COS 488

Homework 3: Exercise 4.23

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We will compute the asymptotic expansion for $\frac{N}{N-1} \ln \frac{N}{N-1}$. First, observe that

$$\frac{N}{N-1} = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{N}} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{N^k}$$

as $N \to \infty$.

Additionally, we have

$$\ln \frac{N}{N-1} = -\ln \frac{N-1}{N} = -\ln(1-\frac{1}{N}) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{kN^k}.$$

Combining the two terms, we have

$$\frac{N}{N-1} \ln \frac{N}{N-1} = \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{N^k}\right) \left(\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{kN^k}\right)$$

$$= \left(1 + \frac{1}{N} + \frac{1}{N^2} + \cdots\right) \left(\frac{1}{N} + \frac{1}{2N^2} + \cdots\right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{N} + \frac{1}{2N^2} + \frac{1}{N^2} + O(\frac{1}{N^3})$$

$$= \frac{1}{N} + \frac{3}{2N^2} + O(\frac{1}{N^3}).$$