

Math 4301 Mathematical Analysis I
Lecture 19
Topic: Sequences and series of functions

- **Proposition** Suppose that $f_n : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are Riemann integrable over $[a, b]$,

$$f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

and $f_n \rightarrow f$ (uniformly) on $[a, b]$.

Then f is integrable over $[a, b]$ and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_a^b f_n(x) dx = \int_a^b \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) dx = \int_a^b f(x) dx.$$

Proof. Let us assume (we prove it latter) that f is integrable over $[a, b]$.

- We show that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_a^b f_n(x) dx = \int_a^b f(x) dx.$$

- Let $\epsilon > 0$ be given.
- Since $f_n \rightarrow f$ (uniformly) on $[a, b]$, there is $N \in \mathbb{N}$, such that, for all $n > N$ and $x \in [a, b]$,

$$|f_n(x) - f(x)| < \frac{\epsilon}{b-a}.$$

- We see that, for $n > N$,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_a^b f_n(x) dx - \int_a^b f(x) dx \right| &= \left| \int_a^b (f_n(x) - f(x)) dx \right| \leq \int_a^b |f_n(x) - f(x)| dx \\ &< \int_a^b \frac{\epsilon}{b-a} dx = \frac{\epsilon}{b-a} \int_a^b dx \\ &= \frac{\epsilon}{(b-a)} \cdot (b-a) = \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

since

$$\left| \int_a^b h(x) dx \right| \leq \int_a^b |h(x)| dx$$

- **We show that f is Riemann integrable.**
- Recall, $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is **Riemann integrable**, if for all $\epsilon > 0$, there is a partition

$$P = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n\}$$

of $[a, b]$, such that

$$U(f, P) - L(f, P) < \epsilon.$$

- Let $\epsilon > 0$ be given and since $f_n \rightarrow f$ (uniformly) on $[a, b]$, there is $N \in \mathbb{N}$, such that, for all $n > N$ and $x \in [a, b]$,

$$|f_n(x) - f(x)| < \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)}.$$

- If $n = N + 1$, then since f_{N+1} is bounded,
there is $M_{N+1} \geq 0$, such that, for all $x \in [a, b]$,

$$|f_{N+1}(x)| \leq M_{N+1}$$

- Since $n = N + 1 > N$, for all $x \in [a, b]$,

$$\begin{aligned} |f(x)| &= |(f(x) - f_{N+1}(x)) + f_{N+1}(x)| \\ &\leq |f_{N+1}(x) - f(x)| + |f_{N+1}(x)| \\ &\leq \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} + M_{N+1}, \end{aligned}$$

- It follows that f is **bounded** on $[a, b]$.

- Hence, both $\overline{\int_a^b} f$ and $\underline{\int_a^b} f$ are defined for f .

- Let $n > N$.

- Since $f_n : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is integrable,
there is a partition

$$P = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_m\}$$

of $[a, b]$, such that

$$U(f_n, P) - L(f_n, P) < \frac{\epsilon}{2}$$

- Since, $n > N$ and all $x \in [a, b]$,

$$\begin{aligned} |f_n(x) - f(x)| &= |f(x) - f_n(x)| < \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)}, \text{ i.e.} \\ -\frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} &< f(x) - f_n(x) < \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)}, \end{aligned}$$

- so

$$f_n(x) - \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} < f(x) < f_n(x) + \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)},$$

and for all $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ and for all $x \in [x_{i-1}, x_i]$:

$$f_n(x) - \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} < f(x) < \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} + f_n(x),$$

- Since

$$f_n(x) - \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} < f(x),$$

and, for all $x \in [x_{i-1}, x_i]$,

$$m_i(f_n) = \inf \{f_n(x) : x \in [x_{i-1}, x_i]\} \leq f_n(x),$$

it follows

$$m_i(f_n) - \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} < f(x)$$

- Furthermore, from the above

$$m_i(f_n) - \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)}$$

is a lower bound for

$$\{f(x) : x \in [x_{i-1}, x_i]\}$$

- Since $m_i(f)$ is the greatest lower bound

$$m_i(f_n) - \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} < \inf \{f(x) : x \in [x_{i-1}, x_i]\} = m_i(f).$$

