

d2. Prove: If n is a positive integer, then $\Gamma(n+1) = n!$.

Proof: We begin by verifying that

$$\Gamma(1) = \int_0^{\infty} t^{1-1} e^{-t} dt = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-t} dt = \left. \frac{-1}{e^t} \right|_0^{\infty} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left. \frac{-1}{e^t} \right|_0^n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{-1}{e^n} + \frac{1}{e^0} \right) = 1 = 1!. \text{ Now suppose that the result}$$

is true for some positive integer n , i.e. $\Gamma(n) = (n-1)!$. Then $\Gamma(n+1) = n \cdot \Gamma(n) = n \cdot (n-1)! = n!$.

Therefore, by mathematical induction, the result is true for all positive integers n .