CONTINUATIONS AND FUNCTIONAL EQUATIONS

The Riemann zeta function is *initially* defined as a sum,

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n>1} n^{-s}, \quad \operatorname{Re}(s) > 1.$$

The first part of this writeup gives Riemann's argument that the completion of zeta,

$$Z(s) = \pi^{-s/2} \Gamma(s/2) \zeta(s), \quad \text{Re}(s) > 1$$

has a meromorphic continuation to the full s-plane, analytic except for simple poles at s = 0 and s = 1, and the continuation satisfies the functional equation

$$Z(1-s) = Z(s), \quad s \in \mathbb{C}.$$

The continuation is no longer defined by the sum. Instead, it is defined by a wellbehaved integral-with-parameter.

Essentially the same ideas apply to Dirichlet L-functions,

$$L(\chi, s) = \sum_{n \ge 1} \chi(n) n^{-s}, \quad \text{Re}(s) > 1.$$

The second part of this writeup will give their completion, continuation and functional equation.

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Part 1. RIEMANN ZETA FUNCTION: MEROMORPHIC CONTINUATION AND FUNCTIONAL EQUATION

1. Fourier transform

The space of measurable and absolutely integrable functions on \mathbb{R} is

$$\mathcal{L}^1(\mathbb{R}) = \{ \text{measurable } f : \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \mathbb{C} : \int_{x \in \mathbb{R}} |f(x)| \, \mathrm{d}x < \infty \}.$$

Any $f \in \mathcal{L}^1(\mathbb{R})$ has a Fourier transform $\mathcal{F}f : \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}$ given by

$$(\mathcal{F}f)(\xi) = \int_{x \in \mathbb{R}} f(x)e^{-2\pi i \xi x} \, \mathrm{d}x.$$

Although the Fourier transform is continuous, it needn't belong to $\mathcal{L}^1(\mathbb{R})$. But if also $\int_{x\in\mathbb{R}} |f(x)|^2 dx < \infty$ then $\int_{x\in\mathbb{R}} |(\mathcal{F}f)(x)|^2 dx < \infty$. That is, if $f \in \mathcal{L}^1(\mathbb{R}) \cap \mathcal{L}^2(\mathbb{R})$ then $\mathcal{F}f \in \mathcal{L}^2(\mathbb{R})$.

Conceptually the Fourier transform value $(\mathcal{F}f)(x) \in \mathbb{C}$ is a sort of inner product of f and the frequency- ξ oscillation $e^{2\pi i \xi x}$. Thus we might hope to resynthesize f from the continuum of oscillations weighted suitably by the inner products,

$$f(x) = \int_{\xi \in \mathbb{R}} (\mathcal{F}f)(\xi) e^{2\pi i \xi x} d\xi, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

However, the question of which functions f satisfy the previous display, and the analysis of showing that they do, are nontrivial.

2. Fourier transform of the Gaussian and its dilations

Let $g \in \mathcal{L}^1(\mathbb{R})$ be the Gaussian function,

$$g(x) = e^{-\pi x^2}.$$

The Fourier transform of the Gaussian is again the Gaussian,

$$\mathcal{F}g = g$$
.

This is readily shown by complex contour integration or by differentiation under the integral sign, as follows.

For the contour integration argument, compute that

$$(\mathcal{F}g)(\eta) = \int_{x=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\pi x^2} e^{-2\pi i \eta x} dx$$

$$= \int_{x=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\pi (x^2 + 2ix\eta - \eta^2)} e^{-\pi \eta^2} dx$$

$$= e^{-\pi \eta^2} \int_{x=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\pi (x+i\eta)^2} dx.$$

That is, $(\mathcal{F}g)(\eta)$ is $g(\eta)$ scaled by an integral. The scaling integral is an integral of the extension of g to the complex plane, taken over a horizontal line translated vertically from \mathbb{R} . A small exercise with Cauchy's Theorem and limits shows that consequently the integral is just the Gaussian integral $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\pi x^2} dx$, which is 1. Thus $\mathcal{F}g = g$ as claimed.

For the differentiation argument, note that $g'(x) = -2\pi x g(x)$ and g(0) = 1. Let $\psi_{\xi}(x) = e^{2\pi i \xi x}$ so that the Fourier transform of the Gaussian is $(\mathcal{F}g)(\xi) = -2\pi x g(x)$ $\int_{x=-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) \overline{\psi}_{\xi}(x) dx$, and compute, differentiating under the integral sign, recognizing $-2\pi x g(x)$ as g'(x), and integrating by parts,

$$(\mathcal{F}g)'(\xi) = \int_{x=-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} \overline{\psi}_{\xi}(x) \, \mathrm{d}x = \int_{x=-\infty}^{\infty} (-2\pi i x) g(x) \overline{\psi}_{\xi}(x) \, \mathrm{d}x$$
$$= i \int_{x=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x} g(x) \overline{\psi}_{\xi}(x) \, \mathrm{d}x = -i \int_{x=-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \overline{\psi}_{\xi}(x) \, \mathrm{d}x$$
$$= -2\pi \xi \int_{x=-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) \overline{\psi}_{\xi}(x) \, \mathrm{d}x = -2\pi \xi \, (\mathcal{F}g)(\xi).$$

Also $(\mathcal{F}g)(0) = \int_{x=-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) dx = 1$. Thus $\mathcal{F}g$ satisfies the same differential equation and initial condition as g, and again we have $\mathcal{F}g = g$ as claimed.

