

# Mellin transforms and the functional equation of the Riemann Zeta function

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May 1, 2016

We collect several examples of using Mellin transforms and the functional equation of the Riemann Zeta function to evaluate harmonic sums. These are collected from my posts at [math.stackexchange.com](http://math.stackexchange.com) and have retained the question answer format used there.

The methods here are those of the papers by Szpankowski [Szp01] and Flajolet [FS96].

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# 1 Evaluating Fourier series

Suppose we seek to show that

$$\sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots} \frac{\sin^2(n/q)}{n^2} = \frac{\pi}{4q}.$$

As suggested we use

$$\sin^2 t = \frac{1 - \cos(2t)}{2}$$

to get

$$\sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots} \frac{1}{n^2} \frac{1 - \cos(2n/q)}{2}$$

which is

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots} \frac{1}{n^2} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots} \frac{1}{n^2} \cos(2n/q).$$

We will be using

$$\sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots} \frac{1}{n^s} = \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^s}\right) \zeta(s)$$

which gives for the sum

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^2}\right) \zeta(2) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots} \frac{1}{n^2} \cos(2n/q)$$

or

$$\frac{\pi^2}{16} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots} \frac{1}{n^2} \cos(2n/q).$$

Introduce  $S(x)$  given by

$$S(x) = \sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots} \frac{1}{n^2} \cos(nx) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2k-1)^2} \cos((2k-1)x)$$

so that we are interested in  $S(2/q)$ .

The sum term is harmonic and may be evaluated by inverting its Mellin transform.

Recall the harmonic sum identity

$$\mathfrak{M} \left( \sum_{k \geq 1} \lambda_k g(\mu_k x); s \right) = \left( \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{\lambda_k}{\mu_k^s} \right) g^*(s)$$

where  $g^*(s)$  is the Mellin transform of  $g(x)$ .

In the present case we have

$$\lambda_k = \frac{1}{(2k-1)^2}, \quad \mu_k = (2k-1) \quad \text{and} \quad g(x) = \cos(x).$$

We need the Mellin transform  $g^*(s)$  of  $g(x)$ .

Now the Mellin transform of  $\cos(x)$  was computed at [math.stackexchange.com](http://math.stackexchange.com/question/479586) question 479586 and found to be

$$\Gamma(s) \cos(\pi s/2)$$

It follows that the Mellin transform  $Q(s)$  of the harmonic sum  $S(x)$  is given by

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

because  $\sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{\lambda_k}{\mu_k^s} = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{(2k-1)^2} \frac{1}{(2k-1)^s} = \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{s+2}}\right) \zeta(s+2)$

for  $\Re(s) > -1$ .

The Mellin inversion integral here is

$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{1/2-i\infty}^{1/2+i\infty} Q(s)/x^s ds$$

which we evaluate by shifting it to the left for an expansion about zero (the abscissa  $\Re(s) = 1/2$  is in the intersection of  $\langle -1, \infty \rangle$  and  $\langle 0, 1 \rangle$  from the cosine transform).

The zeros of the cosine term at the negative odd integers cancel the poles of the gamma function at those values. Additional cancelation is gained from the trivial zeros of the zeta function term  $\zeta(s+2)$  at the even negative integers  $p$  with  $p \leq -4$ .

This leaves just two poles at  $s = 0$  and  $s = 1$  and we have

$$\text{Res}_{s=0} Q(s)/x^s = \frac{\pi^2}{8} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Res}_{s=-1} Q(s)/x^s = -\frac{\pi}{4}x$$

and therefore

$$S(x) \sim \frac{\pi^2}{8} - \frac{\pi}{4}x.$$

We will see that this is exact for  $x \in [0, \pi)$ .

With  $q \geq 1$  we have  $2/q \leq 2$  and we get for the initial sum the form

$$\frac{\pi^2}{16} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\pi^2}{8} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\pi}{4} \frac{2}{q} = \frac{\pi}{4q}$$

which is the claim we were trying to prove.

We still need to prove exactness on  $[0, \pi)$  to complete the argument.

Put  $s = \sigma + it$  with  $\sigma \leq -3/2$  where we seek to evaluate

$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{-3/2-i\infty}^{-3/2+i\infty} Q(s)/x^s ds$$

by shifting it to the left.

Recall that with  $\sigma > 1$  and for  $|t| \rightarrow \infty$  we have

$$|\zeta(\sigma + it)| \in \mathcal{O}(1).$$

Furthermore recall the functional equation of the Riemann Zeta function

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

which we re-parameterize like so

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

which is

$$\zeta(s + 2) = -2 \times (2\pi)^{s+1} \sin(\pi s/2) \frac{\Gamma(1-s)}{s(s+1)} \zeta(-s-1).$$

Substitute this into  $Q(s)$  to obtain

$$\Gamma(s) \cos(\pi s/2) \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{s+2}}\right) \times -2 \times (2\pi)^{s+1} \sin(\pi s/2) \frac{\Gamma(1-s)}{s(s+1)} \zeta(-s-1).$$

Use the reflection formula for the Gamma function to obtain

$$\cos(\pi s/2) \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{s+2}}\right) \times -2 \times (2\pi)^{s+1} \sin(\pi s/2) \times \frac{\pi}{\sin(\pi s)} \frac{1}{s(s+1)} \zeta(-s-1),$$

in other words we have

$$Q(s) = -\pi(2\pi)^{s+1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{s+2}}\right) \frac{\zeta(-s-1)}{s(s+1)}.$$

There are two components here, call them  $Q_1(s)$  and  $Q_2(s)$ , which are

$$-\pi(2\pi)^{s+1} \frac{\zeta(-s-1)}{s(s+1)} \quad \text{and} \quad \pi(2\pi)^{s+1} \frac{1}{2^{s+2}} \frac{\zeta(-s-1)}{s(s+1)}.$$

We evaluate these with  $\sigma < -5/2$ . For the first component this implies (with  $\sigma = -5/2$  we have  $\Re(-s-1) = 3/2$ )

$$|Q_1(s)/x^s| \sim 2\pi^2(2\pi)^\sigma x^{-\sigma} |t|^{-2}.$$

or

$$|Q_1(s)/x^s| \sim 2\pi^2(x/2/\pi)^{-\sigma} |t|^{-2}.$$

We see from the term in  $|t|$  that the integral obviously converges. (This much we knew already.) Moreover, when  $x \in (0, 2\pi)$  we have  $(x/2/\pi)^{-\sigma} \rightarrow 0$  as  $\sigma \rightarrow -\infty$ . The term in  $x$  does not depend on the variable  $t$  of the integral and may be brought to the front. This means that the contribution from the left

side of the rectangular contour that we employ as we shift to the left vanishes in the limit.

For the second component we get

$$|Q_2(s)/x^s| \sim \frac{\pi^2}{2} (\pi)^\sigma x^{-\sigma} |t|^{-2}.$$

or

$$|Q_2(s)/x^s| \sim \frac{\pi^2}{2} (x/\pi)^{-\sigma} |t|^{-2}.$$

This is the same as the first only now we have convergence in  $(0, \pi)$ .

Joining the bounds for  $Q_1(s)$  and  $Q_2(s)$  we have proved the exactness of the formula for  $S(x)$  in the interval  $(0, \pi)$  obtained earlier.

As I have mentioned elsewhere there is a theorem hiding here, namely that certain Fourier series can be evaluated by inverting their Mellin transforms which is not terribly surprising and which the reader is invited to state and prove.

This is [math.stackexchange.com question 1153068](http://math.stackexchange.com/question/1153068).

