

# **Title:** Computing the Non-Trivial Zeroes of Riemann Zeta on Critical Strip

**Author:** Josh Myers

May 24, 2026

One form of the Riemann-Zeta functional equation is:

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

This form naturally leads to the following functional equation:

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

On the critical strip, where  $s = \frac{1}{2} + it$ , we get:

$$\frac{\zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + it\right)}{\zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} - it\right)} = \pi^{it}\frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{it}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{it}{2}\right)} \quad (3)$$

The left and right sides of Equation 3 have absolute values of 1. Thus, it is reasonable to write the equality in terms of a complex phase - let:

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-2i\theta(t)} &= \pi^{it}\frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{it}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{it}{2}\right)} \\ \implies e^{i\theta(t)}\zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + it\right) &= e^{-i\theta(t)}\zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} - it\right) \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where the left and right sides are complex conjugates of one another. The concept of this equality implies that both the left and the right sides of Equation 4 are real, as this is the only possible implication of a number and its complex conjugate being equal. With this said, we can now define the Hardy Z function, which has zeroes for the same  $t$  input (only along the critical strip  $s = \frac{1}{2} + it$ ) as the Riemann Zeta but is additionally real for all values of  $t$ . This realization makes the computation of non-trivial zeroes (along the critical strip) significantly easier, as we need only track one variable  $t$  and one (real) function output looking for roots, rather than two function outputs (real and complex) for the parameter input  $t$  for where they are *both* zero.

$$Z(t) = e^{i\theta(t)}\zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + it\right) = \pi^{-\frac{it}{2}}\frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{it}{2}\right)}{\left|\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{it}{2}\right)\right|}\zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + it\right) \quad (5)$$

Now, we can compute the Hardy Z function, assured that the situation is a one variable input and one real output, allowing us to plot the result in Figure 1.

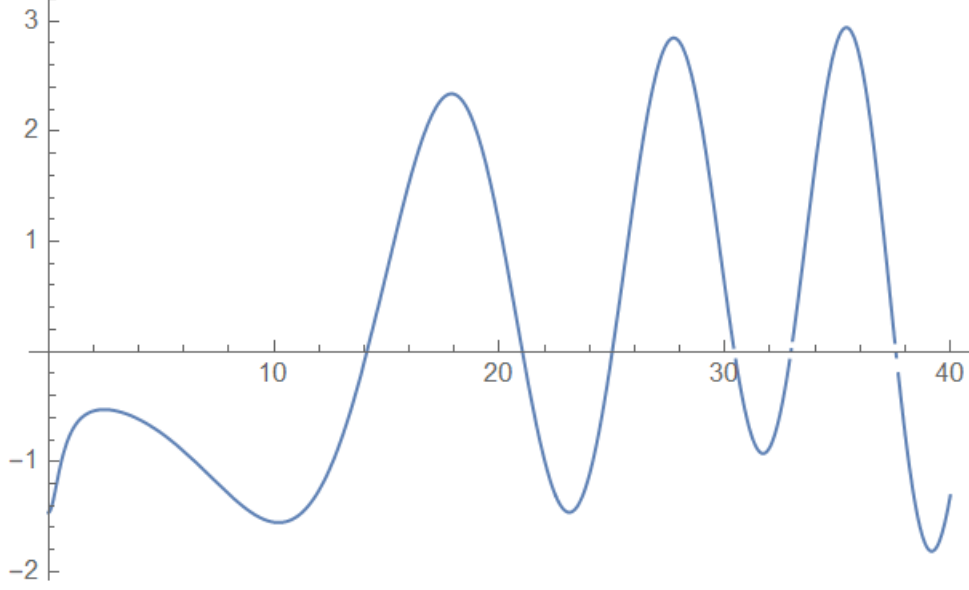


Figure 1: The first 6 non-trivial zeroes of the Riemann Zeta function along the critical line. Note that  $|Z(t)| = |\zeta(\frac{1}{2} + it)|$ .

