

Article

Not peer-reviewed version

---

# A Proof of the Riemann Hypothesis via a New Expression of $\xi(s)$

---

[Weicun Zhang](#) \*

Posted Date: 9 December 2025

doi: 10.20944/preprints202108.0146.v55

Keywords: Riemann Hypothesis; Hadamard product; completed zeta function; divisibility of entire function; uniqueness of zero multiplicity; irreducibility



Preprints.org is a free multidisciplinary platform providing preprint service that is dedicated to making early versions of research outputs permanently available and citable. Preprints posted at Preprints.org appear in Web of Science, Crossref, Google Scholar, Scilit, Europe PMC.

Copyright: This open access article is published under a [Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 license](#), which permit the free download, distribution, and reuse, provided that the author and preprint are cited in any reuse.

Disclaimer/Publisher's Note: The statements, opinions, and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of MDPI and/or the editor(s). MDPI and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions, or products referred to in the content.

Article

# A Proof of the Riemann Hypothesis via a New Expression of $\zeta(s)$

Weicun Zhang

University of Science and Technology Beijing, Beijing 100083, China; ORCID: 0000-0003-0047-0558; weicunzhang@ustb.edu.cn

## Abstract

The Riemann Hypothesis (RH) is proved via a new expression of the completed zeta function  $\xi(s)$ , obtained through pairing the conjugate zeros  $\rho_i$  and  $\bar{\rho}_i$  in the Hadamard product while considering zero multiplicity, i.e.

$$\xi(s) = \xi(0) \prod_{\rho} \left(1 - \frac{s}{\rho}\right) = \xi(0) \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{s}{\rho_i}\right) \left(1 - \frac{s}{\bar{\rho}_i}\right) = \xi(0) \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\beta_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} + \frac{(s - \alpha_i)^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2}\right)^{m_i}$$

where  $\xi(0) = \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\rho_i = \alpha_i + j\beta_i$ ,  $\bar{\rho}_i = \alpha_i - j\beta_i$ , with  $0 < \alpha_i < 1$ ,  $\beta_i \neq 0$ ,  $0 < |\beta_1| \leq |\beta_2| \leq \dots$ , and  $m_i \geq 1$  is the multiplicity of  $\rho_i/\bar{\rho}_i$ . Then, according to the functional equation  $\xi(s) = \xi(1-s)$ , we obtain

$$\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{(s - \alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}\right)^{m_i} = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{(1-s - \alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}\right)^{m_i}$$

which, owing to the divisibility of entire function, uniqueness of  $m_i$ , and the irreducibility of each polynomial factor, is finally equivalent to

$$\alpha_i = \frac{1}{2}, 0 < |\beta_1| < |\beta_2| < |\beta_3| < \dots, i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Thus, we conclude that the RH is true.

**Keywords:** Riemann hypothesis; Hadamard product; completed zeta function; divisibility of entire function; uniqueness of zero multiplicity; irreducibility

## 1. Introduction

The Riemann zeta function is originally defined in the half-plane  $\Re(s) > 1$  by the absolutely convergent series

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s}, \Re(s) > 1 \tag{1}$$

The connection between the above-defined Riemann zeta function and prime numbers was discovered by Euler, i.e., the famous Euler product

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s} = \prod_p (1 - p^{-s})^{-1}, \Re(s) > 1 \tag{2}$$

where  $p$  runs over the prime numbers.

Riemann showed in his paper in 1859 how to extend the zeta function to the whole complex plane  $\mathbb{C}$  by analytic continuation [1]

$$\zeta(s) = \frac{\Gamma(1-s)}{2\pi i} \int_{\infty}^{\infty} \frac{(-x)^s}{e^x - 1} \cdot \frac{dx}{x} \tag{3a}$$

where " $\int_{\infty}^{\infty}$ " is the symbol adopted by Riemann to represent the contour integral from  $+\infty$  to  $+\infty$  around a domain which includes the value 0 but no other point of discontinuity of the integrand in its interior.

Or equivalently,

$$\zeta(s) = \frac{\pi^{s/2}}{\Gamma(s/2)} \left\{ \frac{1}{s(s-1)} + \int_1^{\infty} (x^{\frac{s}{2}-1} + x^{-\frac{s}{2}-\frac{1}{2}}) \cdot \left( \frac{\theta(x)-1}{2} \right) dx \right\} \quad (3b)$$

where  $\theta(x) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-n^2\pi x}$  is the Jacobi theta function,  $\Gamma$  is the Gamma function in the following Weierstrass expression

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} = s \cdot e^{\gamma s} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{s}{n}\right) e^{-s/n} \quad (4)$$

where  $\gamma$  is the Euler-Mascheroni constant.

