eta_k(\rho)} \frac{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)}{\mathcal{X}_k(1-\rho)}$$

for $0 < \Re(\rho) < 1$: $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)}{\mathcal{X}_k(1-\rho)} = 0, \infty, \text{Z}$

if $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)}{\mathcal{X}_k(1-\rho)} = 0$ and $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\eta_k(1-\rho)}{\eta_k(\rho)} \neq \infty$, then

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\eta_k(1-\rho)}{\eta_k(\rho)} \frac{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)}{\mathcal{X}_k(1-\rho)} = 0 = \frac{0}{0, 2, \text{Z}}$$

that is to say if $\eta(\rho)=0$ and $\frac{1}{2} < \Re(\rho) < 1$ and $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\eta_k(1-\rho)}{\eta_k(\rho)} \neq \infty$
then

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)}{\eta_k(1-\rho)} = 0$$

but, it is very likely that if $\eta(\rho)=0$, then

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)}{\eta_k(\rho)} = 2 \neq 0$$

let $f_{n,\alpha}$ be the function of the variable x defined by

$$f_{n,\alpha}(x) = 1 - \left(\frac{x}{x+1} \right)^\alpha + \left(\frac{x}{x+2} \right)^\alpha - \left(\frac{x}{x+3} \right)^\alpha + \dots + (-1)^n \left(\frac{x}{x+n} \right)^\alpha$$

Then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_{n,\alpha}(x) = 1 - 1 + 1 - 1 + \dots + (-1)^n = \frac{1}{2} \quad (\text{Grandi's series})$$

let's take:

$$\eta_m(s) = \eta_k(s) + \eta_{k,m}(s) \quad \text{with} \quad \eta_{k,m}(s) = \sum_{n=k+1}^m \mathcal{X}_n(s)$$

so, if $\eta(\rho)=0$, then:

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \eta_m(\rho) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\eta_{k,m}(\rho)}{\eta_k(\rho)} = -1$$

and we have $\forall n \geq 0$:

$$\frac{\mathcal{X}_{k+n}(\rho)}{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)} = (-1)^n \left(\frac{k}{k+n} \right)^\rho$$

so, using $f_{n,\alpha}$ we have:

$$1 + \sum_{n=1}^m \frac{\mathcal{X}_{k+n}(\rho)}{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)} = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^m (-1)^n \left(\frac{k}{k+n} \right)^\rho = f_{m,\rho}(k)$$

and

$$\lim_{\substack{m \rightarrow \infty \\ m/x \rightarrow 0}} f_{m,\rho}(x) = 1 - 1 + 1 - 1 + \dots + (-1)^m = \frac{1}{2}$$

that is to say

$$1 + \lim_{\substack{m \rightarrow \infty \\ m/x \rightarrow 0}} \sum_{n=1}^m \frac{\mathcal{X}_{k+n}(\rho)}{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)} = 1 + \lim_{\substack{m \rightarrow \infty \\ m/x \rightarrow 0}} \frac{\sum_{n=1}^m \mathcal{X}_{k+n}(\rho)}{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)} = 1 + \lim_{\substack{m \rightarrow \infty \\ m/x \rightarrow 0}} \frac{\eta_{k,m}(\rho)}{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)} = \frac{1}{2}$$

then

$$1 + \lim_{\substack{m \rightarrow \infty \\ m/x \rightarrow 0}} \frac{\eta_{k,m}(\rho)}{\eta_k(\rho)} \frac{\eta_k(\rho)}{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)} = 1 - \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\eta_k(\rho)}{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)} = \frac{1}{2}$$

that is to say

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\eta_k(\rho)}{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)} = \frac{1}{2}$$

So

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathcal{X}_k(\rho)}{\eta_k(\rho)} = 2.$$

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