
Duplication Formula for the Gamma Function. Show that: $\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma(2z) = 2^{2z-1} \Gamma(z) \Gamma(z + \frac{1}{2})$.

Proof. Let $f(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^{2z-1} \Gamma(\frac{z}{2}) \Gamma(\frac{z+1}{2})$. Then we have: (In the following, our domain is $(0, \infty)$).

(i) $f(z) > 0$ for $z \in (0, \infty)$ ⁽¹⁾. This is true because it is true for Γ .

(ii) $\log f(z) = \log \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^{2z-1} \Gamma(\frac{z}{2}) \Gamma(\frac{z+1}{2}) \right] = -\frac{1}{2} \log \pi + (2z - 1) \log 2 + \log \Gamma(\frac{z}{2}) + \log \Gamma(\frac{z+1}{2})$.

Thus, $(\log f(z))'' = (-\frac{1}{2} \log \pi)'' + ((2z - 1) \log 2)'' + (\log \Gamma(\frac{z}{2}))'' + (\log \Gamma(\frac{z+1}{2}))''$
 $= (\log \Gamma(\frac{z}{2}))'' + (\log \Gamma(\frac{z+1}{2}))'' > 0$ for $z \in (0, \infty)$, as on page 179 of Conway.

Thus, $\log f(z)$ is convex⁽²⁾.

(iii) $f(1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^0 \Gamma(\frac{1}{2}) \Gamma(1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \cdot 1 \cdot \sqrt{\pi} \cdot 1 = 1$. Thus, $f(1) = 1$ ⁽³⁾.

(iv) $\forall z \in (0, \infty)$, $zf(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^{2z-1} z \Gamma(\frac{z}{2}) \Gamma(\frac{z+1}{2}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^z (\frac{z}{2} \Gamma(\frac{z}{2})) \Gamma(\frac{z+1}{2}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^z \Gamma(\frac{z}{2} + 1) \Gamma(\frac{z+1}{2})$.

On the other hand, $f(z+1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^{2(z+1)-1} \Gamma(\frac{z+1}{2}) \Gamma(\frac{z+2}{2}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^z \Gamma(\frac{z+1}{2}) \Gamma(\frac{z}{2} + 1)$.

Thus, $zf(z) = f(z+1)$ ⁽⁴⁾.

By (1), (2), (3) and (4), Bohr-Mollerup Theorem implies that $f(z) = \Gamma(z) \forall z \in (0, \infty)$.

Thus, by the uniqueness theorem, $f(z) \equiv \Gamma(z)$.

Hence, $\Gamma(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^{z-1} \Gamma(\frac{z}{2}) \Gamma(\frac{z+1}{2})$.

Substituting $2z$ for z , one gets that $\Gamma(2z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} 2^{2z-1} \Gamma(z) \Gamma(z + \frac{1}{2})$. ■