As shown by Riemann,  $\zeta(s)$  extends to  $\mathbb{C}$  as a meromorphic function with only a simple pole at  $s = 1$ , with residue 1, and satisfies the following functional equation

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

The Riemann zeta function  $\zeta(s)$  has zeros at the negative even integers:  $-2, -4, -6, -8, \dots$  and one refers to them as the **trivial zeros**. The other zeros of  $\zeta(s)$  are complex numbers, i.e., **non-trivial zeros**.

In 1896, Hadamard [2] and Poussin [3] independently proved that no zeros could lie on the line  $\Re(s) = 1$ , together with the functional equation  $\zeta(s) = \zeta(1-s)$  and the fact that there are no zeros with real part greater than 1, this showed that all non-trivial zeros must lie in the interior of the **critical strip**  $0 < \Re(s) < 1$ . Later on, Hardy (1914) [4], Hardy and Littlewood (1921) [5] showed that there are infinitely many zeros on the **critical line**  $\Re(s) = \frac{1}{2}$ .

To give a summary of the related research works on the RH, we have the following results on the properties of the non-trivial zeros of  $\zeta(s)$  [2–7].

**Lemma 1:** Non-trivial zeroes of  $\zeta(s)$ , noted as  $\rho = \alpha + j\beta$ , have the following properties

- 1) The number of non-trivial zeroes is infinity;
- 2)  $\beta \neq 0$ ;
- 3)  $0 < \alpha < 1$ ;
- 4)  $\rho, \bar{\rho}, 1 - \bar{\rho}, 1 - \rho$  are all non-trivial zeroes.

As further study, the completed zeta function  $\xi(s)$  is proposed, i.e.

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

It is well-known that  $\xi(s)$  is an entire function of order 1. This implies  $\xi(s)$  is analytic, and can be expressed as infinite product of polynomial factors, in the whole complex plane  $\mathbb{C}$ . In addition, replacing  $s$  with  $1-s$  in Eq.(6), and combining Eq.(5), we obtain the following functional equation

$$\xi(s) = \xi(1-s) \quad (7)$$

According to the definition of  $\xi(s)$ , and recalling Eq.(4), the trivial zeros of  $\zeta(s)$  are canceled by the poles of  $\Gamma(\frac{s}{2})$ . The zero of  $s-1$  and the pole of  $\zeta(s)$  cancel; the zero  $s=0$  and the pole of  $\Gamma(\frac{s}{2})$  cancel [7–9]. Thus, all the zeros of  $\xi(s)$  are exactly the nontrivial zeros of  $\zeta(s)$ . Then we have the following Lemma 2.

**Lemma 2:** The zeros of  $\xi(s)$  coincide with the non-trivial zeros of  $\zeta(s)$ .

Consequently, the following two statements are equivalent.

**Statement 1:** All the non-trivial zeros of  $\zeta(s)$  have real part equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

**Statement 2:** All zeros of  $\xi(s)$  have real part equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

To prove the RH, a natural thinking is to estimate the numbers of non-trivial zeros of  $\zeta(s)$  inside or outside some certain areas according to Argument Principle. Along this train of thought, there are many research works. Let  $N(T)$  denote the number of non-trivial zeros of  $\zeta(s)$  inside the rectangle:  $0 < \alpha < 1, 0 < \beta \leq T$ , and let  $N_0(T)$  denote the number of non-trivial zeros of  $\zeta(s)$  on the line  $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}, 0 < \beta \leq T$ . Selberg proved that there exist positive constants  $c$  and  $T_0$ , such that  $N_0(T) > cN(T)$ , ( $T > T_0$ ) [10], later on, Levinson proved that  $c \geq \frac{1}{3}$  [11], Lou and Yao proved that  $c \geq 0.3484$  [12], Conrey proved that  $c \geq \frac{2}{5}$  [13], Bui, Conrey and Young proved that  $c \geq 0.41$  [14], Feng proved that  $c \geq 0.4128$  [15], Wu proved that  $c \geq 0.4172$  [16].

On the other hand, many non-trivial zeros have been calculated by hand or by computer programs. Among others, Riemann found the first three non-trivial zeros [17]. Gram found the first 15 zeros based on Euler-Maclaurin summation [18]. Titchmarsh calculated the 138<sup>th</sup> to 195<sup>th</sup> zeros using the Riemann-Siegel formula [19,20]. Here are the first three (pairs of) non-trivial zeros:  $\frac{1}{2} \pm j14.1347251$ ;  $\frac{1}{2} \pm j21.0220396$ ;  $\frac{1}{2} \pm j25.0108575$ .

