

N10
Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to find a good way approximate e . In our research ,we get some formulas to approximate e by **L'Hospital's rule**.

This study has a open vast vistas. We get a kind of functions to approximate e by **Talyor's theorem**. By these functions we can get some numbers which can replace e in approximate calculation.

Key words. e , approximate

A Study of the Approximation of e

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1 Lemma

• L'Hospital's rule

Functions f, F are differentiable on an open interval I except possibly at a point a contained in I , if

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = 0, \lim_{x \rightarrow a} F(x) = 0$;
- $F'(x) \neq 0$ for all x in I with $x \neq a$;
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f'(x)}{F'(x)}$ exists (or is ∞),

$$\text{then } \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{F(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f'(x)}{F'(x)}$$

Proof. WLOG, we assume $f(a) = F(a) = 0$, then by **Cauchy mean value theorem**¹, we get

$\exists \xi \in (a, x)$ or (x, a) , s.t.

$$\frac{f(x)}{F(x)} = \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{F(x) - F(a)} = \frac{f'(\xi)}{F'(\xi)}$$

so

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{F(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f'(\xi)}{F'(\xi)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f'(x)}{F'(x)}$$

□

• Taylor's theorem

If function $f(x)$ is $(n+1)^{th}$ differentiable on (a, b) , then $\forall x \in (a, b)$, we have

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n f^{(k)}(x_0) \frac{(x-x_0)^k}{k!} + R_n(x) \text{ and } R_n(x) = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!} (x-x_0)^{n+1}.$$

Proof. Let

$$P_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n f^{(k)}(x_0) \frac{(x-x_0)^k}{k!},$$

we just to prove

$$R_n(x) = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!} (x-x_0)^{n+1}.$$

When $n = 0$, by **Cauchy mean value theorem**, we know the proposition is true; if the proposition is true for n , now we prove that it is true for $n+1$.

By inductive assumption, $R_n(x)$ is $(n+1)^{th}$ differentiable on (a, b) and

$$R_n^{(k)}(x_0) = 0 (k \in [0, n] \cap \mathbb{Z}).$$

*Thanks: Xinding Xi, Wenxuan Cui

¹The proof of **Cauchy mean value theorem** is presented in paper[1]

So by **Cauchy mean value theorem**, we get

$$\frac{R_n^{(k)}(\xi_k)}{A_{n+1}^k(\xi_k - x_0)^{k+1}} = \frac{R_n^{(k)}(\xi_k) - R_n^{(k)}(x_0)}{A_{n+1}^k[(\xi_k - x_0)^{k+1} - 0]} = \frac{R_n^{(k+1)}(\xi_{k+1})}{A_{n+1}^{k+1}(\xi_{k+1} - x_0)^k}$$

($\xi_0 = x, \xi_{k+1} \in (\xi_k, x_0)$ or $(x_0, \xi_k), \xi_n = \xi$), so

$$\frac{R_n(x)}{(x - x_0)^{n+1}} = \frac{R_n^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!} = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!} \Rightarrow R_n(x) = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!} (x - x_0)^{n+1}.$$

□

By **Taylor's theorem**, we have

$$\ln(1+x) = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(-1)^{k+1} x^k}{k} + O(x^{n+1}).$$

• $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x - \ln(1+x)}{x^2} = \frac{1}{2}.$

Proof. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x - \ln(1+x)}{x^2} \stackrel{\text{L'Hospital's rule}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1 - \frac{1}{1+x}}{2x} = \frac{1}{2}.$

□

• ²For $x \in \mathbb{R}_+, (1 + \frac{1}{x})^x < e < (1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+1}$, and we have $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} (1 + \frac{1}{x})^x = \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} (1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+1} = e.$

2 First strengthening

Now we try to strengthen the conclusion to

$$(1 + \frac{1}{x})^x < e < (1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}}$$

Proof. Let

$$f(x) \equiv \frac{1}{\ln(1 + \frac{1}{x})} - x \equiv g(\frac{1}{x}),$$

Then

$$g(x) = \frac{1}{\ln(1+x)} - \frac{1}{x} \text{ and } e = (1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+f(x)},$$

