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Improvements of the bounds for Ramanujan constant function

Hong-Hu Chu[1], Zhen-Hang Yang[2], Wen Zhang[3] and Yu-Ming Chu[1*]

*Correspondence:
chuyuming2005@126.com
[1] School of Mathematics and
Computation Sciences, Hunan City
University, Yiyang, 413000, China
Full list of author information is
available at the end of the article

Abstract

In the article, we establish several inequalities for the Ramanujan constant function $R(x) = -2\gamma - \psi(x) - \psi(1-x)$ on the interval $(0, 1/2]$, where $\psi(x)$ is the classical psi function and $\gamma = 0.577215\cdots$ is the Euler-Mascheroni constant.

MSC: 33B15; 26D07

Keywords: Ramanujan constant function; gamma function; psi function; Euler-Mascheroni constant

1 Introduction

For $x > 0$, the classical gamma function $\Gamma(x)$ and the psi function $\psi(x)$ are, respectively, defined by

$$\Gamma(x) = \int_0^\infty t^{x-1} e^{-t}\, dt, \qquad \psi(x) = \frac{\Gamma'(x)}{\Gamma(x)},$$

they satisfy

$$\Gamma(x+1) = x\Gamma(x), \qquad \psi(x+1) = \psi(x) + \frac{1}{x},$$

$$\psi(x) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{x-1}{(n+1)(n+x)} - \gamma, \qquad \psi'(x) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{1}{(n+x)^2}, \qquad \psi''(x) = -2\sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{1}{(n+x)^3},$$

$$\psi(1) = -\gamma, \qquad \psi\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = -2\log 2 - \gamma,$$

where $\gamma = \lim_{n\to\infty}(\sum_{k=1}^n 1/k - \log n) = 0.577215\cdots$ is the Euler-Mascheroni constant.

It is well known that the gamma and psi functions have many applications in the areas of mathematics, physics, and engineering technology. Recently, the bounds for the gamma and psi functions have attracted the interest of many researchers. In particular, many remarkable inequalities for the psi function $\psi(x)$ can be found in the literature [1–15].

Let $x \in (0, 1/2]$. Then the Ramanujan constant function $R(x)$ [16] is given by

$$R(x) = -2\gamma - \psi(x) - \psi(1-x). \tag{1.1}$$

Very recently, Wang *et al.* [17] proved that the double inequality

$$\frac{R^2(x)}{(1 + x - x^2)R(x) - 1} < \frac{\pi}{\sin(\pi x)} < \left(1 + x - x^2\right)R(x) \tag{1.2}$$

holds for all $x \in (0, 1/2]$.

The main purpose of this paper is to improve inequality (1.2).

2 Lemmas

In order to prove our main results we need several lemmas, which we present in this section.

Lemma 2.1 (See [18, 19]) *Let* $-\infty < a < b < \infty, f, g : [a, b] \to \mathbb{R}$ *be continuous on* $[a, b]$ *and differentiable on* (a, b), *and* $g'(x) \neq 0$ *on* (a, b). *Then the functions*

$$\frac{f(x) - f(a)}{g(x) - g(a)}$$

and

$$\frac{f(x) - f(b)}{g(x) - g(b)}$$

both are increasing (decreasing) on (a, b) *if* $f'(x)/g'(x)$ *is increasing (decreasing) on* (a, b). *If* $f'(x)/g'(x)$ *is strictly monotone, then the monotonicity in the conclusion is also strict.*

Lemma 2.2 (See [20]) *The double inequality*

$$\frac{x^2 + 1}{x + 1} < \Gamma(x + 1) < \frac{x^2 + 2}{x + 2}$$

holds for all $x \in (0, 1)$.

