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A new quicker sequence convergent to Euler's constant

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, a new quicker sequence convergent to Euler's constant is provided. Finally, for demonstrating the superiority of our new convergent sequence over DeTemple's sequence, Vernescu's sequence and Mortici's sequences, some numerical computations are also given.

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1. Introduction

It is well known that we often need to establish some new sequences to converge to some fundamental constants with increasingly higher speed. These convergent sequences and constants play a key role in many areas of mathematics and science in general, as theory of probability, applied statistics, physics, special functions, number theory, or analysis.

To the best of our knowledge, the most useful convergent sequence is

$$\gamma_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k} - \ln n, \tag{1.1}$$

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which converge towards the well-known Euler’s constant

$$\gamma = 0.57721566490115328\dots$$

Up to now, many researchers made great efforts in the area of concerning the rate of convergence of the sequence $(\gamma_n)_{n \geq 1}$ and establishing faster sequences to converge to Euler’s constant and had a lot of inspiring results. For example, in [3,4,13,14], the following estimates are established

$$\frac{1}{2n+1} < \gamma_n - \gamma < \frac{1}{2n}, \tag{1.2}$$

using interesting geometric interpretations. In [1,2], DeTemple introduced a faster convergent sequence $(R_n)_{n \geq 1}$ to γ as follows:

$$R_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n} - \ln\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right), \tag{1.3}$$

which decreases to γ with the rate of convergence n^{-2} , since

$$\frac{1}{24(n+1)^2} < R_n - \gamma < \frac{1}{24n^2}. \tag{1.4}$$

In [12], Vernescu provided the sequence

$$V_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n-1} + \frac{1}{2n} - \ln n, \tag{1.5}$$

for which

$$\frac{1}{12(n+1)^2} < \gamma - V_n < \frac{1}{12n^2}. \tag{1.6}$$

Both (1.3) and (1.5) are slight modifications of Euler’s sequences (1.1), but significantly improve the rate of convergence from n^{-1} to n^{-2} .

Recently, Mortici researched Euler’s constant again, and provided some convergent sequences which are faster than (1.1), (1.3) and (1.5).

In [5], Mortici provided the following two sequences

$$u_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n-1} + \frac{1}{(6-2\sqrt{6})n} - \ln\left(n + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\right) \tag{1.7}$$

and

$$v_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n-1} + \frac{1}{(6+2\sqrt{6})n} - \ln\left(n - \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\right). \tag{1.8}$$

Both sequences (1.7) and (1.8) were shown to converge to γ as n^{-3} .

Next, in [7], Mortici introduced the following class of sequences of the form

$$\mu_n(a, b) = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k} + \ln(e^{a/(n+b)} - 1) - \ln a, \tag{1.9}$$

where a, b are real parameters, $a > 0$. Furthermore, they proved that among the sequences $(\mu_n(a, b))_{n \geq 1}$, the privileged one

$$\mu_n\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{2 + \sqrt{2}}{4}\right)$$

offers the best approximations of γ , since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^3 \left(\mu_n\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{2 + \sqrt{2}}{4}\right) - \gamma \right) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{96}. \tag{1.10}$$

It is their works that motivate our study. In this paper, starting from the well-known sequence γ_n and DeTemple’s sequence $(R_n)_{n \geq 1}$, based on the early works of Mortici and DeTemple, we provide some new classes of convergent sequence for Euler’s constant as follows:

Theorem 1.1. *For Euler’s constant, we have the following convergent sequence,*

$$r_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n} - \ln n - \frac{a_1}{n + \frac{a_2 n}{n + \frac{a_3 n}{n + \dots}}}, \tag{1.11}$$

where

$$a_1 = \frac{1}{2}, \quad a_2 = \frac{1}{6}, \quad a_3 = -\frac{1}{6}, \quad a_4 = \frac{3}{5}, \quad \dots$$

