

Research Article

# A New Asymptotic Series and Estimates Related to Euler Mascheroni Constant

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**ABSTRACT.** In this article, we give a new asymptotic series for a sequence  $(q_n)$  that converges to Euler-Mascheroni's constant with the convergence speed as  $n^{-4}$ . We present and prove a theorem about how to get the sequence  $(q_n)$ . Using this asymptotic series, we establish the lower and upper bounds for the sequence  $(q_n)$ .

**Keywords:** Euler-Mascheroni's constant, asymptotic series, inequalities.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

One of the famous constants in mathematics is the Euler-Mascheroni's constant  $\gamma = 0,57721566490153286\dots$ . It is defined as the limit of the sequence:

$$\gamma_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n} - \ln n$$

in honor of the Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler (1707-1783) and the Italian mathematician Lorenzo Mascheroni (1750-1800), who studied the Euler-Mascheroni's constant  $\gamma$ . The sequence  $(\gamma_n)_{n \geq 1}$  and the constant  $\gamma$  have many applications in several branches of mathematics as probability, analysis, special functions and number theory. The sequence  $(\gamma_n)_{n \geq 1}$  converges very slowly to the constant  $\gamma$ , with the convergence speed as  $n^{-1}$ . In the beginning, Tims and Tyrell [18], and then Young [19] got the lower and upper bounds for the sequence  $(\gamma_n)_{n \geq 1}$  as the following:

$$\frac{1}{2(n+1)} < \gamma_n - \gamma < \frac{1}{2n}$$

with the convergence speed as  $n^{-1}$ . Many authors [2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 12–17] interested in obtaining sequences that converge very fast to the limit  $\gamma$ . One of them is DeTemple [6], who introduced the sequence

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

that converges to the limit  $\gamma$  as  $n^{-2}$ . Then Mortici [12] has introduced the sequence

$$(1.1) \quad t_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n-1} + \frac{1}{2n} - \frac{1}{2} \ln \left( n^2 - \frac{1}{6} \right)$$

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in order to obtain a faster convergence to the limit  $\gamma$  with the convergence speed as  $n^{-4}$  and the following limit:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^4 (t_n - \gamma) = \frac{11}{720}.$$

Then, Cristea [4] has showed in 2014, the following double inequality

$$\frac{11}{720n^4} - \frac{29}{9072n^6} < t_n - \gamma < \frac{11}{720n^4}$$

for all integers  $n \geq 1$  and has got the following asymptotic series for the sequence  $(t_n)$  given in (1.1)

$$t_n = \gamma + \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2k} \left\{ \frac{1}{6^k} - B_{2k} \right\} \frac{1}{n^{2k}}$$

or

$$t_n = \gamma + \frac{11}{720n^4} - \frac{29}{9072n^6} + \frac{221}{51840n^8} - \frac{6469}{855360n^{10}} + \dots$$

Cristea and Mortici [5] have introduced the sequence

$$(1.2) \quad s_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n-2} + \frac{13}{12(n-1)} + \frac{5}{12n} - \ln n$$

that converges to the limit  $\gamma$  with the convergence speed as  $n^{-3}$  and have demonstrated the following double inequality

$$\frac{1}{12n^3} + \frac{11}{120n^4} < s_n - \gamma < \frac{1}{12n^3} + \frac{13}{120n^4}.$$

Then, X. Hu, D. Lu, X. Wang [9] have presented the following sequence:

$$r_{n,2}^3 = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n} - \ln n - \frac{1}{2} \ln \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n - \frac{n}{3n+1}} \right)$$

that converges to the limit  $\gamma$  with the convergence speed as  $n^{-4}$ , with the following approximation:

$$\frac{1}{180(n+1)^4} < \gamma - r_{n,2}^3 < \frac{1}{180n^4}.$$

The aim of the paper is to introduce a new sequence  $(q_n)$  that converges very fast to the limit  $\gamma$  and to establish the lower and upper bounds for this sequence. Motivated by Mortici [12] and Hu [9], we introduce new sequence