For any function $f \in \mathcal{L}^1(\mathbb{R})$ and any positive number r, the r-dilation of f,

$$f_r(x) = f(xr),$$

has Fourier transform

$$\mathcal{F}(f_r) = r^{-1}(\mathcal{F}f)_{r^{-1}}.$$

So in particular, returning to the Gaussian function g

the Fourier transform of $g_{t^{-1/2}}$ is $t^{1/2}g_{t^{1/2}}$, t > 0.

3. Theta function

Let \mathcal{H} denote the complex upper half plane. The theta function on \mathcal{H} is

$$\vartheta: \mathcal{H} \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}, \qquad \vartheta(\tau) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{\pi i n^2 \tau}.$$

The sum converges rapidly away from the real axis, i.e., its tails decay exponentially in $\text{Im}(\tau)$,

$$\left| \sum_{|n| \ge n_o} e^{\pi i n^2 (\sigma + it)} \right| \le \sum_{|n| \ge n_o} e^{-\pi |n|t} < 2e^{-\pi n_o t} / (1 - e^{-\pi t}),$$

making absolute and uniform convergence on compact subsets of \mathcal{H} easy to show, and thus defining a holomorphic function. Specialize to $\tau = it$ with t > 0, and write $\theta(t)$ for $\vartheta(it)$. Again let g be the Gaussian. The theta function along the positive imaginary axis is a sum of dilated Gaussians whose graphs narrow as n grows absolutely,

$$\theta(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{-\pi n^2 t}, \quad t > 0.$$

Equivalently,

$$\theta(t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} g_{t^{1/2}}(n), \quad t > 0.$$

4. Poisson summation; the transformation law of the theta function

For any function $f \in \mathcal{L}^1(\mathbb{R})$ such that the sum $\sum_{d \in \mathbb{Z}} f(x+d)$ converges absolutely and uniformly on compact sets and is infinitely differentiable as a function of x, the *Poisson summation formula* is

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} f(x+n) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} (\mathcal{F}f)(n)e^{2\pi i nx}.$$

The idea here is that the left side is the periodicization of f, and then the right side is the Fourier series of the left side, because the nth Fourier coefficient of the periodicized f is the nth Fourier transform of f itself.

More specifically, the \mathbb{Z} -periodicization of f,

$$F: \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}, \quad F(x) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} f(x+n),$$

is reproduced by its Fourier series,

$$F(x) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \widehat{F}(n) e^{2\pi i n x}.$$

But as mentioned, the *n*th Fourier coefficient of F is the *n*th Fourier transform of f,

$$\widehat{F}(n) = \int_{t=0}^{1} F(t)e^{-2\pi i n t} dt = \int_{t=0}^{1} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} f(t+k)e^{-2\pi i n (t+k)} dt$$
$$= \int_{t=-\infty}^{\infty} f(t)e^{-2\pi i n t} dt = (\mathcal{F}f)(n),$$

and so the identity $F(x) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \hat{F}(n) e^{2\pi i n x}$ gives the Poisson summation formula as claimed,

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} f(x+n) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} (\mathcal{F}f)(n)e^{2\pi i nx}.$$

When x = 0 the Poisson summation formula specializes to

$$\sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} f(n) = \sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} (\mathcal{F}f)(n).$$

And especially, if f is the dilated Gaussian $g_{t^{-1/2}}$ then Poisson summation with x=0 shows that

$$\sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}}g_{t^{-1/2}}(n)=t^{1/2}\sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}}g_{t^{1/2}}(n),$$

which is to say,

$$\theta(1/t) = t^{1/2} \theta(t), \quad t > 0.$$

The previous display says that the theta function is a modular form.

As we will see in the second part of this writeup, Poisson summation without specializing to x=0 similarly shows that a more general theta function satisfies a more complicated transformation law.

5. Riemann zeta as the Mellin transform of theta

With these preliminaries in hand, the properties of the Riemann zeta function are established by examining the *Mellin transform* of (essentially) the theta function. In general, the Mellin transform of a function $f: \mathbb{R}^+ \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is the integral

$$g(s) = \int_{t=0}^{\infty} f(t)t^{s} \, \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}$$

for s-values such that the integral converges absolutely. Here q no longer denotes the Gaussian. The Mellin transform is merely the Fourier transform in different coordinates, as is explained in another writeup. Some features to note about the Mellin transform-

- Really the integral is taken over the multiplicative group \mathbb{R}_+^{\times} of positive real numbers, a topological group. The lower endpoint 0 of integration is just as improper as the upper endpoint ∞ . A significant part of the work to follow will address fragile convergence of integrals at this improper lower limit, whereas the integrals will converge robustly at the improper upper limit.
- Just as the measure dt on the additive group \mathbb{R} satisfies d(t+c) = dt and d(at) = a dt, so does the measure dt/t on \mathbb{R}^{\times} satisfy d(ct)/(ct) = dt/tand $dt^a/t^a = a dt/t$. Especially, we will use the fact that the substitution $t\mapsto t^{-1}$ takes (0,1] to $[1,\infty)$, reversing orientation, while $\mathrm{d}t^{-1}/t^{-1}$ equals -dt/t, also with a minus sign, so that integration from 0 to 1 naturally becomes integration from 1 to ∞ . The measure dt/t is the Haar measure of \mathbb{R}^{\times} . The integral $\int_{0}^{1} t^{s} dt/t$ converges for $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 0$ and the integral $\int_{1}^{\infty} t^{s} dt/t$ converges for $\operatorname{Re}(s) < 0$.

 • The function $t \mapsto t^{s}$ is a character from \mathbb{R}_{+}^{\times} to \mathbb{C}^{\times} .

