

READING RESPONSE 1 – MATH 397
April 3, 2018

ALEX THIES
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Title: A Brief Review of Calculus

Response: Overall, I liked the reading; I found it very accessible and easy to follow. The author did a good job lacing the review with pretty results, and historical tidbits, e.g., showing the mechanisms behind the interesting identity: $\pi = 4(1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} + \dots)$, and mentioning that it was Leibniz who discovered the product and quotient rules. Further, the little section that discussed the product and quotient rules did a nice job reminding the reader the basic idea that the product rule and integration by parts are related, just as are the chain rule and u -substitution. Later in the reading, the author does a good job explaining the utility of Taylor Series, and while the material is easy to read, I'm not sure how strong my skills are at this moment when it comes to actually working with Taylor Series. Through tutoring I have a good understanding of how to deal with sequences and series, and how to compute things like the ratio and intervals of convergence of a series, but beyond that I'm either rusty or inexperienced.