

# Advanced Mathematical Techniques

## Problem Set 1

1. We showed in class that the harmonic sequence defined by  $H_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k}$  diverges. We start with the sum of the first thousand terms,  $H_{1000} \approx 7.48547$ .

- (a) Use the integral comparison inequality to bound the value of  $H_{10^{12}}$ . How far apart are your bounds?

We are estimating  $H_{10^{12}} = H_{1000} + \sum_{k=1001}^{10^{12}} \frac{1}{k}$ . The Integral Comparison Test states that for a decreasing function  $f(x) = 1/x$ :

$$\int_{N+1}^{M+1} f(x) dx < \sum_{k=N+1}^M a_k < \int_N^M f(x) dx$$

Here  $N = 1000$  and  $M = 10^{12}$ .

Upper Bound:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{1000}^{10^{12}} \frac{1}{x} dx &= \ln(10^{12}) - \ln(1000) = 12 \ln(10) - 3 \ln(10) = 9 \ln(10) \\ &\approx 9(2.302585) \approx 20.72327 \\ H_{10^{12}} &< 7.48547 + 20.72327 = 28.20874 \end{aligned}$$

Lower Bound:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{1001}^{10^{12}+1} \frac{1}{x} dx &= \ln(10^{12} + 1) - \ln(1001) \approx 27.63102 - 6.90875 = 20.72227 \\ H_{10^{12}} &> 7.48547 + 20.72227 = 28.20774 \end{aligned}$$

**Difference:** The bounds are separated by approximately  $\int_{1000}^{1001} \frac{1}{x} dx \approx \frac{1}{1000} = [0.001]$ .

- (b) If one term was added each second since the beginning of the universe (13.7 billion years), bound the resulting sum. Use  $3.155 \times 10^7$  s/year. How far apart are your bounds?

**Step 1: Calculate N.**

$$N = 13.7 \times 10^9 \times 3.155 \times 10^7 = 43.2235 \times 10^{16} = 4.32235 \times 10^{17}$$

**Step 2: Set up bounds for sum starting at k=1.** Using  $\int_1^{N+1} \frac{1}{x} dx < H_N < 1 + \int_1^N \frac{1}{x} dx$ :

**Lower Bound:**

$$\begin{aligned} \ln(N + 1) &\approx \ln(4.322 \times 10^{17}) = \ln(4.322) + 17 \ln(10) \\ &\approx 1.4638 + 39.1439 = [40.608] \end{aligned}$$

**Upper Bound:**

$$1 + \ln(N) \approx 1 + 40.608 = [41.608]$$

**Difference:**

$$\text{Diff} = (1 + \ln N) - \ln(N + 1) = 1 - \ln\left(\frac{N+1}{N}\right) = 1 - \ln\left(1 + \frac{1}{N}\right)$$

Since  $N$  is very large,  $\ln(1 + 1/N) \approx 0$ .

$$\text{Diff} \approx \boxed{1}$$

- (c) If one *trillion* terms were added each second, bound the resulting sum. How far apart are your bounds?

**Step 1: Calculate  $N'$ .**

$$N' = N \times 10^{12} \approx 4.32235 \times 10^{29}$$

**Step 2: Calculate Bounds.**

$$\ln(N') = \ln(4.322) + 29 \ln(10) \approx 1.4638 + 66.7750 = 68.239$$

**Lower Bound:**  $\ln(N' + 1) \approx \boxed{68.239}$  **Upper Bound:**  $1 + \ln(N') \approx \boxed{69.239}$

**Difference:** As in part (b), the difference is  $1 - \ln(1 + 1/N') \approx \boxed{1}$ .

- (d) Estimate the number of terms for the sum to exceed 100.

Using the approximation  $H_n \approx \ln n + \gamma$ , where  $\gamma \approx 0.577$ :

$$\ln n + 0.577 = 100 \implies \ln n = 99.423$$

Convert to base 10 to put in scientific notation:

$$n = e^{99.423}$$

$$\log_{10} n = 99.423 \times \log_{10} e \approx 99.423 \times 0.4343 = 43.179$$

$$n = 10^{0.179} \times 10^{43}$$

$$10^{0.179} \approx 1.510$$

Answer:  $\boxed{1.510 \times 10^{43}}$

- (e) Estimate the number of terms for the sum to exceed 1000.

$$\ln n \approx 1000$$

$$\log_{10} n = 1000 \times 0.43429 = 434.29$$

$$n = 10^{0.29} \times 10^{434}$$

$$10^{0.29} \approx 1.95$$

Answer:  $\boxed{1.95 \times 10^{434}}$

- (f) Explain what is meant by the statement that the harmonic series diverges, but it does not do so *quickly*.

