

Prove that $\left| \ln \left(e + \frac{1}{n} \right) - 1 \right|$ is eventually less than $1/100$.

Proof:

We must show that we have a natural number N sufficiently large for which

$$\left| \ln \left(e + \frac{1}{n} \right) - 1 \right| < \frac{1}{100}$$

for all $n \geq N$. We shall consider the general case, that

$$\left| \ln \left(e + \frac{1}{n} \right) - 1 \right| < \epsilon$$

for all $n \geq N$. In other words that $\ln \left(e + \frac{1}{n} \right)$ is eventually arbitrarily close to 1 within an error ϵ . This implies the desired result with $\epsilon = 1/100$.

Firstly, we should examine the expression $\left| \ln \left(e + \frac{1}{n} \right) - 1 \right| < \epsilon$. Observe the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \ln \left(e + \frac{1}{n} \right) - 1 \right| &= \left| \ln \left(e + \frac{1}{n} \right) - \ln(e) \right| \\ &= \left| \ln \left(\frac{e + \frac{1}{n}}{e} \right) \right| \\ &= \left| \ln \left(1 + \frac{1}{en} \right) \right| \end{aligned}$$

and, because $n \geq 1$, $1 + 1/en > 1$, so $\ln(1 + 1/en) > 0$, thus

$$\left| \ln \left(e + \frac{1}{n} \right) - 1 \right| = \ln \left(1 + \frac{1}{en} \right).$$

Now, if $\ln \left(1 + \frac{1}{en} \right) < \epsilon$, $1 + 1/en < e^\epsilon$ or $1/en < e^\epsilon - 1$. Additionally, because $\epsilon > 0$, $e^\epsilon > 1$, so $e^\epsilon - 1 > 0$. Thus we have

$$\frac{1}{e(e^\epsilon - 1)} < n.$$

\mathbb{R} is an Archimedean field.¹ Consequently a natural number n does in fact satisfy $\frac{1}{e(e^\epsilon - 1)} < n$, call it N .

Claim: for arbitrary $\epsilon > 0$, with N as a defined above, whenever $n \geq N$, $\left| \ln \left(e + \frac{1}{n} \right) - 1 \right| < \epsilon$. We demonstrate this.

Fix $\epsilon > 0$. Let N be a natural number for which $\frac{1}{e(e^\epsilon - 1)} < N$. Let n be an arbitrary natural larger

¹ $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ with $x, y > 0 \longrightarrow \exists n \in \mathbb{N}(nx > y)$. Geometrically, this entails that a line of arbitrary length (y) may be covered by a finite number (n) of line segments of a given length (x).

or equal to N . We have the following:

$$n \geq N > \frac{1}{e(e^\epsilon - 1)}$$

$$e^\epsilon - 1 > \frac{1}{ne}$$

$$e^\epsilon > \frac{1}{ne} + 1$$

now, because \ln is monotonic,

$$\ln(e^\epsilon) > \ln\left(\frac{1}{ne} + 1\right) = \left|\ln\left(\frac{1}{ne} + 1\right)\right|$$

so

$$\epsilon > \left|\ln\left(\frac{1}{ne} + 1\right)\right|$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{but } \left|\ln\left(\frac{1}{ne} + 1\right)\right| &= \left|\ln\left(\frac{\frac{1}{n}}{e} + \frac{e}{e}\right)\right| = \left|\ln\left(\frac{\frac{1}{n} + e}{e}\right)\right| \\ &= \left|\ln\left(\frac{1}{n} + e\right) - \ln(e)\right| = \left|\ln\left(\frac{1}{n} + e\right) - 1\right| \end{aligned}$$

so

$$\epsilon > \left|\ln\left(\frac{1}{n} + e\right) - 1\right|.$$

Finally, because $n \geq N$ was arbitrary, $\epsilon > \left|\ln\left(\frac{1}{n} + e\right) - 1\right|$ must be true for all $n \geq N$, as desired.