

SOME IDENTITIES FOR THE RIEMANN
ZETA-FUNCTION II

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Abstract. Several identities for the Riemann zeta-function $\zeta(s)$ are proved. For example, if $\varphi_1(x) := \{x\} = x - [x]$, $\varphi_n(x) := \int_0^{+\infty} \{u\} \varphi_{n-1}\left(\frac{x}{u}\right) \frac{du}{u}$ ($n \geq 2$), then

$$\frac{\zeta^n(s)}{(-s)^n} = \int_0^{+\infty} \varphi_n(x) x^{-1-s} dx \quad (s = \sigma + it, 0 < \sigma < 1)$$

and

$$\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{|\zeta(\sigma + it)|^{2n}}{(\sigma^2 + t^2)^n} dt = \int_0^{+\infty} \varphi_n^2(x) x^{-1-2\sigma} dx \quad (0 < \sigma < 1).$$

Let as usual $\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} n^{-s}$ ($\operatorname{Re} s > 1$) denote the Riemann zeta-function. This note is the continuation of the author's work [6], where several identities involving $\zeta(s)$ were obtained. The basic idea is to use properties of the Mellin transform ($f : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$)

$$(1) \quad F(s) = \mathcal{M}[f(x); s] := \int_0^{+\infty} f(x) x^{s-1} dx \quad (s = \sigma + it, \sigma > 0),$$

in particular the analogue of the Parseval formula for Mellin transforms, namely

$$(2) \quad \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\sigma-i\infty}^{\sigma+i\infty} |F(s)|^2 ds = \int_0^{+\infty} f^2(x) x^{2\sigma-1} dx.$$

For the conditions under which (2) holds, see e.g., [5] and [11]. If $\{x\}$ denotes the fractional part of x ($\{x\} = x - [x]$, where $[x]$ is the greatest integer not

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exceeding x), we have the classical formula (see e.g., eq. (2.1.5) of E.C. Titchmarsh [12])

$$(3) \quad \frac{\zeta(s)}{s} = - \int_0^{+\infty} \{x\} x^{-1-s} dx = - \int_0^{+\infty} \{1/x\} x^{s-1} dx,$$

where $s = \sigma + it$, $0 < \sigma < 1$. A quick proof is as follows. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(s) &= \int_{1-0}^{+\infty} x^{-s} d[x] = s \int_1^{+\infty} [x] x^{-s-1} dx \\ &= s \int_1^{+\infty} ([x] - x) x^{-s-1} dx + s \int_1^{+\infty} x^{-s} dx \\ &= -s \int_1^{+\infty} \{x\} x^{-s-1} dx + \frac{s}{s-1}. \end{aligned}$$

This holds initially for $\sigma > 1$, but since the last integral is absolutely convergent for $\sigma > 0$, it holds in this region as well by analytic continuation. Since

$$s \int_0^1 \{x\} x^{-s-1} dx = s \int_0^1 x^{-s} dx = \frac{s}{1-s} \quad (0 < \sigma < 1),$$

we obtain (3) on combining the preceding two formulae. We note that (3) is a special case of the so-called Müntz's formula (with $f(x) = \chi_{[0,1]}(x)$, the characteristic function of the unit interval)

$$(4) \quad \zeta(s)F(s) = \int_0^{+\infty} P f(x) \cdot x^{s-1} dx,$$

where the Müntz operator P is the linear operator defined formally on functions $f : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ by

$$(5) \quad P f(x) := \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} f(nx) - \frac{1}{x} \int_0^{+\infty} f(t) dt.$$

Besides the original proof of (4) by Müntz [8], proofs are given by E.C. Titchmarsh [12, Chapter 1, Section 2.11] and recently by L. Báez-Duarte [2]. The identity (4) is valid for $0 < \sigma < 1$ if $f'(x)$ is continuous, bounded in any finite interval and is $O(x^{-\beta})$ for $x \rightarrow \infty$ where $\beta > 1$ is a constant. The identity (3), which Báez-Duarte [2] calls the *proto-Müntz* identity, plays an important rôle in the approach to the Riemann Hypothesis (RH, that

all complex zeros of $\zeta(s)$ have real parts equal to $1/2$) via methods from functional analysis (see e.g., the works [1]–[4] and [9]).