We have

$$g'(x) = \frac{(\ln(1+x) + \frac{x}{\sqrt{1+x}})(\ln(1+x) - \frac{x}{\sqrt{1+x}})}{x^2 \ln^2(1+x)}.$$

Let

$$h(x) \equiv \ln(1+x) - \frac{x}{\sqrt{1+x}},$$

∴ $h'(x) = -\frac{(\sqrt{1+x} - 1)^2}{2(1+x)^{\frac{3}{2}}} < 0, h(0) = 0,$

∴ when $x > 0, g'(x) < 0 \Rightarrow g(x)$ is decreasing on $\mathbb{R}_+ \Rightarrow f(x)$ is increasing on $\mathbb{R}_+.$

We have $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = 0$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} g(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x - \ln(1+x)}{x \ln(1+x)} \stackrel{\text{L'Hospital's rule}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\frac{x}{1+x}}{\ln(1+x) + \frac{x}{1+x}}$

$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x}{x + (1+x)\ln(1+x)} \stackrel{\text{L'Hospital's rule}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{2 + \ln(1+x)} = \frac{1}{2}.$

So

$$f(x) \in (0, \frac{1}{2}) \Rightarrow (1 + \frac{1}{x})^x < e < (1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}}.$$

By the way, when $x \rightarrow \infty, (1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}}$ approximate e better than $(1 + \frac{1}{x})^x.$

□

²The proof of this conclusion is presented in paper[1]

3 Second strengthening

Now we compare the approximation to e between $(1 + \frac{1}{x})^x$ and $(1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}}$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{e - (1 + \frac{1}{x})^x}{x[(1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}} - e]} \\
 = & \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x[e - (1 + x)^{\frac{1}{x}}]}{(1 + x)^{\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{2}} - e} \\
 \stackrel{\text{L'Hospital's rule}}{=} & \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{e - (1 + x)^{\frac{1}{x}} - (1 + x)^{\frac{1}{x} - 1} + \frac{\ln(1+x)}{x}(1 + x)^{\frac{1}{x}}}{\frac{1}{2}(1 + x)^{\frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{2}} + \frac{1}{x}(1 + x)^{\frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{2}} - \frac{\ln(1+x)}{x^2}(1 + x)^{\frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{2}}} \\
 \stackrel{\text{L'Hospital's rule}}{=} & \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} (1 + x)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \frac{1 + \frac{2x(1+x)\ln(1+x) - x^2 - (1+x)^2 \ln^2(1+x)}{x^3}}{-\frac{1}{4} + \frac{x^2(1+x)\ln(1+x) + (1+x)^2 \ln^2(1+x) - x^2(1+2x)}{x^4}} \\
 = & \frac{1 + \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{2x(1+x)\ln(1+x) - x^2 - (1+x)^2 \ln^2(1+x)}{x^3}}{-\frac{1}{4} + \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x^2(1+x)\ln(1+x) + (1+x)^2 \ln^2(1+x) - x^2(1+2x)}{x^4}} \\
 = & \frac{1 - \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{x} \left(\frac{x - (1+x)\ln(1+x)}{x^2} \right)^2}{-\frac{1}{4} + \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \left[\frac{\ln(1+x)}{x} + \left(\frac{\ln(1+x)}{x} \right)^2 + 2 \frac{\ln(1+x) - x}{x^2} \frac{\ln(1+x) + x}{x} + \frac{x^2 \ln(1+x) + \ln^2(1+x) - x^2}{x^4} \right]} \\
 \stackrel{\text{L'Hospital's rule}}{=} & \frac{1}{-\frac{1}{4} + \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x^2 \ln(1+x) + \ln^2(1+x) - x^2}{x^4}} \\
 & \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x^2 \ln(1+x) + \ln^2(1+x) - x^2}{x^4} \\
 \stackrel{\text{Taylor's formula}}{=} & \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{(x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} + O(x^4))^2 - x^2 + x^2(x - \frac{x^2}{2} + O(x^3))}{x^4} \\
 = & \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\frac{5}{12}x^4 + O(x^5)}{x^4} \\
 = & \frac{5}{12}
 \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{e - (1 + \frac{1}{x})^x}{x[(1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}} - e]} = \frac{1}{-\frac{1}{4} + \frac{5}{12}} = 6.$$

So we can use

$$\frac{6x(1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}} + (1 + \frac{1}{x})^x}{6x + 1}$$

to approximate e .

