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**SOME PROPERTIES OF THE  $k$ -GAMMA FUNCTION**

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We give completely monotonicity properties and inequalities for functions involving the  $\Gamma_k$  functions and their logarithmic derivatives  $\psi_k$  functions. We introduce a  $k$ -analogue of the Riemann Zeta function  $\zeta_k$  as an integral and using Schwarz's and Holder's inequalities we obtain some inequalities relating  $\zeta_k$  and  $\Gamma_k$  functions. The obtained results are the  $k$ -analogues of known results concerning functions involving the Gamma and psi functions.

**1. Introduction**

The Euler Gamma function  $\Gamma(x)$  is defined [1] by  $\Gamma(x) = \int_0^\infty t^{x-1} e^{-t} dt$  for  $x \in C$  with  $\Re x > 0$  and

$$\Gamma(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n! n^x}{x(x+1) \dots (x+n)}, x \in C \setminus Z^-. \quad (1)$$

The digamma (or psi) function is defined as the logarithmic derivative of Euler's Gamma function, that is  $\psi(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \ln \Gamma(x) = \frac{\Gamma'(x)}{\Gamma(x)}$ . The following integral and series representations are valid (see [1]):

$$\psi(x) = -\gamma + \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{-t} - e^{-xt}}{1 - e^{-t}} dt, \quad (2)$$

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$$\psi(x) = -\gamma - \frac{1}{x} + \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{x}{n(n+x)}, x \neq 0, -1, -2, \dots, \quad (3)$$

where  $\gamma = 0.57721 \dots$  denotes Euler's constant.

For  $k > 0$ , the  $\Gamma_k$  function is defined [5] by

$$\Gamma_k(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n!k^n (nk)^{\frac{x}{k}-1}}{(x)_{n,k}}, x \in C \setminus kZ^-, \quad (4)$$

where  $(x)_{n,k} = x(x+k)(x+2k)\dots(x+(n-1)k)$ .

The above definition is a generalization of the definition of  $\Gamma(x)$  function. For  $x \in C$  with  $\Re(x) > 0$ , the function  $\Gamma_k(x)$  is given by the integral [5]

$$\Gamma_k(x) = \int_0^{\infty} t^{x-1} e^{-\frac{t^k}{k}} dt. \quad (5)$$

and satisfies [6] the following properties:

- (i)  $\Gamma_k(x+k) = x\Gamma_k(x)$
- (ii)  $(x)_{n,k} = \frac{\Gamma_k(x+nk)}{\Gamma_k(x)}$
- (iii)  $\Gamma_k(k) = 1$
- (iv)  $\Gamma_k(x)$  is logarithmically convex, for  $x \in R$
- (v)  $\Gamma_k(x) = a^{\frac{x}{k}} \int_0^{\infty} t^{x-1} e^{-\frac{t^k}{k}a} dt$ , for  $a \in R$
- (vi)  $\frac{1}{\Gamma_k(x)} = xk^{-\frac{x}{k}} e^{\frac{x}{k}\gamma} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \left(1 + \frac{x}{nk}\right) e^{-\frac{x}{nk}} \right)$ .

It is obvious that:  $\Gamma_k \rightarrow \Gamma$  as  $k \rightarrow 1$ .

Let  $\psi_k(x)$  be the  $k$ -analogue of the psi function, that is the logarithmic derivative of the  $\Gamma_k$  function:

$$\psi_k(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \ln \Gamma_k(x) = \frac{\Gamma_k'(x)}{\Gamma_k(x)}, \quad k > 0. \quad (6)$$

The function  $\psi_k(x)$  has the following series representation (see [5,8,9])

$$\psi_k(x) = \frac{\ln k - \gamma}{k} - \frac{1}{x} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x}{nk(x+nk)} \quad (7)$$

$$\psi_k^{(p)}(x) = (-1)^{p+1} p! \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(x+nk)^{p+1}}, \quad p \geq 1. \quad (8)$$

The motivation to introduce the function  $\Gamma_k(x)$  is its connection with the symbol  $(x)_{n,k}$  which appears in a variety of contexts see [5] and references there in. In the recent years there is a increasing interest about the function  $\Gamma_k(x)$  see [5,6,8,9,11].

We recall the definition of completely and logarithmically completely monotonic functions, as well as two results given in [2,3] which we mention as Lemmas and are basic for the proof of our theorems.

