

Solution for Problem U373

We define $a_k = 1 + \frac{1}{1+2+3+\dots+k+(k+1)} = 1 + \frac{2}{k+1} - \frac{2}{k+2}$, where $1 \leq k \leq n-1$.

Applying the AM-GM inequality to the numbers $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_{n-1}$, we get that:-
 $(\frac{a_1+a_2+a_3+\dots+a_{n-1}}{n-1})^{n-1} > a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots a_{n-1}$ (Note that a strict inequality holds because $a_1 \neq a_2 \neq a_3 \neq \dots \neq a_{n-1}$ for $n \geq 2$).
Now, $(\frac{a_1+a_2+a_3+\dots+a_{n-1}}{n-1})^{n-1} = (\frac{(n-1)+2(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{3}+\frac{1}{3}-\frac{1}{4}+\dots+\frac{1}{n}-\frac{1}{n+1})}{n-1})^{n-1} = (1 + \frac{1}{2n+2})^{n-1} < (1 + \frac{1}{n-1})^{n-1}$.
But, the upper bound of $(1 + \frac{1}{n-1})^{n-1}$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ is e , where e is the base of natural logarithms. And since $e < 3$, we get that:-
 $a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots a_{n-1} < (\frac{a_1+a_2+a_3+\dots+a_{n-1}}{n-1})^{n-1} < e < 3$.