Now we prove when $x \in \mathbb{R}_+, e > \frac{6x(1+\frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}} + (1+\frac{1}{x})^x}{6x+1}$.

Proof. Let

$$f(x) = \frac{6x(1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}} + (1 + \frac{1}{x})^x}{6x + 1}.$$

$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = e$,

\therefore we just need to prove $f(x)$ is increasing.

Let

$$g(x) \equiv f\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \Rightarrow g(x) = (1 + x)^{\frac{1}{x}} \frac{6\sqrt{1+x} + x}{6+x}.$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & f(x) \text{ is increasing} \iff g(x) \text{ is decreasing} \iff g'(x) < 0 \\
 \iff & \frac{(1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}}}{(x+6)^2} \left\{ \frac{(6+x)(6\sqrt{1+x}+x)}{x^2} \left[\frac{x}{1+x} - \ln(1+x) \right] + \frac{12+6\sqrt{1+x}-3x}{\sqrt{1+x}} \right\} < 0 \\
 \iff & \frac{(6+x)(6\sqrt{1+x}+x)}{x^2} \left[\frac{x}{1+x} - \ln(1+x) \right] + \frac{12+6\sqrt{1+x}-3x}{\sqrt{1+x}} < 0 \\
 \iff & \sqrt{1+x}(6+x)(6\sqrt{1+x}+x) \left[\ln(1+x) - \frac{x}{1+x} \right] + x^2(3x-12-6\sqrt{1+x}) > 0 \tag{1}
 \end{aligned}$$

Let $\sqrt{1+x} = a$, then we have $a > 1, x = a^2 - 1$.

Use a substitute x , we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 (1) \iff & (2 \ln a + \frac{1}{a^2} - 1)a(a^2 + 6a - 1)(a^2 + 5) + (a^2 - 1)^2(3a^2 - 6a - 15) > 0 \\
 \iff & h(a) \equiv \ln a + \frac{(a^2 - 1)(3a^5 + 5a^4 - 24a^3 - 10a^2 - 15a + 5)}{2a^2(a^2 + 6a - 1)(a^2 + 5)} > 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore h(1) = 0$, so we just need to prove

$$\begin{aligned}
 & h'(x) > 0 \\
 \iff & \frac{2a(a+1)^2(a-1)}{4a^4(a^2+6a-1)^2(a^2+5)^2} (3a^8 + 35a^7 + 85a^6 + 471a^5 + 195a^4 - 795a^3 + 1395a^2 - 575a + 50) > 0 \\
 \iff & 3a^8 + 35a^7 + 85a^6 + 471a^5 + 195a^4 - 795a^3 + 1395a^2 - 575a + 50 > 0 \\
 \iff & 3a^8 + 35a^7 + 56a^6 + 625a^2 + 50 + 29a^3(a^3 - 1) + 471a^3(a^2 - 1) + 195a^2(a - 1)^2 + 575a(a - 1) > 0
 \end{aligned}$$

Now it is obviously. □

4 Third strengthening

Now we find the best constant λ which makes $\frac{(6x+\lambda)(1+\frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}}+(1+\frac{1}{x})^x}{6x+1+\lambda}$ close to e .