Let

$$r_n^{(1)} = r_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n} - \ln n - \frac{a_1}{n}; \tag{1.12}$$

$$r_n^{(2)} = r_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n} - \ln n - \frac{a_1}{n + a_2}; \tag{1.13}$$

$$r_n^{(3)} = r_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n} - \ln n - \frac{a_1}{n + \frac{a_2 n}{n + a_3}}. \tag{1.14}$$

We also have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^2 (r_n^{(1)} - \gamma) = -\frac{1}{12}; \tag{1.15}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^3 (r_n^{(2)} - \gamma) = -\frac{1}{72}; \tag{1.16}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^4 (r_n^{(3)} - \gamma) = \frac{1}{120}. \tag{1.17}$$

It is easy to see that $r_n^{(1)} = V_n$ and (1.12) is equivalent to (1.5). Comparing with DeTemple’s sequence $(R_n)_{n \geq 1}$, Vernescu’s sequence $(V_n)_{n \geq 2}$, Mortici’s sequences $(u_n)_{n \geq 1}$, $(v_n)_{n \geq 1}$ and $\mu_n(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{2+\sqrt{2}}{4})$, $(r_n^{(3)})_{n \geq 1}$ improves the rate of convergence from n^{-2} and n^{-3} to n^{-4} . In fact, if we need, using Theorem 1.1, we can obtain other convergent sequences which are faster than $r_n^{(3)}$.

Furthermore, for $r_n^{(2)}$ and $r_n^{(3)}$, we also have the following conclusion:

Theorem 1.2. For all natural numbers n ,

$$\frac{1}{72(n+1)^3} < \gamma - r_n^{(2)} < \frac{1}{72n^3}; \tag{1.18}$$

$$\frac{1}{120(n+1)^4} < r_n^{(3)} - \gamma < \frac{1}{120(n-1)^4}. \tag{1.19}$$

For obtaining Theorem 1.1, we need the following lemma which was used in [6–11] and very useful for construction of convergent sequence.

Lemma 1.1. If $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$ is convergent to zero and there exists the limit

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^s (x_n - x_{n+1}) = l \in [-\infty, +\infty], \tag{1.20}$$

with $s > 1$, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{s-1} x_n = \frac{l}{s-1}. \tag{1.21}$$

Lemma 1.1 was firstly proved by Mortici in [9]. From Lemma 1.1, we can see that the speed of convergence of the sequence $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$ increases together with the value s satisfying (1.20).

The rest of this paper is arranged as follow. In Section 2, we provide the proof of Theorem 1.1. In Section 3, the proof of Theorem 1.2 is given. In Section 4, we give some numerical computations which demonstrate the superiority of our new convergent sequences over DeTemple’s sequence, Vernescu’s sequence and Mortici’s sequences.

2. Proof of Theorem 1.1

Based on the argument of Theorem 2.1 in [10] or Theorem 5 in [11], we need to find the value $a_1 \in R$ which produces the most accurate approximation of the form

$$r_n^{(1)} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n} - \ln n - \frac{a_1}{n}. \tag{2.1}$$

To measure the accuracy of this approximation, a method is to say that an approximation (2.1) is better as $r_n^{(1)} - \gamma$ faster converges to zero. Using (2.1), we have

$$r_n^{(1)} - r_{n+1}^{(1)} = \ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right) - \frac{1}{n+1} + \frac{a_1}{n+1} - \frac{a_1}{n}. \tag{2.2}$$

Developing in power series in $1/n$, we have

$$r_n^{(1)} - r_{n+1}^{(1)} = \left(\frac{1}{2} - a_1\right)\frac{1}{n^2} + \left(a_1 - \frac{2}{3}\right)\frac{1}{n^3} + \left(\frac{3}{4} - a_1\right)\frac{1}{n^4} + O\left(\frac{1}{n^5}\right). \tag{2.3}$$

From Lemma 1.1, we know that the speed of convergence of the sequence $(r_n^{(1)} - \gamma)_{n \geq 1}$ is even higher as the value s satisfying (1.20). Thus, using Lemma 1.1, we have:

(i) If $a_1 \neq 1/2$, then the rate of convergence of the sequence $(r_n^{(1)} - \gamma)_{n \geq 1}$ is n^{-1} , since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n(r_n^{(1)} - \gamma) = \frac{1}{2} - a_1 \neq 0.$$

(ii) If $a_1 = 1/2$, then from (2.3), we have

$$r_n^{(1)} - r_{n+1}^{(1)} = -\frac{1}{6} \frac{1}{n^3} + O\left(\frac{1}{n^4}\right)$$

and the rate of convergence of the sequence $(r_n^{(1)} - \gamma)_{n \geq 1}$ is n^{-2} , since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^2(r_n^{(1)} - \gamma) = -\frac{1}{12}.$$

We know that the fastest possible sequence $(r_n^{(1)})_{n \geq 1}$ is obtained only for $a_1 = 1/2$.

Next, we define the sequence $(r_n^{(2)})_{n \geq 1}$ by the relation

$$r_n^{(2)} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n} - \ln n - \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{n + a_2}. \tag{2.4}$$

Using the similar method from (2.1) to (2.3), we have

$$\begin{aligned} r_n^{(2)} - r_{n+1}^{(2)} &= \left(a_2 - \frac{1}{6}\right)\frac{1}{n^3} + \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{3}{2}a_2 - \frac{3}{2}a_2^2\right)\frac{1}{n^4} \\ &+ \left(2a_2^3 + 3a_2^2 + 2a_2 - \frac{3}{10}\right)\frac{1}{n^5} + O\left(\frac{1}{n^6}\right). \end{aligned} \tag{2.5}$$

The fastest possible sequence $(r_n^{(2)})_{n \geq 1}$ is obtained only for $a_2 = 1/6$. Then, from (2.5), we have

$$r_n^{(2)} - r_{n+1}^{(2)} = -\frac{1}{24} \frac{1}{n^4} + O\left(\frac{1}{n^5}\right)$$

and the rate of convergence of the sequence $(r_n^{(2)} - \gamma)_{n \geq 1}$ is n^{-3} , since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^3 (r_n^{(2)} - \gamma) = -\frac{1}{72}.$$

Thirdly, we define the sequence $(r_n^{(3)})_{n \geq 1}$ by the relation

$$r_n^{(3)} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n} - \ln n - \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{n + \frac{\frac{1}{6}n}{n+a_3}}. \tag{2.6}$$

Using the similar method from (2.1) to (2.3), we have

$$r_n^{(3)} - r_{n+1}^{(3)} = -\left(\frac{1}{4}a_3 + \frac{1}{24}\right) \frac{1}{n^4} + \left(\frac{11}{18}a_3 + \frac{1}{3}a_3^2 + \frac{17}{135}\right) \frac{1}{n^5} + O\left(\frac{1}{n^6}\right). \tag{2.7}$$

The fastest possible sequence $(r_n^{(3)})_{n \geq 1}$ is obtained only for $a_3 = -1/6$. Then, from (2.7), we have

$$r_n^{(3)} - r_{n+1}^{(3)} = \frac{1}{30} \frac{1}{n^5} + O\left(\frac{1}{n^6}\right)$$

and the rate of convergence of the sequence $(r_n^{(3)} - \gamma)_{n \geq 1}$ is n^{-4} , since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^4 (r_n^{(3)} - \gamma) = \frac{1}{120}.$$

By induction, we have $a_4 = 3/5, \dots$, the new sequence (1.11) can be obtained.