Now consider points off the critical line -  $s = \frac{1}{2} + \delta + it$ . We would attempt to study this case using the Taylor expansion. To do this, we will re-write the function in terms of the general specified  $s$ . Re-visit Equation 2:

$$\frac{\zeta(\frac{1}{2} + \delta + it)}{\zeta(\frac{1}{2} - \delta - it)} = \pi^{\delta+it} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{\delta}{2} - \frac{it}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{\delta}{2} + \frac{it}{2})} \quad (6)$$

Now consider  $\delta \rightarrow 0$  - we then consider the linear term of the Taylor expansion. The desired derivative is:

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \partial_{\delta} \pi^{\delta+it} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{\delta}{2} - \frac{it}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{\delta}{2} + \frac{it}{2})} \right)_{\delta \rightarrow 0} &= \left( \ln(\pi) \pi^{\delta+it} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{\delta}{2} - \frac{it}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{\delta}{2} + \frac{it}{2})} - \frac{\pi^{\delta+it} \Gamma'(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{\delta}{2} - \frac{it}{2})}{2 \Gamma(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{\delta}{2} + \frac{it}{2})} \right)_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \\ &\quad - \left( \frac{\pi^{\delta+it} \Gamma(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{\delta}{2} - \frac{it}{2}) \Gamma'(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{\delta}{2} + \frac{it}{2})}{2 (\Gamma(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{\delta}{2} + \frac{it}{2}))^2} \right)_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \quad (7) \\ &= \ln(\pi) \pi^{it} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{it}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{it}{2})} \\ &\quad - \frac{\pi^{it} \Gamma(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{it}{2})}{2 \Gamma(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{it}{2})} \left( \psi_0\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{it}{2}\right) + \psi_0\left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{it}{2}\right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\psi(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{it}{2})$  is the 0th order polygamma function. Thus:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\zeta(\frac{1}{2} + \delta + it)}{\zeta(\frac{1}{2} - \delta - it)} &= \pi^{it} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{it}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{it}{2})} + \ln(\pi) \pi^{it} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{it}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{it}{2})} \delta \\ &\quad - \frac{\pi^{it} \Gamma(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{it}{2})}{2 \Gamma(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{it}{2})} \left( \psi_0\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{it}{2}\right) + \psi_0\left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{it}{2}\right) \right) \delta \quad (8) \end{aligned}$$

Though, evidently this equation does not preserve the magnitude as Equation 2 does, as for any finite  $\delta$ , there will be a departure from the ratio of the  $\zeta$  functions being 1, and furthermore we will not have the nice algebraic symmetry that gives rise to Hardy's Z-function that is purely real-valued. However, returning to Equation 7, it seems potentially plausible to write down a general term for the  $n$ th derivative  $(D_\delta^n f_{\delta,t})_{\delta \rightarrow 0}$  with respect to  $\delta$ , where the expression for  $n = 1$  is represented by the left side of Equation 7. We write down  $n = 2$  below as:

$$\begin{aligned}
(D_\delta^0 f_{\delta,t})_{\delta \rightarrow 0} &= \pi^{it} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{it}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{it}{2}\right)} \\
(D_\delta^1 f_{\delta,t})_{\delta \rightarrow 0} &= (D_\delta^0 f_{\delta,t})_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \left( \ln(\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \left( \psi_0\left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{it}{2}\right) + \psi_0\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{it}{2}\right) \right) \right) \\
(D_\delta^2 f_{\delta,t})_{\delta \rightarrow 0} &= (D_\delta^1 f_{\delta,t})_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \left( \ln(\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \left( \psi_0\left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{it}{2}\right) + \psi_0\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{it}{2}\right) \right) \right) \\
&\quad - \frac{1}{4} (D_\delta^0 f_{\delta,t})_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \left( \psi_1\left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{it}{2}\right) - \psi_1\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{it}{2}\right) \right) \\
(D_\delta^n f_{\delta,t})_{\delta \rightarrow 0} &= \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{k} (D_\delta^{n-1-k} f_{\delta,t})_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \\
&\quad \left( \ln(\pi) \delta_{k0} - \frac{1}{2^{k+1}} \left( \psi_k\left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{it}{2}\right) + (-1)^k \psi_k\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{it}{2}\right) \right) \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

where  $\delta_{k0}$  is the Kronecker Delta function. Now we can write Equation 6 as a Taylor series:

$$\frac{\zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + \delta + it\right)}{\zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} - \delta - it\right)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(D_\delta^n f_{\delta,t})_{\delta \rightarrow 0}}{n!} \delta^n, \quad f_{\delta,t} = \pi^{\delta+it} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{\delta}{2} - \frac{it}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{\delta}{2} + \frac{it}{2}\right)} \tag{10}$$

This identity has been confirmed numerically for various values of  $|t| = 1$  and  $|\delta| < \frac{1}{2}$ . Note that for  $\delta = -1/2$  and  $t = 0$ , the identity fails badly, as the Taylor Series does not exist for simple poles of  $\zeta$ . This concludes this post.