

GEOMETRICALLY CONVERGENT SEQUENCES OF UPPER AND LOWER BOUNDS ON THE WALLIS RATIO AND RELATED EXPRESSIONS

IOSIF PINELIS

Abstract. Sequences of algebraic upper and lower bounds on the Wallis ratio $\Gamma(x+1)/\Gamma(x+\frac{1}{2})$ are given with the relative errors that converge to 0 geometrically and uniformly on any interval of the form $[x_0, \infty)$ for $x_0 > -\frac{1}{2}$; moreover, the relative and absolute errors converge to 0 as $x \rightarrow \infty$. These conclusions are based on corresponding results for the digamma function $\psi := \Gamma'/\Gamma$. Relations with other relevant results are discussed, as well as the corresponding computational aspects. This work was motivated by studies of exact bounds involving the Student probability distribution.

Mathematics subject classification (2010): Primary 33B15, 26D07, 26D15, 41A17; secondary 33F05, 65D20, 60E15, 62E15, 62E17.

Keywords and phrases: Gamma function, digamma function, Wallis ratio, upper bounds, lower bounds, exact bounds, inequalities in approximation, Student's distribution, Student's statistic, probability inequalities.

REFERENCES

- [1] G. E. ANDREWS, R. ASKEY, AND R. ROY, *Special functions*, volume 71 of Encyclopedia of Mathematics and its Applications, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1999.
- [2] A. V. BOYD, *Note on a paper by Uppuluri*, Pacific J. Math., 22: 9–10, 1967.
- [3] J. T. CHU, *Mathematical Notes: A Modified Wallis Product and Some Applications*, Amer. Math. Monthly, 69 (5): 402–404, 1962.
- [4] G. E. COLLINS, *Quantifier elimination for real closed fields by cylindrical algebraic decomposition*, In Quantifier elimination and cylindrical algebraic decomposition (Linz, 1993), Texts Monogr. Symbol. Comput., pages 85–121. Springer, Vienna, 1998.
- [5] J. GURLAND, *On Wallis' formula*, Amer. Math. Monthly, 63: 643–645, 1956.
- [6] D. K. KAZARINOFF, *On Wallis' formula*, Edinburgh Math. Notes, 1956 (40): 19–21, 1956.
- [7] D. KERSHAW, *Some extensions of W. Gautschi's inequalities for the gamma function*, Math. Comp., 41 (164): 607–611, 1983.
- [8] M. MERKLE, *Logarithmic convexity and inequalities for the gamma function*, J. Math. Anal. Appl., 203 (2): 369–380, 1996.
- [9] M. MERKLE, *Representations of error terms in Jensen's and some related inequalities with applications*, J. Math. Anal. Appl., 231 (1): 76–90, 1999.
- [10] C. MORTICI, *A new method for establishing and proving accurate bounds for the Wallis ratio*, Math. Inequal. Appl., 13 (4): 803–815, 2010.
- [11] I. PINELIS, *Exact bounds on the closeness between the Student and standard normal distributions*, preprint, URL: <http://arxiv.org/find/all/1/au:+pinelis/0/1/0/all/0/1>.
- [12] I. PINELIS, *On the Berry-Esseen bound for the Student statistic*, preprint, URL: <http://arxiv.org/find/all/1/au:+pinelis/0/1/0/all/0/1>.
- [13] F. QI, *Bounds for the ratio of two gamma functions*, J. Inequal. Appl., pages Art. ID 493058, 84, 2010.
- [14] V. R. RAO UPPULURI, *A stronger version of Gautschi's inequality satisfied by the gamma function*, Skand. Aktuarietidskr., 1964 (1–2): 51–52, 1965.

- [15] D. N. SHANBHAG, *On some inequalities satisfied by the gamma function*, Skand. Aktuarietidskr., 1967: 45–49, 1967.
- [16] D. V. SLAVIĆ, *On inequalities for $\Gamma(x+1)/G(x+1/2)$* , Univ. Beograd. Publ. Elektrotehn. Fak. Ser. Mat. Fiz., (498–541): 17–20, 1975.
- [17] A. TARSKI, *A Decision Method for Elementary Algebra and Geometry*, RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, Calif., 1948.
- [18] G. N. WATSON, *A note on Gamma functions*, Proc. Edinburgh Math. Soc. (2), 11 (Edinburgh Math. Notes 42 (misprinted 41) (1959)): 7–9, 1958/1959.