

“The more I read, the more I acquire, the more certain I am that I know nothing.”

VOLTAIRE

In class work 17 has questions 1 through 3 with a total of 6 points. Turn in your work at the end of class on paper. This assignment is due Tuesday 26 October 13:20.

1. Find the numerical value of $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^x$. Careful: This is an indeterminate form of the type 1^∞ . To start, I suggest that you use the technique $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^x = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^{x \ln(1 + \frac{1}{x})}$.

Solution:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^{x \ln(1 + \frac{1}{x})} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(1 + \frac{1}{x})}{\frac{1}{x}},$$

This is an indeterminate form of the type $\frac{0}{0}$, so let's try the l'Hôpital rule.

$$\begin{aligned} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{x}} \left(-\frac{1}{x^2}\right)}{-\frac{1}{x^2}}, \\ &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So } \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^x = e.$$

2. Use the *ratio* test to determine if the series $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\left(\frac{k}{3}\right)^k}{k!}$ converges or diverges.

Solution: Algebra is supposed to be easier than calculus, so let's start by simplifying

$$\frac{\left(\frac{k+1}{3}\right)^{k+1}}{(k+1)!} \times \frac{k!}{\left(\frac{k}{3}\right)^k} = \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{k+1}{k}\right)^k = \frac{1}{3} \left(1 + \frac{1}{k}\right)^k.$$

$$\text{So } \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left(\frac{k+1}{3}\right)^{k+1}}{(k+1)!} \times \frac{k!}{\left(\frac{k}{3}\right)^k} = \frac{1}{3}. \text{ And so } \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\left(\frac{k}{3}\right)^k}{k!} \text{ converges.}$$

1 3. Define a sequence s by $s_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{\sqrt{k}}$. This is a convergent alternating series. Also define $s_\infty = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n$.

1 (a) Use Desmos to graph s on the interval $[1, 2, \dots, 150]$. Also use Desmos to find the numeric values of s_{149} and s_{150} . As best you can, reproduce a cartoon of the graph of s .

Solution:

1 (b) From the theory of convergent alternating series, we know that $s_{150} < s_\infty < s_{149}$. Looking at the graph of s , I would guess that s_∞ is pretty close to the arithmetic average of s_{150} and s_{149} ; that is $s_\infty \approx \frac{s_{150} + s_{149}}{2}$. Find the numeric value of $\frac{s_{150} + s_{149}}{2}$.

Solution:

1 (c) Define a sequence w by $w_n = \frac{s_{n+1} + s_n}{2}$. With a bit of effort, we could prove that the sequence w is a convergent alternating sequence that converges to s_∞ . Use Desmos to graph the sequences s and w on the interval $[1, 2, \dots, 150]$. Which sequence would you say converges “faster”? As best you can, reproduce a cartoon graphs of s and w .