

Question 3.

Find $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \ln\left(\frac{k}{n} + \frac{1}{n}\right)$, where \ln denotes the natural logarithm.

Solution

It is known that

$$-1 = \int_0^1 \ln x \, dx = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \ln\left(\frac{k}{n}\right),$$

and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0$$

Then,

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \ln\left(\frac{k}{n} + \frac{1}{n}\right) \geq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \ln\left(\frac{k}{n}\right) \rightarrow -1.$$

$0 < \frac{1}{n} \leq 1$, for $n_0 = 1$, therefore

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \ln\left(\frac{k}{n} + \frac{1}{n}\right) \leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \ln\left(\frac{k}{n} + 1\right)$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \ln\left(\frac{k}{n} + 1\right) &= \int_0^1 \ln(x+1) \, dx \\ &= \int_1^2 \ln x \, dx \approx 0.38629 \end{aligned}$$

We obtain the result as $n \rightarrow \infty$, $\frac{1}{n} \rightarrow 0$, therefore

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \ln\left(\frac{k}{n} + \frac{1}{n}\right) = -1$$