## 2 Some sum formulae by Apéry and Plouffe

Suppose we are trying to prove that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{3}{2} \zeta(3) &= \frac{\pi^3}{24} \sqrt{2} - 2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^3 (e^{\pi k \sqrt{2}} - 1)} - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^3 (e^{2\pi k \sqrt{2}} - 1)} \\ \frac{3}{2} \zeta(5) &= \frac{\pi^5}{270} \sqrt{2} - 4 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^5 (e^{\pi k \sqrt{2}} - 1)} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^5 (e^{2\pi k \sqrt{2}} - 1)} \\ \frac{9}{2} \zeta(7) &= \frac{41\pi^7}{37800} \sqrt{2} - 8 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^7 (e^{\pi k \sqrt{2}} - 1)} - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^7 (e^{2\pi k \sqrt{2}} - 1)} \end{aligned}$$

Introduce the sum

$$S(x; \alpha, p) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{n^p (e^{\alpha n x} - 1)}$$

with  $p$  a positive odd integer and  $\alpha > 1$ , so that we seek e.g.  $2S(1; \pi\sqrt{2}, 3) + S(1; 2\pi\sqrt{2}, 3)$ .

The sum term is harmonic and may be evaluated by inverting its Mellin transform.

Recall the harmonic sum identity

$$\mathfrak{M} \left( \sum_{k \geq 1} \lambda_k g(\mu_k x); s \right) = \left( \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{\lambda_k}{\mu_k^s} \right) g^*(s)$$

where  $g^*(s)$  is the Mellin transform of  $g(x)$ .

In the present case we have

$$\lambda_k = \frac{1}{k^p}, \quad \mu_k = k \quad \text{and} \quad g(x) = \frac{1}{e^{\alpha x} - 1}.$$

We need the Mellin transform  $g^*(s)$  of  $g(x)$  which is

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{e^{\alpha x} - 1} x^{s-1} dx &= \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-\alpha x}}{1 - e^{-\alpha x}} x^{s-1} dx \\ &= \int_0^\infty \sum_{q \geq 1} e^{-\alpha q x} x^{s-1} dx = \sum_{q \geq 1} \int_0^\infty e^{-\alpha q x} x^{s-1} dx \\ &= \Gamma(s) \sum_{q \geq 1} \frac{1}{(\alpha q)^s} = \frac{1}{\alpha^s} \Gamma(s) \zeta(s). \end{aligned}$$

It follows that the Mellin transform  $Q(s)$  of the harmonic sum  $S(x; \alpha, p)$  is given by

$$Q(s) = \frac{1}{\alpha^s} \Gamma(s) \zeta(s) \zeta(s+p) \quad \text{because} \quad \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{\lambda_k}{\mu_k^s} = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{k^p} \frac{1}{k^s} = \zeta(s+p)$$

for  $\Re(s) > 1 - p$ .

The Mellin inversion integral here is

$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{3/2-i\infty}^{3/2+i\infty} Q(s)/x^s ds$$

which we evaluate by shifting it to the left for an expansion about zero.

## 2.1 First formula

We take

$$Q(s) = \frac{1}{\pi^s \sqrt{2}^s} \left( 2 + \frac{1}{2^s} \right) \Gamma(s) \zeta(s) \zeta(s+3).$$

We shift the Mellin inversion integral to the line  $s = -1$ , integrating right through the pole at  $s = -1$  picking up the following residues:

$$\text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s=1) = \frac{\pi^3 \sqrt{2}}{72x} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s=0) = -\frac{3}{2} \zeta(3)$$

and

$$\frac{1}{2} \text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s=-1) = \frac{\pi^3 \sqrt{2} x}{36}.$$

This almost concludes the proof of the first formula if we can show that the integral on the line  $\Re(s) = -1$  vanishes when  $x = 1$ . To accomplish this we must show that the integrand is odd on this line.

Put  $s = -1 - it$  in the integrand to get

$$\pi^{1+it} \sqrt{2}^{1+it} (2 + 2^{1+it}) \Gamma(-1 - it) \zeta(-1 - it) \zeta(2 - it).$$

Now use the functional equation of the Riemann Zeta function in the following form:

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

to obtain (with  $s = -1 - it$ )

$$\pi^{1+it} \sqrt{2}^{1+it} (2 + 2^{1+it}) \zeta(2 + it) 2^{-1-it} \pi^{-1-it} \frac{1}{2 \cos\left(\frac{\pi(-1-it)}{2}\right)} \zeta(2 - it)$$

which is

$$\sqrt{2}^{1+it} (2^{-it} + 1) \zeta(2 + it) \frac{1}{2 \cos\left(\frac{\pi(1+it)}{2}\right)} \zeta(2 - it)$$

and finally yields

$$-\frac{1}{\sin(\pi it/2)} \left( \sqrt{2}^{-1-it} + \sqrt{2}^{-1+it} \right) \zeta(2 + it) \zeta(2 - it).$$

It is now possible to conclude by inspection: the zeta function terms and the powers of the square root are even in  $t$  and the sine term is odd, so the whole term is odd and the integral vanishes. (We get exponential decay from the sine term.)

## 2.2 Second formula

We take

$$Q(s) = \frac{1}{\pi^s \sqrt{2}^s} \left( 4 - \frac{1}{2^s} \right) \Gamma(s) \zeta(s) \zeta(s + 5).$$

We shift the Mellin inversion integral to the line  $s = -2$  (no pole on the line this time) picking up the following residues:

$$\text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s = 1) = \frac{\pi^5 \sqrt{2}}{540x} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s = 0) = -\frac{3}{2} \zeta(5)$$

and

$$\text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s = -1) = \frac{\pi^5 \sqrt{2} x}{540}.$$

It remains to verify that the integrand on the line  $\Re(s) = -2$  is odd when  $x = 1$ . Put  $s = -2 - it$  in the integrand to get

$$\pi^{2+it} \sqrt{2}^{2+it} (4 - 2^{2+it}) \Gamma(-2 - it) \zeta(-2 - it) \zeta(3 - it).$$



Applying the functional equation once again with  $s = -2 - it$  we obtain

$$\pi^{2+it} \sqrt{2}^{2+it} (4 - 2^{2+it}) \zeta(3 + it) 2^{-2-it} \pi^{-2-it} \frac{1}{2 \cos\left(\frac{\pi(-2-it)}{2}\right)} \zeta(3 - it)$$

which is

$$\sqrt{2}^{2+it} (2^{-it} - 1) \zeta(3 + it) \frac{1}{2 \cos\left(\frac{\pi(-2-it)}{2}\right)} \zeta(3 - it)$$

which is in turn

$$\left(\sqrt{2}^{-2-it} - \sqrt{2}^{2+it}\right) \frac{1}{2 \cos\left(\frac{\pi(2+it)}{2}\right)} \zeta(3 + it) \zeta(3 - it)$$

which finally yields

$$-\left(\sqrt{2}^{-2-it} - \sqrt{2}^{2+it}\right) \frac{1}{2 \cos(\pi it/2)} \zeta(3 + it) \zeta(3 - it)$$

The product of the zeta function terms is even, as is the cosine term. The term in front is odd, so the integrand is odd as claimed. (As before we get exponential decay from the cosine term.)

