

A Proof of the Classical Kronecker Limit Formula

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Introduction

Let z, w be complex numbers. We assume that imaginary part of z is positive. Set

$$\xi(s, w, z) = \sum'_{m, n} |m + nz + w|^{-2s},$$

where summation with respect to m, n ranges over all pairs of integers such that $m + nz + w \neq 0$.

Put

$$\eta(z) = e[z/24] \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - e[nz]),$$

$$\vartheta_1(w, z) = 2e[z/12] (\sin \pi w) \eta(z) \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - e[w + nz])(1 - e[-w + nz]),$$

where we write $e[z] = \exp(2\pi iz)$. Furthermore, we set $\xi' = d\xi/ds$. A version of the classical Kronecker limit formula is given as follows (see e.g., [9]).

If $w \notin \mathbf{Z} + \mathbf{Z}z$,

$$\xi'(0, w, z) = -\log \left| \frac{\vartheta_1(w, z)}{\eta(z)} \exp \frac{\pi i w (w - \bar{w})}{z - \bar{z}} \right|^2.$$

If $w \in \mathbf{Z} + \mathbf{Z}z$,

$$\xi'(0, w, z) = -\log \{4\pi^2 |\eta(z)|^4\}.$$

For the proofs of the Kronecker limit formula, we refer to [4] and papers quoted there. In this note we present a proof of the formula which makes use of the theory of the *double gamma function*. The author takes this opportunity to make an addendum of the reference to

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