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# A pseudo hermitian operator and non-trivial Riemann zeros

### Yu Li

#### Abstract

Abstract: In this paper we construct a pseudo hermitian operator and reveal a connection between its eigenvalues and the non-trivial Riemann zeros.

**Keywords.** Riemann hypothesis, non-trivial Riemann zero, Pseudo hermitian operator

# 1 Introduction

One of the most attracting problems in Mathematics is Riemann hypothesis and it states that all the non-trivial zeros of Riemann zeta function

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n \ge 1} \frac{1}{n^s} = \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \int_0^\infty \frac{t^{s-1}}{e^t - 1} dt$$

have the real part  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

One proposed way of proving Riemann hypothesis, known as Hilbert-Pólya conjecture, is to find an unbounded self-adjoint operator such that the imaginary part of Riemann zeros corresponds to the eigenvalues of this operator. It has been suggested [4] that the possible approach to solve Hilbert-Póplya conjecture lies in a quantization of the classical Hamiltonian H = XP, where P is the canonical momentum operator associated with position operator X. Inspired of the previous works, an operator  $\tilde{H}$  similar to quantum analogy was proposed [3]. However, the momentum operator P in this case has no self-adjoint extension [2].

In this paper we define an operator  $\tilde{H}$  on the Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H} = L^2[\frac{1}{2}, 1]$ , then we show that momentum operator in this setting has the unique selfadjoint extension. Finally, we demonstrate that the operator is pseudo hermitian and prove a relationship between its eigenvalues and the non-trivial Riemann zeros.

## 2 Hurwitz zeta functions

The Hurwitz zeta function is originally defined for complex arguments s with  $\mathcal{R}(s) > 1$  and x > 0 by

$$\zeta(s,x) = \sum_{n \ge 0} \frac{1}{(n+x)^s}$$

Hurwitz zeta function has an analytic continuation on  $\mathbb{C}$  with the only singularity s = 1 and it can be represented [1, 6]

$$\zeta(s,x) = -\frac{\Gamma(1-s)}{2\pi i} \int_{\mathcal{C}} \frac{\xi^{s-x} e^{x\xi}}{e^{\xi} - 1} d\xi, \quad s \neq 1$$
(1)

where C is the contour around the negative real axis and it starts at  $-\infty$ , encircles the origin once in the positive direction without enclosing any of the points  $\xi = \pm 2ni, \pm 4ni, ...$  and returns to  $-\infty$  [6]. The famous Riemann zeta function is the special case of Hurwitz zeta function with x = 1

$$\zeta(s,1) = \zeta(s)$$

and also with  $x = \frac{1}{2}$ 

$$\zeta(s, \frac{1}{2}) = (2^s - 1)\zeta(s) \tag{2}$$

The partial derivative of Hurwitz zeta function with respect to x

$$\frac{\partial \zeta(s,x)}{\partial x} = -s\zeta(s+1,x), \quad s \neq 0, 1; x > 0$$
(3)

# 3 Non-trivial Riemann zeros

Let X be the position operator on  $L^2[\frac{1}{2}, 1]$  and  $P_0$  the momentum operator  $P_0 = -i\frac{d}{dx}$  densely defined on  $L^2[\frac{1}{2}, 1]$  with domain

$$D(P_0) = \left\{ f \in C^{\infty}[\frac{1}{2}, 1] : f(\frac{1}{2}) = f(1) \right\}$$
(4)

and obviously  $P_0$  is essentially self-adjoint [5] and it has the unique selfadjoint extension  $\overline{P_0} = P$ . The functions  $\varphi_n(x) = e^{2\pi i n(2x-1)}$  form an orthogonal basis for  $L^2[\frac{1}{2}, 1]$  and the closure of  $D(P_0)$  is all functions of  $L^2[\frac{1}{2}, 1]$ 

$$D(P) = \overline{D(P_0)} = L^2[\frac{1}{2}, 1]$$

From the Stone's theorem on one-parameter unitary groups,  $\{e^{itP}\}_t$  is a strongly continuous one-parameter group of unitary operators on  $L^2[\frac{1}{2}, 1]$ .

So both operators  $e^{\pm iP} - I$  are bijective and bounded, and then the bounded inverses  $(e^{\pm iP} - I)^{-1}$  exist, from the bounded inverse theorem in functional analysis.

We construct an operator  $\tilde{H}$  on  $L^2[\frac{1}{2}, 1]$ 

$$\tilde{H} = \left(e^{iP} - I\right)^{-1} \left(XP + PX\right) \left(e^{iP} - I\right)$$

It holds obviously for  $\frac{1}{2} \le x \le 1$  and  $0 < \mathcal{R}(s) < 1$ 

$$(XP + PX)x^{-s} = i(2s - 1)x^{-s}$$
(5)

Here the H = XP + PX is called Berry-Keating operator [4].

