

Het getal van Euler

In de driehoek van Pascal geldt de volgende eigenschap:

$$\frac{P_{n-1} \times P_{n+1}}{(P_n)^2} \text{ heeft als limiet } e \text{ (getal van Euler) als } n \text{ gaat naar oneindig,}$$

waarbij P_n het product is van de getallen van de n-de rij.

Bewijs:

$$\text{Neem } P_n = \prod_{k=0}^n \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$$

Dan is

$$P_n = (n!)^{n+1} \times \prod_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{k!(n-k)!} = (n!)^{n+1} \times \prod_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{k!k!} = (n!)^{n+1} \times \prod_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{(k!)^2}.$$

Dus

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{P_{n+1}}{P_n} &= \frac{\left((n+1)!\right)^{n+2} \times \prod_{k=0}^{n+1} \frac{1}{(k!)^2}}{(n!)^{n+1} \times \prod_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{(k!)^2}} = \frac{\left((n+1)!\right)^{n+2} \times \prod_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{(k!)^2} \times \frac{1}{((n+1)!)^2}}{(n!)^{n+1} \times \prod_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{(k!)^2}} = \frac{\left((n+1)!\right)^n \times \prod_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{(k!)^2}}{(n!)^{n+1} \times \prod_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{(k!)^2}} \\ &= \frac{\left((n+1)!\right)^n}{(n!)^{n+1}} = \frac{(n+1)^n \times (n!)^n}{n! \times (n!)^n} = \frac{(n+1)^n}{n!} \end{aligned}$$

en dus

$$\frac{P_n}{P_{n-1}} = \frac{n^{n-1}}{(n-1)!}$$

zodat

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{P_{n-1} \cdot P_{n+1}}{(P_n)^2} &= \frac{P_{n-1}}{P_n} \cdot \frac{P_{n+1}}{P_n} = \frac{(n-1)!}{n^{n-1}} \cdot \frac{(n+1)^n}{n!} = \frac{(n-1)!}{n^{n-1}} \cdot \frac{(n+1)^n}{n \cdot (n-1)!} \\ &= \frac{(n+1)^n}{n^{n-1} \cdot n} = \frac{(n+1)^n}{n^n} = \left(\frac{n+1}{n}\right)^n = \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n \end{aligned}$$

En we weten:

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