The idea of this paper originates from Euler's work on proving the famous equality

$$1 + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \cdots = \frac{\pi^2}{6} \quad (8)$$

This result was deduced by comparing the coefficients of two infinite expressions of  $\frac{\sin x}{x}$ : one as a power series and the other as an infinite product,

$$\frac{\sin x}{x} = 1 - \frac{x^2}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{5!} - \frac{x^6}{7!} + \cdots = (1 - \frac{x^2}{\pi^2})(1 - \frac{x^2}{4\pi^2})(1 - \frac{x^2}{9\pi^2}) \cdots \quad (9)$$

Motivated by this approach, we conjecture that  $\zeta(s)$  can be factored into the form  $(1 + \frac{(s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2})$ , which is verified by pairing  $\rho_i$  and  $\bar{\rho}_i$  in the Hadamard product representation of  $\zeta(s)$ , i.e.  $(1 - \frac{s}{\rho_i})(1 - \frac{s}{\bar{\rho}_i}) = \frac{\beta_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} (1 + \frac{(s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2})$ .

The Hadamard product expansion of  $\zeta(s)$ , first proposed by Riemann and later rigorously justified by Hadamard [21], is given by

$$\zeta(s) = \zeta(0) \prod_{\rho} (1 - \frac{s}{\rho}), \quad s \in \mathbb{C} \quad (10)$$

where  $\zeta(0) = \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\rho$  runs over all zeros of  $\zeta(s)$ .

Hadamard showed that to ensure the absolute convergence of this infinite product expansion,  $\rho$  and  $1 - \rho$  must be paired. Later in Section 4, we will demonstrate that pairing  $\rho$  with its complex conjugate  $\bar{\rho}$  can also be used to ensure the absolute convergence.

## 2. Preliminary Lemmas

This section provides preliminary lemmas supporting the proof of the key lemma - Lemma 8 in the next section.

We begin with the ring of real polynomials  $\mathbb{R}[x]$ , defined as

$$\mathbb{R}[x] = \{ \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} a_i x^i \mid a_i \in \mathbb{R}, a_i \neq 0 \text{ for all but a finite number of } i \}$$

and equipped with the operations  $+$  (addition) and  $\cdot$  (multiplication).

The ring of real polynomials is a subset of the ring of entire functions, which is defined as the set of all holomorphic functions on the whole complex plane  $\mathbb{C}$ , together with the operations of addition and multiplication, denoted as  $\mathbb{H}(\mathbb{C})$  [22,23].

Both rings possess properties of divisibility, coprimality, and the greatest common divisor, denoted as "gcd". There are also differences between these two rings. Among others, the polynomial ring is a

unique factorization domain (UFD), while the ring of entire functions is not a UFD. For entire functions, their divisibility, coprimality and common factors are determined by the relationships between their zero sets [23,24].

To facilitate the subsequent discussions (particularly the proof of Lemma 8), we provide the following definition of divisibility between polynomial and infinite products of polynomials, which is a special case of divisibility of entire functions.

**Definition 2.1:** Let  $f(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} p_i(x)$ ,  $p_i(x) \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ , be an entire function, and  $h(x) \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ . We say  $h(x)$  divides  $f(x)$ , denoted as  $h(x) \mid f(x)$ , if there exists an entire function  $g(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} q_i(x)$ ,  $q_i(x) \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ , such that  $f(x) = h(x) \cdot g(x)$ .

To support the proof of the key lemma - Lemma 8 in next section. We also need the following lemmas.

**Lemma 3:** Let  $m(x), g_1(x), \dots, g_n(x) \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ ,  $n \geq 2$ . If  $m(x)$  is irreducible (prime) and divides the product  $g_1(x) \cdots g_n(x)$ , then  $m(x)$  divides one of the polynomials  $g_1(x), \dots, g_n(x)$ .

**Lemma 4:** Let  $f(x), m(x) \in \mathbb{R}[x]$ . If  $m(x)$  is irreducible and  $f(x)$  is any polynomial, then either  $m(x)$  divides  $f(x)$  or  $\gcd(m(x), f(x)) = 1$ .

**Lemma 5:** Let  $f(x)$  be an entire function on  $\mathbb{C}$ . Suppose  $f(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} g_i(x)$  converges absolutely on  $\mathbb{C}$ , where each  $g_i(x) \in \mathbb{R}[x]$  is irreducible in  $\mathbb{R}[x]$  of degree  $d \in \{1, 2\}$ . If  $m(x) \in \mathbb{R}[x]$  is irreducible in  $\mathbb{R}[x]$  of degree  $d$  and divides  $f(x)$ , then  $m(x)$  divides  $g_i(x)$  for some  $i \geq 1$ .