Our first aim is to generalize (3). We introduce the convolution functions $\varphi_n(x)$ by

$$(6) \quad \varphi_1(x) := \{x\} = x - [x], \quad \varphi_n(x) := \int_0^{+\infty} \{u\} \varphi_{n-1}\left(\frac{x}{u}\right) \frac{du}{u} \quad (n \geq 2).$$

The asymptotic behaviour of the function $\varphi_n(x)$ is contained in

Theorem 1. *If $n \geq 2$ is a fixed integer, then*

$$(7) \quad \varphi_n(x) = \frac{x}{(n-1)!} \log^{n-1}(1/x) + O\left(x \log^{n-2}(1/x)\right) \quad (0 < x < 1),$$

and

$$(8) \quad \varphi_n(x) = O(\log^{n-1}(x+1)) \quad (x \geq 1).$$

Proof. Using the properties of $\{x\}$, namely $\{x\} = x$ for $0 < x < 1$ and $\{x\} \leq x$, one easily verifies (7) and (8) when $n = 2$. To prove the general case we use induction, supposing that the theorem is true for some n . Then, when $0 < x < 1$,

$$\varphi_{n+1}(x) = \int_0^x + \int_x^1 + \int_1^{+\infty} = I_1 + I_2 + I_3,$$

say. We have, by change of variable,

$$I_1 = \int_0^x \{u\} \varphi_n\left(\frac{x}{u}\right) \frac{du}{u} = \int_0^x \varphi_n\left(\frac{x}{u}\right) du = x \int_1^{+\infty} \varphi_n(v) \frac{dv}{v^2} = O(x).$$

By the induction hypothesis

$$\begin{aligned} I_2 &= \int_x^1 \{u\} \varphi_n\left(\frac{x}{u}\right) \frac{du}{u} = \int_x^1 \varphi_n\left(\frac{x}{u}\right) du \\ &= \int_x^1 \left\{ \frac{x}{(n-1)!u} \log^{n-1}\left(\frac{u}{x}\right) + O\left(\frac{x}{u} \log^{n-2}\left(\frac{u}{x}\right)\right) \right\} du \\ &= \frac{x}{(n-1)!} \int_1^{1/x} \log^{n-1} y \frac{dy}{y} + O\left(x \log^{n-1}(1/x)\right) \\ &= \frac{x}{n!} \log^n(1/x) + O\left(x \log^{n-1}(1/x)\right). \end{aligned}$$

Finally, since $\{x\} \leq x$ and (8) holds,

$$I_3 = \int_1^{+\infty} \{u\} \varphi_n \left(\frac{x}{u} \right) \frac{du}{u} \ll x \int_1^{+\infty} \log^{n-1} \left(\frac{u}{x} \right) \frac{du}{u^2} \ll x \log^{n-1} \left(\frac{1}{x} \right).$$

The proof of (8) is on similar lines, when we write

$$\varphi_{n+1}(x) = \int_0^1 + \int_1^x + \int_x^{+\infty} = J_1 + J_2 + J_3 \quad (x \geq 1),$$

say, so that there is no need to repeat the details. By more elaborate analysis (7) could be further sharpened. \square

Theorem 2. *If $n \geq 1$ is a fixed integer, and $s = \sigma + it$, $0 < \sigma < 1$, then*

$$(9) \quad \frac{\zeta^n(s)}{(-s)^n} = \int_0^{+\infty} \varphi_n(x) x^{-1-s} dx.$$

Clearly (9) reduces to (3) when $n = 1$. From Theorem 1 it transpires that the integral in (9) is absolutely convergent for $0 < \sigma < 1$. By using (2) (with $-s$ in place of s) we obtain the following