### 2.3 Third formula

We take

$$Q(s) = \frac{1}{\pi^s \sqrt{2}^s} \left(8 + \frac{1}{2^s}\right) \Gamma(s) \zeta(s) \zeta(s + 7).$$

We shift the Mellin inversion integral to the line  $s = -3$ , integrating right through the pole at  $s = -3$  picking up the following residues:

$$\text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s = 1) = \frac{17\pi^7 \sqrt{2}}{37800x} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s = 0) = -\frac{9}{2} \zeta(7)$$

and

$$\text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s = -1) = \frac{\pi^7 \sqrt{2} x}{1134} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{2} \text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s = -3) = -\frac{\pi^7 \sqrt{2} x^3}{4050}.$$

This almost concludes the proof of this third formula if we can show that the integral on the line  $\Re(s) = -3$  vanishes when  $x = 1$ . To accomplish this we must show once more that the integrand is odd on this line.

Put  $s = -3 - it$  in the integrand to get

$$\pi^{3+it} \sqrt{2}^{3+it} (8 + 2^{3+it}) \Gamma(-3 - it) \zeta(-3 - it) \zeta(4 - it).$$

By the functional equation we obtain with  $s = -3 - it$

$$\pi^{3+it} \sqrt{2}^{3+it} (8 + 2^{3+it}) \zeta(4 + it) 2^{-3-it} \pi^{-3-it} \frac{1}{2 \cos(\pi(-3 - it)/2)} \zeta(4 - it)$$

which is

$$\sqrt{2}^{3+it} (2^{-it} + 1) \zeta(4 + it) \frac{1}{2 \cos(\pi(3 + it)/2)} \zeta(4 - it)$$

which finally yields

$$\frac{1}{2 \sin(\pi it/2)} \left( \sqrt{2}^{3-it} + \sqrt{2}^{3+it} \right) \zeta(4 + it) \zeta(4 - it).$$

This concludes it since the two zeta function terms together are even as is the square root term while the sine term is odd, so their product is odd.

This is [math.stackexchange.com](http://math.stackexchange.com) question 157040.

### 3 A sum formula by Hardy and Ramanujan

Suppose we are trying to evaluate

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} (\coth(n\pi x) + x^2 \coth(n\pi/x)) / n^3.$$

Put

$$S(x) = \zeta(3) + \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{-1 + \coth(n\pi x)}{n^3}$$

and introduce the sum

$$T(x) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{-1 + \coth(n\pi x)}{n^3}.$$

The sum term is harmonic and may be evaluated by inverting its Mellin transform. We will construct a functional equation for  $T(x)$ .

Recall the harmonic sum identity

$$\mathfrak{M} \left( \sum_{k \geq 1} \lambda_k g(\mu_k x); s \right) = \left( \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{\lambda_k}{\mu_k^s} \right) g^*(s)$$

where  $g^*(s)$  is the Mellin transform of  $g(x)$ .

In the present case we have

$$\lambda_k = \frac{1}{k^3}, \quad \mu_k = k \quad \text{and} \quad g(x) = 2 \frac{e^{-2\pi x}}{1 - e^{-2\pi x}}.$$

We need the Mellin transform  $g^*(s)$  of  $g(x)$  which is

$$\begin{aligned} & 2 \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-2\pi x}}{1 - e^{-2\pi x}} x^{s-1} dx \\ &= 2 \int_0^\infty \sum_{q \geq 1} e^{-2q\pi x} x^{s-1} dx = 2 \sum_{q \geq 1} \int_0^\infty e^{-2q\pi x} x^{s-1} dx \\ &= 2\Gamma(s) \sum_{q \geq 1} \frac{1}{(2\pi q)^s} = \frac{2}{2^s} \frac{1}{\pi^s} \Gamma(s) \zeta(s). \end{aligned}$$

It follows that the Mellin transform  $Q(s)$  of the harmonic sum  $T(x)$  is given by

$$Q(s) = \frac{2}{2^s} \frac{1}{\pi^s} \Gamma(s) \zeta(s) \zeta(s+3) \quad \text{because} \quad \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{\lambda_k}{\mu_k^s} = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{k^3} \frac{1}{k^s} = \zeta(s+3)$$

for  $\Re(s) > -2$ .

The Mellin inversion integral here is

$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{3/2-i\infty}^{3/2+i\infty} Q(s)/x^s ds$$

which we evaluate by shifting it to the left for an expansion about zero.

Fortunately the trivial zeros of the two zeta function terms cancel the poles of the gamma function term. Shifting to  $\Re(s) = -3 - 1/2$  we get

$$T(x) = \frac{\pi^3 x^3}{90} + 4\zeta'(-2)\pi^2 x^2 + \frac{\pi^3 x}{18} - \zeta(3) + \frac{\pi^3}{90x} + \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{-7/2-i\infty}^{-7/2+i\infty} Q(s)/x^s ds.$$

Substitute  $s = -2 - t$  in the remainder integral to get

$$-\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{3/2+i\infty}^{3/2-i\infty} \frac{2}{2^{-2-t}} \frac{1}{\pi^{-2-t}} \Gamma(-2-t) \zeta(-2-t) \zeta(1-t) x^{t+2} dt$$

which is

$$\frac{x^2}{2\pi i} \int_{3/2-i\infty}^{3/2+i\infty} 2^{3+t} \pi^{2+t} \Gamma(-2-t) \zeta(-2-t) \zeta(1-t) x^t dt.$$

In view of the desired functional equation we now use the functional equation of the Riemann zeta function on  $Q(s)$  to prove that the integrand of the last integral is in fact  $-Q(t)$ .

Start with the functional equation

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

and substitute this into  $Q(s)$  to obtain

$$Q(s) = \frac{2}{2^s} \frac{1}{\pi^s} \frac{\zeta(1-s) 2^s \pi^s}{2 \cos\left(\frac{\pi s}{2}\right)} \zeta(s+3) = \frac{\zeta(3+s)}{\cos\left(\frac{\pi s}{2}\right)} \zeta(1-s).$$

Apply the functional equation again (this time to  $\zeta(s+3)$ ) to get

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

Observe that

$$\frac{\cos\left(-\pi - \frac{\pi s}{2}\right)}{\cos\left(\frac{\pi s}{2}\right)} = -\frac{\cos\left(-\frac{\pi s}{2}\right)}{\cos\left(\frac{\pi s}{2}\right)} = -1$$

so we finally get

$$Q(s) = -2^{3+s}\pi^{2+s}\Gamma(-2-s)\zeta(-2-s)\zeta(1-s),$$

thus proving the claim.

We have established the functional equation

$$T(x) = \frac{\pi^3 x^3}{90} + 4\zeta'(-2)\pi^2 x^2 + \frac{\pi^3 x}{18} - \zeta(3) + \frac{\pi^3}{90x} - x^2 T(1/x).$$

Finally returning to the sum that was the initial goal we see that it has the value

$$\zeta(3) + T(x) + x^2(\zeta(3) + T(1/x))$$

or

$$\zeta(3) + T(x) + x^2\zeta(3) + x^2T(1/x).$$

Using the functional equation for  $T(x)$  this becomes

$$\zeta(3) + T(x) + x^2\zeta(3) + \frac{\pi^3 x^3}{90} + 4\zeta'(-2)\pi^2 x^2 + \frac{\pi^3 x}{18} - \zeta(3) + \frac{\pi^3}{90x} - T(x)$$

which is

$$x^2\zeta(3) + \frac{\pi^3 x^3}{90} + 4\zeta'(-2)\pi^2 x^2 + \frac{\pi^3 x}{18} + \frac{\pi^3}{90x}.$$

In view of the fact that

$$\zeta(3) + 4\zeta'(-2)\pi^2 = 0$$

this finally becomes

$$\frac{\pi^3 x^3}{90} + \frac{\pi^3 x}{18} + \frac{\pi^3}{90x} = \frac{\pi^3}{90x} (x^4 + 5x^2 + 1).$$

This is [math.stackexchange.com question 907480](http://math.stackexchange.com/question/907480).