**Remark:** The contents of Lemma 3 and Lemma 4 can be found in many textbooks of linear algebra, modern algebra, or abstract algebra, see for example Refs.[25–27].

Below we give the proof of Lemma 5.

**Proof:** Let  $\alpha$  be a root of  $m(x)$ , i.e.,  $m(\alpha) = 0$ . Since  $m(x) \mid f(x)$ , we have  $f(\alpha) = 0$ . By absolute convergence of  $\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} g_i(x)$ , there exists at least one index  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $g_i(\alpha) = 0$ , otherwise  $g_i(\alpha) \neq 0$  for all  $i$ , then  $\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} g_i(x)$  converges to a non-zero limit, contradicting  $f(\alpha) = 0$ .

As  $g_i(x)$  and  $m(x)$  are irreducible over  $\mathbb{R}$  with  $\deg(g_i(x)) = \deg(m(x)) = d$ , they share the root  $\alpha$ . Thus:

- If  $d = 1$ , then  $g_i(x) = a(x - \alpha)$  and  $m(x) = b(x - \alpha)$  for  $a, b \neq 0$ , so  $m(x) \mid g_i(x)$ .
- If  $d = 2$ , then both  $g_i(x)$  and  $m(x)$  have roots  $\{\alpha, \bar{\alpha}\}$ , so  $g_i(x) = c \cdot m(x)$  for  $c \neq 0$ , hence  $m(x) \mid g_i(x)$ .

In both cases,  $m(x)$  divides  $g_i(x)$ .

That completes the proof of Lemma 5.

Additionally, we also need the following results on properties of zeros of entire function for understanding the multiplicity of zeros of  $\xi(s)$ .

**Lemma 6:** Let  $f(s)$  be a non-zero entire function, and let  $s_0$  be a zero of  $f(s)$ . Then the multiplicity of  $s_0$  is a finite positive integer.

**Proof:** Let  $f(s) \not\equiv 0$ ,  $s \in \mathbb{C}$ , be an entire function, which means it is holomorphic on the whole complex plane. Suppose  $f(s)$  has a zero at  $s_0 \in \mathbb{C}$  of multiplicity  $m$ , then  $f(s) = (s - s_0)^m g(s)$ , where  $g(s)$  is also an entire function and  $g(s_0) \neq 0$ .

Assume for contradiction that  $m$  is infinite, which implies there exists an accumulation point of zeros in the neighbor of  $s_0$ . Then, by Identity Theorem for holomorphic functions, and considering "0" is also an entire function, we have  $f(s) \equiv 0$ ,  $s \in \mathbb{C}$ , which contradicts the given condition that  $f(s) \not\equiv 0$ ,  $s \in \mathbb{C}$ . Thus, the assumption is false, i.e.,  $m$  must be a finite positive integer.

That completes the proof of Lemma 6.

**Remark:** Statements similar to Lemma 6 can be found in Ref.[28] and other related text-books/monographs.

**Lemma 7:** Let  $f(s)$  be a non-zero entire function, and let  $s_0$  be a zero of  $f(s)$ . Then the multiplicity of  $s_0$  is unique.

**Proof:** Let  $f(s) \not\equiv 0, s \in \mathbb{C}$ , be an entire function, which has a multiple zero at  $s_0 \in \mathbb{C}$  of multiplicity  $m$ . We can write:  $f(s) = (s - s_0)^m g(s)$ , where  $g(s)$  is also an entire function and  $g(s_0) \neq 0$ .

Assume for contradiction that there exists another integer  $n \neq m$  such that  $n$  is also a multiplicity of the zero  $s_0$ . This means we can also write:  $f(s) = (s - s_0)^n h(s)$ , where  $h(s)$  is an entire function and  $h(s_0) \neq 0$ .

Since both expressions for  $f(s)$  must be equal, we then obtain  $(s - s_0)^m g(s) = (s - s_0)^n h(s)$ . Without loss of generality, consider  $m > n$ , then we have:  $(s - s_0)^{m-n} g(s) = h(s) \Rightarrow h(s_0) = 0$ , which is a contradiction to  $h(s_0) \neq 0$ . Thus, the assumption is false, i.e., the multiplicity of a zero of any non-zero entire function is unique.

That completes the proof of Lemma 7.

### 3. Key Lemma

In this section, we prove the key lemma - Lemma 8, which is substantial for the proof of the RH.

**Lemma 8:** Given that the entire function

$$f(s) = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( 1 + \frac{(s - \alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2} \right)^{m_i}, \quad s \in \mathbb{C} \quad (11)$$

converges absolutely on  $\mathbb{C}$ , where  $0 < \alpha_i < 1$  and  $\beta_i \neq 0$  are real numbers with  $|\beta_1| \leq |\beta_2| \leq \dots$ ,  $m_i \geq 1$  is the multiplicity of zero conjugates  $\rho_i = \alpha_i + j\beta_i, \bar{\rho}_i = \alpha_i - j\beta_i, \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\beta_i^2} < \infty$ .

