

**Problem 11768**

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Let  $f$  be a bounded continuous function mapping  $[0, +\infty)$  to itself. Find

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left( \sqrt[n]{\int_0^{+\infty} f^{n+1}(x)e^{-x} dx} - \sqrt[n]{\int_0^{+\infty} f^n(x)e^{-x} dx} \right).$$

Solution proposed by Roberto Tauraso, Dipartimento di Matematica, Università di Roma "Tor Vergata", via della Ricerca Scientifica, 00133 Roma, Italy.

Let  $h(t) = f(-\ln(t))$  then  $h$  is a non-negative bounded continuous function in  $(0, 1]$ .Let  $a_n = \int_0^1 h^n(t) dt$  then

$$L := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left( \sqrt[n]{\int_0^{+\infty} f^{n+1}(x)e^{-x} dx} - \sqrt[n]{\int_0^{+\infty} f^n(x)e^{-x} dx} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n (\sqrt[n]{a_{n+1}} - \sqrt[n]{a_n}).$$

We will show that  $L = M \ln(M)$  where  $M := \sup_{x \in [0, +\infty)} f(x) = \sup_{t \in (0, 1]} h(t) \geq 0$  (if  $M = 0$ , then  $L = 0$ ).If  $M = 0$  then  $f$  and  $h$  are identically zero and the limit is trivial. Let us assume that  $M > 0$ .For  $0 < \varepsilon < M$ , there is a non-empty interval  $I$  in  $(0, 1]$  such that for all  $t \in I$ ,  $h(t) \geq M - \varepsilon > 0$ . Hence

$$(M - \varepsilon)|I|^{1/n} = ((M - \varepsilon)^n |I|)^{1/n} \leq \sqrt[n]{a_n} \leq (M^n |I|)^{1/n} = M,$$

and,  $|I|^{1/n} \rightarrow 1$  ( $|I| > 0$ ) implies that  $\sqrt[n]{a_n} \rightarrow M$ .Now we consider the sequence  $a_{n+1}/a_n$ . It is bounded because

$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{1}{a_n} \int_0^1 h^{n+1}(t) dt \leq \frac{M}{a_n} \int_0^1 h^n(t) dt = M.$$

It is increasing because, by Cauchy-Schwarz inequality,

$$a_{n+1}^2 = \left( \int_0^1 h^{\frac{n+2}{2}}(t) h^{\frac{n}{2}}(t) dt \right)^2 \leq \int_0^1 h^{n+2}(t) dt \int_0^1 h^n(t) dt = a_{n+2} a_n.$$

So  $a_{n+1}/a_n$  has a limit  $M'$ . By Stolz-Cesaro theorem, we find that  $M' = M$ ,

$$\ln(M) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \ln(\sqrt[n]{a_n}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(a_n)}{n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\ln(a_{n+1}) - \ln(a_n)) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \ln\left(\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n}\right) = \ln(M').$$

Finally,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n (\sqrt[n]{a_{n+1}} - \sqrt[n]{a_n}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \sqrt[n]{a_n} \left( \exp\left(\frac{1}{n} \ln\left(\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n}\right)\right) - 1 \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{a_n} \ln\left(\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n}\right) = M \ln(M).$$

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