Divergence means the partial sums  $H_n$  grow without bound ( $H_n \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ). However, the rate of growth is logarithmic. As demonstrated in parts (b) and (c), even increasing the number of terms by a factor of a trillion ( $10^{12}$ ) only adds a constant amount ( $\approx 27.6$ ) to the sum. It takes exponentially more time to reach higher sums; reaching 100 takes  $10^{43}$  terms, while reaching 1000 takes  $10^{434}$  terms.

(g) Glacial sequence  $G_n = \sum_{k=2}^n \frac{1}{k \ln k}$ . Given  $G_{1000} = 2.7274$ , bound  $G_{10^{12}}$ .

Let  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x \ln x}$ . Use substitution  $u = \ln x, du = \frac{1}{x} dx$ .

$$\int \frac{1}{x \ln x} dx = \int \frac{1}{u} du = \ln |u| = \ln(\ln x)$$

Bounds for the sum from 1001 to  $10^{12}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Upper} &= 2.7274 + [\ln(\ln x)]_{1000}^{10^{12}} \\ &= 2.7274 + \ln(\ln 10^{12}) - \ln(\ln 1000) = 2.7274 + \ln(12 \ln 10) - \ln(3 \ln 10) \\ &= 2.7274 + \ln\left(\frac{12}{3}\right) = 2.7274 + \ln 4 \approx 2.7274 + 1.3863 = \boxed{4.1137} \end{aligned}$$

The lower bound integrates from 1001 to  $10^{12} + 1$ , which yields virtually the same number to 4 decimal places (4.1136).

(h) Bound sum for 1 term/sec ( $N \approx 4.32 \times 10^{17}$ ). How far apart are bounds?

Bounds for sum starting at  $k = 2$ :

$$\int_2^{N+1} f(x) dx < G_N < a_2 + \int_2^N f(x) dx$$

Estimate using approximation  $G_N \approx \ln(\ln N)$ .

$$G_N \approx \ln(\ln(4.32 \times 10^{17})) = \ln(40.6) \approx \boxed{3.704}$$

**Difference:** The difference between the standard integral test bounds is  $a_2 - \int_N^{N+1} f(x) dx$ . Since  $f(N)$  is negligible, the difference is approximately  $a_2 = \frac{1}{2 \ln 2} \approx \boxed{0.721}$ .

(i) Bound sum for 1 trillion terms/sec ( $N' \approx 4.32 \times 10^{29}$ ). How far apart are bounds?

$$G_{N'} \approx \ln(\ln(4.32 \times 10^{29})) = \ln(68.2) \approx \boxed{4.223}$$

**Difference:** The gap between the bounds relies on the first term  $a_2$ , so it remains approximately  $\boxed{0.721}$ .

(j) Terms to exceed 100. Format  $10^{a \times 10^n}$ .

$$\ln(\ln x) \approx 100 \implies \ln x = e^{100} \implies x = e^{e^{100}}$$

Taking  $\log_{10}$  twice:

$$\log_{10} x = e^{100} \log_{10} e$$

$$\begin{aligned} \log_{10}(\log_{10} x) &= \log_{10}(e^{100} \log_{10} e) = 100 \log_{10} e + \log_{10}(\log_{10} e) \\ &= 43.4294 + \log_{10}(0.4343) = 43.4294 - 0.3622 = 43.067 \end{aligned}$$

So  $\log_{10} x = 10^{43.067} = 10^{0.067} \times 10^{43} \approx 1.167 \times 10^{43}$ .

$$x = \boxed{10^{1.167 \times 10^{43}}}$$

2. The integral comparison inequality used to estimate convergent series.

(a) Given  $\sum_{k=2}^{100} \frac{\ln^3 k}{k^2} = 4.0558\dots$ , show convergence and bound value. How far apart are bounds?

