

A note on the harmonic series and the logarithm

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Abstract

A relationship between the harmonic series and the logarithm is presented. The formula $H(n) - \log(n)$ for the Euler-Mascheroni constant is adopted accordingly.

$$\gamma = \left(\frac{1}{1} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n} \right) - \left(\frac{1}{n+1} + \frac{1}{n+2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n+n^2} \right)$$

Figure 1: Illustration of $H(n)$ and $\log(n)$ as part of $H(n+n^2)$

$H(n+n^2)$

$$\frac{1}{1} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \dots \frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{n+1} + \frac{1}{n+2} \dots \frac{1}{n+n^2}$$

$H(n) \qquad \approx \log(n)$

Figure 2: Relationship between $\log(n)$ and its approximation $H(n+n^2) - H(n)$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \cdot \left(\underbrace{H(n+n^2) - H(n)}_{\approx \log(n)} - \log(n) \right) = \frac{1}{2}$$

Mathematica Codes:

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Limit[2*HarmonicNumber[n] - HarmonicNumber[n + n*n], n -> Infinity]
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Limit[n*(HarmonicNumber[n + n*n] - HarmonicNumber[n] - Log[n]), n -> Infinity]
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