3. Proof of Theorem 1.2

Based on the argument of Theorem in [1] or the method in [2], first, we prove (1.18). It is easy to have

$$\gamma - r_n^{(2)} = \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} (r_{k+1}^{(2)} - r_k^{(2)}) = \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} f(k), \tag{3.1}$$

where

$$f(k) = \frac{1}{k+1} - \frac{3}{6k+7} + \frac{3}{6k+1} - \ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{k}\right).$$

Next, we have

$$f'(x) = -\frac{x^2 + \frac{8}{9}x - \frac{49}{216}}{6(x + \frac{7}{6})^2(x + 1)^2(x + \frac{1}{6})^2}. \tag{3.2}$$

For the upper bound in (1.18), we have

$$-f'(x) \leq \frac{x + \frac{8}{9}}{6(x + \frac{7}{6})^2(x + 1)^2(x + \frac{1}{6})^2} \leq \frac{1}{6(x + \frac{7}{6})^2(x + 1)(x + \frac{1}{6})^2}. \tag{3.3}$$

Combining (3.3) and

$$\left(x + \frac{7}{6}\right)^2(x + 1)\left(x + \frac{1}{6}\right)^2 - \left(x + \frac{1}{2}\right)^5 = \frac{7}{6}x^4 + \frac{7}{3}x^3 + \frac{155}{108}x^2 + \frac{79}{324}x + \frac{17}{2592} > 0,$$

we have

$$-f'(x) \leq \frac{1}{6(x + \frac{1}{2})^5}. \tag{3.4}$$

Since $f(\infty) = 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(k) &= -\int_k^\infty f'(x) dx \leq \frac{1}{6} \int_k^\infty \left(x + \frac{1}{2}\right)^{-5} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{24} \left(k + \frac{1}{2}\right)^{-4} \leq \frac{1}{24} \int_k^{k+1} x^{-4} dx, \end{aligned} \tag{3.5}$$

where we use the following fact

$$\int_k^{k+1} x^{-4} dx - \left(k + \frac{1}{2}\right)^{-4} = \frac{40k^4 + 80k^3 + 51k^2 + 11k + 1}{3k^3(k + 1)^3(2k + 1)^4} > 0,$$

in the last inequality in (3.5). Combining (3.1) and (3.5), we have

$$\gamma - r_n^{(2)} \leq \sum_{k=n}^\infty \frac{1}{24} \int_k^{k+1} x^{-4} dx = \frac{1}{24} \int_n^\infty x^{-4} dx = \frac{1}{72n^3}. \tag{3.6}$$

For the lower bound, combining (3.2), we have

$$-f'(x) \geq \frac{1}{6(x + 1)^5}, \tag{3.7}$$

where we use the following fact, for $x \geq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(x^2 + \frac{8}{9}x - \frac{49}{216}\right)(x+1)^3 - \left(x + \frac{7}{6}\right)^2 \left(x + \frac{1}{6}\right)^2 x \\ &= \frac{11}{9}x^4 + \frac{707}{216}x^3 + \frac{533}{216}x^2 + \frac{221}{1296}x - \frac{49}{216} \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Combining (3.7), we have

$$f(k) = - \int_k^\infty f'(x) dx \geq \frac{1}{6} \int_k^\infty (x+1)^{-5} dx = \frac{1}{24}(k+1)^{-4} \geq \frac{1}{24} \int_{k+1}^{k+2} x^{-4} dx. \tag{3.8}$$

Combining (3.1) and (3.8), we have

$$\gamma - r_n^{(2)} \geq \sum_{k=n}^\infty \frac{1}{24} \int_{k+1}^{k+2} x^{-4} dx = \frac{1}{24} \int_{n+1}^\infty x^{-4} dx = \frac{1}{72(n+1)^3}. \tag{3.9}$$

Combining (3.6) and (3.9), we complete the proof of (1.18).

Next, we prove (1.19). It is easy to have

$$r_n^{(3)} - \gamma = \sum_{k=n}^\infty (r_k^{(3)} - r_{k+1}^{(3)}) = \sum_{k=n}^\infty g(k), \tag{3.10}$$

where

$$g(k) = \ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{k}\right) - \frac{1}{k+1} + \frac{6k+5}{12(k+1)^2} - \frac{6k-1}{12k^2}.$$