Let

$$\lambda(x) = \frac{(6x+1)e - (1+\frac{1}{x})^x - 6x(1+\frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}}}{(1+\frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}} - e},$$

then we have

$$\frac{(6x+\lambda(x))(1+\frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}}+(1+\frac{1}{x})^x}{6x+1+\lambda(x)} = e.$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{(6x+1)e - (1+\frac{1}{x})^x - 6x(1+\frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}}}{(1+\frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}} - e} \\
 = & \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{e(6+x) - (1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}+\frac{1}{2}} - x(1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}}}{x((1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}+\frac{1}{2}} - e)} \\
 \stackrel{\text{L'Hospital's rule}}{=} & \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{e - (1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}} + (\frac{\ln(1+x)}{x} - \frac{1}{1+x})(1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}} + 3[\frac{2}{x}(\frac{\ln(1+x)}{x} - \frac{1}{1+x}) - \frac{1}{x+1}](1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}+\frac{1}{2}}}{\frac{x}{2(1+x)}(1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}+\frac{1}{2}} + [(1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}+\frac{1}{2}} - e] - (\frac{\ln(1+x)}{x} - \frac{1}{1+x})(1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}+\frac{1}{2}}} \tag{2}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \left[\frac{2}{x} \left(\frac{\ln(1+x)}{x} - \frac{1}{1+x} \right) - \frac{1}{x+1} \right] = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{2(1+x) \ln(1+x) - x^2 - 2x}{x^2(1+x)} \stackrel{\text{L'Hospital's rule}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{2 \ln(1+x) - 2x}{2x} = 0,$$

∴ the numerator and denominator of (2) both are approximate to 0 when $x \rightarrow 0^+$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2) \quad & \stackrel{\text{L'Hospital's rule}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x}} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{1+x} \left(\frac{3}{2} + \frac{12x+6}{x^2} - \frac{6(1+x)\ln(1+x)}{x^2} - \frac{6(1+x)^2 \ln^2(1+x)}{x^4} \right) + 1 - \frac{1}{x} + \frac{2(1+x)\ln(1+x)}{x^2}}{\frac{3x^2+4x+4}{4x} - \frac{(x+2)(x+1)}{x^2} \ln(1+x) + \frac{(1+x)^2}{x^3} \ln^2(1+x)} \\
 & \quad - \frac{(1+x)^2 \ln^2(1+x)}{x^3} \\
 & = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \left[\sqrt{1+x} \left(\frac{3}{2} + \frac{12x+6}{x^2} - \frac{6(1+x)\ln(1+x)}{x^2} - \frac{6(1+x)^2 \ln^2(1+x)}{x^4} \right) + 1 - \frac{1}{x} + \frac{2(1+x)\ln(1+x)}{x^2} - \frac{(1+x)^2 \ln^2(1+x)}{x^3} \right]}{\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{3x^2+4x+4}{4x} - \frac{(x+2)(x+1)}{x^2} \ln(1+x) + \frac{(1+x)^2}{x^3} \ln^2(1+x)} \\
 & = \frac{(3)}{(4)} \\
 (3) \quad & = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \sqrt{1+x} \left(-\frac{19}{2x} + \frac{12x+6}{x^3} - \frac{6\ln(1+x)}{x^3} - \frac{6(2x+1)\ln^2(1+x)}{x^5} \right) + \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \sqrt{1+x} \left(\frac{12}{x} - \frac{6x\ln(1+x)}{x^3} \right. \\
 & \quad \left. - \frac{6x^2}{x^5} \right) + \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \left(\frac{1}{x} - \frac{\sqrt{1+x}}{x} \right) + \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \left(-\frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{2(1+x)\ln(1+x)}{x^3} - \frac{(1+x)^2 \ln^2(1+x)}{x^4} \right) \\
 & = (5) + (6) + (7) + (8). \\
 (5) \quad & = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{-19x^4 + 12x^2(2x+1) - 12x^2 \ln(1+x) - 12(2x+1)\ln^2(1+x)}{2x^5} \\
 & \stackrel{\text{Taylor's formula}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{-19x^4 + 24x^3 + 12x^2 - 12x^2 \left(x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} + O(x^4) \right) - 12(2x+1) \left(x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} + O(x^5) \right)^2}{2x^5} \\
 & = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{-13x^4 + 12x^3 + 12x^2 - 4x^5 + O(x^6) - (2x+1)(12x^2 - 12x^3 + 11x^4 - 10x^5 + O(x^6))}{2x^5} \\
 & = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{-13x^4 + 12x^3 + 12x^2 - 4x^5 + O(x^6) - (12x^2 + 12x^3 - 13x^4 + 12x^5 + O(x^6))}{2x^5} \\
 & = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{-16x^5 + O(x^6)}{2x^5} \\
 & = -8 \\
 (6) \quad & = 6 \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x - \ln(1+x)}{x^2} \cdot \frac{2x + \ln(1+x)}{x} \\
 & = 9 \\
 (7) \quad & = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1 - \sqrt{1+x}}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{-x}{x(1 + \sqrt{1+x})} \\
 & = -\frac{1}{2} \\
 (8) \quad & = -\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{[x - (1+x)\ln(1+x)]^2}{x^4} \\
 & = -\left(\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x - (1+x)\ln(1+x)}{x^2} \right)^2 \\
 & \stackrel{\text{L'Hospital's rule}}{=} -\left(\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1 - \ln(1+x) - 1}{2x} \right)^2 \\
 & = -\frac{1}{4} \\
 \text{So (3)} \quad & = -8 + 9 - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{4}. \\
 (4) \quad & = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \left(\frac{3}{4} - \frac{x^2 \ln(1+x)}{x^3} + \frac{x^2 \ln^2(1+x)}{x^4} \right) + \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x - \ln(1+x)}{x^2} \cdot \frac{x^2 + x - (2x+1)\ln(1+x)}{x^2} \\
 & = \frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{2} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x^2 + x - (2x+1)\ln(1+x)}{x^2} \\
 & = \frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{2} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \left(\frac{x^2 - 2x\ln(1+x)}{x^2} + \frac{x - \ln(1+x)}{x^2} \right) \\
 & = \frac{1}{2}
 \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\lambda = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \lambda(x) = \frac{\frac{1}{4}}{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

