

# Polylogarithm function

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## Background

Today I am trying to do an integral

$$\int_0^{2\pi} \frac{t}{1 + e^t} dt. \quad (1)$$

I do not know how to do it so I tried to use Mathematica, which gives me

$$\frac{23\pi^2}{12} - 2\pi \log(1 + e^{2\pi}) - \text{PolyLog}[2, -e^{2\pi}]. \quad (2)$$

I do not understand what is "PolyLog".

## PolyLog

I checked Wikipedia [2] and learned that it is called a Polylogarithm function, which is a nonelementary functions (elementary functions are functions with finite number of arithmetic operations). It is defined as, according to Wikipedia

$$Li_s(z) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^k}{k^s}. \quad (3)$$

Thus, the one I encountered will be an infinite sum such as

$$PolyLog[2, -e^{-2\pi}] = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-e^{-2\pi})^k}{k^2}. \quad (4)$$



## In General

I did not get into the details of why the integral turned out to be a Polylogarithm, according to the definition. However, what is useful is that, in general,

$$Li_s(z) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \int_0^\infty \frac{t^{s-1} dt}{e^t/z - 1} \quad (5)$$

where  $\Gamma(s)$  is called Gamma function, defined as  $\Gamma(n) = (n - 1)!$  [1].

# References

-  Wikipedia contributors. *Gamma function* — *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. [Online; accessed 25-November-2018]. 2018. URL: [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gamma\\_function&oldid=870308554](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gamma_function&oldid=870308554).
-  Wikipedia contributors. *Polylogarithm* — *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. [Online; accessed 25-November-2018]. 2018. URL: <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Polylogarithm&oldid=862627827>.