Lemma 2.3 (See [21], Section 3, in the proof of Theorem 5, pp. 2500-2502) *Let* $x \in (0, \pi/2), k, n \in \mathbb{N}$, *the sequence* $\{a_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ *and function* $F_n(x)$ *be, respectively, defined by*

$$a_0 = \frac{2}{\pi}, \qquad a_1 = \frac{1}{\pi^3}, \tag{2.1}$$

$$a_{k+1} = \frac{2k+1}{2(k+1)\pi^2}a_k - \frac{1}{16k(k+1)\pi^2}a_{k-1} \quad (k \geq 1), \tag{2.2}$$

$$F_n(x) = \frac{\frac{\sin x}{x} - \sum_{k=0}^{n} a_k(\pi^2 - 4x^2)^k}{(\pi^2 - 4x^2)^{n+1}}. \tag{2.3}$$

Then $F_n(x)$ *is strictly decreasing from* $(0, \pi/2)$ *onto* $(a_{n+1}, (1 - \sum_{k=0}^{n} a_k \pi^{2k})/\pi^{2n+2})$.

Lemma 2.4 *Let* $k, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\{a_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ *be defined by* (2.1) *and* (2.2), *and* $\{b_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ *be defined by*

$$b_0 = 0, \qquad b_1 = \frac{1}{4\pi}, \tag{2.4}$$

$$b_{k+1} = \frac{2k-1}{2(k+1)\pi^2}b_k - \frac{1}{16k(k+1)\pi^2}b_{k-1} \quad (k \geq 1). \tag{2.5}$$

Then $a_k = 8(k+1)b_{k+1}$ *for all* $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

Proof We use mathematical induction to prove Lemma 2.4. From (2.1), (2.4), and (2.5) we clearly see that Lemma 2.4 holds for $k = 0$ and $k = 1$.

Suppose that $k_0 \geq 1$ and

$$a_k = 8(k+1)b_{k+1} \tag{2.6}$$

holds for all $k \leq k_0$. Then it follows from (2.2), (2.5), and (2.6) that

$$
\begin{aligned}
a_{k_0+1} &= \frac{2k_0 + 1}{2(k_0 + 1)\pi^2} a_{k_0} - \frac{1}{16k_0(k_0 + 1)\pi^2} a_{k_0-1} \\
&= \frac{2k_0 + 1}{2(k_0 + 1)\pi^2} \times 8(k_0 + 1)b_{k_0+1} - \frac{1}{16k_0(k_0 + 1)\pi^2} \times 8k_0 b_{k_0} \\
&= 8(k_0 + 2)b_{k_0+2} = 8\big[(k_0 + 1) + 1\big]b_{(k_0+1)+1}.
\end{aligned}
\tag{2.7}
$$

Equation (2.7) shows that (2.6) also holds for $k = k_0 + 1$. Therefore, Lemma 2.4 follows from (2.7) and the induction hypothesis (2.6). □

Lemma 2.5 *The double inequality*

$$
\frac{1}{4\pi}\big(\pi^2 - 4x^2\big) + \frac{1}{16\pi^3}\big(\pi^2 - 4x^2\big)^2 + \frac{12 - \pi^2}{384\pi^5}\big(\pi^2 - 4x^2\big)^3
$$
$$
< \cos x < \frac{1}{4\pi}\big(\pi^2 - 4x^2\big) + \frac{1}{16\pi^3}\big(\pi^2 - 4x^2\big)^2 + \frac{16 - 5\pi}{16\pi^6}\big(\pi^2 - 4x^2\big)^3 \tag{2.8}
$$

holds for all $x \in (0, \pi/2)$.