$$(1.3) \quad q_n(a, b, c) = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n-2} + \frac{an+b}{n(n-1)} - \frac{1}{3} \ln(n^3 + c),$$

where  $a, b, c$  are real parameters and for  $a = \frac{3}{2}, b = -\frac{5}{12}, c = \frac{1}{4}$  the new sequence given by

$$(1.4) \quad q_n = q_n\left(\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{5}{12}, \frac{1}{4}\right) = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n-2} + \frac{13}{12(n-1)} + \frac{5}{12n} - \frac{1}{3} \ln\left(n^3 + \frac{1}{4}\right)$$

converges to the limit  $\gamma$  with the convergence speed as  $n^{-4}$ . We will show the following double inequality

$$\frac{11}{120n^4} + \frac{1}{12n^5} + \frac{181}{2016n^6} < q_n - \gamma < \frac{11}{120n^4} + \frac{1}{12n^5} + \frac{182}{2016n^6}$$

for all integers  $n \geq 2$  in the left side inequality and for all integers  $n \geq 225$  in the right side inequality. We will also construct the asymptotic series

$$q_n = \gamma + \frac{11}{120n^4} + \frac{1}{12n^5} + \frac{181}{2016n^6} + \frac{1}{12n^7} + \dots$$

for the sequence  $(q_n)$  (1.4).

## 2. THE RESULTS

We consider the sequence  $(q_n(a, b, c))$  given by (1.3). To obtain the best real parameters  $a, b, c$ , for which the sequence  $(q_n(a, b, c))$  converges to  $\gamma$  with the highest convergence speed, we prove the following theorem:

**Theorem 2.1.** (i) If  $a \neq \frac{3}{2}, b \neq -\frac{5}{12}$  and  $c \neq \frac{1}{4}$  then the sequence  $(q_n(a, b, c))_{n \geq 1}$  has the convergence speed as  $n^{-1}$ .

(ii) If  $a = \frac{3}{2}, b \neq -\frac{5}{12}$  and  $c \neq \frac{1}{4}$  then the sequence  $(q_n(a, b, c))_{n \geq 1}$  has the convergence speed as  $n^{-2}$ .

(iii) If  $a = \frac{3}{2}, b = -\frac{5}{12}$  and  $c \neq \frac{1}{4}$  then the sequence  $(q_n(a, b, c))_{n \geq 1}$  has the convergence speed as  $n^{-3}$ .

(iv) If  $a = \frac{3}{2}, b = -\frac{5}{12}$  and  $c = \frac{1}{4}$  then the sequence  $(q_n(a, b, c))_{n \geq 1}$  has the convergence speed as  $n^{-4}$ .

We will use the following:

**Lemma 2.1.** If the sequence  $(x_n)_{n \geq 1}$  converges to  $x$  and if there exists the limit

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^k (x_n - x_{n+1}) = l \in \mathbb{R}$$

with  $k > 1$ , then there exists the limit

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{k-1} (x_n - x) = \frac{l}{k-1}.$$

For the proof see [11]. This lemma is a form of Cesaro-Stolz's lemma. We utilize it in the construction of the asymptotics series and in order to estimate the convergence speed.

*Proof.* We compute the difference

$$\begin{aligned} q_n(a, b, c) - q_{n+1}(a, b, c) &= \frac{an + b}{n(n-1)} - \frac{1}{n-1} - \frac{an + a + b}{n(n+1)} \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{3} \ln(n^3 + c) + \frac{1}{3} \ln((n+1)^3 + c). \end{aligned}$$

Using a computer program as Maple, we get

$$\begin{aligned} q_n(a, b, c) - q_{n+1}(a, b, c) &= \left(a - \frac{3}{2}\right) \frac{1}{n^2} + \left(a + 2b - \frac{2}{3}\right) \frac{1}{n^3} + \left(a - c - \frac{5}{4}\right) \frac{1}{n^4} \\ &\quad + \left(a + 2b + 2c - \frac{4}{5}\right) \frac{1}{n^5} + O\left(\frac{1}{n^6}\right). \end{aligned} \tag{2.5}$$

(i) If  $a - \frac{3}{2} \neq 0$ , then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^2 (q_n(a, b, c) - q_{n+1}(a, b, c)) = \left(a - \frac{3}{2}\right) \neq 0$$

and Lemma 2.1 says that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n (q_n(a, b, c) - \gamma) = \left(a - \frac{3}{2}\right) \neq 0.$$

We get that the sequence  $(q_n(a, b, c))_{n \geq 1}$  has the convergence speed as  $n^{-1}$ .