A function  $f(x)$  is said to be completely monotonic on an interval  $I$ , if it has derivatives of all orders on  $I$  and satisfies

$$(-1)^n f^{(n)}(x) \geq 0, (x \in I, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots). \quad (9)$$

If the inequality (9) is strict, then  $f(x)$  is said to be strictly completely monotonic on  $I$ . A theorem of Bernstein (see for example, [13]) states that  $f(x)$  is completely monotonic if and only if  $f(x) = \int_0^\infty e^{-xt} d\mu(t)$ , where  $\mu$  is a nonnegative measure on  $[0, \infty)$  such that for all  $x > 0$  the integral converges. A positive function  $f(x)$  is said to be logarithmically completely monotonic on an interval  $I$ , if it satisfies

$$(-1)^n [\ln f(x)]^{(n)} \geq 0, (x \in I, n = 1, 2, \dots). \quad (10)$$

If the inequality (10) is strict, then  $f(x)$  is said to be strictly logarithmically completely monotonic.

**Lemma 1.1.** [3] *Let  $f''$  be completely monotonic on  $(0, \infty)$ , then for  $0 \leq s \leq 1$ , the functions*

$$x \mapsto \exp \left( - \left( f(x+1) - f(x+s) - (1-s)f' \left( x + \frac{1+s}{2} \right) \right) \right)$$

$$x \mapsto \exp \left( f(x+1) - f(x+s) - \frac{1-s}{2} (f'(x+1) + f'(x+s)) \right)$$

*are logarithmically completely monotonic on  $(0, \infty)$ .*

**Lemma 1.2.** [2] *If  $h'$  is completely monotonic on  $(0, \infty)$ , then  $\exp(-h)$  is also completely monotonic on  $(0, \infty)$ .*

We also introduce the definition of the  $k$ -Riemann zeta function as an integral:

**Definition 1.3.** We define the function  $\zeta_k$  as

$$\zeta_k(s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma_k(s)} \int_0^\infty \frac{t^{s-k}}{e^t - 1} dt, \quad s > k. \quad (11)$$

Note that when  $k$  tends to 1 we obtain the known Riemann Zeta function  $\zeta(s)$ .

In this paper we prove the completely monotonicity or the logarithmically completely monotonicity of some functions involving the functions  $\Gamma_k(x)$  as well as inequalities for  $\Gamma_k(x)$  and the  $k$ -Riemann zeta function. The obtained results are the  $k$ -analogues of results given by other authors see [2,3,4,7,10,12].

## 2. Main results for $k$ -Gamma functions

**Theorem 2.1.** For  $0 \leq s \leq 1$ , the functions

$$x \mapsto \frac{\Gamma_k(x+s)}{\Gamma_k(x+1)} \exp\left(\left(1-s\right)\psi_k\left(x+\frac{1+s}{2}\right)\right)$$

and

$$x \mapsto \frac{\Gamma_k(x+1)}{\Gamma_k(x+s)} \exp\left(-\frac{1-s}{2}\left(\psi_k(x+1)+\psi_k(x+s)\right)\right)$$

are logarithmically completely monotonic on  $(0, \infty)$ .

*Proof.* Applying Lemma 1.1 to  $f(x) = \ln \Gamma_k(x)$ , and using the fact that  $f''(x) = \psi_k'(x)$  is completely monotonic on  $(0, \infty)$  (see [8,9]), we obtain the desired result.  $\square$

**Remark 2.2.** Theorem 2.1 is the analogue of Corollary 2.4 proved in [3] for the function  $\Gamma_q(x)$ .

**Theorem 2.3.** For positive  $x$  and  $0 \leq s \leq 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \exp\left(\frac{1-s}{2}\left(\psi_k(x+1)+\psi_k(x+s)\right)\right) &\leq \frac{\Gamma_k(x+1)}{\Gamma_k(x+s)} \\ &\leq \exp\left(\left(1-s\right)\psi_k\left(x+\frac{1+s}{2}\right)\right). \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Let  $f_k(x) = \frac{\Gamma_k(x+s)}{\Gamma_k(x+1)} \exp\left(\left(1-s\right)\psi_k\left(x+\frac{1+s}{2}\right)\right)$  and

$$g_k(x) = \frac{\Gamma_k(x+1)}{\Gamma_k(x+s)} \exp\left(-\frac{1-s}{2}\left(\psi_k(x+1)+\psi_k(x+s)\right)\right).$$