Proof Let $x \in (0, \pi/2)$, $k, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $\{a_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ and $\{b_k\}_{k=0}^{\infty}$ be, respectively, defined by (2.1), (2.2), (2.4), and (2.5), $F_n(x)$ be defined by (2.3), and $f_n(x)$ and $g_n(x)$ be defined by

$$
f_n(x) = \cos x - \sum_{k=0}^{n} b_k\big(\pi^2 - 4x^2\big)^k, \qquad g_n(x) = \big(\pi^2 - 4x^2\big)^{n+1}. \tag{2.9}
$$

Then it follows from (2.1)-(2.5), Lemma 2.4, and equation (2.9) that

$$
a_2 = \frac{12 - \pi^2}{16\pi^5}, \qquad b_2 = \frac{1}{16\pi^3}, \qquad \frac{f_2(0^+)}{g_2(0^+)} = \frac{1 - \sum_{k=0}^{2} b_k \pi^{2k}}{\pi^6} = \frac{16 - 5\pi}{16\pi^6}, \tag{2.10}
$$

$$
\frac{f_n(0^+)}{g_n(0^+)} = \frac{1 - \sum_{k=0}^{n} b_k \pi^{2k}}{\pi^{2n+2}}, \tag{2.11}
$$

$$
\frac{f_n(x)}{g_n(x)} = \frac{f_n(x) - f_n(\frac{\pi}{2})}{g_n(x) - g_n(\frac{\pi}{2})}, \tag{2.12}
$$

$$
\frac{f_n'(x)}{g_n'(x)} = \frac{\frac{\sin x}{x} - \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} 8(k+1)b_{k+1}(\pi^2 - 4x^2)^k}{8(n+1)(\pi^2 - 4x^2)^n} = \frac{F_{n-1}(x)}{8(n+1)}. \tag{2.13}
$$

From Lemma 2.1, Lemma 2.3, (2.12), and (2.13) we clearly see that

$$
\frac{a_n}{8(n+1)} = \lim_{x \to \pi/2^-} \frac{f_n(x)}{g_n(x)} < \frac{f_n(x)}{g_n(x)} < \lim_{x \to 0^+} \frac{f_n(x)}{g_n(x)} \tag{2.14}
$$

for all $x \in (0, \pi/2)$.

Equations (2.9) and (2.11) together with inequality (2.14) lead to the conclusion that

$$\frac{a_n}{8(n+1)} < \frac{\cos x - \sum_{k=0}^{n} b_k (\pi^2 - 4x^2)^k}{(\pi^2 - 4x^2)^{n+1}} < \frac{1 - \sum_{k=0}^{n} b_k \pi^{2k}}{\pi^{2n+2}} \tag{2.15}$$

for all $x \in (0, \pi/2)$.

Letting $n = 2$, then inequality (2.8) follows easily from (2.4), (2.10), and (2.15). □

Remark 2.1 We clearly see that both the first and the second inequalities in (2.8) become to equations if $x = \pi/2$. If $x = 0$, then the first inequality of (2.8) also holds and the second inequality of (2.8) becomes to equation.

Lemma 2.6 *Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $R(x)$ be the Ramanujan constant function given by* (1.1). *Then the double inequality*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{2k+1}{(k+x)(k+1-x)} + 2\psi(1) - 2\psi\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)$$

$$\leq R(x) < \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{2k+1}{(k+x)(k+1-x)} + 2\psi(1) - \psi(n) - \psi(n+1) \tag{2.16}$$

holds for all $x \in (0, 1/2]$ and $n \geq 1$.

Proof Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $x \in (0, 1/2]$, and

$$h_n(x) = 2\psi(1) - \psi(n+x) - \psi(n+1-x). \tag{2.17}$$

Then (1.1) and (2.17) together with the mean value theorem lead to

$$h_n(x) = R(x) - \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{1}{k+x} - \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{1}{k+1-x} = R(x) - \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{2k+1}{(k+x)(k+1-x)}, \tag{2.18}$$

$$h_n'(x) = -\psi'(n+x) + \psi'(n+1-x) = (1-2x)\psi''[n+x+\theta(1-2x)] < 0 \tag{2.19}$$

for $x \in (0, 1/2]$, where $\theta \in (0, 1)$.