For example, the Mellin transform of e^{-t} is $\Gamma(s)$. Also, the Mellin transform at s/2 of the function

$$\frac{1}{2}(\theta(t) - 1) = \sum_{n > 1} e^{-\pi n^2 t}, \quad t > 0$$

is

$$g(s/2) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{t=0}^{\infty} (\theta(t) - 1) t^{s/2} \frac{dt}{t}.$$

Because $\theta(t) \to 1$ as $t \to \infty$, the modular transformation law $\theta(1/t) = t^{1/2} \theta(t)$ shows that $\theta(t) \sim t^{-1/2}$ as $t \to 0^+$, making the integrand roughly $t^{(s-1)/2} dt/t$ as $t \to 0^+$, and therefore the integral converges at its left end for Re(s) > 1. Replace $\frac{1}{2}(\theta(t)-1)$ by its expression as a sum to get

$$g(s/2) = \int_{t=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n \ge 1} e^{-\pi n^2 t} t^{s/2} \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}.$$

The estimate $\sum_{n\geq 1} e^{-\pi n^2 t} \leq \sum_{n\geq 1} e^{-\pi n t} \leq e^{-\pi t}/(1-e^{-\pi t})$ shows that the sum converges rapidly to 0 as $t\to\infty$, and so the integral converges at its right end for all values of s. Also, the rapid convergence lets the sum pass through the integral in the previous display to yield, after a change of variable,

$$g(s/2) = \sum_{n>1} (\pi n^2)^{-s/2} \int_{t=0}^{\infty} e^{-t} t^{s/2} \frac{dt}{t} = \pi^{-s/2} \Gamma(s/2) \zeta(s), \quad \text{Re}(s) > 1.$$

Thus, when Re(s) > 1, the integral g(s/2) is the function Z(s) mentioned at the beginning of this writeup. So this paragraph has in fact shown that the modified zeta function

$$Z(s) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \pi^{-s/2}\Gamma(s/2)\zeta(s), \quad \text{Re}(s) > 1$$

has an integral representation as the Mellin transform of (essentially) the theta function,

$$Z(s) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{t=0}^{\infty} (\theta(t) - 1) t^{s/2} \frac{dt}{t}, \quad \text{Re}(s) > 1.$$

Thinking in these terms, the factor $\pi^{-s/2}\Gamma(s/2)$ is intrinsically associated to $\zeta(s)$, making Z(s) the natural function to consider. Modern adelic considerations make the factor even more natural as a completion of the zeta function at the infinite prime, but those ideas are beyond our current scope.

6. Meromorphic continuation and functional equation

The facts that Z is essentially the Mellin transform of θ and that θ is a modular form quickly give rise to the meromorphic continuation and functional equation of Z. Specifically, compute part of the integral representation of Z by replacing t by 1/t and then using the modular transformation law $\theta(1/t) = t^{1/2} \theta(t)$, and then using the little identity $\int_1^\infty t^\alpha \, \mathrm{d}t/t = -1/\alpha$ for $\mathrm{Re}(\alpha) < 0$ twice, with $\alpha = -s/2$ and with $\alpha = (1-s)/2$, both having negative real part because $\mathrm{Re}(s) > 1$,

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_{t=0}^{1} (\theta(t) - 1) t^{s/2} \frac{dt}{t} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{t=1}^{\infty} (\theta(1/t) - 1) t^{-s/2} \frac{dt}{t}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_{t=1}^{\infty} \left((\theta(t) - 1) t^{(1-s)/2} - t^{-s/2} + t^{(1-s)/2} \right) \frac{dt}{t}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_{t=1}^{\infty} (\theta(t) - 1) t^{(1-s)/2} \frac{dt}{t} - \frac{1}{s} - \frac{1}{1-s}.$$

Combine this with the remainder of the integral representation of Z(s) to get

$$Z(s) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{t=1}^{\infty} (\theta(t) - 1)(t^{s/2} + t^{(1-s)/2}) \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} - \frac{1}{s} - \frac{1}{1-s}, \quad \text{Re}(s) > 1.$$

And now, because the integral in the last display has left endpoint t = 1 rather than t = 0, it is entire in s, making the right side meromorphic everywhere in the s-plane with its only poles being simple poles at s = 0 and s = 1. That is, the new description of Z is no longer constrained to the right half plane Re(s) > 1,

$$Z(s) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{t=1}^{\infty} (\theta(t) - 1)(t^{s/2} + t^{(1-s)/2}) \frac{dt}{t} - \frac{1}{s} - \frac{1}{1-s}, \quad s \in \mathbb{C}.$$

This new description extends Z to a meromorphic function on all of \mathbb{C} . The definition of the extended function no longer makes reference to $\zeta(s)$ as a sum.

The right side of the previous display is clearly invariant under the substitution $s \mapsto 1-s$. That is, the meromorphic continuation of Z(s) to the full s-plane satisfies the functional equation

$$Z(1-s) = Z(s), \quad s \in \mathbb{C}.$$

7. Some extended zeta values

The computation that for Re(s) > 0,

$$\Gamma(s) = \int_0^1 e^{-t} t^s \, \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} + \int_1^\infty e^{-t} t^s \, \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}$$

$$= \sum_{n \ge 0} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \int_0^1 t^{s+n-1} \, \mathrm{d}t + \int_1^\infty e^{-t} t^s \, \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}$$

$$= \sum_{n \ge 0} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!(s+n)} + \int_1^\infty e^{-t} t^s \, \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}$$