## 4 Predecessor of sum formula by Cauchy and Ramanujan

Suppose we seek to show that

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{\coth(n\pi)}{n^7} = \frac{19\pi^7}{56700}.$$

Using

$$\coth(x) = \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{e^x - e^{-x}} = 1 + 2\frac{e^{-x}}{e^x - e^{-x}}$$

this is the same as

$$2 \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{n^7} \frac{e^{-n\pi}}{e^{n\pi} - e^{-n\pi}} = -\zeta(7) + \frac{19\pi^7}{56700}.$$

The sum term may be evaluated using harmonic summation techniques. Since this method has not been presented I will detail this calculation here.

Put

$$S(x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{1}{n^7} \frac{e^{-nx}}{e^{nx} - e^{-nx}}.$$

We will evaluate  $S(\pi)$  using a functional equation for  $S(x)$  that is obtained by inverting its Mellin transform.

Recall the harmonic sum identity

$$\mathfrak{M} \left( \sum_{k \geq 1} \lambda_k g(\mu_k x); s \right) = \left( \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{\lambda_k}{\mu_k^s} \right) g^*(s)$$

where  $g^*(s)$  is the Mellin transform of  $g(x)$ .

In the present case we have

$$\lambda_k = \frac{1}{k^7}, \quad \mu_k = k \quad \text{and} \quad g(x) = \frac{e^{-x}}{e^x - e^{-x}}.$$

We need the Mellin transform  $g^*(s)$  of  $g(x)$  which is

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-x}}{e^x - e^{-x}} x^{s-1} dx &= \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-2x}}{1 - e^{-2x}} x^{s-1} dx \\ &= \int_0^\infty \sum_{q \geq 0} e^{-2x} e^{-2qx} x^{s-1} dx = \sum_{q \geq 0} \int_0^\infty e^{-2(q+1)x} x^{s-1} dx \\ &= \Gamma(s) \sum_{q \geq 0} \frac{1}{2^s (q+1)^s} = \frac{1}{2^s} \Gamma(s) \zeta(s) \end{aligned}$$

with fundamental strip  $\langle 1, \infty \rangle$ .

It follows that the Mellin transform  $Q(s)$  of the harmonic sum  $S(x)$  is given by

$$Q(s) = 2^{-s} \Gamma(s) \zeta(s) \zeta(s+7) \quad \text{because} \quad \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{\lambda_k}{\mu_k^s} = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{k^7} \frac{1}{k^s}$$

for  $\Re(s) > -6$ .

The Mellin inversion integral here is

$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{3/2-i\infty}^{3/2+i\infty} Q(s) / x^s ds$$

which we evaluate by shifting it to the left for an expansion about zero.

Fortunately the trivial zeros of the two zeta function terms cancel the poles of the gamma function term. Shifting to  $\Re(s) = -7 - 1/2$  we get

$$S(x) = \frac{\pi^8}{18900} \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{2} \zeta(7) + \frac{\pi^6 x}{5670} - \frac{\pi^4 x^3}{8100} + \frac{\pi^2 x^5}{5670} + \frac{4}{45} \zeta'(-6) x^6 + \frac{1}{18900} x^7 + \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{-15/2-i\infty}^{-15/2+i\infty} Q(s)/x^s ds.$$

We will turn this into the promised functional equation.

Substitute  $s = -6 - t$  in the remainder integral to get

$$-\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{3/2+i\infty}^{3/2-i\infty} \frac{1}{2^{-6-t}} \Gamma(-6-t) \zeta(-6-t) \zeta(1-t) x^{t+6} dt$$

which is

$$\frac{x^6}{2\pi i} \int_{3/2-i\infty}^{3/2+i\infty} 2^{6+t} \Gamma(-6-t) \zeta(-6-t) \zeta(1-t) x^t dt$$

In view of the desired functional equation we now use the functional equation of the Riemann zeta function on  $Q(s)$  to prove that the integrand of the last integral is in fact  $-Q(t)/\pi^{6+2t}$ .

Start with the functional equation

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

and substitute this into  $Q(s)$  to obtain

$$Q(s) = 2^{-s} \frac{\zeta(1-s) 2^s \pi^s}{2 \cos\left(\frac{\pi s}{2}\right)} \zeta(s+7) = \frac{1}{2} \pi^s \frac{\zeta(s+7)}{\cos\left(\frac{\pi s}{2}\right)} \zeta(1-s).$$

Apply the functional equation again (this time to  $\zeta(s+7)$ ) to get

$$Q(s) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\pi^s}{\cos\left(\frac{\pi s}{2}\right)} \frac{2}{2^{-6-s} \pi^{-6-s}} \cos\left(\frac{\pi(-6-s)}{2}\right) \Gamma(-6-s) \zeta(-6-s) \zeta(1-s)$$

Observe that

$$\frac{\cos\left(-3\pi - \frac{\pi s}{2}\right)}{\cos\left(\frac{\pi s}{2}\right)} = -\frac{\cos\left(-\frac{\pi s}{2}\right)}{\cos\left(\frac{\pi s}{2}\right)} = -1$$

so we finally get

$$Q(s) = -2^{6+s} \pi^{6+2s} \Gamma(-6-s) \zeta(-6-s) \zeta(1-s),$$

thus proving the claim.

Return to the remainder integral and re-write it as follows:

$$\frac{(x/\pi)^6}{2\pi i} \int_{3/2-i\infty}^{3/2+i\infty} 2^{6+t} \pi^{6+2t} \Gamma(-6-t) \zeta(-6-t) \zeta(1-t) (x/\pi^2)^t dt.$$

so that the fact of it being a multiple of the defining integral of  $S(x)$  becomes readily apparent.

Using the fact that  $4/45 \times \zeta'(-6) = -1/2 \times \zeta(7)/\pi^6$  we have established the functional equation

$$S(x) = \frac{\pi^8}{18900} \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{2} \zeta(7) + \frac{\pi^6 x}{5670} - \frac{\pi^4 x^3}{8100} + \frac{\pi^2 x^5}{5670} - \zeta(7) \frac{1}{2\pi^6} x^6 + \frac{x^7}{18900} - \frac{x^6}{\pi^6} S(\pi^2/x).$$

Now the value  $x = \pi$  is obviously special here and we get

$$S(\pi) = \pi^7 \left( \frac{1}{18900} + \frac{1}{5670} - \frac{1}{8100} + \frac{1}{5670} + \frac{1}{18900} \right) - \zeta(7) - S(\pi)$$

which gives

$$2S(\pi) = \pi^7 \frac{19}{56700} - \zeta(7)$$

as was to be shown.

This is [math.stackexchange.com](http://math.stackexchange.com) question 991066.

## 5 A sum formula by Cauchy and Ramanujan

We are trying to show that

$$\sum_{\substack{m \in \mathbb{Z} \\ m \neq 0}} \frac{\coth m\pi}{m^{4p+3}} = (2\pi)^{4p+3} \sum_{q=0}^{2p+2} \frac{B_{2q}}{(2q)!} (-1)^{q+1} \frac{B_{4p+4-2q}}{(4p+4-2q)!},$$

Note that this sum is in fact

$$2 \sum_{m \geq 1} \frac{\coth m\pi}{m^{4p+3}}.$$

The sum term

$$T_p(x) = 2 \sum_{m \geq 1} \frac{\coth mx}{m^{4p+3}}$$

is harmonic and may be evaluated by inverting its Mellin transform.

