

Convergence of e

$$\begin{aligned}\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n &= \binom{n}{0} \frac{1}{n^0} + \binom{n}{1} \frac{1}{n^1} + \binom{n}{2} \frac{1}{n^2} + \binom{n}{3} \frac{1}{n^3} + \binom{n}{4} \frac{1}{n^4} + \cdots + \binom{n}{n} \frac{1}{n^n} \\&= 1 \cdot \frac{1}{1} + n \cdot \frac{1}{n} + \frac{n(n-1)}{2!} \frac{1}{n^2} + \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)}{3!} \frac{1}{n^3} + \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)(n-3)}{4!} \frac{1}{n^4} + \cdots + \frac{n(n-1)(n-2) \cdots 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}{n!} \frac{1}{n^n} \\&= 1 + 1 + \frac{n(n-1)}{n^2} \frac{1}{2!} + \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)}{n^3} \frac{1}{3!} + \frac{n(n-1)(n-2)(n-3)}{n^4} \frac{1}{4!} + \cdots + \frac{n(n-1)(n-2) \cdots 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}{n^n} \frac{1}{n!} \\&= 2 + \binom{n}{n} \left(\frac{n-1}{n}\right) \frac{1}{2!} + \binom{n}{n} \left(\frac{n-1}{n}\right) \left(\frac{n-2}{n}\right) \frac{1}{3!} + \binom{n}{n} \left(\frac{n-1}{n}\right) \left(\frac{n-2}{n}\right) \left(\frac{n-3}{n}\right) \frac{1}{4!} + \cdots + \binom{n}{n} \left(\frac{n-1}{n}\right) \left(\frac{n-2}{n}\right) \cdots \left(\frac{3}{n}\right) \left(\frac{2}{n}\right) \left(\frac{1}{n}\right) \frac{1}{n!} \\&= 2 + \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) \frac{1}{2!} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) \left(1 - \frac{2}{n}\right) \frac{1}{3!} + \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) \left(1 - \frac{2}{n}\right) \left(1 - \frac{3}{n}\right) \frac{1}{4!} + \cdots + \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) \left(1 - \frac{2}{n}\right) \cdots \left(1 - \frac{n-2}{n}\right) \left(1 - \frac{n-1}{n}\right) \frac{1}{n!} \\&< 2 + \frac{1}{2!} + \frac{1}{3!} + \frac{1}{4!} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n!} < 2 + \frac{1}{2^1} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{2^3} + \cdots + \frac{1}{2^{n-1}} < 3\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore e = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n < 3$$