

Let $b = 7$. Then $z = 1$ so $a = 7 - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{13}{2}$ and $c = 7 + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{15}{2}$.

Here we have the triangle $\left(\frac{13}{2}, \frac{14}{2}, \frac{15}{2}\right)$ with rational, non-integer sides with $A = P = 21$.

Example 3: Note that the previous example used $b = P/3$. This is always a valid value for b . In this case, we have the triangle

$$\left(\frac{P}{3} - \frac{1}{6}\sqrt{P^2 - 432}, \frac{P}{3}, \frac{P}{3} + \frac{1}{6}\sqrt{P^2 - 432}\right)$$

which has $A = P$. This triangle has rational sides only for $P = 21, 24, 31, 39, 56$ and 109 .

Also solved by **Kee-Wai Lau, Hong Kong, China** **David E. Manes, Oneonta, NY**; **Albert Stadler, Herrliberg, Switzerland**, and the proposer

5477: Proposed by *Daniel Sitaru, "Theodor Costescu" National Economic College, Drobeta Turnu-Sevrin, Meredinti, Romania*

Compute:

$$L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\ln n + \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \sqrt{1+x^2} \sqrt[3]{1+x^2} \cdots \sqrt[n]{1+x^2}}{x^2} \right).$$

Solution 1 by Ed Gray, Highland Beach, FL

We rewrite the expression as:

$$1. \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\left[1 - (1+x^2)^{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{n} + \dots + \frac{1}{n}}\right]}{x^2}.$$

2. Let $N = \sum_{k=2}^{k=n} \frac{1}{k}$, i.e., the harmonic series -1

$$3. \text{ Now consider } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{[1 - (1+x^2)^N]}{x^2}.$$

We expand $(1+x^2)^N$ by the Binomial Theorem:

$$4. (1+x^2)^N = 1 + Nx^2 + \frac{N(N-1)}{2!}x^4 + \dots$$

Then

$$5. \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\left[1 - \left(1 + Nx^2 + \frac{N(N-1)}{2}x^4 + \dots\right)\right]}{x^2}, \text{ or}$$

$$6. \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\left[-Nx^2 + \frac{-N(N-1)}{2}x^4 + \dots\right]}{x^2} = \frac{-Nx^2}{x^2} = -N.$$

The original limit becomes

$$7. \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\ln(n) - N) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\ln(n) - \sum_{k=2}^{k=n} \frac{1}{k} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\ln(n) + 1 - \text{Harmonic series}).$$

The Euler-Mascheroni Constant is defined as $\gamma = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{The Harmonic series} - \ln(n)$.

Therefore our expression in step 7 equals $1 - \gamma$.

Solution 2 by Bruno Salgueiro Fanego, Viveiro, Spain

Since

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - (1 + x^2)^{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n}}}{x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - (1 + x^2)^{H_n - 1}}{x^2} \left[\frac{0}{0} = \text{Indet.} \right] \stackrel{L'Hospital}{=} =$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{0 - (H_n - 1)(1 + x)^{H_n - 2} 2x}{2x} = (1 - H_n) \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (1 + x^2)^{H_n - 2} = 1 - H_n,$$

$$L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\ln n + 1 - H_n) = 1 - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (H_n - \ln n) = 1 - \gamma,$$

where H_n is the n -th harmonic number and γ is the Euler-Mascheroni constant.

Solution 3 by Paolo Perfetti, Department of Mathematics, Tor Vergata University, Rome, Italy

$$\sqrt{1 + x^2} \sqrt[3]{1 + x^2} \dots \sqrt[n]{1 + x^2} = (1 + x^2)^{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n}} = (1 + x^2)^{H_n - 1}$$

We have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\ln n + \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - (1 + x^2)^{H_n - 1}}{x^2} \right)$$

Now

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - (1 + x^2)^{H_n - 1}}{x^2} = -H_n + 1$$

thus

$$L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\ln n - \ln n - \gamma + o(1) + 1) = -\gamma + 1$$

Solution 4 by Julio Cesar Mohnsam and Mateus Gomes Lucas, both from IFSUL, Campus Pelots-RS, Brazil, and Ricardo Capiberibe Nunes of E.E. Amlio de Carvalho Bas, Campo Grande-MS, Brazil

$$L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\ln n + \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - (1 + x^2)^{H_n - 1}}{x^2} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\ln n + \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (1 - H_n)(1 + x^2)^{H_n - 2} \right).$$

because,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{[1 - (1 + x^2)^{H_n - 1}]}{(x^2)} \stackrel{\frac{0}{0}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{[1 - (1 + x^2)^{H_n - 1}]'}{(x^2)'} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (-H_n + 1)(1 + x^2)^{H_n - 2} = -H_n + 1$$

Therefore:

$$L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\ln n - H_n + 1) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\ln n - H_n) + 1 = 1 + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\ln n - H_n) = 1 - \gamma$$

Note: γ is Euler-Mascheroni constant and $H_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n}$.

Also solved by Yen Tung Chung, Taichung, Taiwan; Serban George Florin, Romania; Kee-Wai Lau, Hong Kong, China; Moti Levy, Rehovot, Israel;