Observe that

$$\coth x = \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{e^x - e^{-x}} = 1 + 2 \frac{e^{-x}}{e^x - e^{-x}} = 1 + 2 \frac{e^{-2x}}{1 - e^{-2x}}.$$

This yields

$$T_p(x) = 2\zeta(4p+3) + 4 \sum_{m \geq 1} \frac{1}{m^{4p+3}} \frac{e^{-2mx}}{1 - e^{-2mx}}.$$

We will now work with

$$S(x) = \sum_{m \geq 1} \frac{1}{m^{4p+3}} \frac{e^{-2mx}}{1 - e^{-2mx}}$$

and establish a functional equation for  $S(x)$  that has  $x = \pi$  as a fixed point.

Recall the harmonic sum identity

$$\mathfrak{M} \left( \sum_{k \geq 1} \lambda_k g(\mu_k x); s \right) = \left( \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{\lambda_k}{\mu_k^s} \right) g^*(s)$$

where  $g^*(s)$  is the Mellin transform of  $g(x)$ .

In the present case we have

$$\lambda_k = \frac{1}{k^{4p+3}}, \quad \mu_k = k \quad \text{and} \quad g(x) = \frac{\exp(-2x)}{1 - \exp(-2x)}.$$

We need the Mellin transform  $g^*(s)$  of  $g(x)$  which we compute as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty \frac{\exp(-2x)}{1 - \exp(-2x)} x^{s-1} dx &= \int_0^\infty \sum_{q \geq 1} \exp(-2qx) x^{s-1} dx \\ &= \sum_{q \geq 1} \int_0^\infty \exp(-2qx) x^{s-1} dx = \Gamma(s) \sum_{q \geq 1} \frac{1}{2^s q^s} = \frac{1}{2^s} \Gamma(s) \zeta(s). \end{aligned}$$

with fundamental strip  $\langle 1, \infty \rangle$ .

Hence the Mellin transform  $Q(s)$  of  $S(x)$  is given by

$$Q(s) = \frac{1}{2^s} \Gamma(s) \zeta(s) \zeta(s + 4p + 3) \quad \text{because} \quad \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{\lambda_k}{\mu_k^s} = \zeta(s + 4p + 3)$$

where  $\Re(s + 4p + 3) > 1$  or  $\Re(s) > -4p - 2$ .

Intersecting the fundamental strip and the half-plane from the zeta function term we find that the Mellin inversion integral for an expansion about zero is

$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{3/2 - i\infty}^{3/2 + i\infty} Q(s)/x^s ds$$

which we evaluate in the left half-plane  $\Re(s) < 3/2$ .

The plain zeta function term cancels the poles of the gamma function term at even negative integers  $2q \leq -2$  and the compound zeta function term the poles at odd negative integers  $2q + 1 \leq -4p - 5$ . We are left with the contributions from  $s = 1$ ,  $s = 0$  and  $s = -1$  which are

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s = 1) &= \frac{1}{2x} \zeta(4p + 4) \\ \text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s = 0) &= -\frac{1}{2} \zeta(4p + 3) \\ \text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s = -1) &= \frac{1}{6} x \zeta(4p + 2). \end{aligned}$$



The remaining contributions are

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{q=1}^{2p+1} \operatorname{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s = -2q - 1) \\
&= \sum_{q=1}^{2p+1} 2^{2q+1} x^{2q+1} \frac{(-1)^{2q+1}}{(2q+1)!} \zeta(-2q-1) \zeta(4p+2-2q) \\
&= \sum_{q=1}^{2p+1} 2^{2q+1} x^{2q+1} \frac{1}{(2q+1)!} \frac{B_{2q+2}}{2q+2} (-1)^{2p+1-q+1} \frac{B_{4p+2-2q} (2\pi)^{4p+2-2q}}{2(4p+2-2q)!} \\
&= \sum_{q=1}^{2p+1} 2^{2q+1} x^{2q+1} \frac{B_{2q+2}}{(2q+2)!} (-1)^{-q} \frac{B_{4p+2-2q} (2\pi)^{4p+2-2q}}{2(4p+2-2q)!} \\
&= \sum_{q=2}^{2p+2} 2^{2q-1} x^{2q-1} \frac{B_{2q}}{(2q)!} (-1)^{q+1} \frac{B_{4p+4-2q} (2\pi)^{4p+4-2q}}{2(4p+4-2q)!} \\
&= 2^{4p+2} \sum_{q=2}^{2p+2} x^{2q-1} \frac{B_{2q}}{(2q)!} (-1)^{q+1} \frac{B_{4p+4-2q} \pi^{4p+4-2q}}{(4p+4-2q)!} \\
&= 2^{4p+2} \sum_{q=2}^{2p+2} x^{2q-1} \pi^{4p+4-2q} \frac{B_{2q}}{(2q)!} (-1)^{q+1} \frac{B_{4p+4-2q}}{(4p+4-2q)!}
\end{aligned}$$

and the one from the pole of the compound zeta function term at  $s = -4p - 2$  which we'll do in a moment.

Now some algebra shows that setting  $q = 0$  and  $q = 1$  in the sum produces precisely the values that we obtained earlier for the poles at  $s = 1$  and  $s = -1$  so we may extend the sum to start at zero, keeping only the residue from the pole at  $s = 0$  to get

$$2^{4p+2} \sum_{q=0}^{2p+2} x^{2q-1} \pi^{4p+4-2q} \frac{B_{2q}}{(2q)!} (-1)^{q+1} \frac{B_{4p+4-2q}}{(4p+4-2q)!}.$$

We have thus established that

$$\begin{aligned}
S(x) &= -\frac{1}{2} \zeta(4p+3) + \operatorname{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s = -4p-2) \\
&+ 2^{4p+2} \sum_{q=0}^{2p+2} x^{2q-1} \pi^{4p+4-2q} \frac{B_{2q}}{(2q)!} (-1)^{q+1} \frac{B_{4p+4-2q}}{(4p+4-2q)!} \\
&+ \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{-4p-4-i\infty}^{-4p-4+i\infty} Q(s)/x^s ds.
\end{aligned}$$

To treat the integral recall the duplication formula of the gamma function:

$$\Gamma(s) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^{s-1} \Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right).$$

which yields for the integral

$$\int_{-4p-4-i\infty}^{-4p-4+i\infty} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\pi}} \Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right) \zeta(s) \zeta(s+4p+3) / x^s ds.$$

Furthermore observe the following variant of the functional equation of the Riemann zeta function:

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

which gives for the integral

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{-4p-4-i\infty}^{-4p-4+i\infty} \frac{\pi^{s-1}}{2} \Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{1-s}{2}\right) \zeta(1-s) \zeta(s+4p+3) / x^s ds \\ &= \int_{-4p-4-i\infty}^{-4p-4+i\infty} \frac{\pi^s}{2} \frac{1}{\sin(\pi/2(s+1))} \zeta(1-s) \zeta(s+4p+3) / x^s ds. \end{aligned}$$

Now put  $s = -4p - 2 - u$  to get

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{2-i\infty}^{2+i\infty} \frac{\pi^{-4p-2-u}}{2} \frac{1}{\sin(\pi/2(-4p-2-u+1))} \\ & \quad \times \zeta(u+4p+3) \zeta(1-u) / x^{-4p-2-u} du \\ &= \frac{x^{4p+2}}{\pi^{4p+2}} \int_{2-i\infty}^{2+i\infty} \frac{\pi^{-u}}{2} \frac{1}{\sin(\pi/2(-(u+1)))} \\ & \quad \times \zeta(u+4p+3) \zeta(1-u) / x^{-u} du \\ &= -\frac{x^{4p+2}}{\pi^{4p+2}} \int_{2-i\infty}^{2+i\infty} \frac{\pi^{-u}}{2} \frac{1}{\sin(\pi/2(u+1))} \\ & \quad \times \zeta(u+4p+3) \zeta(1-u) / x^{-u} du. \end{aligned}$$

