

3a. The base case is for  $n = 1$ , where we see the inequality obviously holds true because  $1! > (1/e)^1$ . If we assume the inequality to hold true for  $n$ , then we are left to prove the inequality true for  $n + 1$ .

$$\begin{aligned}(n+1)! &= (n+1)n! \\ (n+1)! &> (n+1)(n/e)^n\end{aligned}$$

Multiplying numerator and denominator on the RHS by  $(n+1)^n$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}(n+1)! &> (n+1)^{n+1}(n/(n+1))^n/e^n \\ (n+1)! &> (n+1)^{n+1}(1/(1+1/n)^n)/e^n\end{aligned}$$

Now, since  $e > (1 + 1/n)^n$  for all  $n$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}(n+1)! &> (n+1)^{n+1}(1/e)/e^n \\ (n+1)! &> (n+1)^{n+1}/e^{n+1} \\ (n+1)! &> ((n+1)/e)^{n+1}\end{aligned}$$

This concludes the proof by induction. Let's now prove by construction (although not asked for in the exercise).

Consider the following expansion of  $n!e^n$ .

$$n!e^n = \prod_{k=1}^n ke$$

We are now going to replace each of the  $e$ 's with an inequality based on the fact that  $e > (1 + 1/r)^r$  for all positive integers  $r$ .

$$n!e^n > \prod_{k=1}^n k(1 + 1/k)^k$$

$$n!e^n > \prod_{k=1}^n (k+1)^k / k^{k-1}$$

We can now cancel each of the denominators on the RHS with the preceding numerator, and obtain

$$n!e^n > (n+1)^n$$

$$n!e^n > n^n$$

$$\therefore n! > (n/e)^n$$

This concludes the proof.