We must evaluate  $\int \frac{\ln^3 x}{x^2} dx$ . Use Integration by Parts:  $u = (\ln x)^3, dv = x^{-2} dx$ .

$$du = 3(\ln x)^2 \frac{1}{x} dx, \quad v = -x^{-1}$$

$$\int = -\frac{\ln^3 x}{x} + \int \frac{3 \ln^2 x}{x^2} dx$$

Repeating this process 3 times yields:

$$F(x) = -\frac{\ln^3 x + 3 \ln^2 x + 6 \ln x + 6}{x}$$

We bound the tail  $R_{100} = \sum_{101}^{\infty} a_k$ :

$$\int_{101}^{\infty} f(x) dx < R_{100} < \int_{100}^{\infty} f(x) dx$$

Evaluating the upper bound at  $x = 100$ :

$$\int_{100}^{\infty} = 0 - F(100) = \frac{(\ln 100)^3 + 3(\ln 100)^2 + 6 \ln 100 + 6}{100}$$

Using  $\ln 100 \approx 4.60517$ :

$$\approx \frac{97.68 + 63.62 + 27.63 + 6}{100} = \frac{194.93}{100} \approx 1.9493$$

Total Sum  $\approx 4.0558 + 1.9493 = \boxed{6.0051}$ . **Difference:** The bounds differ by  $\int_{100}^{101} f(x) dx \approx f(100)$ .

$$f(100) = \frac{\ln^3 100}{100^2} \approx \frac{97.68}{10000} \approx \boxed{0.0098}$$

(b) Given  $\sum_{k=2}^{100} \frac{1}{k \ln^2 k} = 1.8928\dots$ , show convergence and bound value. How far apart are bounds?

Evaluate  $\int_{100}^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x \ln^2 x}$ . Let  $u = \ln x$ .

$$\int \frac{du}{u^2} = -\frac{1}{u} = -\frac{1}{\ln x}$$

$$\text{Tail Upper Bound} = \left[ -\frac{1}{\ln x} \right]_{100}^{\infty} = \frac{1}{\ln 100} \approx \frac{1}{4.605} \approx 0.2171$$

Total Sum  $\approx 1.8928 + 0.2171 = \boxed{2.110}$ . **Difference:**  $\approx f(100) = \frac{1}{100(\ln 100)^2} \approx \frac{1}{100(21.2)} \approx \boxed{0.00047}$ .

(c) Significance of contributions from  $k > 100$ .

For part (a), the tail (1.95) is nearly 50% the size of the partial sum (4.05), meaning calculating only 100 terms gives a 33% error relative to the true total. For part (b), the tail (0.217) is about 10% of the total. In both cases, the contributions are **significant**, and the integral comparison is necessary to get a reasonably accurate result without summing millions of terms.

3. Given  $f(x) = \int_0^x \frac{1-\cos(2t^2)}{t^3} dt$ .

(a) Write the Taylor expansion of the integrand centered at  $t = 0$ .

Standard series:  $\cos(u) = 1 - \frac{u^2}{2!} + \frac{u^4}{4!} - \frac{u^6}{6!} + \dots$ . Substitute  $u = 2t^2$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\cos(2t^2) &= 1 - \frac{(2t^2)^2}{2} + \frac{(2t^2)^4}{24} - \frac{(2t^2)^6}{720} + \dots \\ &= 1 - 2t^4 + \frac{16t^8}{24} - \frac{64t^{12}}{720} + \dots = 1 - 2t^4 + \frac{2}{3}t^8 - \frac{4}{45}t^{12} + \dots\end{aligned}$$

Now form the integrand  $\frac{1-\cos(2t^2)}{t^3}$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1 - (1 - 2t^4 + \frac{2}{3}t^8 - \frac{4}{45}t^{12})}{t^3} &= \frac{2t^4 - \frac{2}{3}t^8 + \frac{4}{45}t^{12}}{t^3} \\ &\boxed{2t - \frac{2}{3}t^5 + \frac{4}{45}t^9 - \dots}\end{aligned}$$

(b) Integrate term-by-term for  $f(x)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &= \int_0^x \left( 2t - \frac{2}{3}t^5 + \frac{4}{45}t^9 \right) dt \\ &= \left[ t^2 - \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{t^6}{6} + \frac{4}{45} \cdot \frac{t^{10}}{10} \right]_0^x \\ &= \boxed{x^2 - \frac{1}{9}x^6 + \frac{2}{225}x^{10} - \dots}\end{aligned}$$

(c) Determine  $f^{(10)}(0)$ .

The Maclaurin series definition is  $\sum \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!} x^n$ . The coefficient of  $x^{10}$  in our series is  $\frac{2}{225}$ .

$$\frac{f^{(10)}(0)}{10!} = \frac{2}{225} \implies f^{(10)}(0) = \frac{2 \cdot 10!}{225}$$

$$f^{(10)}(0) = \frac{2 \cdot 3,628,800}{225} = \boxed{32,256}$$

(d) Determine  $f^{(20)}(0)$ .