We have established the functional equation

$$\begin{aligned} S(x) &= -\frac{1}{2} \zeta(4p+3) + \text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s = -4p-2) \\ &+ 2^{4p+2} \sum_{q=0}^{2p+2} x^{2q-1} \pi^{4p+4-2q} \frac{B_{2q}}{(2q)!} (-1)^{q+1} \frac{B_{4p+4-2q}}{(4p+4-2q)!} - \left(\frac{x}{\pi}\right)^{4p+2} S\left(\frac{\pi^2}{x}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Setting  $x = \pi$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} S(\pi) &= -\frac{1}{2} \zeta(4p+3) + \text{Res}(Q(s)/\pi^s; s = -4p-2) \\ &+ 2^{4p+2} \pi^{4p+3} \sum_{q=0}^{2p+2} \frac{B_{2q}}{(2q)!} (-1)^{q+1} \frac{B_{4p+4-2q}}{(4p+4-2q)!} - \left(\frac{\pi}{\pi}\right)^{4p+2} S(\pi) \end{aligned}$$

and hence

$$S(\pi) = -\frac{1}{4}\zeta(4p+3) + \frac{1}{2}\text{Res}(Q(s)/\pi^s; s = -4p-2) \\ + 2^{4p+1}\pi^{4p+3} \sum_{q=0}^{2p+2} \frac{B_{2q}}{(2q)!} (-1)^{q+1} \frac{B_{4p+4-2q}}{(4p+4-2q)!}.$$

To conclude we treat the residue that we have deferred until now. Recall the alternate form of  $Q(s)/\pi^s$ ,

$$\frac{\pi^s}{2} \frac{1}{\sin(\pi/2(s+1))} \zeta(1-s)\zeta(s+4p+3)/\pi^s \\ = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sin(\pi/2(s+1))} \zeta(1-s)\zeta(s+4p+3).$$

It follows that the residue at  $s = -4p-2$  is

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sin(\pi/2(-4p-1))} \zeta(4p+3) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sin(-\pi/2)} \zeta(4p+3) = -\frac{1}{2}\zeta(4p+3).$$

This finally yields for  $S(\pi)$

$$S(\pi) = -\frac{1}{2}\zeta(4p+3) + 2^{4p+1}\pi^{4p+3} \sum_{q=0}^{2p+2} \frac{B_{2q}}{(2q)!} (-1)^{q+1} \frac{B_{4p+4-2q}}{(4p+4-2q)!}.$$

Computing  $T_p(\pi)$  we thus obtain

$$2\zeta(4p+3) - 4 \times \frac{1}{2}\zeta(4p+3) + 2^{4p+3}\pi^{4p+3} \sum_{q=0}^{2p+2} \frac{B_{2q}}{(2q)!} (-1)^{q+1} \frac{B_{4p+4-2q}}{(4p+4-2q)!}$$

or

$$(2\pi)^{4p+3} \sum_{q=0}^{2p+2} \frac{B_{2q}}{(2q)!} (-1)^{q+1} \frac{B_{4p+4-2q}}{(4p+4-2q)!},$$

QED.

This is [math.stackexchange.com question 1293232](https://math.stackexchange.com/question/1293232).

## 6 A functional equation relating two harmonic sums

Suppose we seek a functional equation for

$$S(x) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{(2k-1)} \frac{1}{\exp(x(2k-1)) - \exp(-x(2k-1))}.$$

The sum  $S(x)$  is harmonic and may be evaluated by inverting its Mellin transform.

Recall the harmonic sum identity

$$\mathfrak{M} \left( \sum_{k \geq 1} \lambda_k g(\mu_k x); s \right) = \left( \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{\lambda_k}{\mu_k^s} \right) g^*(s)$$

where  $g^*(s)$  is the Mellin transform of  $g(x)$ .

In the present case we have

$$\lambda_k = \frac{1}{(2k-1)}, \quad \mu_k = 2k-1 \quad \text{and} \quad g(x) = \frac{1}{\exp(x) - \exp(-x)}.$$

We need the Mellin transform  $g^*(s)$  of  $g(x)$  which is computed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} g^*(s) &= \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{\exp(x) - \exp(-x)} x^{s-1} dx = \int_0^\infty \frac{\exp(-x)}{1 - \exp(-2x)} x^{s-1} dx \\ &= \int_0^\infty \sum_{q \geq 0} \exp(-(2q+1)x) x^{s-1} dx = \sum_{q \geq 0} \frac{1}{(2q+1)^s} \Gamma(s) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^s}\right) \Gamma(s) \zeta(s). \end{aligned}$$

Hence the Mellin transform  $Q(s)$  of  $S(x)$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} Q(s) &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{s+1}}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^s}\right) \Gamma(s) \zeta(s) \zeta(s+1) \\ &\text{because} \quad \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{\lambda_k}{\mu_k^s} = \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{s+1}}\right) \zeta(s+1) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Re(s) > 1$ . Intersecting the fundamental strip and the half-plane from the zeta function term we find that the Mellin inversion integral for an expansion about zero is

$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{3/2-i\infty}^{3/2+i\infty} Q(s)/x^s ds$$

which we evaluate in the left half-plane  $\Re(s) < 3/2$ .

The two zeta function terms cancel the poles of the gamma function term and we are left with just

$$\text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s=1) = \frac{\pi^2}{16x} \quad \text{and} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s=0) = -\frac{1}{4} \log 2. \quad (2)$$

This shows that

$$S(x) = \frac{\pi^2}{16x} - \frac{1}{4} \log 2 + \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{-1/2-i\infty}^{-1/2+i\infty} Q(s)/x^s ds.$$

To treat the integral recall the duplication formula of the gamma function:

$$\Gamma(s) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^{s-1} \Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right).$$

which yields for  $Q(s)$

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

Furthermore observe the following variant of the functional equation of the Riemann zeta function:

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

which gives for  $Q(s)$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{s+1}}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^s}\right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^{s-1} \pi^{s-1/2} \Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{1-s}{2}\right) \zeta(1-s) \zeta(s+1) \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{s+1}}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^s}\right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^{s-1} \pi^{s-1/2} \frac{\pi}{\sin(\pi(s+1)/2)} \zeta(1-s) \zeta(s+1) \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{s+1}}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^s}\right) 2^{s-1} \frac{\pi^s}{\sin(\pi(s+1)/2)} \zeta(1-s) \zeta(s+1). \end{aligned}$$

Now put  $s = -u$  in the remainder integral to get

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{1/2-i\infty}^{1/2+i\infty} \left(1 - \frac{2^u}{2}\right) (1-2^u) 2^{-u-1} \frac{\pi^{-u}}{\sin(\pi(-u+1)/2)} \zeta(1+u) \zeta(1-u) x^u du \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{1/2-i\infty}^{1/2+i\infty} \left(1 - \frac{2^u}{2}\right) (1-2^u) 2^{-u-1} \\ & \quad \times \frac{\pi^u}{\sin(\pi(-u+1)/2)} \zeta(1+u) \zeta(1-u) (x/\pi^2)^u du. \end{aligned}$$

We may shift this to  $3/2$  as there is no pole at  $u = 1$ .

