

**One more sequence that converge to e.**

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$a_n = n \left( \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n - \left(1 + \frac{1}{n+1}\right)^n \right), \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Prove that

a)  $\frac{n}{n+1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n-1}\right)^{n-1} < a_n < \frac{n}{n+1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n-1}$  ;

b)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = e$ .

**Solution by Arkady Alt, San Jose, California, USA.**

a) First note that inequality  $\frac{n}{n+1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n-1}\right)^{n-1} < a_n$  isn't holds because obvious that  $\frac{n}{n+1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n-1}\right)^{n-1} > \frac{n}{n+1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n-1} \Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{n-1} > \frac{1}{n}$  and inequality in a) should be corrected for example as follows:

$$\frac{n}{n+1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n+1}\right)^{n-1} < a_n < \frac{n}{n+1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n-1}.$$

a1.  $a_n < \frac{n}{n+1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n-1} \Leftrightarrow n \left( \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n - \left(1 + \frac{1}{n+1}\right)^n \right) < \frac{n}{n+1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n-1} \Leftrightarrow$

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n - \left(1 + \frac{1}{n+1}\right)^n < \frac{1}{n+1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n-1} \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1}\right) \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n-1} < \left(1 + \frac{1}{n+1}\right)^n \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{n(n+1)}\right) \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n-1} < \left(1 + \frac{1}{n+1}\right)^n \text{ and by AM-GM Inequality}$$

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{n(n+1)}\right) \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n-1} \leq \left( \frac{1 + \frac{1}{n(n+1)} + (n-1) \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)}{n} \right)^n = \left(1 + \frac{1}{n+1}\right)^n.$$

a2.  $\frac{n}{n+1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n+1}\right)^{n-1} < a_n \Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{n+1} \left(\frac{n+2}{n+1}\right)^{n-1} < \left(\frac{n+1}{n}\right)^n - \left(\frac{n+2}{n+1}\right)^n \Leftrightarrow$

$$\frac{1}{n+1} \left(\frac{n+2}{n+1}\right)^{n-1} \cdot \left(\frac{n+1}{n+2}\right)^n < \frac{\left(\frac{n+1}{n}\right)^n}{\left(\frac{n+2}{n+1}\right)^n} - 1 \Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{n+2} < \left(1 + \frac{1}{n^2 + 2n}\right)^n - 1$$

and by Bernoulli's Inequality  $\left(1 + \frac{1}{n^2 + 2n}\right)^n - 1 > 1 + \frac{n}{n^2 + 2n} - 1 = \frac{1}{n+2}$ .

b) by Squeeze Principle immediately follows from a).

But we also consider another direct solution of b) without using double inequality in a)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left(1 + \frac{1}{n+1}\right)^n \left( \frac{\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n}{\left(1 + \frac{1}{n+1}\right)^n} - 1 \right) = e \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left( \left(1 + \frac{1}{n^2 + 2n}\right)^n - 1 \right).$$

Let  $b_n := n \ln \left(1 + \frac{1}{n^2 + 2n}\right)$ . Since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = 0$  (because

$$0 < n \ln \left(1 + \frac{1}{n^2 + 2n}\right) < n \cdot \frac{1}{n^2 + 2n} = \frac{1}{n+2} ) \text{ then}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = e \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n (e^{b_n} - 1) = e \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( n b_n \cdot \frac{e^{b_n} - 1}{b_n} \right) = e \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n b_n.$$

Noting that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (n^2 + 2n) \ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{n^2 + 2n}\right) = 1$  we obtain

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n b_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^2 \ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{n^2 + 2n}\right) =$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{n+2} \cdot \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (n^2 + 2n) \ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{n^2 + 2n}\right) = 1 \text{ and, therefore, } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = e.$$