

Solution (#1411) Let $a, b > 0$ and recall that

$$B(a, b) = \int_0^1 x^{a-1}(1-x)^{b-1} dx.$$

If we set $x = u/(1+u)$ so that $dx = du/(1+u)^2$ then

$$\begin{aligned} B(a, b) &= \int_{x=0}^{x=1} x^{a-1}(1-x)^{b-1} dx \\ &= \int_{u=0}^{u=\infty} \left(\frac{u}{1+u} \right)^{a-1} \left(\frac{1}{1+u} \right)^{b-1} \frac{du}{(1+u)^2} \\ &= \int_{u=0}^{u=\infty} \frac{u^{a-1}}{(1+u)^{a+b}} du. \end{aligned}$$

Setting $u = (1+x)t$, we see for $x > 0$ that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{t=0}^{t=\infty} e^{-(1+x)t} t^{a+b-1} dt &= \int_{u=0}^{u=\infty} e^{-u} \left(\frac{u}{1+x} \right)^{a+b-1} \frac{du}{1+x} \\ &= \frac{1}{(1+x)^{a+b}} \int_{u=0}^{u=\infty} u^{a+b-1} e^{-u} du \\ &= \frac{\Gamma(a+b)}{(1+x)^{a+b}}. \end{aligned}$$

Finally we see

$$\begin{aligned} B(a, b) &= \int_{u=0}^{u=\infty} \frac{u^{a-1}}{(1+u)^{a+b}} du \\ &= \int_{u=0}^{u=\infty} u^{a-1} \left(\frac{1}{\Gamma(a+b)} \int_{t=0}^{t=\infty} e^{-(1+u)t} t^{a+b-1} dt \right) du \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(a+b)} \int_{u=0}^{u=\infty} \left(\int_{t=0}^{t=\infty} u^{a-1} t^{a+b-1} e^{-(1+u)t} dt \right) du. \end{aligned}$$

If we now swap the order of integration we find

$$\begin{aligned} B(a, b) &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(a+b)} \int_{t=0}^{t=\infty} \left(\int_{u=0}^{u=\infty} u^{a-1} t^{a+b-1} e^{-(1+u)t} du \right) dt \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(a+b)} \int_{u=0}^{u=\infty} t^{b-1} e^{-t} \left(\int_{t=0}^{t=\infty} (ut)^{a-1} e^{-ut} t du \right) dt \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(a+b)} \int_{u=0}^{u=\infty} t^{b-1} e^{-t} \left(\int_{v=0}^{v=\infty} v^{a-1} e^{-v} dv \right) dt \quad [v = ut] \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(a+b)} \int_{u=0}^{u=\infty} t^{b-1} e^{-t} \Gamma(a) dt \\ &= \frac{\Gamma(a)}{\Gamma(a+b)} \int_{u=0}^{u=\infty} t^{b-1} e^{-t} dt \\ &= \frac{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)}{\Gamma(a+b)}. \end{aligned}$$