The powers of  $x$  in the series are  $2, 6, 10, 14, 18, 22 \dots$  (arithmetic progression  $4k - 2$ ). Since 20 is not in this sequence, the coefficient of  $x^{20}$  is 0.

$$\boxed{f^{(20)}(0) = 0}$$

4. Given  $g(x) = x^2 \int_0^x \frac{\ln(5+2t^3) - \ln 5}{t^3} dt$ .

(a) Taylor expansion of integrand.

Simplify the log term:  $\ln(5 + 2t^3) - \ln 5 = \ln\left(\frac{5+2t^3}{5}\right) = \ln\left(1 + \frac{2}{5}t^3\right)$ . Use series  $\ln(1 + u) = u - \frac{u^2}{2} + \frac{u^3}{3} \dots$  with  $u = \frac{2}{5}t^3$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\ln\left(1 + \frac{2}{5}t^3\right) &= \left(\frac{2}{5}t^3\right) - \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{2}{5}t^3\right)^2 + \frac{1}{3}\left(\frac{2}{5}t^3\right)^3 \dots \\ &= \frac{2}{5}t^3 - \frac{2}{25}t^6 + \frac{8}{375}t^9 - \dots\end{aligned}$$

Divide by  $t^3$ :

$$\text{Integrand} = \boxed{\frac{2}{5} - \frac{2}{25}t^3 + \frac{8}{375}t^6 - \dots}$$

(b) Determine  $g(x)$  series.

Integrate the result from (a):

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^x \left(\frac{2}{5} - \frac{2}{25}t^3 + \frac{8}{375}t^6\right) dt &= \frac{2}{5}x - \frac{2}{25}\frac{x^4}{4} + \frac{8}{375}\frac{x^7}{7} \\ &= \frac{2}{5}x - \frac{1}{50}x^4 + \frac{8}{2625}x^7\end{aligned}$$

Multiply by  $x^2$ :

$$g(x) = x^2 \left(\frac{2}{5}x - \frac{1}{50}x^4 + \dots\right) = \boxed{\frac{2}{5}x^3 - \frac{1}{50}x^6 + \frac{8}{2625}x^9 - \dots}$$

(c) Determine  $g^{(11)}(0)$ .

The powers of  $x$  are 3, 6, 9, 12, ... (multiples of 3). Since 11 is not a multiple of 3, the coefficient is 0.

$$\boxed{g^{(11)}(0) = 0}$$

(d) Determine  $g^{(18)}(0)$ .

This term comes from the power  $x^{18}$ . Working backwards:  $x^{18}$  in  $g(x)$  comes from  $x^{16}$  in the integral, which comes from  $t^{15}$  in the integrand. In the  $\ln(1 + u)$  expansion, we need the term where  $u^k \propto t^{15}$ . Since  $u \propto t^3$ , we need  $u^5$ . Wait,  $u^6 \propto t^{18}$ . Let's re-trace. Log term:  $c_k(\frac{2}{5}t^3)^k$ . Integrand (divide by  $t^3$ ):  $t^{3k-3}$ . Integral:  $x^{3k-2}$ . Times  $x^2$ :  $x^{3k}$ . We need  $3k = 18 \implies k = 6$ . The 6th term of  $\ln(1 + u)$  is  $-\frac{u^6}{6}$ .

$$\text{Term in Log} = -\frac{1}{6}\left(\frac{2}{5}t^3\right)^6 = -\frac{1}{6}\left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^6 t^{18}$$

$$\text{Integrand} = -\frac{1}{6}\left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^6 t^{15}$$

$$\text{Integral} = -\frac{1}{6}\left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^6 \frac{x^{16}}{16}$$

$$g(x) \text{ term} = -\frac{1}{96} \left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^6 x^{18}$$

$$\text{Coefficient } C_{18} = -\frac{1}{96} \frac{64}{15625} = -\frac{2}{3 \cdot 15625} = -\frac{2}{46875}.$$

$$g^{(18)}(0) = 18! \cdot C_{18} = \boxed{-\frac{2 \cdot 18!}{46875}}$$

5. Determine first four nonzero terms of  $h(x) = \frac{x}{1-x+x^2}$  and radius of convergence.

Recognize the denominator as part of sum of cubes:  $(1+x)(1-x+x^2) = 1+x^3$ . Multiply numerator and denominator by  $(1+x)$ :

$$h(x) = \frac{x(1+x)}{1+x^3} = (x+x^2) \frac{1}{1-(-x^3)}$$

Use geometric series  $\frac{1}{1-u} = 1+u+u^2+\dots$  where  $u=-x^3$ .