(ii) If  $a = \frac{3}{2}, b \neq -\frac{5}{12}$  and  $c \neq \frac{1}{4}$  then the relation (2.5) is written as

$$(2.6) \quad \begin{aligned} q_n(a, b, c) - q_{n+1}(a, b, c) &= \left(2b + \frac{5}{6}\right) \frac{1}{n^3} + \left(\frac{1}{4} - c\right) \frac{1}{n^4} \\ &+ \left(\frac{7}{10} + 2b + 2c\right) \frac{1}{n^5} + O\left(\frac{1}{n^6}\right). \end{aligned}$$

If  $b \neq -\frac{5}{12}$ , then from the relation (2.6), we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^3 (q_n(a, b, c) - q_{n+1}(a, b, c)) = \left(2b + \frac{5}{6}\right) \neq 0$$

and Lemma 2.1 says that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^2 (q_n(a, b, c) - \gamma) = \frac{1}{2} \left(2b + \frac{5}{6}\right) \neq 0.$$

We obtain that the sequence  $(q_n(\frac{3}{2}, b, c))_{n \geq 1}$  has the convergence speed as  $n^{-2}$ .

(iii) If  $a = \frac{3}{2}, b = -\frac{5}{12}$  and  $c \neq \frac{1}{4}$  then the relation (2.5) is written as

$$(2.7) \quad q_n(a, b, c) - q_{n+1}(a, b, c) = \left(\frac{1}{4} - c\right) \frac{1}{n^4} + \left(-\frac{2}{15} + 2c\right) \frac{1}{n^5} + O\left(\frac{1}{n^6}\right).$$

Then from the relation (2.7), we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^4 (q_n(a, b, c) - q_{n+1}(a, b, c)) = \left(\frac{1}{4} - c\right) \neq 0$$

and Lemma 2.1 says that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^3 (q_n(a, b, c) - \gamma) = \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{1}{4} - c\right) \neq 0.$$

We get that the sequence  $(q_n(\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{5}{12}, c))_{n \geq 1}$  has the convergence speed as  $n^{-3}$ .

(iv) If  $a = \frac{3}{2}, b = -\frac{5}{12}$ , and  $c = \frac{1}{4}$  then the relation (2.5) is written as

$$(2.8) \quad q_n(a, b, c) - q_{n+1}(a, b, c) = \frac{11}{30n^5} + O\left(\frac{1}{n^6}\right)$$

and Lemma 2.1 says that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^4 (q_n(a, b, c) - \gamma) = \frac{11}{120}.$$

We get that the sequence  $(q_n(\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{5}{12}, \frac{1}{4}))_{n \geq 1}$  has the convergence speed as  $n^{-4}$ . □

We notice that (2.8) gives us the approximation

$$q_n - \gamma \approx \frac{11}{120n^4} \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

We give the following theorem related to the estimates of  $(q_n)$  given in (1.4):

**Theorem 2.2.** *We have the following double inequality for all integers  $n \geq 2$  in the left side inequality and for all integers  $n \geq 225$  in the right side inequality:*

$$\frac{11}{120n^4} + \frac{1}{12n^5} + \frac{181}{2016n^6} < q_n - \gamma < \frac{11}{120n^4} + \frac{1}{12n^5} + \frac{182}{2016n^6}.$$