Under the substitution  $s \mapsto 1 - s$ , we have

$$f(1 - s) = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( 1 + \frac{(1 - s - \alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2} \right)^{m_i}, \quad s \in \mathbb{C} \quad (12)$$

Then

$$f(s) = f(1 - s) \iff \alpha_i = \frac{1}{2}; i = 1, 2, 3, \dots; 0 < |\beta_1| < |\beta_2| < \dots \quad (13)$$

**Remark:** It should be noted that  $m_i$  is actually the multiplicity of quadruplets of zeros  $(\rho_i, \bar{\rho}_i, 1 - \rho_i, 1 - \bar{\rho}_i)$  under the assumption  $f(s) = f(1 - s)$ .

**Proof:** Considering

$$\left( 1 + \frac{(s - \alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2} \right)^{m_i} = \underbrace{\left( 1 + \frac{(s - \alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2} \right)}_{m_i \text{ times}} \dots \quad (14)$$

we have from  $f(s) = f(1 - s)$  and Eqs.(11)-(12) that

$$\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( 1 + \frac{(s - \alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2} \right) = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( 1 + \frac{(1 - s - \alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2} \right) \quad (15)$$

where the  $i^{\text{th}}$  factor appears  $m_i$  times in any order.

Due to absolute convergence, both infinite products  $\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( 1 + \frac{(s - \alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2} \right)$  and  $\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( 1 + \frac{(1 - s - \alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2} \right)$  can be rearranged into any single quadratic polynomial factor times the remaining product, which stays absolutely convergent and hence defines an entire function. Then by the definition of divisibility



for entire functions [23,24], more specifically Definition 2.1, Eq.(15) implies that every quadratic polynomial factor on one side of the equation divides the infinite product on the other side, i.e.,

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \left(1 + \frac{(s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}\right) \mid \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{(1-s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}\right) \\ \left(1 + \frac{(1-s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}\right) \mid \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{(s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}\right) \end{array} \right. \quad (16)$$

where " $\mid$ " is the divisible sign,  $i \in \mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ .

Both polynomials  $1 + \frac{(s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}$  and  $1 + \frac{(1-s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}$  have discriminant  $\Delta = -4 \cdot \frac{1}{\beta_i^2} < 0$ . Hence they are irreducible in  $\mathbb{R}[x]$ . By Lemma 5, Eq.(16) yields:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \left(1 + \frac{(s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}\right) \mid \left(1 + \frac{(1-s-\alpha_l)^2}{\beta_l^2}\right) \\ \left(1 + \frac{(1-s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}\right) \mid \left(1 + \frac{(s-\alpha_l)^2}{\beta_l^2}\right) \\ i, l \in \mathbb{N} \end{array} \right. \quad (17)$$

For the special kind of polynomials in Eq.(17), "divisible" means "equal", which can be verified by comparing the like terms in the following equation to get  $k = 1$ .

$$\left(1 + \frac{(s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}\right) = k \left(1 + \frac{(1-s-\alpha_l)^2}{\beta_l^2}\right), k \neq 0 \in \mathbb{R} \quad (18)$$

Further, due to the uniqueness of the multiplicity  $m_i$ , the only solution to Eq.(17) is  $i = l$ , otherwise, duplicated zeros (in quadruplets) with  $\alpha_i + \alpha_l = 1, \beta_i^2 = \beta_l^2, l \neq i$  would be generated to change  $m_i$ . Therefore we have from Eq.(17):

$$\left(1 + \frac{(s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}\right) = \left(1 + \frac{(1-s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}\right), i \in \mathbb{N} \quad (19)$$

By comparing the like terms in Eq.(19), we obtain  $\alpha_i = \frac{1}{2} (\forall i)$ . Further, to ensure the uniqueness of  $m_i$  while  $\alpha_i = \frac{1}{2}$ , we need limit the  $\beta_i$  values to be distinct, i.e.,  $0 < |\beta_1| < |\beta_2| < |\beta_3| < \dots$ . Thus, we obtain

$$f(s) = f(1-s) \implies \alpha_i = \frac{1}{2}; i = 1, 2, 3, \dots; 0 < |\beta_1| < |\beta_2| < \dots \quad (20)$$

On the other hand, we have the following fact.