- Moreover, since

$$f(x) < \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} + f_n(x)$$

and

$$f_n(x) \leq \sup \{f_n(x) : x \in [x_{i-1}, x_i]\} = M_i(f_n),$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &< \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} + f_n(x) \\ &\leq \sup \{f_n(x) : x \in [x_{i-1}, x_i]\} + \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} \\ &= M_i(f_n) + \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} \end{aligned}$$

- Therefore,

$$M_i(f_n) + \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)}$$

is an upper bound for

$$\{f(x) : x \in [x_{i-1}, x_i]\}.$$

- Since $M_i(f)$ is the least upper bound for

$$\{f(x) : x \in [x_{i-1}, x_i]\},$$

$$\begin{aligned} M_i(f) &= \sup \{f(x) : x \in [x_{i-1}, x_i]\} \\ &\leq M_i(f_n) + \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} \end{aligned}$$

- Hence

$$\begin{aligned} m_i(f_n) - \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} &\leq m_i(f) \text{ and} \\ M_i(f) &\leq M_i(f_n) + \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)}. \end{aligned}$$

- Therefore,

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \left(m_i(f_n) - \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} \right) \Delta x_i \leq \sum_{i=1}^m m_i(f) \Delta x_i = L(f, P)$$

and

$$U(f, P) = \sum_{i=1}^m M_i(f) \Delta x_i \leq \sum_{i=1}^m \left(M_i(f_n) + \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} \right) \Delta x_i.$$

- Since

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{i=1}^m \left(m_i(f_n) - \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} \right) \Delta x_i &= \sum_{i=1}^m m_i(f_n) \Delta x_i - \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} \sum_{i=1}^m \Delta x_i \\
&= L(f_n, P) - \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} (b-a) \\
&= L(f_n, P) - \frac{\epsilon}{4},
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{i=1}^m \left(M_i(f) + \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} \right) \Delta x_i &= \sum_{i=1}^m M_i(f) \Delta x_i + \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} \Delta x_i \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^m M_i(f) \Delta x_i + \frac{\epsilon}{4(b-a)} (b-a) \\
&= U(f_n, P) + \frac{\epsilon}{4},
\end{aligned}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned}
L(f_n, P) - \frac{\epsilon}{4} &\leq L(f, P) \quad \text{and} \\
U(f, P) &\leq U(f_n, P) + \frac{\epsilon}{4}.
\end{aligned}$$

- We see that

$$\begin{aligned}
U(f, P) - L(f, P) &\leq \left(U(f_n, P) + \frac{\epsilon}{4} \right) - \left(L(f_n, P) - \frac{\epsilon}{4} \right) \\
&= U(f_n, P) - L(f_n, P) + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \\
&< \frac{\epsilon}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{2} = \epsilon
\end{aligned}$$

- Therefore, f is Riemann integrable.

This finishes our proof. ■

- **Corollary** Suppose that $f_n : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is Riemann integrable and

$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_n$ converges uniformly to $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

Then f is Riemann integrable over $[a, b]$ and

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_a^b f_n(x) dx.$$

i.e.

$$\int_a^b \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_n(x) \right) dx = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_a^b f_n(x) dx$$

Proof. Let

$$s_n = \sum_{i=1}^n f_n.$$

- Then $s_n \rightarrow f$ (uniformly) so by previous theorem

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_a^b f_n(x) dx &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \int_a^b f_n(x) dx \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_a^b s_n(x) dx = \int_a^b \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n(x) dx \\ &= \int_a^b f(x) dx = \int_a^b \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_n(x) dx. \end{aligned}$$

This finishes our proof. ■

- **Exercise** Let $f_n : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined by

$$f_n(x) = nx(1-x^2)^n.$$

Is is true that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^1 f_n(x) dx = \int_0^1 \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) dx$$