Now

$$\begin{aligned} \sin(\pi(-u+1)/2) &= \sin(\pi(-u-1)/2 + \pi) \\ &= -\sin(\pi(-u-1)/2) = \sin(\pi(u+1)/2) \end{aligned}$$

and furthermore

$$\begin{aligned} \left(1 - \frac{2^u}{2}\right) (1-2^u) 2^{-u-1} &= \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{2^u}{2}\right) \left(\frac{1}{2^u} - 1\right) = 2^{u-2} \left(\frac{1}{2^{u-1}} - 1\right) \left(\frac{1}{2^u} - 1\right) \\ &= 2^{u-2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{u-1}}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^u}\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= 2^{u-2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{u+1}}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^u}\right) - 3 \times 2^{u-2} \frac{1}{2^{u+1}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^u}\right) \\
&= \frac{1}{2} 2^{u-1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{u+1}}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^u}\right) - \frac{3}{4} 2^{u-1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^u}\right) \frac{1}{2^u}.
\end{aligned}$$

We have shown that

$$\begin{aligned}
S(x) &= \frac{\pi^2}{16x} - \frac{1}{4} \log 2 + \frac{1}{2} S(\pi^2/x) \\
&- \frac{3}{4} \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{3/2-i\infty}^{3/2+i\infty} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^u}\right) \Gamma(u) \zeta(u) \zeta(u+1) (x/\pi^2/2)^u du
\end{aligned}$$

or alternatively

$$S(x) = \frac{\pi^2}{16x} - \frac{1}{4} \log 2 + \frac{1}{2} S(\pi^2/x) - \frac{3}{4} T(2\pi^2/x)$$

where

$$T(x) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{k} \frac{1}{\exp(kx) - \exp(-kx)}$$

with functional equation

$$T(x) = \frac{1}{24} x - \frac{1}{2} \log 2 + \frac{\pi^2}{12x} - T(2\pi^2/x).$$

which finally yields

$$S(x) = \frac{1}{2} S(\pi^2/x) - \frac{1}{32} x + \frac{1}{8} \log 2 + \frac{3}{4} T(x).$$

Using sinh with

$$S(x) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{(2k-1)} \frac{1}{\sinh((2k-1)x)} \quad \text{and} \quad T(x) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{1}{k} \frac{1}{\sinh(kx)}$$

we obtain the functional equation

$$S(x) = \frac{1}{2} S(\pi^2/x) - \frac{1}{16} x + \frac{1}{4} \log 2 + \frac{3}{4} T(x).$$

We also have

$$T(\sqrt{2}\pi) = \frac{\sqrt{2}\pi}{24} - \frac{1}{2} \log 2 + \frac{\pi\sqrt{2}}{24} = \frac{\sqrt{2}\pi}{12} - \frac{1}{2} \log 2.$$

This was [math.stackexchange.com](http://math.stackexchange.com) problem 1417849.

## 7 Functional equation of the Hurwitz Zeta function

Suppose we seek to show that

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k}{2k+1} \frac{1}{\exp((2k+1)\pi/2) + \exp(-(2k+1)\pi/2)} = \frac{\pi}{16}.$$

The sum term

$$S(x) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{2k-1} \frac{1}{\exp(x(2k-1)) + \exp(-x(2k-1))}$$

is harmonic and may be evaluated by inverting its Mellin transform. We are interested in  $S(\pi/2)$ .

Recall the harmonic sum identity

$$\mathfrak{M} \left( \sum_{k \geq 1} \lambda_k g(\mu_k x); s \right) = \left( \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{\lambda_k}{\mu_k^s} \right) g^*(s)$$

where  $g^*(s) = \mathfrak{M}(g(x); s)$  is the Mellin transform of  $g(x)$ .

In the present case we have

$$\lambda_k = \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{2k-1}, \quad \mu_k = 2k-1 \quad \text{and} \quad g(x) = \frac{1}{\exp(x) + \exp(-x)}.$$

We need the Mellin transform  $g^*(s)$  of  $g(x)$  which is computed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} g^*(s) &= \int_0^{\infty} \frac{1}{\exp(x) + \exp(-x)} x^{s-1} dx = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\exp(-x)}{1 + \exp(-2x)} x^{s-1} dx \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} \sum_{q \geq 0} (-1)^q \exp(-(2q+1)x) x^{s-1} dx = \Gamma(s) \sum_{q \geq 0} \frac{(-1)^q}{(2q+1)^s} = \Gamma(s) \beta(s) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\beta(s) = 4^{-s} \left( \zeta \left( s, \frac{1}{4} \right) - \zeta \left( s, \frac{3}{4} \right) \right).$$

Note that  $\beta(s)$  does not have a pole at  $s = 1$  and  $\beta(1) = \frac{\pi}{4}$ .

Hence the Mellin transform  $Q(s)$  of  $S(x)$  is given by

$$Q(s) = \Gamma(s) \beta(s) \beta(s+1) \quad \text{because} \quad \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{\lambda_k}{\mu_k^s} = \beta(s+1)$$

where  $\Re(s) > 0$ . Intersecting the fundamental strip and the half-plane from the zeta function term we find that the Mellin inversion integral for an expansion about zero is

$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{1/2-i\infty}^{1/2+i\infty} Q(s) / x^s ds$$

which we evaluate in the left half-plane  $\Re(s) < 1/2$ .

The two beta function terms cancel the poles of the gamma function term and we are left with just

$$\text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s = 0) = \frac{\pi}{8}.$$

This shows that

$$S(x) = \frac{\pi}{8} + \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{-1/2-i\infty}^{-1/2+i\infty} Q(s)/x^s ds.$$

To treat the integral recall the duplication formula of the gamma function:

$$\Gamma(s) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^{s-1} \Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right).$$

which yields for  $Q(s)$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^{s-1} \Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right) \beta(s)\beta(s+1)$$

Furthermore observe the following variant of the functional equation of the Riemann zeta function adapted to the beta function:

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

which gives for  $Q(s)$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^{s-1} \Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right) 2^{1-2s} \pi^{s-1/2} \Gamma\left(1 - \frac{s}{2}\right) \beta(1-s)\beta(s+1) \\ &= 2^{-s} \pi^{s-1} \frac{\pi}{\sin(\pi s/2)} \beta(1-s)\beta(s+1) \\ &= 2^{-s} \frac{\pi^s}{\sin(\pi s/2)} \beta(1-s)\beta(s+1). \end{aligned}$$

Now put  $s = -u$  in the remainder integral to get

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{1/2-i\infty}^{1/2+i\infty} 2^u \frac{\pi^{-u}}{\sin(-\pi u/2)} \zeta(1+u)\zeta(1-u)x^u du \\ &= -\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{1/2-i\infty}^{1/2+i\infty} 2^{-u} \frac{\pi^u}{\sin(\pi u/2)} \zeta(1+u)\zeta(1-u)(4x/\pi^2)^u du. \end{aligned}$$

We have shown that

$$S(x) = \frac{\pi}{8} - S(\pi^2/4/x).$$



In particular we get

$$S(\pi/2) = \frac{\pi}{8} - S(\pi/2) \quad \text{or} \quad S(\pi/2) = \frac{\pi}{16}$$

as claimed.

**Addendum.** The functional equation for  $\beta(s)$  can be derived from the functional equation of the Hurwitz Zeta function:

$$\zeta\left(1-s, \frac{m}{n}\right) = \frac{2\Gamma(s)}{(2\pi n)^s} \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \cos\left(\frac{\pi s}{2} - \frac{2\pi km}{n}\right) \zeta\left(s, \frac{k}{n}\right) \right].$$

where  $1 \leq m \leq n$ .