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_i &= \frac{1}{2}, i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, 0 < |\beta_1| < |\beta_2| < \dots \\ &\implies (\text{considering } \beta_i \neq 0) \\ \left(1 + \frac{(s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}\right) &= \left(1 + \frac{(1-s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}\right) \\ &\implies (\text{considering } m_i \geq 1) \\ \left(1 + \frac{(s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}\right)^{m_i} &= \left(1 + \frac{(1-s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}\right)^{m_i} \\ &\implies (\text{taking infinite products on both sides of the above equations}) \\ \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{(s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}\right)^{m_i} &= \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{(1-s-\alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2}\right)^{m_i} \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

From Eqs.(20) and (21), we finally get:

$$f(s) = f(1-s) \iff \alpha_i = \frac{1}{2}; i = 1, 2, 3, \dots; 0 < |\beta_1| < |\beta_2| < \dots$$

That completes the proof of Lemma 8.

In addition, Lemma 9 will also be used in the proof of the RH in the next section.

**Lemma 9:** The infinite product  $\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{\beta_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} \right)^{m_i}$  converges to a non-zero constant, given the conditions:  $0 < \alpha_i < 1, \beta_i \neq 0, \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\beta_i^2} < \infty$ , and  $m_i \geq 1$  is the multiplicity of zero  $\alpha_i + j\beta_i$ .

**Proof:** First of all, we know that

$$\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{\beta_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} \right)^{m_i} = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{\beta_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2}$$

where in the right side expression,  $i^{th}$  factor appears  $m_i$  times.

Let  $a_i = \frac{\alpha_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2}$ , then  $\frac{\beta_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} = 1 - \frac{\alpha_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} = 1 - a_i$ .

Since  $0 < \alpha_i < 1$  and  $\beta_i \neq 0$ , we have:  $0 < a_i < \frac{1}{\beta_i^2}$ . Then  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\beta_i^2} < \infty$  (given condition) implies  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |a_i| = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i < \infty$  (absolute convergence).

Further, the absolute convergence of  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i$  guarantees that the product  $\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} (1 - a_i) = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{\beta_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{\beta_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} \right)^{m_i}$  converges to a non-zero constant.

That completes the proof of Lemma 9.

#### 4. A Proof of the RH

This section presents a proof of the Riemann Hypothesis. We first prove that Statement 2 of the RH is true, and then by Lemma 2, Statement 1 of the RH is also true. To be brief, to prove the Riemann Hypothesis, it suffices to show that  $\alpha_i = \frac{1}{2}, i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$  in the new expression of  $\zeta(s)$  as shown in Eq.(25).

**Proof of the RH:** The proof proceeds in three steps.

##### Step 1:

It is well-known that zeros of  $\zeta(s)$  always come in complex conjugate pairs. Then by pairing  $\rho_i = \alpha_i + j\beta_i$  and  $\bar{\rho}_i = \alpha_i - j\beta_i$  in the Hadamard product as shown in Eq.(10), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(s) &= \zeta(0) \prod_{\rho} \left(1 - \frac{s}{\rho}\right) = \zeta(0) \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{s}{\rho_i}\right) \left(1 - \frac{s}{\bar{\rho}_i}\right) \\ &= \zeta(0) \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{s}{\alpha_i + j\beta_i}\right) \left(1 - \frac{s}{\alpha_i - j\beta_i}\right) = \zeta(0) \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{\beta_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} + \frac{(s - \alpha_i)^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

where  $0 < \alpha_i < 1, \beta_i \neq 0$  (according to Lemma 1) are real numbers with  $|\beta_1| \leq |\beta_2| \leq |\beta_3| \leq \dots$ .

The absolute convergence of the infinite product in Eq.(22) in the form

$$\zeta(s) = \zeta(0) \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{s}{\rho_i}\right) \left(1 - \frac{s}{\bar{\rho}_i}\right) = \zeta(0) \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{s(2\alpha_i - s)}{|\rho_i|^2}\right) \quad (23)$$

depends on the convergence of infinite series  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{|\rho_i|^2}$  (since  $|s| < \infty$  and  $0 < \alpha_i < 1 \Rightarrow |s(2\alpha_i - s)| < \infty$ ), which is a well-known fact according to Theorem 2 in Section 2, Chapter IV of Ref.[9] (also listed in Appendix A for convenience). Thus, the infinite products as shown in Eq.(23) and Eq.(22) are absolutely convergent on the whole complex plane  $\mathbb{C}$ .

Further, considering the absolute convergence of

$$\zeta(s) = \zeta(0) \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{s(2\alpha_i - s)}{|\rho_i|^2}\right) = \zeta(0) \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{\beta_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} + \frac{(s - \alpha_i)^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} \right) \quad (24)$$



we have the following new expression of  $\zeta(s)$  by putting all the possible multiple factors (zeros) together:

$$\zeta(s) = \zeta(0) \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{\beta_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} + \frac{(s - \alpha_i)^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} \right)^{m_i} \quad (25)$$

where  $m_i \geq 1$  is the multiplicity of  $\rho_i / \bar{\rho}_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ .

**Step 2:** Replacing  $s$  with  $1 - s$  in Eq.(25), we obtain the infinite product expression of  $\zeta(1 - s)$ , i.e.,

$$\zeta(1 - s) = \zeta(0) \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{\beta_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} + \frac{(1 - s - \alpha_i)^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} \right)^{m_i} \quad (26)$$

where  $m_i \geq 1$  is the multiplicity of  $1 - \rho_i / 1 - \bar{\rho}_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ .

**Step 3:** According to the functional equation  $\zeta(s) = \zeta(1 - s)$ , and considering Eq.(25) and Eq.(26), we have

$$\zeta(0) \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{\beta_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} + \frac{(s - \alpha_i)^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} \right)^{m_i} = \zeta(0) \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{\beta_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} + \frac{(1 - s - \alpha_i)^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} \right)^{m_i} \quad (27)$$

which is equivalent to

$$\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( 1 + \frac{(s - \alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2} \right)^{m_i} = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( 1 + \frac{(1 - s - \alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2} \right)^{m_i} \quad (28)$$

We know that  $0 < \alpha_i < 1$ , then  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{|\rho_i|^2} < \infty \Rightarrow \frac{1}{|\rho_i|^2} \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow |\rho_i|^2 \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow |\beta_i|^2 \rightarrow \infty$ .

Further we have  $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\beta_i^2}{|\rho_i|^2} = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\beta_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} = 1$ , that means  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\beta_i^2}$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{|\rho_i|^2}$  have the same convergence. Thus, both sides of Eq.(28) are absolutely convergent, with reference to the analysis of Eqs. (22) and (23) in **Step 1**.

Furthermore, both sides of Eq.(28) converge to entire functions, because they differ with the entire functions  $\zeta(s)$  and  $\zeta(1 - s)$  respectively by a non-zero multiplicative constant, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(s) &= \zeta(0) \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{\beta_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} + \frac{(s - \alpha_i)^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} \right)^{m_i} \\ &= \zeta(0) \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{\beta_i^2}{\alpha_i^2 + \beta_i^2} \right)^{m_i} \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( 1 + \frac{(s - \alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2} \right)^{m_i} \\ &= c \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left( 1 + \frac{(s - \alpha_i)^2}{\beta_i^2} \right)^{m_i} \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

where  $c$  is a non-zero constant, see Lemma 9 for details.

Finally, according to Lemma 8, Eq.(28) is equivalent to

$$\alpha_i = \frac{1}{2}; 0 < |\beta_1| < |\beta_2| < |\beta_3| < \dots; i = 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad (30)$$

Thus, we conclude that all the zeros of the completed zeta function  $\zeta(s)$  have real part equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$ , i.e., Statement 2 of the RH is true. According to Lemma 2, Statement 1 of the RH is also true, i.e., all the non-trivial zeros of the Riemann zeta function  $\zeta(s)$  have real part equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$ . That completes the proof of the RH.

**Acknowledgement:** The author would like to gratefully acknowledge the help received from Dr. Victor Ignatov (Independent Researcher), Prof. Mark Kisin (Harvard University), Prof. Yingmin Jia (Beihang University), Prof. Tianguang Chu (Peking University), Prof. Guangda Hu (Shanghai University), Prof. Jiwei Liu (University of Science and Technology Beijing), Dr. Shangwu Wang (Beijing 99view Technology Limited, my classmate in Tsinghua University), and Mr. Jiajun Wang (Dali

University, Yunnan Province, China), while preparing this article. The author is also grateful to the editors and referees of PNAS for their constructive comments and suggestions.

Special gratitude is extended to the preprint platform preprints.org for making this work permanently available and citable.

**Finally, with this manuscript, the author pays tribute to Bernhard Riemann and other predecessor mathematicians. They are the shining stars in the sky of human civilization.**

This manuscript has no associated data.

On behalf of all authors, the corresponding author states that there is no conflict of interest.

## Appendix A

**Theorem 2.**[9] The function  $\zeta(s)$  is an entire function of order one that has infinitely many zeros  $\rho_n$  such that  $0 \leq \operatorname{Re} \rho_n \leq 1$ . The series  $\sum |\rho_n|^{-1}$  diverges, but the series  $\sum |\rho_n|^{-1-\varepsilon}$  converges for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ . The zeros of  $\zeta(s)$  are the nontrivial zeros of  $\zeta(s)$ .