Corollary 1. *For $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we have*

$$(10) \quad \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{|\zeta(\sigma + it)|^{2n}}{(\sigma^2 + t^2)^n} dt = \int_0^{+\infty} \varphi_n^2(x) x^{-1-2\sigma} dx \quad (0 < \sigma < 1).$$

Proof of Theorem 2. As already stated, (9) is true for $n = 1$. The general case is proved then by induction. Suppose that (9) is true for some n , and consider

$$\frac{\zeta^{n+1}(s)}{(-s)^{n+1}} = \int_0^{+\infty} \int_0^{+\infty} \{x\} \varphi_n(y) (xy)^{-1-s} dx dy \quad (0 < \sigma < 1)$$

as a double integral. We make the change of variables $x = v$, $y = u/v$, noting that the absolute value of the Jacobian of the transformation is $1/v$. The above integral becomes then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{+\infty} \int_0^{+\infty} \{v\} \varphi_n \left(\frac{u}{v} \right) u^{-1-s} v^{-1} du dv &= \int_0^{+\infty} \left(\int_0^{+\infty} \{v\} \varphi_n \left(\frac{u}{v} \right) \frac{dv}{v} \right) u^{-1-s} du \\ &= \int_0^{+\infty} \varphi_{n+1}(x) x^{-1-s} dx, \end{aligned}$$

as asserted. The change of integration is valid by absolute convergence, which is guaranteed by Theorem 1. \square

Remark 1. L. Báez-Duarte kindly pointed out to me that the above procedure leads in fact formally to a convolution theorem for Mellin transforms, namely (cf. (1))

$$(11) \quad \mathcal{M} \left[\int_0^{+\infty} f(u)g\left(\frac{x}{u}\right) \frac{du}{u}; s \right] = \mathcal{M}[f(x); s] \mathcal{M}[g(x); s] = F(s)G(s),$$

which is eq. (4.2.22) of I. Sneddon [10]. An alternative proof of (9) follows from the second formula in (3) and (11), but we need again a result like Theorem 1 to ensure the validity of the repeated use of (11). A similar approach via (modified) Mellin transforms and convolutions was carried out by the author in [7].

There is another possibility for the use of the identity (3). Namely, one can evaluate the Laplace transform of $\{x\}/x$ for real values of the variable. This is given by

Theorem 3. *If $M \geq 1$ is a fixed integer and γ denotes Euler's constant, then for $T \rightarrow +\infty$*

$$(12) \quad \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{\{x\}}{x} e^{-x/T} dx = \frac{1}{2} \log T - \frac{1}{2} \gamma + \frac{1}{2} \log(2\pi) \\ + \sum_{m=1}^M \frac{\zeta(1-2m)}{(2m-1)!(1-2m)} T^{1-2m} + O_M(T^{-1-2M}).$$

Proof. We multiply (3) by $T^s \Gamma(s)$, where $\Gamma(s)$ is the gamma-function, integrate over s and use the well-known identity (e.g., see the Appendix of [5])

$$e^{-z} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} z^{-s} \Gamma(s) ds \quad (\operatorname{Re} z > 0, c > 0).$$

We obtain

$$(13) \quad \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{c-i\infty}^{c+i\infty} \frac{\zeta(s)}{s} T^s \Gamma(s) ds = - \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{\{x\}}{x} e^{-x/T} dx \quad (0 < c < 1).$$

In the integral on the left-hand side of (13) we shift the line of integration to $\operatorname{Re} s = -N - 1/2$, $N = 2M + 1$ (i.e., taking $c = -N - 1/2$) and then apply the residue theorem. The gamma-function has simple poles at $s = -m$, $m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ with residues $(-1)^m/m!$. The zeta-function has

simple (so-called “trivial zeros”) at $s = -2m$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$, which cancel with the corresponding poles of $\Gamma(s)$. Thus there remains a pole of order two at $s = 0$, plus simple poles at $s = -1, -3, -5, \dots$. The former produces the main term in (12), when we take into account that $\zeta(0) = -\frac{1}{2}$, $\zeta'(0) = -\frac{1}{2} \log(2\pi)$ (see [5, Chapter 1]) and $\Gamma'(1) = -\gamma$. The simple poles at $s = -1, -3, -5, \dots$ produce the sum over m in (12), and the proof is complete. \square