- **Solution** We compute the pointwise limit of the sequence $\{f_n\}$.
- If $x_0 = 0, 1$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(0) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \cdot 0 (1-0^2)^n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \cdot 1 (1-1^2)^n \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(1) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

- Thus, assume that $0 < x < 1$, so

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f_{n+1}(x)}{f_n(x)} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+1)x(1-x^2)^{n+1}}{nx(1-x^2)^n} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+1)(1-x^2)}{n} = (1-x^2) < 1. \end{aligned}$$

- It follows that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = 0.$$

- Let $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, be given by,

$$f(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = 0.$$

- We see that since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = f(x),$$

for all $x \in [0, 1]$, then $\{f_n\}$ converges to f pointwise.

- Notice that

$$\int_0^1 \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) dx = \int_0^1 f(x) dx = \int_0^1 0 dx = 0$$

- Therefore,

$$\int_0^1 \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) dx = 0.$$

- We compute

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^1 f_n(x) dx = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^1 nx(1-x^2)^n dx$$

- Let $u = 1 - x^2$, then $dx = -2x dx$, so

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 f_n(x) dx &= \int_0^1 nx(1-x^2)^n dx = -\frac{n}{2} \int_1^0 u^n du \\ &= \frac{n}{2} \int_0^1 u^n du = \frac{n}{2(n+1)} \end{aligned}$$

so

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^1 f_n(x) dx = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{2(n+1)} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

- As we see

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^1 f_n(x) dx \neq \int_0^1 \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) dx.$$

- This also shows that $\{f_n\}$ cannot converge uniformly to f and that the pointwise convergence of the sequence $\{f_n\}$ is usually insufficient for the statement of the above theorem to hold.

Exercise Show that

$$\int_0^1 \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x}{(x^2+n)^2} \right) dx = \frac{1}{2}.$$

- **Solution** Let

$$f_n : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f_n(x) = \frac{x}{(x^2+n)^2}.$$

- We see that

$$\begin{aligned} f'_n(x) &= \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{x}{(x^2+n)^2} \right) = \frac{n-3x^2}{(x^2+n)^3} = 0 \text{ iff} \\ x_n &= \pm \sqrt{\frac{n}{3}}, n \in \mathbb{N}. \end{aligned}$$

- Since $x_n \notin [0, 1]$, $x_n = \sqrt{\frac{n}{3}}$, $n \geq 4$.

- Moreover, since

$$f_n(0) = 0, f_n(1) = \frac{1}{(n+1)^2}$$

and for $n \geq 4$ and $x \in [0, 1]$,

$$f'_n(x) = \frac{n-3x^2}{(x^2+n)^3} > 0$$

so f_n increases.

- Thus, for all $x \in [0, 1]$,

$$\left| \frac{x}{(x^2+n)^2} \right| \leq f_n(1) = \frac{1}{(n+1)^2}.$$

- Let $M_n = \frac{1}{(n+1)^2}$.

- Since

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} M_n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} < \infty,$$

by the Weierstrass M -test, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_n$ converges uniformly.

- Consequently, by the theorem

$$\int_0^1 \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x}{(x^2+n)^2} \right) dx = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_0^1 \frac{x}{(x^2+n)^2} dx.$$

- Since

$$\int_0^1 \frac{x}{(x^2+n)^2} dx = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{2x}{(x^2+n)^2} dx,$$

let $u = x^2 + n$, $du = 2x dx$,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 \frac{x}{(x^2+n)^2} dx &= \frac{1}{2} \int_n^{n+1} \frac{1}{u^2} du = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{u} \Big|_n^{n+1} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1} \right). \end{aligned}$$

- Thus,

$$\int_0^1 \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x}{(x^2+n)^2} \right) dx = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_0^1 \frac{x}{(x^2+n)^2} dx = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1} \right).$$

- Let

$$\begin{aligned} s_n &= \sum_{k=1}^n \left(\frac{1}{k} - \frac{1}{k+1} \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{1} - \frac{1}{2} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3} \right) + \dots + \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1} \right) = 1 - \frac{1}{n+1}. \end{aligned}$$

- Since

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n+1} \right) = 1.$$

- It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x}{(x^2+n)^2} \right) dx &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_0^1 \frac{x}{(x^2+n)^2} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 1 = \frac{1}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Differentiation of Sequences and Series of Functions

Theorem Let $f_n : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be differentiable, $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $f_n(x) \rightarrow f(x)$ (pointwise).