In summary,we can use

$$\frac{(6x + \frac{1}{2})(1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}} + (1 + \frac{1}{x})^x}{6x + \frac{3}{2}}$$

to approximate e .

By the way,is there exist a strict inequality between e and $\frac{(6x+\frac{1}{2})(1+\frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}}+(1+\frac{1}{x})^x}{6x+\frac{3}{2}} \equiv f(x)$?

The verification indicates that $f(1) < e < f(0.1)$,actually,the root of the equation $f(x) = e$ is in the interval $(0.4919825571, 0.4919825575)$.So the strict inequality is complex,we won't discuss it below.

If $x \rightarrow +\infty$, $f(x)$ will approximate e well;if x approaching the root before, $f(x)$ will approximate e well,too.
In special,let $x = \frac{1}{2}$,we get

$$f(\frac{1}{2}) = \frac{21 + \sqrt{3}}{9} \approx 2.71823351,$$

the deviation between $f(\frac{1}{2})$ and e is less than $5 \cdot 10^{-5}$,we can use it in some approximate calculation.

5 Table

Now we show the table about the approximation between e and the four function before(round it to four significant digits).

	1	10	100
$e - (1 + \frac{1}{x})^x$	$7.182 \cdot 10^{-1}$	$1.245 \cdot 10^{-1}$	$1.347 \cdot 10^{-2}$
$(1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}} - e$	$1.101 \cdot 10^{-1}$	$2.058 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$2.243 \cdot 10^{-5}$
$e - \frac{6x(1+\frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}}+(1+\frac{1}{x})^x}{6x+1}$	$8.201 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$1.716 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$1.870 \cdot 10^{-8}$
$e - \frac{(6x+\frac{1}{2})(1+\frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}}+(1+\frac{1}{x})^x}{6x+\frac{3}{2}}$	$3.117 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$2.837 \cdot 10^{-7}$	$3.668 \cdot 10^{-11}$

6 Vista

6.1 Generalization

Let's consider the formula

$$\frac{(1 + \frac{1}{x})^x + (6x + \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{a_k}{x^k})(1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}}}{6x + \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{a_k}{x^k} + 1},$$

which a_k is the best constant to let formula approximate e .

