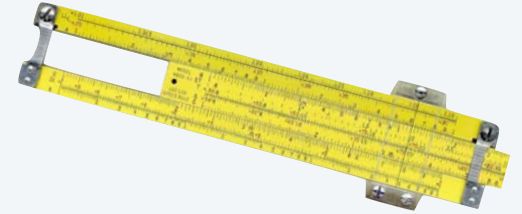
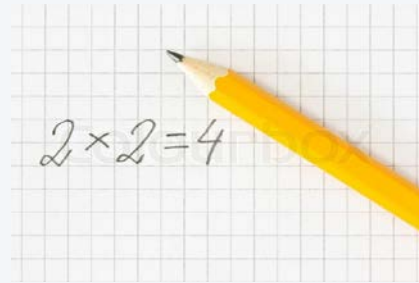


“An equation means nothing to me unless it expresses a thought of God.”

– Srinivasa Ramanujan

$$Q(N) \equiv \sum_{1 \leq k \leq N} \frac{N!}{(N-k)!N^k} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi N}{2}} + O(1)$$



AofA Asymptotics Q&A 1

Q. Give an asymptotic approximation of $e^{H_{2N} - H_N}$ to within $O\left(\frac{1}{N^2}\right)$

A.

AofA Asymptotics Q&A 1 (improved version)

Q. Match each function with an asymptotic expansion.

$$H_N$$

$$\exp(H_{2N} - H_N) - 1$$

$$\exp(H_N)$$

$$\exp\left(\frac{1}{N}\right)$$

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{N}\right)^{-1}$$

$$1 + \frac{1}{2N} + O\left(\frac{1}{N^2}\right)$$

$$1 + \frac{1}{N} + O\left(\frac{1}{N^2}\right)$$

$$N + O(1)$$

$$1 - \frac{1}{N} + O\left(\frac{1}{N^2}\right)$$

$$1 - \frac{1}{2N} + O\left(\frac{1}{N^2}\right)$$

$$\ln N + \gamma + \frac{1}{2N} + O\left(\frac{1}{N^2}\right)$$

$$N + \gamma + O\left(\frac{1}{N}\right)$$

AofA Asymptotics Q&A 2

Q. Match each of the topics described in the book with a mathematician's name.

Approximate a sum with an integral

Expand a differentiable function

Approximate factorials

Birthday function

Approximate a function by swapping tails

Laplace

Ramanujan

Euler

Taylor

Stirling



No, this is not high school, but... *You do not want to appear to be ignorant!*

AofA Asymptotics Q&A 3

Q. Match each expression with an approximation to its value.

$$1.01^{10}$$

$$1.05^{10}$$

$$1.01^{20}$$

$$1.01^{50}$$

$$1.01^{100}$$

1.10102

1.10462

1.22019

1.50034

1.62889

1.64463

2.02300

2.70481

2.71828

$$(1+x)^t = \sum_{0 \leq k \leq t} \binom{t}{k} x^k$$

$$= 1 + tx + \frac{t(t-1)}{2} x^2 + O(x^3)$$

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{N}\right)^t = 1 + \frac{t}{N} + \frac{t(t-1)}{2N^2} + O\left(\frac{1}{N^3}\right)$$

$$1.01^{10} = 1 + \frac{10}{100} + \frac{90}{20000} + \dots$$

$$\approx 1.1045$$

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{N}\right)^{\alpha N} = 1 + \frac{\alpha N}{N} + \frac{\alpha^2 N^2}{2N^2} + \dots \quad \times$$

$$\left(1 + \frac{1}{N}\right)^{\alpha N} = \exp(\alpha N \ln(1 + 1/N))$$

$$= \exp(\alpha N(1/N + O(1/N^2)))$$

$$= e^\alpha + O\left(\frac{1}{N}\right)$$

$$1.01^{50} \approx \sqrt{e}$$

AofA Asymptotics Q&A 3

Q. Match each expression with an approximation to its value.

