

## Proof that $e$ is Rational

by

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**ABSTRACT:** In this short paper, I used Joseph Fourier's proof that  $e$  is irrational to prove that it is actually a *rational* number.

### Proof That $e$ Is Rational

Assume  $e = \frac{r}{n}$ , where  $r$  and  $n$  are very large positive integers.

$$\frac{r}{n} = e$$

Multiply both sides by  $n!$  to obtain

$$r(n-1)! = n!e$$

The left side is an integer, while the right side could be an integer if and only if  $n$  is a very large positive integer

$$n!e = n! \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{n!}{k!} + \sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} \frac{n!}{k!}$$

The first sum on the right is an integer. The second sum  $x$

$$x = \sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} \frac{n!}{k!} = \frac{n!}{(n+1)!} + \frac{n!}{(n+2)!} + \dots$$

Now take the limit

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1}{n+1} + \frac{1}{(n+1)(n+2)} + \dots \right) \\ x &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{n^2} + \frac{1}{n^3} + \dots \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1}{n-1} \right) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $x = 0$

$$n!e = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{n!}{k!} + x$$

$$n!e = \text{integer} + 0 = \text{integer}$$

and from

$$e = \frac{r}{n}$$

$r$  must also be a very large positive integer

$$e = \lim_{r, n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{r}{n}$$

**Therefore,**  $e$  is a rational number that is the ratio of two very large positive integers.

$$e = \frac{271828182\dots d}{100000000\dots 0} = 2.71828182\dots d$$

$d$  is the last decimal digit of  $e$ .

**REFERENCE:** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proof\\_that\\_e\\_is\\_irrational](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proof_that_e_is_irrational)