expresses $\Gamma(s)$ as the sum of two expressions, the first of which extends meromorphically from Re(s) > 0 to \mathbb{C} and the second of which extends analytically to \mathbb{C} . So overall, Γ extends meromorphically to \mathbb{C} with a simple pole of residue $(-1)^n/n!$ at each nonpositive integer $-n \leq 0$. The functional equation for the completed zeta function, featuring the completed gamma function,

$$\pi^{-(1-s)/2}\Gamma(\tfrac{1-s}{2})\zeta(1-s)=\pi^{-s/2}\Gamma(\tfrac{s}{2})\zeta(s),\quad s\in\mathbb{C},$$

after being multiplied through by $\Gamma(\frac{s+1}{2})$ combines with the gamma function identities

$$\Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right)\Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right) = \pi^{\frac{1}{2}}2^{1-s}\Gamma(s)$$
 (Legendre duplication formula)

and

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

to give (exercise)

$$\zeta(1-s) = 2(2\pi)^{-s}\Gamma(s)\cos(\frac{\pi s}{2})\zeta(s).$$

For Re(s) > 1 the right side vanishes only for $s = 3, 5, 7 \ldots$, and so the only zeros of the extended $\zeta(s)$ in the left half plane are simple zeros at $s = -2, -4, -6, \ldots$. Also, the pole of $\zeta(s)$ at s = 1 shows that that the extended $\zeta(s)$ doesn't vanish at s = 0; indeed, because $\zeta(s) \sim 1/(s-1)$ and $\cos(\frac{\pi s}{2}) \sim -\frac{\pi}{2}(s-1)$ as s goes to 1, the functional equation says that $\zeta(0) = -1/2$. Another famous result is that because $\zeta(2) = \pi^2/6$, the functional equation says that $\zeta(-1) = -1/12$. These results do not attribute values to the sums $1+1+1+\cdots$ and $1+2+3+\cdots$. More generally, a result that we have established earlier,

$$\zeta(k) = -\frac{(2\pi i)^k}{2 \, k!} B_k, \quad k \ge 2 \text{ even},$$

with B_k the kth Bernoulli number, combines with the functional equation to give

$$\zeta(1-k) = -\frac{B_k}{k}, \quad k \ge 2 \text{ even.}$$

This is tidier than the value of $\zeta(k)$, with no power of π and no factorial. For elaborate computations with the zeta function and its variants that have similar functional equations, it is an indispensable gain of ease—and of likely-correct results—to move to the tidy divergent region of the functional equation, work there, and then take the answer back to the region of convergence if so desired.

8. Completed ζ as a product of local integrals

On the real field unit group \mathbb{R}^{\times} , the Gaussian function $g(t) = e^{-\pi t^2}$ is smooth of rapid decay, and the function $t \mapsto |t|^s$ is a character. With μ the Haar measure of \mathbb{R}^{\times} , compute an integral that incorporates this function and this character,

$$\begin{split} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{\times}} g(t)|t|^{s} d\mu(t) &= 2 \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-\pi t^{2}} t^{s} \frac{dt}{t} \\ &= \pi^{-s/2} \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-\pi t^{2}} (\pi t^{2})^{s/2} \frac{d(\pi t^{2})}{\pi t^{2}} \\ &= \pi^{-s/2} \Gamma(s/2). \end{split}$$

We recognize this as the factor that completes $\zeta(s)$ to Z(s).

For any prime p, each element of \mathbb{Q}^{\times} uniquely takes the form $p^e m/n$ where $e \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $m \in \mathbb{Z} - \{0\}$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$ and $p \nmid mn$, and the absolute value of the p-adic field unit group \mathbb{Q}_p^{\times} completes the p-adic absolute value on \mathbb{Q}^{\times} ,

$$|\cdot|_p: \mathbb{Q}^{\times} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^+, \qquad |p^e m/n|_p = p^{-e}.$$

Thus \mathbb{Q}_p^{\times} consists of concentric p-adic circles whose set of radii $p^{\mathbb{Z}}$ is discrete. The punctured p-adic integer ring $\mathbb{Z}_p - \{0\}$ is, as a set, the punctured closed unit disk in \mathbb{Q}_p^{\times} , i.e., the set of nonzero p-adic numbers t such that $|t|_p \leq 1$, and the p-adic integer unit group \mathbb{Z}_p^{\times} is the unit circle, $|t|_p = 1$. Thus $\mathbb{Z}_p - \{0\} = \bigsqcup_{e \geq 0} p^e \mathbb{Z}_p^{\times}$. Let g be the characteristic function of \mathbb{Z}_p on \mathbb{Q}_p^{\times} ,

$$g(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } t \in \mathbb{Z}_p \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

Despite its casewise formula, g is p-adically smooth because the p-adic absolute value has discrete range $p^{\mathbb{Z}}$, and certainly g decays rapidly. With $|\cdot|$ now denoting the p-adic absolute value, and with μ the Haar measure of \mathbb{Q}_p^{\times} scaled so that $\mu(\mathbb{Z}_p^{\times}) = 1$ and therefore $\mu(p^e\mathbb{Z}_p^{\times}) = 1$ for all e, compute a p-adic integral similar to the real integral above,

$$\int_{\mathbb{Q}_p^{\times}} g(t)|t|^s d\mu(t) = \sum_{e \ge 0} \int_{p^e \mathbb{Z}_p^{\times}} (p^{-e})^s d\mu(t)$$
$$= \sum_{e \ge 0} (p^{-s})^e$$
$$= (1 - p^{-s})^{-1}.$$

We recognize this as the pth Euler product factor of $\zeta(s)$.