We know [8] that  $\Gamma_k(x) = k^{\frac{x}{k}-1} \Gamma\left(\frac{x}{k}\right)$  and  $\psi_k(x) = \frac{1}{k} \ln k + \psi\left(\frac{x}{k}\right)$ , where  $\psi\left(\frac{x}{k}\right) = \partial_x(\ln \Gamma\left(\frac{x}{k}\right))$ . For  $x > 0$  and  $0 \leq s \leq 1$ , using Stirling's formula we are able to show that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f_k(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} g_k(x) = 1$  so the functions  $f_k(x), g_k(x)$  decrease with respect to  $x$  and using Theorem 2.1 we obtain the desired inequalities.  $\square$

**Remark 2.4.** Theorem 2.3 is the analogue of Theorem 3.5 proved in [3] for the function  $\Gamma_q(x)$ .

For the proof of the following theorem it is necessary the following lemma which is mentioned in [2].

**Lemma 2.5.** Let  $a_i$  and  $b_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) be real numbers such that  $0 < a_1 \leq \dots \leq a_n$ ,  $0 < b_1 \leq \dots \leq b_n$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^k a_i \leq \sum_{i=1}^k b_i$  for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . If  $f$  is a decreasing and convex function on  $\mathbb{R}$  then

$$\sum_{i=1}^n f(b_i) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n f(a_i).$$

**Theorem 2.6.** Let  $a_i$  and  $b_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) be real numbers such that  $0 < a_1 \leq \dots \leq a_n$ ,  $0 < b_1 \leq \dots \leq b_n$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^k a_i \leq \sum_{i=1}^k b_i$  for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Then the function

$$x \mapsto \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{\Gamma_k(x + a_i)}{\Gamma_k(x + b_i)}$$

is completely monotonic on  $(0, \infty)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $h(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n (\log \Gamma_k(x + b_i) - \log \Gamma_k(x + a_i))$ . Then for  $p \geq 0$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} (-1)^p (h'(x))^{(p)} &= \sum_{i=1}^n (\psi_k^{(p)}(x + b_i) - \psi_k^{(p)}(x + a_i)) \\ &= (-1)^p \sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^{p+1} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{p!}{(x + b_i + nk)^{p+1}} - (-1)^{p+1} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{p!}{(x + a_i + nk)^{p+1}} \\ &= (-1)^{2p+1} p! \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{(x + b_i + nk)^{p+1}} - \frac{1}{(x + a_i + nk)^{p+1}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Since the function  $x \mapsto \frac{1}{x^{p+1}}$ ,  $p \geq 0$  is decreasing and convex on  $\mathbb{R}$ , and using Lemma 2.5 we conclude that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{1}{(x + b_i + nk)^{p+1}} - \frac{1}{(x + a_i + nk)^{p+1}} \right) \leq 0$$

and that implies that  $(-1)^p (h'(x))^{(p)} \geq 0$  for  $p \geq 0$ . Hence  $h'$  is completely monotonic on  $(0, \infty)$ . By Lemma 1.2 we obtain that

$$\exp(-h(x)) = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{\Gamma_k(x + a_i)}{\Gamma_k(x + b_i)}$$

is also completely monotonic on  $(0, \infty)$ . □

**Remark 2.7.** Theorem 2.6 is the  $k$ -analogue of Theorem 10 proved in [2].

**Theorem 2.8.** The function  $f(x) = \frac{1}{[\Gamma_k(x+1)]^{\frac{1}{k}}}$  is logarithmically completely monotonic on  $(k-1, \infty)$  for  $k-1 > 0$ .