Next, we have

$$g'(x) = -\frac{1}{6x^3(x+1)^3}. \tag{3.11}$$

For the upper bound in (1.19), we have

$$-g'(x) \leq \frac{1}{6x^6}. \tag{3.12}$$

Since $g(\infty) = 0$, combining (3.12), we have

$$g(k) = - \int_k^\infty g'(x) dx \leq \frac{1}{6} \int_k^\infty x^{-6} dx = \frac{1}{30}k^{-5} \leq \frac{1}{30} \int_{k-1}^k x^{-5} dx. \tag{3.13}$$

Table 1
 Simulations for R_n, V_n, u_n and v_n .

n	$R_n - \gamma$	$V_n - \gamma$	$u_n - \gamma$	$v_n - \gamma$
10	3.7733×10^{-4}	-8.3250×10^{-4}	-2.1179×10^{-5}	2.4228×10^{-5}
25	6.4061×10^{-5}	-1.3331×10^{-4}	-1.4127×10^{-6}	1.4909×10^{-6}
50	1.6337×10^{-5}	-3.3332×10^{-5}	-1.7901×10^{-7}	1.8390×10^{-7}
100	4.1252×10^{-6}	-8.3333×10^{-6}	-2.2528×10^{-8}	2.2833×10^{-8}
250	6.6401×10^{-7}	-1.3333×10^{-6}	-1.4476×10^{-9}	1.4555×10^{-9}
1000	4.1625×10^{-8}	-8.3333×10^{-8}	-2.2665×10^{-11}	2.2696×10^{-11}

Combining (3.10) and (3.13), we have

$$r_n^{(3)} - \gamma \leq \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} \frac{1}{30} \int_{k-1}^k x^{-5} dx = \frac{1}{30} \int_{n-1}^{\infty} x^{-5} dx = \frac{1}{120(n-1)^4}. \tag{3.14}$$

For the lower bound, we have

$$-g'(x) \geq \frac{1}{6(x+1)^6}. \tag{3.15}$$

Combining (3.15), we have

$$g(k) = - \int_k^{\infty} g'(x) dx \geq \frac{1}{6} \int_k^{\infty} (x+1)^{-6} dx = \frac{1}{30} (k+1)^{-5} \geq \frac{1}{30} \int_{k+1}^{k+2} x^{-5} dx. \tag{3.16}$$

Combining (3.10) and (3.16), we have

$$r_n^{(3)} - \gamma \geq \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} \frac{1}{30} \int_{k+1}^{k+2} x^{-5} dx = \frac{1}{30} \int_{n+1}^{\infty} x^{-5} dx = \frac{1}{120(n+1)^4}. \tag{3.17}$$

Combining (3.14) and (3.17), we complete the proof of (1.19).

4. Numerical computation

In this section, we give two tables to demonstrate the superiority of our new convergent sequences $(\gamma_n^{(2)})_{n \geq 1}$ and $(\gamma_n^{(3)})_{n \geq 1}$ over DeTemple’s sequence $(R_n)_{n \geq 1}$, Vernescu’s sequence $(V_n)_{n \geq 1}$ and Mortici’s sequences $(\mu_n(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{2+\sqrt{2}}{4}))_{n \geq 1}$, $(u_n)_{n \geq 1}$ and $(v_n)_{n \geq 1}$, respectively.

Combining Theorem 1.1 and Theorem 1.2, we have Tables 1 and 2.

Table 2
 Simulations for μ_n , $r_n^{(2)}$, $r_n^{(3)}$.

n	$\mu_n(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{2+\sqrt{2}}{4}) - \gamma$	$r_n^{(2)} - \gamma$	$r_n^{(3)} - \gamma$
10	1.1807×10^{-5}	-1.2832×10^{-5}	8.2941×10^{-7}
25	8.6183×10^{-7}	-8.6169×10^{-7}	2.1317×10^{-8}
50	1.1265×10^{-7}	-1.0941×10^{-7}	1.3331×10^{-9}
100	1.4402×10^{-8}	-1.3782×10^{-8}	8.3329×10^{-11}
250	9.3431×10^{-10}	-8.8616×10^{-10}	2.1333×10^{-12}
1000	1.4698×10^{-11}	-1.3878×10^{-11}	8.3333×10^{-15}

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