Altogether the completion Z of ζ is the product of these *local integrals* over the multiplicative groups of the completions \mathbb{R} and \mathbb{Q}_p of \mathbb{Q} . Ostrowski's theorem says that these are all the completions.

Part 2. DIRICHLET L-FUNCTIONS: ANALYTIC CONTINUATION AND FUNCTIONAL EQUATION

9. Gauss sums of a primitive Dirichlet Character

In the theta function of a Dirichlet character, Gauss sums arise naturally as the character's Fourier coefficients. We analyze these Gauss sums in advance so that the consequent analysis of the theta function can proceed uninterrupted.

A primitive Dirichlet character

$$\chi: (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{\times} \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}^{\times}$$

has associated Gauss sums

$$\tau_n(\chi) = \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \chi(m) e^{2\pi i n m/N}, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Here we may think of n as the frequency of the character $m \mapsto e^{2\pi i n m/N}$ of $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$, and of τ_n as the frequency-n Fourier transform of χ . Especially the basic Gauss sum of χ has frequency 1,

$$\tau(\chi) = \tau_1(\chi) = (\mathcal{F}\chi)(1) = \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \chi(m)e^{2\pi i m/N}.$$

The sum $\tau_n(\chi)$ could be taken only over $m \in (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{\times}$, and the next proposition will show that we could consider $\tau_n(\chi)$ only for $n \in (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{\times}$ because otherwise $\tau_n(\chi) = 0$. However, the proof of the main result of this section,

$$\tau(\chi)\tau(\overline{\chi}) = \chi(-1)N,$$

to be established after the proposition, is transparent when we sum over $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$ rather than summing only over $(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{\times}$. Summing over $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$ lets us use the fact that exponentiation is an additive character along with χ being a multiplicative character.

Proposition 9.1. If χ is primitive modulo N then

$$\overline{\chi}(n)\tau(\chi) = \tau_n(\chi), \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Proof. First assume that gcd(n, N) = 1. The relation $\overline{\chi}(n)\chi(n) = 1$ quickly proves the formula,

$$\overline{\chi}(n)\tau(\chi) = \overline{\chi}(n) \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \chi(m)e^{2\pi i m/N}$$

$$= \overline{\chi}(n) \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \chi(nm)e^{2\pi i n m/N}$$

$$= \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \chi(m)e^{2\pi i n m/N} = \tau_n(\chi).$$

Now assume that gcd(n, N) > 1. We need to show that $\tau_n(\chi) = 0$. For this argument it is more convenient to rewrite the Gauss sum as

$$\tau_n(\chi) = \sum_{m \in (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{\times}} \chi(m) e^{2\pi i n m/N}.$$

The degenerate case N=1 is excluded because gcd(n,N) > 1. Let g = gcd(n,N), so that n=n'g and N=N'g for some integer n' and positive integer N'. The surjection

$$(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{\times} \longrightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/N'\mathbb{Z})^{\times}$$

has kernel

$$K = \{k \in (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{\times} : k = 1 \operatorname{mod} N'\},\$$

and thus $(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{\times}$ has a coset decomposition

$$(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{\times} = \bigsqcup_{r} rK,$$

where the representatives $r \in (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{\times}$ take distinct values modulo N'. All elements m of a given coset rK satisfy $m = r \mod N'$. Note also that

$$e^{2\pi i n m/N} = e^{2\pi i n' m/N'} = e^{2\pi i n' r/N'}$$
 for $m \in rK$.

and this value depends only on r. Thus altogether we have

$$\tau_n(\chi) = \sum_r \sum_{m \in rK} \chi(m) e^{2\pi i n m/N} = \sum_r \chi(r) e^{2\pi i n' r/N'} \sum_{k \in K} \chi(k).$$

Now we use the fact that χ is primitive. Specifically, χ doesn't factor through the quotient $(\mathbb{Z}/N'\mathbb{Z})^{\times} \approx (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{\times}/K$ of $(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{\times}$, so it isn't identically 1 on K. Consequently the inner sum at the end of the previous display is 0, showing that $\tau_n(\chi) = 0$ as desired.

Now compute, using the proposition's result $\overline{\chi}(n)\tau(\chi) = \tau_n(\chi)$ for the second equality,

$$\begin{split} \tau(\chi)\tau(\overline{\chi}) &= \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \overline{\chi}(n)\tau(\chi)e^{2\pi i n/N} = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \tau_n(\chi)e^{2\pi i n/N} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \chi(m)e^{2\pi i n m/N}e^{2\pi i n/N} \\ &= \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \chi(m) \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} e^{2\pi i (m+1)n/N} = \chi(-1)N, \end{split}$$

the last equality holding because the inner sum is N when m = -1 and 0 otherwise. Because $\tau(\overline{\chi}) = \chi(-1)\overline{\tau(\chi)}$, as is readily verified, the previous display shows that $|\tau(\chi)| = N^{1/2}$.

Our proof that $\tau(\chi)\tau(\overline{\chi})=\chi(-1)N$ in an earlier writeup was simpler because it could use its circumstance that N is prime, giving $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}=(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{\times}\cup\{0\}$ and making every nontrivial character modulo N primitive. But now N needn't be prime.

A Dirichlet character χ : is called *even* if $\chi(-1) = 1$ and *odd* if $\chi(-1) = -1$. Introduce an associated integer $\delta = \delta(\chi)$,

$$\delta = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \chi \text{ is even,} \\ 1 & \text{if } \chi \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

Thus $\chi(-1) = (-1)^{\delta}$ in both cases. Introduce the *root number* of a primitive Dirichlet character, a complex number of absolute value 1,

$$W(\chi) = \frac{\tau(\chi)}{i^{\delta} N^{1/2}} \,.$$

The root number is chosen so that regardless of the parity of χ , the relation $\tau(\chi)\tau(\overline{\chi})=\chi(-1)N$ becomes $W(\chi)W(\overline{\chi})=1$, or

$$W(\overline{\chi}) = W(\chi)^{-1}$$
.

