

W5. Let $(a_n)_{n \geq 1}$ and $(b_n)_{n \geq 1}$ be positive real sequences such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1} - a_n}{n} = a \in \mathbb{R}_+^* \text{ and } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{b_{n+1}}{nb_n} = b \in \mathbb{R}_+^*.$$

Compute

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{a_{n+1}}{n+1} - \frac{a_n}{n} \right).$$

D.M Băţineţu-Giurgiu and Neculai Stanciu.

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

First note that by Stolz-Cesaro Theorem $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1} - a_n}{n} = a$ implies

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{n(n+1)} = a \Leftrightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{n^2} = \frac{a}{2}.$$

Also, since $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{b_{n+1}}{nb_n} = b$ and $\frac{b_{n+1}}{(n+1)b_n} = \frac{b_{n+1}}{nb_n} \cdot \frac{n}{n+1}$ then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{b_{n+1}}{(n+1)b_n} = b$

that is $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{b_{n+1}/((n+1)!)}{b_n/n!} = b$ and, therefore, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\frac{b_n}{n!}} = b$ by Multiplicative

Stolz-Cesaro Theorem. Taking in account that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt[n]{n!}}{n} = \frac{1}{e}$ we obtain

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt[n]{b_n}}{n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\sqrt[n]{\frac{b_n}{n!}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt[n]{n!}}{n} \right) = \frac{b}{e}.$$

$$\text{Thus, } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{a_{n+1}}{n+1} - \frac{a_n}{n} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{\sqrt[n]{b_n}} \left(\frac{a_{n+1} \sqrt[n]{b_n}}{a_n n+1} - 1 \right) =$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{a_n}{n^2} \cdot \frac{n}{\sqrt[n]{b_n}} \cdot n \left(\frac{a_{n+1} \sqrt[n]{b_n}}{a_n n+1} - 1 \right) \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{n^2} \cdot \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{\sqrt[n]{b_n}} \cdot \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left(\frac{a_{n+1} \sqrt[n]{b_n}}{a_n n+1} - 1 \right) =$$

$$\frac{ab}{2e} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left(\frac{a_{n+1} \sqrt[n]{b_n}}{a_n n+1} - 1 \right). \text{ Let } \alpha_n := \frac{a_{n+1} \sqrt[n]{b_n}}{a_n n+1} - 1. \text{ Since } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} =$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{(n+1)^2} \cdot \frac{n^2}{a_n} \cdot \frac{(n+1)^2}{n^2} = b \cdot \frac{1}{b} \cdot 1 = 1 \text{ and } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt[n]{b_n}}{n+1} =$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{\sqrt[n]{b_n}}{n} \cdot \frac{n+1}{n+1} \cdot \frac{n}{n+1} \right) = \frac{b}{e} \cdot \frac{e}{b} \cdot 1 = 1 \text{ then } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha_n = 0 \text{ and, therefore,}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left(\frac{a_{n+1} \sqrt[n]{b_n}}{a_n n+1} - 1 \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(n \ln \left(\frac{a_{n+1} \sqrt[n]{b_n}}{a_n n+1} \right) \cdot \frac{\alpha_n}{\ln(1 + \alpha_n)} \right) =$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(n \ln \left(\frac{a_{n+1} \sqrt[n]{b_n}}{a_n n+1} \right) \right) \cdot \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\alpha_n}{\ln(1 + \alpha_n)} = \ln \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{a_{n+1} \sqrt[n]{b_n}}{a_n n+1} \right)^n \right).$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{a_{n+1} \sqrt[n]{b_n}}{a_n n+1} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\left(\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right)^n \cdot \frac{nb_n}{b_{n+1}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt[n+1]{b_{n+1}}}{n+1} \cdot \frac{n+1}{n} \right) =$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right)^n \cdot \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{nb_n}{b_{n+1}} \cdot \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt[n+1]{b_{n+1}}}{n+1} \cdot \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n+1}{n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right)^n \cdot \frac{1}{b} \cdot \frac{b}{e} =$$

$$\frac{1}{e} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right)^n. \text{ Thus, } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{a_{n+1}}{n+1} - \frac{a_n}{n} \right) = \frac{ab}{2e} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left(\frac{a_{n+1} \sqrt[n]{b_n}}{a_n n+1} - 1 \right) =$$

$\frac{ab}{2e^2} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right)^n$ and remains calculate $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right)^n$.

Let $\beta_n := \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} - 1$. Since $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = 1$ then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \beta_n = 0$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right)^n =$

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \beta_n \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta_n}}$ and we have $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n\beta_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left(\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} - 1 \right) =$

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

Hence, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right)^n = e^2$ and, therefore, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{a_{n+1}}{\sqrt[n+1]{b_{n+1}}} - \frac{a_n}{\sqrt[n]{b_n}} \right) = \frac{ab}{2e^2} \cdot e^2 = \frac{ab}{2}$.