*Proof.* We consider the following sequences

$$a_n = (q_n - \gamma) - \left( \frac{11}{120n^4} + \frac{1}{12n^5} + \frac{181}{2016n^6} \right)$$

and

$$b_n = (q_n - \gamma) - \left( \frac{11}{120n^4} + \frac{1}{12n^5} + \frac{182}{2016n^6} \right)$$

that converges to zero. To prove that  $a_n > 0$  and  $b_n < 0$ , it suffices to show that  $(a_n)_{n \geq 1}$  is strictly decreasing and  $(b_n)_{n \geq 1}$  is strictly increasing. Let  $f_1(n) = a_{n+1} - a_n$  and  $f_2(n) = b_{n+1} - b_n$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(x) &= \frac{8}{12x} + \frac{5}{12(x+1)} - \frac{1}{12(x-1)} + \frac{1}{3} \ln \left( x^3 + \frac{1}{4} \right) - \frac{1}{3} \ln \left( (x+1)^3 + \frac{1}{4} \right) \\ &\quad - \left( \frac{11}{120(x+1)^4} - \frac{11}{120x^4} \right) - \left( \frac{1}{12(x+1)^5} - \frac{1}{12x^5} \right) - \left( \frac{181}{2016(x+1)^6} - \frac{181}{2016x^6} \right) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} f_2(x) &= \frac{8}{12x} + \frac{5}{12(x+1)} - \frac{1}{12(x-1)} + \frac{1}{3} \ln \left( x^3 + \frac{1}{4} \right) - \frac{1}{3} \ln \left( (x+1)^3 + \frac{1}{4} \right) \\ &\quad - \left( \frac{11}{120(x+1)^4} - \frac{11}{120x^4} \right) - \left( \frac{1}{12(x+1)^5} - \frac{1}{12x^5} \right) - \left( \frac{182}{2016(x+1)^6} - \frac{182}{2016x^6} \right). \end{aligned}$$

We get

$$(2.9) \quad f_1'(x) = \frac{P(x-2)}{1680(x+1)^7(x-1)^2(4x^3+1)^1(12x+12x^2+4x^3+5)^1x^5} > 0$$

for all real numbers  $x \geq 2$  and

$$(2.10) \quad f_2'(x) = -\frac{Q(x-225)}{120(x+1)^7(x-1)^2(12x+12x^2+4x^3+5)^1(4x^3+1)^1x^7} < 0$$

for all real numbers  $x \geq 225$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} P(x) &= 8615781393 + 48322358535x + 124451770884x^2 + 195088765300x^3 \\ &\quad + 207843366162x^4 + 159018283386x^5 + 89932803430x^6 + 38082594545x^7 \\ &\quad + 12078804629x^8 + 2834912752x^9 + 478671564x^{10} + 55071128x^{11} \\ &\quad + 3869824x^{12} + 125440x^{13} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
Q(x) = & 22876\ 348962124636919596278035200 \\
& +156125891834161825105090\ 815353280x \\
& +8964689205792820697567513156375x^2 \\
& +238298913583029626485888825003x^3 \\
& +3874001939229085395299660913x^4 \\
& +42953509800254866165809975x^5 \\
& +342954298088658683537331x^6 \\
& +2028513740325127816093x^7 \\
& +8999214295901801973x^8 \\
& +29943893833882652x^9 \\
& +73805584698144x^{10} \\
& +130981721712x^{11} \\
& +158491784x^{12} \\
& +117200x^{13} \\
& +40x^{14}
\end{aligned}$$

are two polynomials with positive integers coefficients for all real numbers  $x \geq 2$  and respectively for all real numbers  $x \geq 225$ . Then, from (2.9), we have  $f_1$  is strictly increasing on  $[2, \infty)$  and from (2.10), we have  $f_2$  is strictly decreasing on  $[225, \infty)$ . It follows that from  $f_1(\infty) = f_2(\infty) = 0$ , we have  $f_1 < 0$  on  $[2, \infty)$  and  $f_2 > 0$  on  $[225, \infty)$ . Thus,  $(a_n)_{n \geq 2}$  is strictly decreasing and  $(b_n)_{n \geq 225}$  is strictly increasing. This concludes the proof.  $\square$