10. Theta function of a primitive Dirichlet Character

A primitive even Dirichlet character modulo N has an associated theta function

$$\theta_+(\chi,t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \chi(n) e^{-\pi n^2 t/N}, \quad t > 0.$$

The sum $\theta_+(\chi, t)$ is zero for odd χ . A primitive odd Dirichlet character modulo N has an associated theta function

$$\theta_{-}(\chi,t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} n\chi(n)e^{-\pi n^2 t/N}, \quad t > 0.$$

The sum $\theta_{-}(\chi, t)$ is zero for even χ . To gather the two cases, recall the integer $\delta = \delta(\chi)$ that is 0 if χ is even and 1 if χ is odd. The definition

$$\theta(\chi,t) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} n^{\delta} \chi(n) e^{-\pi n^2 t/N}, \quad t > 0$$

captures both definitions above. The sum converges rapidly as t grows, because for $t \geq 1$ its nth term is at most $n^{-2}e^{-t}$ for all $|n| > n_o$ for some n_o independent of t, making its n_o th tail $\mathcal{O}(e^{-t})$, and its n_o th truncation is $\mathcal{O}(e^{-t})$ as well. We will derive a modular transformation law for this theta function.

11. Dirichlet theta function transformation law

Fourier analysis on the finite additive abelian group $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$ gives for any integer n,

$$\chi(n) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} (\mathcal{F}\chi)(m) e^{2\pi i n m/N}$$

where the mth Fourier coefficient of χ is the Gauss sum of χ having frequency -m,

$$(\mathcal{F}\chi)(m) = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \chi(k)e^{-2\pi ikm/N} = \tau_{-m}(\chi).$$

Now the theta function of χ is

(1)
$$\theta(\chi,t) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \tau_{-m}(\chi) \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} n^{\delta} e^{2\pi i n m/N - \pi n^2 t/N}, \quad t > 0.$$

We show that Poisson summation gives formula (1) for the Dirichlet theta function as one of two expressions that are equal, leading to the Dirichlet theta function transformation law. Recall that the Poisson summation formula says that for suitable functions $f: \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}$,

$$\sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} f(x+n) = \sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} (\mathcal{F}f)(n)e^{2\pi i nx}, \quad x\in\mathbb{R}.$$

Recall also that the Fourier transform of a dilation $f_r(x) = f(xr)$ of a suitable function f is

$$\mathcal{F}(f_r) = r^{-1}(\mathcal{F}f)_{r^{-1}}, \quad r > 0.$$

And recall that the Gaussian function,

$$g: \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}, \qquad g(x) = e^{-\pi x^2},$$

is its own Fourier transform, i.e., $\mathcal{F}g = g$. Using the results just mentioned, compute that for $x \in \mathbb{R}$ (as compared to x = 0 back in section 4) and r > 0,

$$\begin{split} \sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} e^{-\pi(x+n)^2/r} &= \sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} g_{r^{-1/2}}(x+n) \\ &= \sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} \mathcal{F}(g_{r^{-1/2}})(n) e^{2\pi i n x} \qquad \text{by Poisson summation} \\ &= r^{1/2} \sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} (\mathcal{F}g)_{r^{1/2}}(n) e^{2\pi i n x} \qquad \text{by the dilation formula} \\ &= r^{1/2} \sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} g_{r^{1/2}}(n) e^{2\pi i n x} \qquad \text{by the property of the Gaussian} \\ &= r^{1/2} \sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}} e^{2\pi i n x - \pi n^2 r}. \end{split}$$

A slight rearrangement gives

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{2\pi i n x - \pi n^2 r} = r^{-1/2} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{-\pi (x+n)^2/r}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \ r > 0.$$

Differentiate with respect to x to get

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} n e^{2\pi i n x - \pi n^2 r} = i r^{-3/2} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} (x+n) e^{-\pi (x+n)^2/r}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \ r > 0.$$

Recall the integer δ that is 0 for an even Dirichlet character and 1 for an odd one, and use it to gather the previous two displays,

(2)
$$\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} n^{\delta} e^{2\pi i n x - \pi n^2 r} = i^{\delta} r^{-1/2 - \delta} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} (x+n)^{\delta} e^{-\pi (x+n)^2/r}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \ r > 0.$$

The left side multiplied by $\tau_{-m}(\chi)/N$, with x=m/N and r=1/(tN) where t>0, is

$$\frac{1}{N}\tau_{-m}(\chi)\sum_{n\in\mathbb{Z}}n^{\delta}e^{2\pi inm/N-\pi n^2/(tN)},$$

and summing this over $m=0,\ldots,N-1$ gives formula (1) for θ , though now with 1/t in place of t,

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \tau_{-m}(\chi) \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} n^{\delta} e^{2\pi i n m/N - \pi n^2/(tN)} = \theta(\chi, 1/t).$$

It follows that also $\theta(\chi, 1/t)$ arises from the same process on the right side of (2), i.e., multiplying by $\tau_{-m}(\chi)/N$ and summing over m with x = m/N and r = 1/(tN),

$$\theta(\chi, 1/t) = \frac{i^{\delta}}{N} (t/N)^{-1/2 - \delta} \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \tau_{-m}(\chi) \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} (m/N + n)^{\delta} e^{-\pi (m/N + n)^2 t N}$$
$$= \frac{i^{\delta}}{N^{1/2}} t^{-1/2 - \delta} \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} \tau_{-m}(\chi) \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} (m + nN)^{\delta} e^{-\pi (m + nN)^2 t / N}.$$