It follows from (2.17) and (2.19) that

$$2\psi(1) - 2\psi\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right) = h_n\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \leq h_n(x) < h_n(0^+) = 2\psi(1) - \psi(n) - \psi(n+1). \tag{2.20}$$

Therefore, Lemma 2.6 follows from (2.18) and (2.20). □

Lemma 2.7 *Let $A(t)$ and $B(t)$ be defined by*

$$A(t) = \frac{8(320t^3 - 1{,}936t^2 + 1{,}292t + 945)^2}{3(1 - 4t)(9 - 4t)(25 - 4t)(-1{,}280t^4 + 9{,}728t^3 - 18{,}208t^2 + 8{,}896t + 3{,}375)}$$

$$\tag{2.21}$$

and

$$B(t) = \frac{236}{3(125 - 28t)} + \frac{4}{1 - 4t} - \frac{12}{9 - 4t} - \frac{4}{25 - 4t}. \tag{2.22}$$

Then $0 < A(t) < B(t)$ for $t \in [0, 1/4)$.

Proof We clearly see that

$$A(t) > 0, \qquad 880t^2 - 6{,}488t + 10{,}207 > 0 \tag{2.23}$$

and

$$-1{,}280t^4 + 9{,}728t^3 - 18{,}208t^2 + 8{,}896t + 3{,}375 > 0 \tag{2.24}$$

for $t \in [0, 1/4)$.

Therefore, Lemma 2.7 follows from (2.23) and (2.24) together with the elaborated computations result

$$A(t) - B(t) = -\frac{32t(1 - 4t)(880t^2 - 6{,}488t + 10{,}207)}{(125 - 28t)(-1{,}280t^4 + 9{,}728t^3 - 18{,}208t^2 + 8{,}896t + 3{,}375)}. \tag{2.25}$$
$\square$

Lemma 2.8 *Let $B(t)$ be defined by (2.22). Then*

$$B(t) < \frac{\pi}{\cos(\sqrt{t}\pi)}. \tag{2.26}$$

for $t \in [0, 1/4)$.

Proof From (2.22) we clearly see that $B(0) = 1{,}176/375 = 3.136 < \pi$, which implies that inequality (2.26) holds for $t = 0$.

Let $t \in (0, 1/4)$. Then $\sqrt{t}\pi \in (0, \pi/2)$ and the second inequality in (2.8) leads to

$$\cos(\sqrt{t}\pi) < \frac{\pi}{4}(1 - 4t) + \frac{\pi}{16}(1 - 4t)^2 + \frac{16 - 5\pi}{16}(1 - 4t)^3. \tag{2.27}$$

It follows from (2.22) and (2.27) that

$$B(t) - \frac{\pi}{\cos(\sqrt{t}\pi)}$$

$$< \frac{236}{3(125 - 28t)} + \frac{4}{1 - 4t} - \frac{12}{9 - 4t} - \frac{4}{25 - 4t}$$

$$\quad - \frac{\pi}{\frac{\pi}{4}(1 - 4t) + \frac{\pi}{16}(1 - 4t)^2 + \frac{16 - 5\pi}{16}(1 - 4t)^3}$$

$$= \big(4(1 - 4t)\big[(1{,}024 - 320\pi)t^3 + (3{,}864\pi - 12{,}416)t^2 + (32{,}128 - 9{,}750\pi)t$$

$$\quad + 264{,}600 - 84{,}375\pi\big]\big)$$

$$/\big(3(9 - 4t)(25 - 4t)(125 - 28t)\big[(64 - 20\pi)t^2 + (9\pi - 32)t + 4\big]\big). \tag{2.28}$$

Note that

$$\frac{(1-4t)}{(9-4t)(25-4t)(125-28t)} > 0,\tag{2.29}$$

$$(64-20\pi)t^2 + (9\pi - 32)t + 4 > \frac{9\pi - 32}{4} + 4 = \frac{9\pi - 16}{4} > 0,\tag{2.30}$$

$$(1{,}024 - 320\pi)t^3 + (3{,}864\pi - 12{,}416)t^2 + (32{,}128 - 9{,}750\pi)t + 264{,}600 - 84{,}375\pi$$

$$< \frac{1{,}024 - 320\pi}{64} + \frac{32{,}128 - 9{,}750\pi}{4} + 264{,}600 - 84{,}375\pi$$

$$= 272{,}648 - 86{,}817.5 \times \pi = -97.2202\cdots \tag{2.31}$$

for $t \in (0, 1/4)$.