The operator  $\tilde{H}$  is pseudo hermitian, i.e. there exists an invertible operator  $\eta$  such that the adjoint operator  $\tilde{H}^{\dagger}$  can be represented

$$\tilde{H}^{\dagger} = \eta \tilde{H} \eta^{-1}$$

**Proposition 3.1.**  $\tilde{H}$  is pseudo hermitian and all the eigenvalues are real. Proof. Let  $\eta = (e^{iP} - I)^{\dagger}(e^{iP} - I)$ , then

$$\tilde{H}^{\dagger} = \eta \tilde{H} \eta^{-1}$$

The operator  $\tilde{H}$  is similar to its adjoint  $\tilde{H}^{\dagger}$ , then all eigenvalues are real.  $\Box$ 

Let s denote a point in critical strip  $0 < \mathcal{R}(s) < 1$  and we define a function  $\zeta_s$  on interval  $[\frac{1}{2}, 1]$  for Hurwitz zeta function

$$\zeta_s(x) := \zeta(s, x), \quad \frac{1}{2} \le x \le 1$$

If a complex number z is a non-trivial Riemann zero,

$$\zeta_z(1) = 0$$

then the function  $\zeta_z$  vanishes at  $x = \frac{1}{2}$  from (2)

$$\zeta_z(\frac{1}{2}) = 0$$

**Proposition 3.2.** For each non-trivial Riemann zero z,  $\zeta_z$  is an eigenfunction of  $\tilde{H}$  with eigenvalue i(2z - 1).

*Proof.* We consider for non-trivial Riemann zeros z the term

$$\frac{1}{iP}\left(\frac{iP}{e^{iP}-I}\right)x^{-z}, \quad \frac{1}{2} \le x \le 1$$

where  $\frac{1}{iP}$  is defined as an integral operator on  $L^2[\frac{1}{2},1]$  with boundary  $x = \frac{1}{2}$ 

$$\frac{1}{iP} := \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{x} f(\xi) d\xi, \quad f \in L^{2}[\frac{1}{2}, 1]$$

and  $\frac{iP}{e^{iP}-I}f$  is defined as a Bernoulli generating function

$$\frac{iP}{e^{iP} - I}f(x) := \sum_{n \ge 0} \frac{B_n}{n!} (iP)^n f(x), \quad f \in L^2[\frac{1}{2}, 1]$$

Notice

$$(iP)^n x^{-z} = \frac{\Gamma(-z+1)}{\Gamma(-z+1-n)} x^{-z-n}$$

We use Hankel loop contour integral formula [6, 7]

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma(-z+1-n)} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\mathcal{C}} \xi^{-(1-z-n)} e^{\xi} d\xi$$

where the integration is done along the Hankel-Bromwich contour and it begins at  $-\infty$ , circles the origin once in the positive direction, and returns to  $-\infty$ 

$$(iP)^{n}x^{-z} = \Gamma(1-z)\left(\frac{1}{2\pi i}\int_{\mathcal{C}}\xi^{-(1-z-n)}e^{\xi}d\xi\right)x^{-z-n}$$
$$= \frac{\Gamma(1-z)}{2\pi i}\int_{\mathcal{C}}\left(\frac{\xi}{x}\right)^{z+n-1}e^{\xi}d\frac{\xi}{x}$$

and then

$$\frac{iP}{e^{iP} - I} x^{-z} = \sum_{n \ge 0} \frac{B_n}{n!} (iP)^n x^{-z}$$
$$= \frac{\Gamma(1-z)}{2\pi i} \sum_{n \ge 0} \int_{\mathcal{C}} \frac{B_n}{n!} \left(\frac{\xi}{x}\right)^{z+n-1} e^{\xi} d\frac{\xi}{x}$$

Let  $u = \frac{\xi}{x}$  and  $C' = \frac{C}{x}$  is still a loop around the negative real axis. The uniform convergence on the closed interval justifies the interchange of the integral and the sum. Then Hurwitz zeta function can be reproduced (1)

$$\frac{iP}{e^{iP} - I}x^{-z} = \frac{\Gamma(1-z)}{2\pi i} \int_{\mathcal{C}'} \frac{u^z}{e^u - 1} e^{ux} du = -z\zeta(z+1,x)$$

Then from (3)

$$\frac{1}{iP}\left(\frac{iP}{e^{iP}-I}\right)x^{-z} = \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^{x} -z\zeta(z+1,\xi)d\xi$$
$$= \zeta(z,x) - \zeta(z,\frac{1}{2}) = \zeta_z(x)$$

The function  $\zeta_z$  vanishes at  $x = \frac{1}{2}$  for non-trivial Riemann zero z, then

$$\left(\frac{1}{e^{iP}-I}\right)x^{-z} = \frac{1}{iP}\left(\frac{iP}{e^{iP}-I}\right)x^{-z} = \zeta_z(x)$$

Combining (5), we reach

$$H\zeta_z = i(2z-1)\zeta_z$$

**Theorem 3.3.** The Riemann zeta function has its non-trivial zeros only at the complex numbers with real part  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Corollary. The Hurwitz zeta function

$$\zeta(s, \frac{1}{2})$$

has its non-trivial zeros only at the complex numbers with real part  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

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