Note that $\tau_{-m}(\chi) = \tau_{-m-nN}(\chi)$. Let m + nN be a new variable that runs through \mathbb{Z} , denoted n, to get

$$\theta(\chi, 1/t) = \frac{i^{\delta}}{N^{1/2}} t^{-1/2 - \delta} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} n^{\delta} \tau_{-n}(\chi) e^{-\pi n^2 t/N}.$$

Proposition 9.1 gives $\tau_{-n}(\chi) = \tau(\chi)\overline{\chi}(-n)$, and the definition of $\delta = \delta(\chi)$ is such that $\overline{\chi}(-n) = (-1)^{\delta}\overline{\chi}(n)$, and -i = 1/i, so

$$\theta(\chi, 1/t) = \frac{\tau(\chi)}{i^{\delta} N^{1/2}} t^{1/2 + \delta} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} n^{\delta} \overline{\chi}(n) e^{-\pi n^2 t/N}.$$

Altogether the modular transformation law of the Dirichlet theta function is

$$\theta(\chi, 1/t) = W(\chi) t^{1/2+\delta} \theta(\overline{\chi}, t), \quad t > 0.$$

Because $\theta(\overline{\chi},t)$ decreases rapidly as $t\to\infty$, the boxed identity shows that also $\theta(\chi,t)$ decreases rapidly as $t\to0^+$. (A separate matter, not to be conflated with this, is the numerical phenomenon that for fixed large t the theta function series converges quickly as a series indexed by n but for fixed t near 0^+ it converges slowly.)

12. Analytic continuation and functional equation

Let χ be a nontrivial primitive Dirichlet character. Recall that its Dirichlet L-function is

$$L(\chi, s) = \sum_{n>1} \chi(n) n^{-s}, \quad \text{Re}(s) > 1.$$

Let N be the conductor of χ . Recall that the integer δ is 0 or 1 depending whether χ is even or odd. Because χ is nontrivial, its conductor N is greater than 1, and so $\chi(0) = 0$. Therefore, for $s \in \mathbb{C}$ with Re(s) > 0,

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_{t=0}^{\infty} \theta(\chi, t) t^{(s+\delta)/2} \frac{dt}{t} = \sum_{n \ge 1} n^{\delta} \chi(n) \int_{t=0}^{\infty} e^{-\pi n^2 t/N} t^{(s+\delta)/2} \frac{dt}{t}
= \sum_{n \ge 1} n^{\delta} \chi(n) (\pi n^2/N)^{-(s+\delta)/2} \Gamma((s+\delta)/2)
= (\pi/N)^{-(s+\delta)/2} \Gamma((s+\delta)/2) L(\chi, s).$$

That is, the completed Dirichlet L-function

$$\Lambda(\chi, s) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\pi/N)^{-(s+\delta)/2} \Gamma((s+\delta)/2) L(\chi, s), \quad \text{Re}(s) > 1$$

has an integral representation as the Mellin transform of the theta function,

$$\Lambda(\chi, s) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{t=0}^{\infty} \theta(\chi, t) t^{(s+\delta)/2} \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t}, \quad \text{Re}(s) > 1.$$

Unlike earlier in this writeup, now the integral converges at both endpoints independently of the value of s. Thus the completed L-function $\Lambda(\chi,s)$ already has an analytic continuation to the full s-plane, and consequently so does $L(\chi,s)$. To obtain the functional equation of $\Lambda(\chi,s)$ as well, compute, using the modular transformation law $\theta(\chi,1/t)=W(\chi)\,t^{1/2+\delta}\,\theta(\overline{\chi},t)$ for the third equality to follow, that the integral in the previous display is

$$\int_{t=0}^{\infty} \theta(\chi, t) t^{(s+\delta)/2} \frac{dt}{t} = \int_{t=1}^{\infty} \theta(\chi, t) t^{(s+\delta)/2} \frac{dt}{t} + \int_{t=0}^{1} \theta(\chi, t) t^{(s+\delta)/2} \frac{dt}{t}$$

$$= \int_{t=1}^{\infty} \left(\theta(\chi, t) t^{(s+\delta)/2} + \theta(\chi, 1/t) t^{-(s+\delta)/2} \right) \frac{dt}{t}$$

$$= \int_{t=1}^{\infty} \left(\theta(\chi, t) t^{(s+\delta)/2} + W(\chi) \theta(\overline{\chi}, t) t^{(1-s+\delta)/2} \right) \frac{dt}{t}.$$

This last integral remains entire in s. Now the continuation of $\Lambda(\chi, s)$ is defined as a more symmetric integral than it was a moment ago,

$$\Lambda(\chi,s) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{t=1}^{\infty} \left(\theta(\chi,t) t^{s/2} + W(\chi) \, \theta(\overline{\chi},t) t^{(1-s)/2} \right) t^{\delta/2} \, \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \,, \quad s \in \mathbb{C}.$$

Because $W(\overline{\chi}) = W(\chi)^{-1}$, replacing s by 1 - s and χ by $\overline{\chi}$ in this last integral multiplies it by $W(\chi)^{-1}$,

$$\begin{split} \Lambda(\overline{\chi},1-s) &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{t=1}^{\infty} \left(\theta(\overline{\chi},t) t^{(1-s)/2} + W(\overline{\chi}) \, \theta(\chi,t) t^{s/2} \right) t^{\delta/2} \, \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \\ &= W(\chi)^{-1} \frac{1}{2} \int_{t-1}^{\infty} \left(W(\chi) \, \theta(\overline{\chi},t) t^{(1-s)/2} + \theta(\chi,t) t^{s/2} \right) t^{\delta/2} \, \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{t} \,. \end{split}$$

