

PROOF OF FORMULA 3.331.3

$$\int_0^{\infty} (1 - e^{-x})^{\nu-1} e^{be^{-x} - \mu x} dx = B(\mu, \nu) e^{b/2} b^{-(\mu+\nu)/2} M_{\frac{\nu-\mu}{2}, \frac{\nu+\mu-1}{2}}(b)$$

The *Whittaker function* is defined by the integral representation

$$M_{a,b}(z) = \frac{z^{b+1/2}}{2^{2b} B(a+b+\frac{1}{2}, b-a+\frac{1}{2})} \int_{-1}^1 (1+t)^{b-a-1/2} (1-t)^{b+a-1/2} e^{zt/2} dt$$

The change of variables $t = e^{-x}$ gives

$$\int_0^{\infty} (1 - e^{-x})^{\nu-1} e^{be^{-x} - \mu x} dx = \int_0^1 (1-t)^{\nu-1} e^{bt} t^{\mu-1} dt.$$

The further change of variables $s = 2t + 1$ produces

$$\int_0^{\infty} (1 - e^{-x})^{\nu-1} e^{be^{-x} - \mu x} dx = e^{b/2} 2^{-(\mu+\nu-1)} \int_{-1}^1 (1+s)^{\mu-1} (1-s)^{\nu-1} e^{bs/2} ds.$$

This is the formula, with $a = (\mu + \nu - 1)/2$ and $a = (\nu - \mu)/2$ in the definition of the Whittaker function.