Remark 2. The method of proof clearly yields also, as $T \rightarrow +\infty$,

$$\int_0^{+\infty} \frac{\varphi_n(x)}{x} e^{-x/T} dx = P_n(\log T) + \sum_{m=1}^M c_{m,n} T^{1-2m} + O_M(T^{-1-2M}),$$

where $P_n(z)$ is a polynomial in z of degree n whose coefficients may be explicitly evaluated, and $c_{m,n}$ are suitable constants which also may be explicitly evaluated.

For our last result we turn to Müntz’s identity (4)–(5) and choose $f(x) = e^{-\pi x^2}$, which is a fast converging kernel function. Then

$$\begin{aligned} Pf(x) &= \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} f(nx) - \frac{1}{x} \int_0^{+\infty} f(t) dt = \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} e^{-\pi n^2 x^2} - \frac{1}{2x}, \\ F(s) &= \int_0^{+\infty} e^{-\pi x^2} x^{s-1} dx = \frac{1}{2} \pi^{-s/2} \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}s\right). \end{aligned}$$

From (2) and (4) it follows then that, for $0 < \sigma < 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} (14) \quad & \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |\zeta(\sigma + it) \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\sigma + \frac{1}{2}it\right)|^2 dt \\ &= 8\pi^{1+\sigma} \int_0^{+\infty} \left(\sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} e^{-\pi n^2 x^2} - \frac{1}{2x} \right)^2 x^{2\sigma-1} dx. \end{aligned}$$

The series on the right-hand side of (14) is connected to Jacobi’s theta function

$$(15) \quad \theta(z) := \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} e^{-\pi n^2 z} \quad (\operatorname{Re} z > 0),$$

which satisfies the functional equation (proved easily by e.g., Poisson summation formula)

$$(16) \quad \theta(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} \theta\left(\frac{1}{t}\right) \quad (t > 0).$$

From (15)–(16) we infer that

$$(17) \quad \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} e^{-\pi n^2 x^2} = \frac{1}{2}(\theta(x^2) - 1) = \frac{1}{2x}\theta\left(\frac{1}{x^2}\right) - \frac{1}{2} \quad (x > 0).$$

By using (17) it is seen that the right-hand side of (14) equals

$$(18) \quad \begin{aligned} 8\pi^{1+\sigma} \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{1}{x}\theta\left(\frac{1}{x^2}\right) - 1 - \frac{1}{x} \right)^2 x^{2\sigma-1} dx \\ = 2\pi^{1+\sigma} \int_0^{+\infty} (u\theta(u^2) - 1 - u)^2 u^{-1-2\sigma} du. \end{aligned}$$

The (absolute) convergence of the last integral at infinity follows from

$$u\theta(u^2) - u = 2u \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} e^{-\pi n^2 u^2},$$

while the convergence at zero follows from

$$u\theta(u^2) = \theta\left(\frac{1}{u^2}\right) = 1 + O\left(e^{-u^{-2}}\right) \quad (u \rightarrow 0+).$$

Now we note that (14) remains unchanged when σ is replaced by $1 - \sigma$, and then we use the functional equation (see e.g., [5, Chapter 1]) for $\zeta(s)$ in the form

$$\pi^{-s/2}\zeta(s)\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}s\right) = \pi^{-(1-s)/2}\zeta(1-s)\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}(1-s)\right)$$

to transform the resulting left-hand side of (14). Then (14) and (18) yield the following

Theorem 4. *For $0 < \sigma < 1$ we have*

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |\zeta(\sigma + it)\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\sigma + \frac{1}{2}it\right)|^2 dt = 2\pi^\sigma \int_0^{+\infty} (u\theta(u^2) - 1 - u)^2 u^{2\sigma-3} du.$$

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