$$h(x) = (x+x^2)(1-x^3+x^6-x^9+\dots)$$

Expand:

$$\begin{aligned} &= x(1-x^3+x^6)+x^2(1-x^3+x^6) \\ &= x-x^4+x^7+x^2-x^5+x^8 \end{aligned}$$

Reorder by power:

$$\boxed{x+x^2-x^4-x^5+\dots}$$

**Radius of Convergence:** The radius is the distance from the center (0) to the nearest singularity (roots of denominator).

$$1-x+x^2=0 \implies x = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1-4}}{2} = \frac{1 \pm i\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

The magnitude is  $|x| = \sqrt{(1/2)^2 + (\sqrt{3}/2)^2} = \sqrt{1/4 + 3/4} = 1$ .

$$\boxed{R=1}$$

6. Consider sequence  $\{a_k\}$  and  $S_n = \sum a_k$ . Assume  $S_n$  diverges.

- (a) Explain why  $\{S_n\}$  is monotonic increasing.

Given that  $\{a_k\}$  are positive numbers ( $a_k > 0$ ), the partial sum  $S_{n+1} = S_n + a_{n+1}$  must be strictly greater than  $S_n$ . Thus, the sequence is monotonic increasing.

- (b) Explain why  $\sum \frac{a_n}{S_n}$  diverges.

Consider a block of terms from  $N+1$  to  $N+P$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=N+1}^{N+P} \frac{a_n}{S_n} &> \sum_{n=N+1}^{N+P} \frac{a_n}{S_{N+P}} \quad (\text{since } S_n < S_{N+P}) \\ &= \frac{1}{S_{N+P}} \sum_{n=N+1}^{N+P} a_n = \frac{S_{N+P} - S_N}{S_{N+P}} = 1 - \frac{S_N}{S_{N+P}} \end{aligned}$$

Since  $S_n$  diverges to  $\infty$ , for any fixed  $N$ , we can choose  $P$  large enough such that  $S_{N+P} \gg S_N$ , making the ratio  $\frac{S_N}{S_{N+P}}$  close to 0. Thus, the sum of the block is  $> 1/2$  (or close to 1). Since the tail does not vanish, the series diverges.

(c) Result for Harmonic sequence?

$a_n = 1/n, S_n \approx \ln n$ . The derived series is  $\sum \frac{1}{n \ln n}$ , which is the Glacial series discussed earlier (divergent).

(d) Explain why there is no ‘slowest diverging series’.

For any divergent series  $\sum a_n$ , we can construct a new series  $\sum \frac{a_n}{S_n}$  that also diverges. Because  $S_n \rightarrow \infty$ , the terms  $\frac{a_n}{S_n}$  are much smaller than  $a_n$ , meaning the new series diverges “slower”. We can apply this transformation recursively ( $\sum \frac{a_n}{S_n \ln S_n}$ , etc.) infinitely many times.

(e) Explain why  $\frac{a_n}{S_n^2} < \frac{1}{S_{n-1}} - \frac{1}{S_n}$ .

$$\frac{1}{S_{n-1}} - \frac{1}{S_n} = \frac{S_n - S_{n-1}}{S_{n-1} S_n} = \frac{a_n}{S_{n-1} S_n}$$

Since  $S_n > S_{n-1}$ , we have  $S_n^2 > S_{n-1} S_n$ . Therefore,  $\frac{a_n}{S_n^2} < \frac{a_n}{S_{n-1} S_n}$ .

(f) Bound the series tail  $\sum \frac{a_n}{S_n^2}$ .

$$\sum_{n=N+1}^{\infty} \frac{a_n}{S_n^2} < \sum_{n=N+1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{S_{n-1}} - \frac{1}{S_n} \right)$$

This is a telescoping sum:

$$= \left( \frac{1}{S_N} - \frac{1}{S_{N+1}} \right) + \left( \frac{1}{S_{N+1}} - \frac{1}{S_{N+2}} \right) + \dots = \frac{1}{S_N} - \lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{S_M}$$

Since  $S_M \rightarrow \infty$ , the limit is 0. The sum is bounded by  $1/S_N$ , so the series **converges**.

(g) What series do you get if you treat the Harmonic sequence in this way?

$a_n = 1/n, S_n \approx \ln n$ . The series is  $\sum \frac{1}{n(\ln n)^2}$ . As shown in problem 2(b), this series converges.