

1137. Proposed by Peter Lindstrom, Batavia, NY

Let n be a positive integer and T_i be the i^{th} triangular number.

Find the value of

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n \binom{n}{j} i^{n-j}}{(T_i)^n}.$$

Solution by Rex H. Wu, Brooklyn, NY.

The numerator is the binomial expansion without the first term:

$$(i+1)^n = \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} i^{n-j}$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \binom{n}{j} i^{n-j} = (i+1)^n - i^n$$

Then the fractional part becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n \binom{n}{j} i^{n-j}}{(T_i)^n} &= \frac{(i+1)^n - i^n}{\left(\frac{i(i+1)}{2}\right)^n} \\ &= \frac{(i+1)^n}{\frac{i^n(i+1)^n}{2^n}} - \frac{i^n}{\frac{i^n(i+1)^n}{2^n}} \\ &= \left(\frac{2}{i}\right)^n - \left(\frac{2}{i+1}\right)^n \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\sum_{j=1}^n \binom{n}{j} i^{n-j}}{(T_i)^n} &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^k \left[\left(\frac{2}{i}\right)^n - \left(\frac{2}{i+1}\right)^n \right] \\ &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left[2^n - \left(\frac{2}{1+1}\right)^n + \left(\frac{2}{2}\right)^n - \left(\frac{2}{2+1}\right)^n \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n - \left(\frac{2}{3+1}\right)^n + \cdots - \left(\frac{2}{k+1}\right)^n \right] \\ &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left[2^n - \left(\frac{2}{k+1}\right)^n \right] \\ &= 2^n \end{aligned}$$

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