This yields

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(1-s, 1/4) &= \frac{2\Gamma(s)}{2^{3s}\pi^s} [\cos(\pi s/2 - \pi/2)\zeta(s, 1/4) + \cos(\pi s/2 - \pi)\zeta(s, 1/2) \\ &\quad + \cos(\pi s/2 - 3\pi/2)\zeta(s, 3/4) + \cos(\pi s/2 - 2\pi)\zeta(s)] \\ &= \frac{2\Gamma(s)}{2^{3s}\pi^s} [\sin(\pi s/2)\zeta(s, 1/4) - \cos(\pi s/2)\zeta(s, 1/2) \\ &\quad - \sin(\pi s/2)\zeta(s, 3/4) + \cos(\pi s/2)\zeta(s)]. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(1-s, 3/4) &= \frac{2\Gamma(s)}{2^{3s}\pi^s} [\cos(\pi s/2 - 3\pi/2)\zeta(s, 1/4) + \cos(\pi s/2 - 3\pi)\zeta(s, 1/2) \\ &\quad + \cos(\pi s/2 - 9\pi/2)\zeta(s, 3/4) + \cos(\pi s/2 - 6\pi)\zeta(s)] \\ &= \frac{2\Gamma(s)}{2^{3s}\pi^s} [-\sin(\pi s/2)\zeta(s, 1/4) - \cos(\pi s/2)\zeta(s, 1/2) \\ &\quad + \sin(\pi s/2)\zeta(s, 3/4) + \cos(\pi s/2)\zeta(s)]. \end{aligned}$$

Subtract to obtain

$$4^{1-s}\beta(1-s) = \frac{2\Gamma(s)}{2^{3s}\pi^s} (2\sin(\pi s/2)\zeta(s, 1/4) - 2\sin(\pi s/2)\zeta(s, 3/4))$$

or

$$4^{1-s}\beta(1-s) = \frac{2\Gamma(s)}{2^{3s}\pi^s} 2\sin(\pi s/2)4^s\beta(s)$$

which is

$$\begin{aligned} \beta(1-s) &= 2^s \frac{\Gamma(s)}{\pi^s} \sin(\pi s/2)\beta(s) \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi^{s+1/2}} 2^{2s-1} \Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right) \sin(\pi s/2)\beta(s) \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi^{s+1/2}} 2^{2s-1} \frac{\pi}{\sin(\pi s/2)} \Gamma\left(1 - \frac{s}{2}\right)^{-1} \Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right) \sin(\pi s/2)\beta(s) \end{aligned}$$

which yields

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

which is the desired result.

This was [math.stackexchange.com](http://math.stackexchange.com) problem 1447489.

## 8 Two contrasting examples of fixed point scenarios

Suppose we seek a functional equation for the sum term

$$S(x) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{k^5}{\exp(kx) - 1}$$

which is harmonic and may be evaluated by inverting its Mellin transform. We are interested in possible fixed points of the functional equation especially  $S(2\pi)$ .

Recall the harmonic sum identity

$$\mathfrak{M} \left( \sum_{k \geq 1} \lambda_k g(\mu_k x); s \right) = \left( \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{\lambda_k}{\mu_k^s} \right) g^*(s)$$

where  $g^*(s) = \mathfrak{M}(g(x); s)$  is the Mellin transform of  $g(x)$ .

In the present case we have

$$\lambda_k = k^5, \quad \mu_k = k \quad \text{and} \quad g(x) = \frac{1}{\exp(x) - 1}.$$

We need the Mellin transform  $g^*(s)$  of  $g(x)$  which is computed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} g^*(s) &= \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{\exp(x) - 1} x^{s-1} dx = \int_0^\infty \frac{\exp(-x)}{1 - \exp(-x)} x^{s-1} dx \\ &= \int_0^\infty \sum_{q \geq 1} \exp(-qx) x^{s-1} dx = \sum_{q \geq 1} \frac{1}{q^s} \Gamma(s) = \Gamma(s) \zeta(s). \end{aligned}$$

Hence the Mellin transform  $Q(s)$  of  $S(x)$  is given by

$$Q(s) = \Gamma(s) \zeta(s) \zeta(s-5) \quad \text{because} \quad \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{\lambda_k}{\mu_k^s} = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{k^5}{k^s} = \zeta(s-5)$$

where  $\Re(s) > 6$ . Intersecting the fundamental strip and the half-plane from the zeta function term we find that the Mellin inversion integral for an expansion about zero is

$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{13/2-i\infty}^{13/2+i\infty} Q(s)/x^s ds$$

which we evaluate in the left half-plane  $\Re(s) < 13/2$ .

The two zeta function terms cancel the poles of the gamma function term and we are left with just

$$\text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s=6) = \frac{8\pi^6}{63x^6} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Res}(Q(s)/x^s; s=0) = \frac{1}{504}.$$

This shows that

$$S(x) = \frac{8\pi^6}{15x^6} + \frac{1}{504} + \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{-1/2-i\infty}^{-1/2+i\infty} Q(s)/x^s ds.$$

To treat the integral recall the duplication formula of the gamma function:

$$\Gamma(s) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^{s-1} \Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right).$$

which yields for  $Q(s)$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^{s-1} \Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right) \zeta(s) \zeta(s-5)$$

Furthermore observe the following variant of the functional equation of the Riemann zeta function:

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

which gives for  $Q(s)$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^{s-1} \pi^{s-1/2} \Gamma\left(\frac{s+1}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{1-s}{2}\right) \zeta(1-s) \zeta(s-5) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^{s-1} \pi^{s-1/2} \frac{\pi}{\sin(\pi(s+1)/2)} \zeta(1-s) \zeta(s-5) \\ &= 2^{s-1} \frac{\pi^s}{\sin(\pi(s+1)/2)} \zeta(1-s) \zeta(s-5). \end{aligned}$$

Now put  $s = 6 - u$  in the remainder integral to get

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{x^6} \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{13/2-i\infty}^{13/2+i\infty} 2^{5-u} \frac{\pi^{6-u}}{\sin(\pi(7-u)/2)} \zeta(u-5) \zeta(1-u) x^u du \\ &= \frac{64\pi^6}{x^6} \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{9/2-i\infty}^{9/2+i\infty} 2^{u-1} \frac{\pi^u}{\sin(\pi(7-u)/2)} \zeta(u-5) \zeta(1-u) (x/\pi^2/2^2)^u du. \end{aligned}$$

Now

$$\begin{aligned} \sin(\pi(7-u)/2) &= \sin(\pi(-u-1)/2 + 4\pi) \\ &= \sin(\pi(-u-1)/2) = -\sin(\pi(u+1)/2). \end{aligned}$$

We have shown that

$$S(x) = \frac{8\pi^6}{63x^6} + \frac{1}{504} - \frac{64\pi^6}{x^6} S(4\pi^2/x).$$

In particular we get

$$S(2\pi) = \frac{1}{63 \times 8} + \frac{1}{504} - S(2\pi)$$

or

$$S(2\pi) = \frac{1}{504}.$$

**Remark.** Unfortunately this method does not work for

$$S(x) = \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{k^3}{\exp(kx) - 1}$$

We get the functional equation

$$S(x) = \frac{\pi^4}{15x^4} - \frac{1}{240} + \frac{16\pi^4}{x^4} S(4\pi^2/x).$$

which yields

$$S(2\pi) = \frac{1}{15 \times 16} - \frac{1}{240} + S(2\pi)$$

which holds without providing any data about the value itself.

This was [math.stackexchange.com](https://math.stackexchange.com) problem 1482918.

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