*Proof.* Using Leibniz' rule

$$[u(x)v(x)]^{(n)} = \sum_{p=0}^n \binom{n}{p} u^{(p)}(x)v^{(n-p)}(x),$$

we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} [\ln f(x)]^{(n)} &= \sum_{p=0}^n \binom{n}{p} \left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^{(p)} \left(-\ln \Gamma_k(x+1)\right)^{(n-p)} \\ &= -\frac{1}{x^{n+1}} \sum_{p=0}^n \binom{n}{p} (-1)^p p! x^{n-p} \Psi_k^{(n-p-1)}(x+1) \\ &\triangleq -\frac{1}{x^{n+1}} g(x) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g'(x) &= \sum_{p=0}^n \binom{n}{p} (-1)^p p! (n-p) x^{n-p-1} \Psi_k^{(n-p-1)}(x+1) + \\ &+ \sum_{p=0}^n \binom{n}{p} (-1)^p p! x^{n-p} \Psi_k^{(n-p)}(x+1) \\ &= \sum_{p=0}^{n-1} \binom{n}{p} (-1)^p p! (n-p) x^{n-p-1} \Psi_k^{(n-p-1)}(x+1) + \\ &+ \sum_{p=0}^n \binom{n}{p} (-1)^p p! x^{n-p} \Psi_k^{(n-p)}(x+1) \\ &= \sum_{p=0}^{n-1} \binom{n}{p} (-1)^p p! (n-p) x^{n-p-1} \Psi_k^{(n-p-1)}(x+1) + \\ &+ x^n \Psi_k^{(n)}(x+1) + \sum_{p=0}^{n-1} \binom{n}{p+1} (-1)^{p+1} (p+1)! x^{n-p-1} \Psi_k^{(n-p-1)}(x+1) \\ &= \sum_{p=0}^{n-1} \left[ \binom{n}{p} (n-p) - \binom{n}{p+1} (p+1) \right] (-1)^p p! x^{n-p-1} \Psi_k^{(n-p-1)}(x+1) \\ &+ x^n \Psi_k^{(n)}(x+1) = x^n \Psi_k^{(n)}(x+1) \\ &= x^n (-1)^{n+1} n! \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(x+pk)^{n+1}} \end{aligned}$$

We recall that the function  $g(x)$  includes the function  $\ln \Gamma_k(x+1)$  and its derivatives. Since  $\Gamma_k(k) = 1$  it is obvious that  $g(k-1) = 0$ . So, if  $n$  is odd, then for  $x > k-1$ ,

$$g'(x) > 0 \Rightarrow g(x) > g(k-1) = 0 \Rightarrow (\ln f(x))^{(n)} < 0 \Rightarrow (-1)^n (\ln f(x))^{(n)} > 0.$$

If  $n$  is even, then for  $x > k-1$ ,

$$g'(x) < 0 \Rightarrow g(x) < g(k-1) = 0 \Rightarrow (\ln f(x))^{(n)} > 0 \Rightarrow (-1)^n (\ln f(x))^{(n)} > 0.$$

Hence,

$$(-1)^n (\ln f(x))^{(n)} > 0$$

for all  $x \in (k-1, \infty)$  and all integers  $n \geq 1$ , so the proof is complete.  $\square$

**Remark 2.9.** The above theorem is the  $k$ -analogue of Lemma 2.1 of [4] and the following theorem is  $k$ -analogue of Theorem 1.1 of [12].

**Theorem 2.10.** Let  $s$  and  $t$  be two real numbers with  $s \neq t$ ,  $\alpha = \min\{s, t\}$  and  $\beta \geq -\alpha$ . For  $x \in (-\alpha, \infty)$ , we define

$$h_{\beta,k}(x) = \begin{cases} \left[ \frac{\Gamma_k(\beta+t)}{\Gamma_k(\beta+s)} \cdot \frac{\Gamma_k(x+s)}{\Gamma_k(x+t)} \right]^{\frac{1}{x-\beta}}, & x \neq \beta \\ \exp[\psi_k(\beta+s) - \psi_k(\beta+t)], & x = \beta \end{cases}$$

The function  $h_{\beta,k}(x)$  is logarithmically completely monotonic on  $(-\alpha, \infty)$ .

*Proof.* It is assumed  $s > t$  without loss the generality. For  $x \neq \beta$ , taking logarithm of the function  $h_{\beta,k}(x)$  gives

$$\begin{aligned} \ln h_{\beta,k}(x) &= \frac{1}{x-\beta} \left[ \ln \frac{\Gamma_k(\beta+t)}{\Gamma_k(\beta+s)} + \ln \frac{\Gamma_k(x+s)}{\Gamma_k(x+t)} \right] \\ &= \frac{\ln \Gamma_k(x+s) - \ln \Gamma_k(\beta+s)}{x-\beta} - \frac{\ln \Gamma_k(x+t) - \ln \Gamma_k(\beta+t)}{x-\beta} \\ &= \frac{1}{x-\beta} \int_{\beta}^x \psi_k(u+s) du - \frac{1}{x-\beta} \int_{\beta}^x \psi_k(u+t) du \\ &= \frac{1}{x-\beta} \int_{\beta}^x [\psi_k(u+s) - \psi_k(u+t)] du = \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{1}{x-\beta} \int_{\beta}^x \int_t^s \psi'_k(u+v) dv du \\
&\triangleq \frac{1}{x-\beta} \int_{\beta}^x \varphi_{k,s,t}(u) du \int_0^1 \varphi_{k,s,t}((x-\beta)u + \beta) du \\
&= \int_0^1 \varphi_{k,s,t}((x-\beta)u + \beta) du.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$[\ln h_{\beta,k}(x)]^{(p)} = \int_0^1 u^p \varphi_{k,s,t}^{(p)}((x-\beta)u + \beta) du, \quad (12)$$

if  $x = \beta$ , formula (11) is also valid.

