

Math 124, Solutions to Practice Questions for Exam #2, April 21, 2000

1. Which of the following series converges? Explain your answer.

(a)

$$\frac{1}{\ln 2} - \frac{1}{\ln 3} + \frac{1}{\ln 4} - \frac{1}{\ln 5} + \dots$$

This is an alternating series which can be written as

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{\ln(n+1)}.$$

Since $\frac{1}{\ln(n+1)} > \frac{1}{\ln(n+2)}$ for all n and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\ln(n+1)} = 0,$$

the series converges by the Alternating Series Test.

(b)

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{(\sin n)^2}$$

Since $(\sin n)^2 \leq 1$ for all n , $\frac{n}{(\sin n)^2} \geq n$ for all n . Taking limits of both sides

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{(\sin n)^2} \geq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n = \infty$$

which is nonzero. Therefore, the series diverges by the Divergence Test.

(c)

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{8n^7 + 6n^2 + 5}$$

Use the Limit Comparison Test. Consider the series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^5}.$$

Both series have positive terms and, in addition,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{n^2}{8n^7 + 6n^2 + 5}}{\frac{1}{n^5}} = \frac{1}{8}.$$

By the Limit Comparison Test, both series either converge or both series diverge. However, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^5}$ converges as it is a p-series with $p = 5 > 1$.

(d)

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2^{2n+1} 5^{-n}$$

Notice that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2^{2n+1} 5^{-n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (2) \left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{8}{5}\right) \left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^{n-1}$$

which is a geometric series which converges since $|\frac{4}{5}| < 1$. In fact, we even know that the series is equal to

$$\frac{\frac{8}{5}}{1 - \frac{4}{5}} = 8.$$

2. Consider the following series

$$s = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{1+n^2}$$

How many terms in the series must one sum up in order to obtain s correct to within 0.000001 accuracy?

Since s is an alternating series satisfying $\frac{1}{1+(n+1)^2} < \frac{1}{1+n^2}$ for all n and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1+n^2} = 0,$$

the Alternating Series Estimation Theorem tells us that the remainder $R_n = s - s_n$ where $s_n = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(-1)^k}{1+k^2}$ satisfies

$$|R_n| \leq \frac{1}{1+(n+1)^2}$$

for all n . We want

$$\frac{1}{1+(n+1)^2} < 0.000001 = 10^{-6}$$

which is equivalent to $n > \sqrt{99999} - 1 \cong 998.999$. Therefore, s_{999} is equal to s to within an accuracy 0.000001. So we need sum up the first 1000 terms of s to obtain the desired accuracy.

3. Consider the following series

$$s = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^3}$$

How many terms in the series must one sum up in order to obtain s correct to within an accuracy of 0.00001?

Recall that the series s converges by the Integral Test. By the Remainder Estimate for the Integral Test, the remainder $R_n = s - s_n$ where $s_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k^3}$ satisfies

$$R_n \leq \int_n^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^3} dx = \frac{1}{2n^2}.$$

We want

$$\frac{1}{2n^2} < 0.00001$$

which is equivalent to $n > \sqrt{5000} \cong 223.607$. Therefore, s_{224} (which is the sum of the first 224 terms) is equal to s up to an accuracy of 0.00001.

4. Consider the function $f(x) = \frac{3x^4}{5x-7}$.

(a) Write $f(x)$ as a power series.

$$\frac{3x^4}{5x-7} = -\frac{3x^4}{7} \frac{1}{1-\frac{5x}{7}} = -\frac{3x^4}{7} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{5x}{7}\right)^n$$

using $\frac{1}{1-u} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u^n$ and plugging in $u = \frac{5x}{7}$. Multiplying through, one obtains

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} -\frac{(3)5^n}{7^{n+1}} x^{n+4}.$$

(b) Find its radius of convergence.

Its radius of convergence, R , is equal to the radius of convergence of $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{5x}{7}\right)^n$. But the latter converges if and only if $|\frac{5x}{7}| < 1$ or, equivalently, when $|x| < \frac{7}{5}$. Therefore, $R = \frac{7}{5}$.

(c) Find its interval of convergence.

The series converges on the interval $(-\frac{7}{5}, \frac{7}{5})$.

5. Consider the function $f(x) = \tan^{-1}(x^3)$.

(a) Write $f(x)$ as a power series.

We have that

$$\tan^{-1} u = \int \frac{1}{1+u^2} du = \int \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-u^2)^n du = C + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{u^{2n+1}}{2n+1}$$

where C is an integration constant. However, since $\tan^{-1}(0) = 0$, $C = 0$. Therefore,

$$\tan^{-1} u = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{u^{2n+1}}{2n+1}.$$

Now we just set $u = x^3$ to obtain

$$\tan^{-1} x^3 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{x^{6n+3}}{2n+1}.$$

(b) Find its radius of convergence.

The series converges if $|u| = |x^3| < 1$ which is equivalent to $|x| < 1$. Therefore, the radius of convergence is 1.

6. Consider the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{2^n n}$.

(a) Find its radius of convergence.

Since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{\frac{x^{(n+1)}}{2^{(n+1)}(n+1)}}{\frac{x^n}{2^n n}} \right| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|x|}{2} \frac{n}{n+1} = \frac{|x|}{2},$$

the series converges if $|x| < 2$ and diverges if $|x| > 2$ by the Ratio Test. Therefore, the radius of convergence is 2.

(b) Find its interval of convergence.

We need only check $x = \pm 2$. If $x = 2$ then the series is

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^n}{2^n n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$$

which is the Harmonic series and, hence, diverges. If $x = -2$ then the series is

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-2)^n}{2^n n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n}$$

which converges by the Alternating Series Test. Therefore, the interval of convergence is $[-2, 2)$.

7. Find the Taylor series centered at 1 of the function $f(x) = x^{\frac{2}{3}}$.

Notice that $f^{(0)}(x) = x^{\frac{2}{3}}$ and for all $n \geq 1$,

$$f^{(n)}(x) = \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)\left(\frac{2}{3}-1\right)\cdots\left(\frac{2}{3}-n+1\right)x^{\frac{2}{3}-n}.$$

The we have

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f^{(n)}(1) \frac{(x-1)^n}{n!} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n \frac{(x-1)^n}{n!}$$

where $c_n = \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)\left(\frac{2}{3}-1\right)\cdots\left(\frac{2}{3}-n+1\right)$ if $n \geq 1$ and $c_0 = 1$.

8. (a) Find the MacLauren series of the function $f(x) = \ln(3 + x)$.

Notice that $f^{(0)}(x) = \ln(3 + x)$ and for all $n \geq 1$,

$$f^{(n)}(x) = (-1)^{n-1}(n-1)!(3+x)^{-n}.$$

Plugging in 0, we obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f^{(n)}(0) \frac{x^n}{n!} = \ln 3 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} (n-1)! 3^{-n} \frac{x^n}{n!} = \ln 3 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} 3^{-n} \frac{x^n}{n}.$$

- (b) Find its radius of convergence.

Since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{(-1)^n 3^{-(n+1)} \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1}}{(-1)^{n-1} 3^{-n} \frac{x^n}{n}} \right| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|x|}{3} \frac{n}{n+1} = \frac{|x|}{3},$$

the Ratio Test implies that the radius of convergence is 3.