We can get the asymptotic series of the sequence  $(q_n)$ , using the sequence  $(h_n)$

$$h_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n-2} + \frac{1}{n-1} + \frac{1}{n}$$

harmonic sum in terms of digamma function  $\psi$

$$h_n = \gamma + \frac{1}{n} + \psi(n),$$

with the digamma function defined by

$$\psi(x) = \frac{d}{dx} (\ln \Gamma(x)) = \frac{\Gamma'(x)}{\Gamma(x)}.$$

See, e.g., [1, p. 258, Rel. 6.3.2]. We have the following asymptotic expansion for the digamma function  $\psi$  that

$$\psi(x) = \ln x - \frac{1}{2x} - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{B_{2k}}{2kx^{2k}},$$

where  $B_j$  is the  $j$ th Bernoulli numbers given by

$$\frac{1}{e^t - 1} + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{t} = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{j-1} \frac{t^{2j}}{(2j)!} B_j.$$

We will demonstrate the following theorem related to the asymptotic expansion of  $q_n$  :

**Theorem 2.3.** We get the following asymptotic expansion of  $(q_n)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  :

$$q_n = \gamma + \frac{1}{12n(n-1)} - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k} \left\{ \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{3 \cdot 4^k n^{3k}} + \frac{B_{2k}}{2n^{2k}} \right\}.$$

*Proof.* We get

$$\begin{aligned} q_n &= h_n - \frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{12(n-1)} + \frac{5}{12n} - \frac{1}{3} \ln \left( n^3 + \frac{1}{4} \right) \\ &= \gamma + \psi(n) + \frac{1}{12(n-1)} + \frac{5}{12n} - \frac{1}{3} \ln \left( n^3 + \frac{1}{4} \right) \\ &= \gamma + \psi(n) - \ln n + \frac{1}{12(n-1)} + \frac{5}{12n} - \frac{1}{3} \ln \left( 1 + \frac{1}{4n^3} \right) \\ &= \gamma + \frac{1}{12(n-1)} - \frac{1}{2n} + \frac{5}{12n} - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{B_{2k}}{2kn^{2k}} - \frac{1}{3} \ln \left( 1 + \frac{1}{4n^3} \right) \\ &= \gamma + \frac{1}{12n(n-1)} - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k} \left\{ \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{3 \cdot 4^k n^{3k}} + \frac{B_{2k}}{2n^{2k}} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Using the binomial theorem given in [8], we get

$$\frac{1}{12n(n-1)} = \frac{1}{12n^2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)} = \frac{1}{12n^2} + \frac{1}{12n^3} + \frac{1}{12n^4} + \frac{1}{12n^5} + \dots$$

We get an explicite form as

$$(2.11) \quad q_n = \gamma + \frac{11}{120n^4} + \frac{1}{12n^5} + \frac{181}{2016n^6} + \frac{1}{12n^7} + \dots$$

We notice that the three terms of the asymptotic series (2.11) were used for the estimate of  $q_n$ . We give the table with the above sequences:

$n$	$ t_n - \gamma $	$ s_n - \gamma $	$ r_{n,2}^3 - \gamma $	$ q_n - \gamma $
250	$1.30935 \times 10^{-17}$	$4.26667 \times 10^{-12}$	$2.25298 \times 10^{-14}$	$2.03175 \times 10^{-18}$
500	$2.04586 \times 10^{-19}$	$2.66667 \times 10^{-13}$	$7.07570 \times 10^{-16}$	$3.1746 \times 10^{-20}$
1000	$3.19665 \times 10^{-21}$	$1.66667 \times 10^{-14}$	$2.21668 \times 10^{-17}$	$4.96032 \times 10^{-22}$
10000	$3.19665 \times 10^{-27}$	$1.66667 \times 10^{-18}$	$2.22167 \times 10^{-22}$	$4.96032 \times 10^{-28}$
50000	$2.04586 \times 10^{-31}$	$2.66667 \times 10^{-21}$	$7.11076 \times 10^{-26}$	$3.1746 \times 10^{-32}$

Using the values from the above table, we conclude the superiority of the sequence  $(q_n)_{n \geq 225}$  over Mortici's sequence  $(t_n)_{n \geq 225}$ , Lu's sequence  $(r_{n,2}^3)_{n \geq 225}$ , Cristea and Mortici's sequence  $(s_n)_{n \geq 225}$ . □

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