

Let $a_n(i) = \sqrt{1+(i-1)\sqrt{1+i\sqrt{\dots\sqrt{1+n\sqrt{1+n+1}}}}}$

Especially, $a_n(3) = a_n$ which defined in the problem.

Let $b_n(i) = i - a_n(i)$

Let $c_n(i) = \frac{b_n(i)}{i-1}$.

Prop 1. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n(i) = i$. i.e. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n(i) = 0$.

proof is not hard, left for the readers.

Hint - $3 = \sqrt{1+8} = \sqrt{1+2\sqrt{16}} = \sqrt{1+2\sqrt{1+3\sqrt{25}}} = \sqrt{1+2\sqrt{1+3\sqrt{1+4\sqrt{36}}}} = \dots$

Prop 2. $a_n(n+2) = \sqrt{n+2}$. $c_n(i) \leq 1$ for $i = 3, 4, \dots, n+1, n+2$

pf) by definition and calculation.

Prop 3. if $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3 - a_{n+1}}{3 - a_n} = \frac{1}{2}$, then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1} - a_n}{a_n - a_{n-1}} = \frac{1}{2}$.

pf) Let $d_n = a_n - a_{n-1}$. Then $\sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} d_n = 3 - a_n$. If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3 - a_{n+1}}{3 - a_n} = \frac{1}{2}$,

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{k=n+2}^{\infty} d_n}{d_{n+1} + \sum_{k=n+2}^{\infty} d_n} = \frac{1}{2}$. Both numerator and denominator converges, and both are

not zero at any time. so we can reverse it.

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d_{n+1} + \sum_{k=n+2}^{\infty} d_n}{\sum_{k=n+2}^{\infty} d_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d_{n+1}}{\sum_{k=n+2}^{\infty} d_n} + 1 = 2$. thus $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d_{n+1}}{\sum_{k=n+2}^{\infty} d_n} = 1$.

Similarly, from $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3 - a_{n+2}}{3 - a_n} = \frac{1}{4}$, we can know $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d_n}{\sum_{k=n+2}^{\infty} d_n} = 2$.

Thus $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d_{n+1}}{d_n} = \frac{1}{2}$, so we get $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1} - a_n}{a_n - a_{n-1}} = \frac{1}{2}$. Q.E.D.

Proof of the problem

We could easily know that

$$i+1-b_n(i+1)=a_n(i+1)=\frac{a_n(i)^2-1}{i-1}=\frac{(i-b_n(i))^2-1}{i-1}=i+1+\frac{b_n(i)^2-2ib_n(i)}{i-1}$$

$$b_n(i+1)-2\frac{i}{i-1}b_n(i)+\frac{b_n(i)^2}{i-1}=0$$

$$c_n(i+1)-2c_n(i)+\frac{i-1}{i}c_n(i)^2=0 \dots (1)$$

From this equation, we can derive these two inequality.

$$c_n(i+1)=2c_n(i)-\frac{i-1}{i}c_n(i)^2 < 2c_n(i) \dots (2)$$

$$c_n(i+1)-2c_n(i)+c_n(i)^2 > 0 \dots (3)$$

(3) is 2nd-order inequality, so we can prove it well known formula.

$$0 < c_n(i) < 1 - \sqrt{1 - c_n(i+1)} \dots (4) \text{ (Since } c_n(i) < 1)$$

$$\text{From (2) we get } c_n(3) > \frac{c_n(4)}{2} > \dots > \frac{c_n(n+2)}{2^{n-1}} = \frac{b_n(n+2)}{(n+1)2^{n-1}} = \frac{n+2-\sqrt{n+2}}{(n+1)2^{n-1}}$$

From (4) we get

$$c_n(3) < 1 - \sqrt{1 - c_n(4)} < 1 - \sqrt{1 - (1 - \sqrt{1 - c_n(5)})^2} = 1 - (1 - c_n(5))^{\frac{1}{4}} < \dots < 1 - (1 - c_n(n+2))^{\frac{1}{2^{n-1}}}$$

$$= 1 - (1 - \frac{1}{2^{n-1}} \times c_n(n+2) - O(\frac{1}{2^{2n-2}} c_n(n+2)^2)) = \frac{n+2-\sqrt{n+2}}{(n+1)2^{n-1}} + O(\frac{1}{2^{2n-2}})$$

$0 < c_n(n+2) < 1$ guarantee that we can put all redundant terms to $O(\frac{1}{2^{2n-2}})$.

Since $b_n(3) = 2c_n(3)$,

$$\frac{n+2-\sqrt{n+2}}{(n+1)2^{n-2}} < b_n(3) < \frac{n+2-\sqrt{n+2}}{(n+1)2^{n-2}} + O(\frac{1}{2^{2n-2}})$$

Hence we get $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{b_{n+1}(3)}{b_n(3)} = \frac{1}{2}$.

and by Prop 3 with this result, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1} - a_n}{a_n - a_{n-1}} = \frac{1}{2}$.