Therefore, Lemma 2.8 follows from (2.28)-(2.31). $\qquad\square$

3 Main results

Theorem 3.1 *Let $R(x)$ be the Ramanujan constant function given by* (1.1) *and $C(x)$ be defined by*

$$C(x) = \frac{2[320(\frac{1}{2} - x)^6 - 1{,}936(\frac{1}{2} - x)^4 + 1{,}292(\frac{1}{2} - x)^2 + 945]}{3[1 - 4(\frac{1}{2} - x)^2][9 - 4(\frac{1}{2} - x)^2][25 - 4(\frac{1}{2} - x)^2]}.\tag{3.1}$$

Then

$$4\log 2 \le \frac{1}{x(1-x)} - 4 + 4\log 2 \le R(x) < C(x)\tag{3.2}$$

for $x \in (0, 1/2]$.

Proof Let $n = 1$, then the first inequality of (2.16) leads

$$R(x) \ge \frac{1}{x(1-x)} + 2\left[\psi(1) - \psi\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)\right] = \frac{1}{x(1-x)} + 2\left[\psi(1) - \psi\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) - 2\right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{x(1-x)} - 4 + 4\log 2 \ge 4\log 2$$

for $x \in (0, 1/2]$.

Let $n = 3$ and $x \in (0, 1/2)$, then (3.1) and the second inequality of (2.16) give

$$R(x) < \sum_{k=0}^{2} \frac{2k+1}{(k+x)(k+1-x)} + 2\psi(1) - \psi(3) - \psi(4)$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{2} \frac{2k+1}{(k+\frac{1}{2})^2 - (\frac{1}{2} - x)^2} + 2\psi(1) - 2\left[\psi(1) + \frac{3}{2}\right] - \frac{1}{3}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\frac{1}{4} - (\frac{1}{2} - x)^2} + \frac{3}{\frac{9}{4} - (\frac{1}{2} - x)^2} + \frac{5}{\frac{25}{4} - (\frac{1}{2} - x)^2} - \frac{10}{3}$$

$$= \frac{2[320(\frac{1}{2} - x)^6 - 1{,}936(\frac{1}{2} - x)^4 + 1{,}292(\frac{1}{2} - x)^2 + 945]}{3[1 - 4(\frac{1}{2} - x)^2][9 - 4(\frac{1}{2} - x)^2][25 - 4(\frac{1}{2} - x)^2]} = C(x).$$

If $x = 1/2$, then (1.1) and (3.1) lead to

$$R\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 4\log 2 = 2.7725\cdots < C\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{378}{135} = 2.8. \qquad \square$$

Theorem 3.2 *Let $R(x)$ be the Ramanujan constant function, given by (1.1), and the function $A(t)$ be defined by (2.21). Then the inequality*

$$\frac{R^2(x)}{(1 + x - x^2)R(x) - 1} < A\left[\left(\frac{1}{2} - x\right)^2\right] \tag{3.3}$$

for all $x \in (0, 1/2]$.

Proof Let $C(x)$ be defined by (3.1). Then from (3.2) and $4\log 2 = 2.7725\cdots > 2$ together with

$$\frac{\partial\left[\frac{y}{(1 + x - x^2)y - 1}\right]}{\partial y} = \frac{[x(1 - x)y + (y - 2)]y}{[(1 + x - x^2)y - 1]^2} > 0$$

for $y > 2$ and $x \in (0, 1/2]$ we clearly see that

$$\frac{R^2(x)}{(1 + x - x^2)R(x) - 1} < \frac{C^2(x)}{(1 + x - x^2)C(x) - 1}. \tag{3.4}$$

for $x \in (0, 1/2]$.

