

ORDER OF GROWTH OF $1/\Gamma$

In this short note, we will establish the order of growth of the entire function $1/\Gamma$.

Proposition 1. *There exists constants $A, B \in \mathbb{R}$ such that*

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \leq Ae^{B|s| \log |s|}$$

for all $s \in \mathbb{C}$.

Proof. We knew

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

as meromorphic functions on \mathbb{C} , and that will be the key to our proof.

Observe also that it suffices to show the existence of two constants $A, B \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$(1) \quad \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-s)} \leq Ae^{B|s| \log |s|}$$

for all $s \in \mathbb{C}$. Indeed then

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \leq Ae^{B|1-s| \log |1-s|},$$

which is bounded by a constant if $|s| \leq 2$, and is bounded by $Ae^{B(2|s|) \log(|s|^2)} = Ae^{4B|s| \log |s|}$ if $|s| \geq 2$.

Now to prove (1), we use

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

We need to prove that $\Gamma(s) \sin(\pi s)$ is bounded by $Ae^{B|s| \log |s|}$. Note that

$$(2) \quad |\sin \pi s| = \left| \frac{e^{i\pi s} + e^{-i\pi s}}{2i} \right| \leq e^{\pi|s|},$$

and if $\operatorname{Re} s \geq 1/2$, then

$$(3) \quad |\Gamma(s)| \leq Ae^{|s| \log |s|}.$$

This is because then

$$|\Gamma(s)| \leq \int_0^\infty e^{-t} t^{\operatorname{Re} s - 1} dt \leq \int_0^1 e^{-t} t^{\operatorname{Re} s - 1} dt + \int_1^\infty e^{-t} t^{\operatorname{Re} s - 1} dt.$$

The first integral is bounded by an absolute constant, and if σ is the greatest integer smaller than or equal to $\operatorname{Re} s$, then the second integral is bounded by

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-t} t^{(\sigma+1)-1} dt = \Gamma(\sigma+1) = \sigma! \leq \sigma^\sigma = e^{\sigma \log \sigma} \leq Ae^{|\sigma| \log |\sigma|}.$$

Combining (2) and (3), we see that

$$(4) \quad |\Gamma(s)| \leq Ae^{2|s|\log|s|} \quad \text{whenever } \operatorname{Re} s \geq 1/2.$$

Now if $|\operatorname{Re} s| \leq 1/2$, we consider two cases. If $|\operatorname{Im} s| \leq 2$, then $|\Gamma(s) \sin \pi s|$ is bounded by a constant, since $\Gamma(s) \sin \pi s$ defines a continuous function on the compact set $\{s: |\operatorname{Re} s| \leq 1/2, |\operatorname{Im} s| \leq 2\}$. On the other hand, if $|\operatorname{Im} s| \geq 2$, then we use the functional equation of Γ , and the periodicity of $|\sin(\pi s)|$, to get

$$|\Gamma(s) \sin(\pi s)| = \left| \frac{1}{s} \Gamma(s+1) \sin(\pi(s+1)) \right| \leq |\Gamma(s+1) \sin(\pi(s+1))|;$$

the point is that $\operatorname{Re}(s+1) \geq 1/2$ when $|\operatorname{Re} s| \leq 1/2$. Hence by (4), we see that

$$|\Gamma(s) \sin(\pi s)| \leq Ae^{2|s+1|\log|s+1|} \leq Ae^{8|s|\log|s|}$$

if $|\operatorname{Im} s| \geq 2$. Together we see that

$$(5) \quad |\Gamma(s) \sin(\pi s)| \leq Ae^{8|s|\log|s|} \quad \text{whenever } |\operatorname{Re} s| \leq 1/2.$$

Finally, if $\operatorname{Re} s < -1/2$, let m be the positive integer satisfying $-m - \frac{1}{2} \leq \operatorname{Re} s < -m + \frac{1}{2}$. By the functional equation of Γ , and the periodicity of $|\sin(\pi s)|$, we have

$$|\Gamma(s) \sin(\pi s)| = \left| \frac{1}{s(s+1)\dots(s+m-1)} \Gamma(s+m) \sin(\pi(s+m)) \right|.$$

Note that $|\operatorname{Re}(s+m)| \leq 1/2$, and that

$$|s(s+1)\dots(s+m-1)| \geq |\operatorname{Re} s| |\operatorname{Re} s + 1| \dots |\operatorname{Re} s + m - 1| \geq \frac{1}{2}$$

(all but the last factor are at least 1, and the last factor is at least 1/2). From (5), we have

$$|\Gamma(s) \sin(\pi s)| \leq 2Ae^{8|s+m|\log|s+m|}.$$

Since

$$|s+m| = (|\operatorname{Re}(s+m)|^2 + |\operatorname{Im} s|^2)^{1/2} \leq (|\operatorname{Re} s|^2 + |\operatorname{Im} s|^2)^{1/2} = |s|,$$

this shows

$$(6) \quad |\Gamma(s) \sin(\pi s)| \leq 2Ae^{8|s|\log|s|} \quad \text{whenever } \operatorname{Re} s < -1/2.$$

Our bound for $1/\Gamma$ follows from (4), (5) and (6).

□