

**W35.** Prove without any software:

$$(\ln(e-1) + \ln(e-1)) \ln \pi < \ln(\pi-1) + \ln(\pi+1)$$

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

$$\text{Since for } x > 1 \text{ we have } \left( \frac{\ln(x-1)}{\ln x} \right)' = \frac{\frac{\ln x}{x-1} - \frac{\ln(x-1)}{x}}{(\ln x)^2} = \frac{x \ln x - (x-1)(\ln(x-1))}{(\ln^2 x)x(x-1)} > 0$$

then  $\frac{\ln(x-1)}{\ln x}$  increase in  $(1, \infty)$  and, therefore,

$$e < \pi \Leftrightarrow e^2 < \pi^2 \Rightarrow \frac{\ln(e^2-1)}{\ln e^2} < \frac{\ln(\pi^2-1)}{\ln \pi^2} \Leftrightarrow \frac{\ln(e^2-1)}{\ln e} < \frac{\ln(\pi^2-1)}{\ln \pi} \Leftrightarrow (\ln(e-1) + \ln(e-1)) \ln \pi < \ln(\pi-1) + \ln(\pi+1).$$

**Remark.** Elementary proof that  $\frac{\ln(x-1)}{\ln x} = \log_x(x-1)$  increase in  $(2, \infty)$ .

For any  $1 < x$  and  $h > 0$  we have  $\log_x\left(\frac{x}{x-1}\right) > \log_{x+h}\left(\frac{x}{x-1}\right)$  because for any  $a > 1$  function  $\log_x a$  decrease by  $x > 1$ . Since  $\frac{x}{x-1} > \frac{x+h}{x+h-1}$

(because  $\frac{x}{x-1} - \frac{x+h}{x+h-1} = \frac{h}{(x-1)(h+x-1)}$ ) then

$$\log_{x+h}\left(\frac{x}{x-1}\right) > \log_{x+h}\left(\frac{x+h}{x+h-1}\right). \text{ Thus, we obtain}$$

$$\log_x\left(\frac{x}{x-1}\right) > \log_{x+h}\left(\frac{x+h}{x+h-1}\right) \Leftrightarrow -\log_x(x-1) > -\log_{x+h}(x+h-1) \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\log_{x+h}(x+h-1) > \log_x(x-1) \Leftrightarrow \frac{\ln(x+h-1)}{\ln(x+h)} > \frac{\ln(x-1)}{\ln x}.$$