Therefore, because the last integral is the boxed integral just above, we have the functional equation

$$W(\chi) \Lambda(\overline{\chi}, 1 - s) = \Lambda(\chi, s), \quad s \in \mathbb{C}.$$

Similarly to section 7, the functional equation is also (now exchanging the roles of χ and $\overline{\chi}$)

$$L(\chi, 1-s) = \frac{2i^{\delta}}{\tau(\overline{\chi})} \left(\frac{2\pi}{N}\right)^{-s} \Gamma(s) \cos\left(\frac{\pi(s-\delta)}{2}\right) L(\overline{\chi}, s).$$

When χ is even, for $\mathrm{Re}(s)>1$ the right side vanishes only for $s=3,5,7,\ldots$, and so the only zeros of the extended $L(\chi,s)$ in the left half plane are simple zeros at $s=-2,-4,-6,\ldots$. Still with χ even, the functional equation also shows that $L(\chi,s)$ has a zero at s=0, and the nontrivial fact that Dirichlet L-functions don't vanish at s=1 shows that the zero at s=0 is simple. When χ is odd, for $\mathrm{Re}(s)>1$ the right side with $\overline{\chi}$ in place of χ vanishes only for $s=2,4,6,\ldots$, and so the only zeros of the extended $L(\chi,s)$ in the left half plane are simple zeros at $s=-1,-3,-5,\ldots$, and the fact that Dirichlet L-functions don't vanish at s=1 shows that $L(\chi,0)$ is nonzero.

13. Quadratic root numbers

Let F be a quadratic number field. Its Dedekind zeta function,

$$\zeta_F(s) = \sum_{\mathfrak{a}} N\mathfrak{a}^{-s}, \quad \text{Re}(s) > 1,$$

has a completion $Z_F(s)$ that extends meromorphically to $\mathbb C$ with simple poles at s=0,1 and satisfies the functional equation $Z_F(s)=Z_F(1-s)$. The quadratic number field F has an associated quadratic character $\chi=\chi_F$ whose conductor is the absolute discriminant of F. The arithmetic of the quadratic field encodes as the identity $Z_F(s)=Z_{\mathbb Q}(s)\Lambda(\chi,s)$ where $Z_{\mathbb Q}$ is the completed Euler–Riemann zeta function. Noting that $\overline{\chi}=\chi$ because χ is quadratic, compute that

$$Z_F(1-s) = Z_F(s)$$
 by the functional eqn for Z_F
$$= Z_{\mathbb{Q}}(s)\Lambda(\chi,s) \qquad \text{factoring } Z_F$$

$$= Z_{\mathbb{Q}}(1-s)W(\chi)\Lambda(\chi,1-s) \quad \text{by the functional eqns for } Z_{\mathbb{Q}} \text{ and } \Lambda$$

$$= W(\chi)Z_F(1-s) \qquad \text{regathering } Z_F.$$

Thus $W(\chi)=1$ for the quadratic character χ . In particular, with $\chi(n)=(n/p)$ for an odd prime p, this result captures the value of the quadratic Gauss sum, $\tau(\chi)=p^{1/2}$ if $p\equiv 1 \mod 4$ and $\tau(\chi)=ip^{1/2}$ if $p\equiv 3 \mod 4$.

14. Completed $L(\chi)$ as a product of local integrals

On the real field unit group \mathbb{R}^{\times} , with the Gaussian function $g(t) = e^{-\pi t^2}$ and the character $t \mapsto |t|^s$ as before, consider also a character that indicates the parity of our Dirichlet character χ , recalling the constant δ that is 0 or 1 if χ is even or odd,

$$\chi_{\infty}(t) = |t|^{\delta}.$$

Again with μ the Haar measure of \mathbb{R}^{\times} , compute an integral similar to before but now also incorporating the conductor N of χ and its parity character χ_{∞} ,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^{\times}} g_{N^{-1/2}}(t) \chi_{\infty}(t) |t|^{s} d\mu(t) = 2 \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-\pi t^{2}/N} t^{s+\delta} \frac{dt}{t} = \left(\frac{\pi}{N}\right)^{-\frac{s+\delta}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{s+\delta}{2}\right).$$

We recognize this as the factor that completes $L(\chi, s)$ to $\Lambda(\chi, s)$.

For any prime p, define a character of \mathbb{Q}_p^{\times} that describes our Dirichlet character at p,

$$\chi_p(p^e \mathbb{Z}_p^{\times}) = \chi(p)^e, \quad e \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

With $g = 1_{\mathbb{Z}_p - \{0\}}$ and $|\cdot|$ and μ again the *p*-adic smooth function of rapid decay and absolute value and multiplicative Haar measure, now compute

$$\int_{\mathbb{Q}_p^{\times}} g(t) \chi_p(t) |t|^s d\mu(t) = \sum_{e > 0} (\chi(p) p^{-s})^e = (1 - \chi(p) p^{-s})^{-1}.$$

We recognize this as the pth Euler product factor of $L(\chi, s)$.

Again the completion $\Lambda(\chi)$ of $L(\chi)$ is the product of the local integrals, which now incorporate local aspects of χ . In describing χ by its local factors we are expressing it as the simplest nontrivial example of a *Hecke character*.