

W44. Compute

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ n \left[\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right) \left(1 + \frac{1}{n\sqrt{2}}\right) \left(1 + \frac{1}{n\sqrt{3}}\right) \cdots \left(1 + \frac{1}{n\sqrt{n}}\right) - 1 \right] - 2\sqrt{n} \right\}$$

Mihály Bencze and Marius Drăgan.

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

Let $P_n := \prod_{k=1}^n \left(1 + \frac{1}{n\sqrt{k}}\right)$, $S_n := \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}}$, $H_n := \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k}$ and let

$\sigma_k = \sigma_k(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) := \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k \leq n} x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \dots x_{i_k}$ for any positive real

numbers x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n , where $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

Since $\frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} < 2(\sqrt{k} - \sqrt{k-1})$ then $S_n < \sum_{k=1}^n 2(\sqrt{k} - \sqrt{k-1}) = 2\sqrt{n}$.

Also, noting that $S_n - 2\sqrt{n+1}$ increase and $S_n - 2\sqrt{n}$ decrease by $n \in \mathbb{N}$

we can define some constant $c := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (S_n - 2\sqrt{n}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (S_n - 2\sqrt{n+1})$.

Thus, denoting $\alpha_n := S_n - 2\sqrt{n} - c$ we obtain $S_n = 2\sqrt{n} + c + \alpha_n$, where $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \alpha_n = 0$.

We have $P_n = 1 + \frac{S_n}{n} + \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \frac{1}{\sqrt{ij}} + R_n$, where $R_n := \sum_{k=3}^n \frac{1}{n^k} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k \leq n} \frac{1}{\sqrt{i_1 \cdot i_2 \cdot \dots \cdot i_k}}$

Applying Maclaurin's inequality $\sqrt[k]{\frac{\sigma_k}{\binom{n}{k}}} \leq \frac{\sigma_1}{n}$ in the form $\sigma_k \leq \frac{\binom{n}{k}}{n^k} \sigma_1^k$

to $x_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we obtain $\frac{1}{\sqrt{i_1 \cdot i_2 \cdot \dots \cdot i_k}} \leq \frac{\binom{n}{k}}{n^k} \sigma_1^k = \frac{\binom{n}{k}}{n^k} S_n^k$ and, therefore,

$R_n \leq \sum_{k=3}^n \frac{1}{n^k} \cdot \frac{\binom{n}{k}}{n^k} S_n^k$. Since $\frac{\binom{n}{k}}{n^k} < \frac{1}{k!}$ and $S_n < 2\sqrt{n}$ then

$$R_n < \sum_{k=3}^n \frac{1}{n^k k!} \cdot 2^k n^{k/2} \leq \frac{1}{n^{3/2}} \sum_{k=3}^n \frac{2^k}{k!} < \frac{e^2}{n^{3/2}}.$$

Thus, $0 < P_n - 1 - \frac{S_n}{n} - \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \frac{1}{\sqrt{ij}} < \frac{e^2}{n^{3/2}} \Leftrightarrow$

$$0 < n(P_n - 1) - S_n - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \frac{1}{\sqrt{ij}} < \frac{e^2}{n^{1/2}} \text{ and, therefore,}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(n(P_n - 1) - S_n - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \frac{1}{\sqrt{ij}} \right) = 0.$$

Noting that $\sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \frac{1}{\sqrt{ij}} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\left(\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} \right)^2 - \sum_{k=1}^n \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} \right)^2 \right) = \frac{1}{2} (S_n^2 - H_n)$ and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H_n}{n} = 0, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{S_n^2}{n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(2\sqrt{n} + c + \alpha_n)^2}{n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4n + 4\sqrt{n}(c + \alpha_n) + (c + \alpha_n)^2}{n} = 4$$

we obtain $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \frac{1}{\sqrt{ij}} = \frac{1}{2} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} (S_n^2 - H_n) = 2$ and, therefore,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(n(P_n - 1) - S_n - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \frac{1}{\sqrt{ij}} \right) = 0 \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(n(P_n - 1) - 2\sqrt{n} - c - \alpha_n - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \frac{1}{\sqrt{ij}} \right) = 0 \Leftrightarrow$$
$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (n(P_n - 1) - 2\sqrt{n}) = c + 2$$