## References

1. Riemann B. (1859), Über die Anzahl der Primzahlen unter einer gegebenen Grösse. Monatsberichte der Deutschen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, 2: 671-680.
2. Hadamard J. (1896), Sur la distribution des zeros de la fonction  $\zeta(s)$  et ses consequences arithmetiques, Bulletin de la Societe Mathematique de France, 14: 199-220, doi:10.24033/bsmf.545 Reprinted in (Borwein et al. 2008).
3. de la Vallee-Poussin Ch. J. (1896), Recherches analytiques sur la theorie des nombres premiers, Ann. Soc. Sci. Bruxelles, 20: 183-256
4. Hardy G. H. (1914), Sur les Zeros de la Fonction  $\zeta(s)$  de Riemann, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, 158: 1012-1014, JFM 45.0716.04 Reprinted in (Borwein et al. 2008).
5. Hardy G. H., Littlewood J. E. (1921), The zeros of Riemann's zeta-function on the critical line, Math. Z., 10 (3-4): 283-317.
6. Tom M. Apostol (1998), Introduction to Analytic Number Theory, New York: Springer.
7. Pan C. D., Pan C. B. (2016), Basic Analytic Number Theory (in Chinese), 2nd Edition, Harbin Institute of Technology Press, Harbin, China, ISBN: 978-7-5603-6004-1.
8. Ahlfors, L. V. (1979), Complex Analysis – An Introduction to the Theory of Analytic Functions of One Complex Variable, Third Edition, New York: McGraw-Hill.
9. Karatsuba A. A., Nathanson M. B. (1993), Basic Analytic Number Theory, Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg.
10. A. Selberg (1942), On the zeros of the zeta-function of Riemann, Der Kong. Norske Vidensk. Selsk. Forhand. 15: 59-62; also, Collected Papers, Springer- Verlag, Berlin - Heidelberg - New York 1989, Vol. I, 156-159.
11. N. Levinson (1974), More than one-third of the zeros of the Riemann zeta function are on  $\sigma = \frac{1}{2}$ , Adv. Math. 13: 383-436.
12. Shituo Lou and Qi Yao (1981), A lower bound for zeros of Riemann's zeta function on the line  $\sigma = \frac{1}{2}$ , Acta Mathematica Sinica (in Chinese), 24: 390-400.
13. J. B. Conrey (1989), More than two fifths of the zeros of the Riemann zeta function are on the critical line, J. reine angew. Math. 399: 1-26.
14. H. M. Bui, J. B. Conrey and M. P. Young (2011), More than 41% of the zeros of the zeta function are on the critical line, <http://arxiv.org/abs/1002.4127v2>.
15. Feng S. (2012), Zeros of the Riemann zeta function on the critical line, Journal of Number Theory, 132(4): 511-542.
16. Wu X. (2019), The twisted mean square and critical zeros of Dirichlet L-functions. Mathematische Zeitschrift, 293: 825-865. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00209-018-2209-8>
17. Siegel, C. L. (1932), Über Riemanns Nachlaß zur analytischen Zahlentheorie, Quellen Studien zur Geschichte der Math. Astron. Und Phys. Abt. B: Studien 2: 45-80, Reprinted in Gesammelte Abhandlungen, Vol. 1. Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1966.
18. Gram, J. P. (1903), Note sur les zéros de la fonction  $\zeta(s)$  de Riemann, Acta Mathematica, 27: 289-304.
19. Titchmarsh E. C. (1935), The Zeros of the Riemann Zeta-Function, Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series A, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, The Royal Society, 151 (873): 234-255.

20. Titchmarsh E. C. (1936), The Zeros of the Riemann Zeta-Function, Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Series A, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, The Royal Society, 157 (891): 261-263.
21. Hadamard J. (1893), Étude sur les propriétés des fonctions entières et en particulier d'une fonction considérée par Riemann. Journal de mathématiques pures et appliquées, 9: 171-216.
22. Rudin, W. (1987), Real and Complex Analysis, New York: McGraw-Hill.
23. Olaf Helmer (1940), Divisibility properties of integral functions, Duke Mathematical Journal, 6(2): 345-356.
24. Conway, J. B. (1978), Functions of One Complex Variable I, Second Edition, New York: Springer-Verlag.
25. Kenneth Hoffman, Ray Kunze (1971), Linear Algebra, Second Edition, Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey
26. Linda Gilbert, Jimmie Gilbert (2009), Elements of Modern Algebra, Seventh Edition, Cengage Learning, Belmont, CA
27. Henry C. Pinkham (2015), Linear Algebra, Springer.
28. Markushevich, A. I. (1966), Entire Functions, New York: Elsevier.

**Disclaimer/Publisher's Note:** The statements, opinions and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of MDPI and/or the editor(s). MDPI and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions or products referred to in the content.