Since  $\psi'_k$  is completely monotonic (see [8,9]),  $\varphi_{k,s,t}$  is completely monotonic on  $(-t, \infty)$ . This means that  $(-1)^i [\varphi_{k,s,t}(x)]^{(i)} \geq 0$  holds on  $(-t, \infty)$  for any nonnegative integer  $i$ .

Thus

$$(-1)^{(p)} [\ln h_{\beta,k}(x)]^{(p)} = \int_0^1 u^p (-1)^p \varphi_{k,s,t}^{(p)}((x-\beta)u + \beta) du \geq 0$$

on  $(-t, \infty)$  for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . The proof is complete.  $\square$

### 3. Main results for k-Riemann zeta function

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $\zeta_k(s)$  be the k-Riemann zeta function defined by (11). Then the following inequality is valid*

$$(s+k) \cdot \frac{\zeta_k(s)}{\zeta_k(s+k)} \geq s \frac{\zeta_k(s+k)}{\zeta_k(s+2k)}, \quad s > k. \quad (13)$$

*Proof.* The proof of the theorem is based on the following consequence of Schwarz's inequality [10]: Let  $f, g$  be two nonnegative functions of a real variable and  $m, n$  real numbers such that integrals in (14) exist. Then

$$\int_a^b g(t)(f(t))^m dt \cdot \int_a^b g(t)(f(t))^n dt \geq \left( \int_a^b g(t)(f(t))^{\frac{m+n}{2}} dt \right)^2. \quad (14)$$

So, applying inequality (14) with  $g(t) = \frac{1}{e^t - 1}$ ,  $f(t) = t$ ,  $m = s - k$ ,  $n = s + k$ ,  $a = 0$ ,  $b = +\infty$ , we obtain

$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{t^{s-k}}{e^t - 1} dt \cdot \int_0^{\infty} \frac{t^{s+k}}{e^t - 1} dt \geq \left( \int_0^{\infty} \frac{t^s}{e^t - 1} dt \right)^2.$$



Further, using (11) we have

$$\zeta_k(s)\Gamma_k(s)\zeta_k(s+2k)\Gamma_k(s+2k) \geq (\zeta_k(s+k))^2(\Gamma_k(s+k))^2$$

and using the property  $\Gamma_k(s+k) = s \cdot \Gamma_k(s)$  implies the desired result. □

**Remark 3.2.** For  $k$  tends to 1 we obtain Theorem 2.3 of [10].

**Theorem 3.3.** Let  $\zeta_k(u)$  be the  $k$ -Riemann zeta function. Then the inequality

$$\frac{\Gamma_k\left(\frac{u}{p} + \frac{v}{q}\right)}{\Gamma_k^{\frac{1}{p}}(u) \cdot \Gamma_k^{\frac{1}{q}}(v)} \leq \frac{\zeta_k^{\frac{1}{p}}(u) \cdot \zeta_k^{\frac{1}{q}}(v)}{\zeta_k\left(\frac{u}{p} + \frac{v}{q}\right)}$$

holds, where  $u > k, v > k, \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$  and  $\frac{u}{p} + \frac{v}{q} > k$ .

*Proof.* Using Holder’s inequality for  $p > 1$

$$\left| \int_0^\infty f(t) \cdot g(t) dt \right| \leq \left( \int_0^\infty |f(t)|^p dt \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} \left( \int_0^\infty |g(t)|^q dt \right)^{\frac{1}{q}}, \tag{15}$$

with  $f(t) = \frac{t^{\frac{u-k}{p}}}{(e^t - 1)^{\frac{1}{p}}}$  and  $g(t) = \frac{t^{\frac{v-k}{q}}}{(e^t - 1)^{\frac{1}{q}}}$ . Using definition 1.3 we obtain the inequality

$$\Gamma_k\left(\frac{u}{p} + \frac{v}{q}\right) \cdot \zeta_k\left(\frac{u}{p} + \frac{v}{q}\right) \leq \Gamma_k^{\frac{1}{p}}(u) \cdot \Gamma_k^{\frac{1}{q}}(v) \cdot \zeta_k^{\frac{1}{p}}(u) \cdot \zeta_k^{\frac{1}{q}}(v),$$

which completes the proof. □

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