

U419. Let $p > 1$ be a natural number. Prove that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{k}} - \frac{p}{p-1} \left(n^{\frac{p-1}{p}} - 1 \right) \right) \in (0, 1)$$

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Let $a_n := \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{k}} - \frac{p}{p-1} \left(\left(n+1 \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p}} - 1 \right)$ and $b_n := \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{k}} - \frac{p}{p-1} \left(n^{\frac{p-1}{p}} - 1 \right)$.

First we will prove that $a_n \uparrow \mathbb{N}$ and $b_n \downarrow \mathbb{N}$.

Indeed, by Mean Value Theorem there is $c_n \in (n+1, n+2)$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} a_{n+1} - a_n &= \frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{n+1}} - \frac{p}{p-1} \left((n+2)^{\frac{p-1}{p}} - (n+1)^{\frac{p-1}{p}} \right) = \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{n+1}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{c_n}} > \frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{n+1}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{n+1}} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

and similarly, there is $c_n \in (n, n+1)$

$$\begin{aligned} b_n - b_{n+1} &= -\frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{n+1}} + \frac{p}{p-1} \left((n+1)^{\frac{p-1}{p}} - n^{\frac{p-1}{p}} \right) = \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{c_n}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{n+1}} > \frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{n+1}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{n+1}} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Since, $a_n \uparrow \mathbb{N}, b_n \downarrow \mathbb{N}$ and $a_n < b_n, n \in \mathbb{N}$ then $a_n < b_m$ for any $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$.

Indeed, $a_n < a_{n+m} < b_{n+m} < b_m$. In particular $a_n < b_1$ and $a_1 < b_n, n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Therefore, both sequences $(a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $(b_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ are convergent.

Let $l := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$ and $u := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n$. Since $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (b_n - a_n) = 0$ then $l = u$.

Let $c := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n$ and also $a_n < c < b_n$ because $a_n \uparrow \mathbb{N}, b_n \downarrow \mathbb{N}$ and $a_n < b_n, n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Thus, we have $a_n < c < b_n \iff$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{k}} - \frac{p}{p-1} \left(\left(n+1 \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p}} - 1 \right) < c < \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{k}} - \frac{p}{p-1} \left(n^{\frac{p-1}{p}} - 1 \right) \iff \\ \frac{p}{p-1} \left(n^{\frac{p-1}{p}} - 1 \right) + c < \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{k}} < \frac{p}{p-1} \left(\left(n+1 \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p}} - 1 \right) + c. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\frac{p}{p-1} \left(2^{\frac{p-1}{p}} - 1 \right) \uparrow p \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{1\}$ then

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &= \sum_{k=1}^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{k}} - \frac{p}{p-1} \left(\left((1+1) \right)^{\frac{p-1}{p}} - 1 \right) = \\ &= 1 - \frac{p}{p-1} \left(2^{\frac{p-1}{p}} - 1 \right) \geq 1 - \frac{2}{2-1} \left(2^{\frac{2-1}{2}} - 1 \right) = 1 - 2 \left(\sqrt{2} - 1 \right) = 1 - \frac{2}{\sqrt{2}+1} = \frac{\sqrt{2}-1}{\sqrt{2}+1} > 0 \end{aligned}$$

and, therefore, $a_1 \leq a_n < c \implies c > 0$.

Also, since $b_1 = \sum_{k=1}^1 \frac{1}{\sqrt[p]{k}} - \frac{p}{p-1} \left(1^{\frac{p-1}{p}} - 1 \right) = 1$ and $c < b_n \leq b_1$ then $c < 1$.

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