

Inequality with ratio of two nested quadratic roots.

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Proving Inequality

$$\frac{\overbrace{2 - \sqrt{2 + \sqrt{2 + \dots + \sqrt{2 + \sqrt{2}}}}}^{n-1 \text{ roots}}}{\underbrace{2 - \sqrt{2 + \sqrt{2 + \dots + \sqrt{2 + \sqrt{2}}}}_{n-1 \text{ roots}}} > \frac{1}{4}$$

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Let $a_n := \sqrt{2 + \sqrt{2 + \dots + \sqrt{2 + \sqrt{2}}}}$ (n square roots), $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then $a_1 = \sqrt{2}$,

$$a_{n+1} = \sqrt{2 + a_n}, n \in \mathbb{N} \text{ and } \frac{2 - \sqrt{2 + \sqrt{2 + \dots + \sqrt{2 + \sqrt{2}}}}}{2 - \sqrt{2 + \sqrt{2 + \dots + \sqrt{2 + \sqrt{2}}}}} = \frac{2 - a_{n+1}}{2 - a_n}.$$

$$\text{Note that } \frac{2 - a_{n+1}}{2 - a_n} = \frac{4 - a_{n+1}^2}{(2 - a_n)(2 + a_{n+1})} = \frac{4 - (2 + a_n)}{(2 - a_n)(2 + a_{n+1})} = \frac{1}{2 + a_{n+1}}.$$

We will find upper bound for $a_n, n \in \mathbb{N}$ by the following way. Assuming that $M > 0$ is upper bound for $a_n, n \in \mathbb{N}$ that is $a_n \leq M$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we claim

$$\sqrt{2 + M} \leq M \Leftrightarrow 0 \leq M^2 - M - 2 \stackrel{M>0}{\Leftrightarrow} M \geq 2.$$

Let $M := 2$. Then by Math Induction $a_n \leq 2$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, since $a_1 < 2$ and for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we have $a_n < 2 \Rightarrow a_{n+1} = \sqrt{2 + a_n} < \sqrt{2 + 2} = 2$.

$$\text{Thus, } \frac{1}{2 + a_{n+1}} > \frac{1}{2 + 2} = \frac{1}{4}.$$