Let

$$f(x) \equiv \frac{e - (1 + \frac{1}{x})^x}{\frac{1}{x}^{x+\frac{1}{2}} - e} - 6x,$$

then we have

$$e = \frac{(1 + \frac{1}{x})^x + (6x + f(x))(1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}}}{6x + f(x) + 1},$$

by reciprocal substitution,we have

$$f(\frac{1}{x}) = \frac{e - (1 + x)^{\frac{1}{x}}}{(1 + x)^{\frac{1}{x}+\frac{1}{2}} - e} - \frac{6}{x} \equiv g(x).$$

After expand this formula at $x = 0$ by **Talyor's formula**,we get

$$g(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n a'_k x^k + O(x^{n+1}),$$

we also have

$$\sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} \frac{a_k}{x^k} = f(x) \Rightarrow \sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} a_k x^k = g(x) \Rightarrow \forall k \in \mathbb{N}, a_k = a'_k$$

so we just need to expand $g(x)$ to get the approximant:

$$g(x) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{10}x - \frac{27}{160}x^2 + \frac{18233}{100800}x^3 - \frac{5179}{28800}x^4 + \frac{352741}{2016000}x^5 - \frac{10908403}{64512000}x^6 + \frac{218799997903}{1341204480000}x^7 - \frac{28155913529}{178827264000}x^8 + \frac{530510007035063}{348713164800000}x^9 - \frac{13037704174051}{88562073600000}x^{10} + O(x^{11}).$$

So $a_0 = \frac{1}{2}$ (this data agree well with our computing result), $a_1 = \frac{1}{10}$, $a_2 = -\frac{27}{160} \dots$

The comparison between the formula and e is complex,we won't discuss it here.

6.2 Change templet

All above is the consideration about the weighted average of $(1 + \frac{1}{x})^x$ and $(1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}}$,we can consider the better one.

First we consider

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^{x + \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{a_k}{x^k}}$$

(a_k is the best constant which makes the formula approximate e).

Let

$$f(x) \equiv \frac{1}{\ln(1+x)} - \frac{1}{x},$$

then we have

$$e = \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^{x+f(x)}.$$

Similarly,after expand $f(x)$ at $x = 0$ by **Talyor's formula**,we get

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{12}x + \frac{1}{24}x^2 - \frac{19}{720}x^3 + \frac{3}{160}x^4 - \frac{863}{60480}x^5 + \frac{275}{24192}x^6 - \frac{33953}{3628800}x^7 + \frac{8183}{1036800}x^8 - \frac{3250433}{47900600}x^9 + \frac{4671}{788480}x^{10} + O(x^{11}).$$

So $a_0 = \frac{1}{2}$, $a_2 = -\frac{1}{12}$, $a_3 = \frac{1}{24} \dots$ we also have the recurrence relation:

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{2}, a_{n+1} = \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n+3} + \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(-1)^n}{n+2-k} a_k.$$

Second we consider the weighted average.Consider

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{(1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}} - e}{x(e - (1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{12x}})} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x[(1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}+\frac{1}{2}} - e]}{(e - (1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}+\frac{1}{2} - \frac{x}{12}})},$$

by calculate,we know this limit equal to 2,

so we can use

$$\frac{2x(1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{12x}} + (1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}}}{2x + 1}$$

to approximate e .

Similarly we can use

$$\frac{(2x + \frac{4}{15})(1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{12x}} + (1 + \frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}}}{2x + \frac{19}{15}}$$

to approximate e .

N10

Let's show the result by table(round it to four significant digits):

	1	10	100
$\frac{2x(1+\frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{1}{12x} + (1+\frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}}}{2x+1} - e$	$4.314 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$1.283 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$1.484 \cdot 10^{-10}$
$e - \frac{(2x+\frac{4}{15})(1+\frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{1}{12x} + (1+\frac{1}{x})^{x+\frac{1}{2}}}{2x+\frac{19}{15}}$	$5.972 \cdot 10^{-6}$	$5.889 \cdot 10^{-9}$	$7.860 \cdot 10^{-14}$

7 Reference

[1]高等数学.上册/同济大学数学系编。-7版。-北京：高等教育出版社。