

Proof that $\Gamma(\alpha+1) = \alpha \Gamma(\alpha)$

For a nonnegative integer α , the gamma function is $\Gamma(\alpha) = \int_0^{\infty} x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x} dx$

We have

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma(\alpha+1) &= \int_0^{\infty} x^{(\alpha+1)-1} e^{-x} dx \\&= \int_0^{\infty} x^{\alpha} e^{-x} dx \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} u = x^{\alpha}, du = \alpha x^{\alpha-1} dx \\ v = -e^{-x}, dv = e^{-x} dx \end{array} \right) \\&= \left[x^{\alpha} e^{-x} \right]_0^{\infty} + \int_0^{\infty} \alpha x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x} dx \\&= 0 + \alpha \underbrace{\int_0^{\infty} x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x} dx}_{= \Gamma(\alpha)} \\&= \alpha \Gamma(\alpha)\end{aligned}$$

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So we proved that important property of the gamma function stating that $\Gamma(\alpha+1) = \alpha \Gamma(\alpha)$.