Elaborated computations give

$$\frac{C^2(x)}{(1 + x - x^2)C(x) - 1} = A\left[\left(\frac{1}{2} - x\right)^2\right]. \tag{3.5}$$

Therefore, Theorem 3.2 follows from (3.4) and (3.5). $\qquad \square$

Theorem 3.3 *Let $R(x)$ be the Ramanujan constant function given by (1.1). Then*

$$R(x) > \frac{\pi}{(1 + x - x^2)\sin(\pi x)} + \frac{125\log 2 - 81}{4(1 + x - x^2)(6 + x - x^2)} \tag{3.6}$$

for $x \in (0, 1/2]$.

Proof It is well known that

$$\Gamma(x)\Gamma(1 - x) = \frac{\pi}{\sin(\pi x)} \tag{3.7}$$

for $x \in (0, 1)$.

It follows from Lemma 2.2 and (3.2) that

$$\frac{\pi}{\sin(\pi x)} - \left(1 + x - x^2\right)R(x)$$

$$= \Gamma(x)\Gamma(1 - x) - \left(1 + x - x^2\right)R(x) = \frac{\Gamma(x + 1)}{x}\frac{\Gamma[(1 - x) + 1]}{1 - x} - \left(1 + x - x^2\right)R(x)$$

$$< \frac{x^2+2}{x(x+2)} \frac{(1-x)^2+2}{(1-x)(3-x)} - \left(1+x-x^2\right)\left[\frac{1}{x(1-x)} + 4\log 2 - 4\right]$$

$$= \frac{4(1-\log 2)x(1-x)(7+x-x^2) - (24\log 2 - 13)}{6+x-x^2} \tag{3.8}$$

for $x \in (0, 1/2]$.

Note that

$$x(1-x)\left(7+x-x^2\right) \le \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{29}{4} = \frac{29}{16} \tag{3.9}$$

for $x \in (0, 1/2]$.

It follows from (3.8) and (3.9) that

$$\frac{\pi}{\sin(\pi x)} - \left(1+x-x^2\right)R(x) < -\frac{125\log 2 - 81}{4(6+x-x^2)} \tag{3.10}$$

for $x \in (0, 1/2]$.

Therefore, Theorem 3.3 follows easily from (3.10). □

Corollary 3.1 *Let $R(x)$ be the Ramanujan constant function given by* (1.1). *Then*

$$R(x) > \frac{\pi}{(1+x-x^2)\sin(\pi x)} + 4\log 2 - \frac{324}{125} = \frac{\pi}{(1+x-x^2)\sin(\pi x)} + 0.18058872\cdots$$

for $x \in (0, 1/2]$.

Proof Corollary 3.1 follows easily from (3.6) and

$$4\left(1+x-x^2\right)\left(6+x-x^2\right) \le 4 \times \left(1+\frac{1}{4}\right)\left(6+\frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{125}{4}$$

for $x \in (0, 1/2]$. □

Remark 3.1 Let $A(t)$ and $B(t)$ be, respectively, defined by (2.21) and (2.22). Then it follows from Lemmas 2.7 and 2.8 that

$$A\left[\left(\frac{1}{2}-x\right)^2\right] < B\left[\left(\frac{1}{2}-x\right)^2\right] < \frac{\pi}{\cos[\pi(\frac{1}{2}-x)]} = \frac{\pi}{\sin(\pi x)}$$

for $x \in (0, 1/2]$.

Therefore, inequality (3.3) is an improvement of the first inequality given by (1.2).

Remark 3.2 We clearly see that inequality (3.6) is an improvement of the second inequality given by (1.2).

Author details
¹School of Mathematics and Computation Sciences, Hunan City University, Yiyang, 413000, China. ²Customer Service Center, State Grid Zhejiang Electric Power Research Institute, Hangzhou, 310009, China. ³Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University, New York, NY 10033, United States.

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