Suppose that $f'_n : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$f'_n(x) = \frac{d}{dx} f_n(x)$$

is continuous and $f'_n \rightarrow g$ (uniformly), where

$$g : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

Then f is differentiable on (a, b) and $f' = g$, that is,

$$g(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f'_n(x) = f'(x),$$

for all $x \in (a, b)$.

That is,

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(\underbrace{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x)}_{f(x)} \right) = \underbrace{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f'_n(x)}_{g(x)}$$

Proof. Let $x_0 \in (a, b)$.

- Using the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus,

$$\begin{aligned} f_n(x) &= f_n(x_0) + \int_{x_0}^x f'_n(t) dt, \text{ hence} \\ f(x) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x_0) + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{x_0}^x f'_n(t) dt \\ &= f(x_0) + \int_{x_0}^x \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f'_n(t) dt = f(x_0) + \int_{x_0}^x g(t) dt. \end{aligned}$$

- Since g is continuous on (a, b) ,
it follows that f is differentiable and

$$f'(x) = g(x)$$

as we claimed.

This finishes our proof. ■

- **Corollary** Let $f_n : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be differentiable and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_n$ converges (pointwise) on (a, b) to $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.
If $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f'_n$ converges (uniformly) to $g : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,
then $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable and

$$f' = g,$$

that is, for all $x \in (a, b)$:

$$\left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_n \right)'(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f'_n(x).$$

Proof. Proof is left as an exercise. ■

- **Example** Let $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $f_n : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, be given by

$$f_n(x) = \begin{cases} 4n^2 x & \text{if } x \in \left[0, \frac{1}{2n}\right] \\ 4n(1 - nx) & \text{if } x \in \left[\frac{1}{2n}, \frac{1}{n}\right] \\ 0 & \text{if } x \in \left[\frac{1}{n}, 1\right] \end{cases}.$$

- One show that

$$\int_0^1 f_n(x) dx = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{n} \cdot 2n \right) = 1,$$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

- Therefore,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^1 f_n(x) dx = 1.$$

Since $f_n(x) \rightarrow 0 = f(x)$ (pointwise) and

$$\int_0^1 \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) dx = 0.$$

- We see that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_a^b f_n(x) dx \neq \int_a^b \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) dx.$$

- We conclude that $f_n(x) \rightarrow f(x)$ pointwise but not uniformly.

Example Let $g_n : [-1, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$g_n(x) = \frac{nx^2}{1 + nx^2}.$$

Is it true that $g : (-1, 1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, given by

$$g(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g_n(x)$$

is differentiable?

Solution: Let $x \in [-1, 1]$.

If $x \neq 0$, then

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

If $x = 0$, then

$$g_n(0) = 0,$$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

- Thus,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g_n(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases}$$

- Therefore,

$$g : (-1, 1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

given by

$$g(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g_n(x)$$

is not differentiable at $x = 0$.

- What type of convergence do we have for the sequence $\{g'_n\}$?
- We see that

$$g'_n(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{nx^2}{1+nx^2} \right) = \frac{2nx}{(nx^2+1)^2}, \text{ so}$$

for $x \in (-1, 1)$,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g'_n(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2nx}{(nx^2+1)^2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x}{n(x^2 + \frac{1}{n})^2} = 0.$$

- Let $h : (-1, 1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, be given by

$$h(x) = 0,$$

for all $x \in (-1, 1)$.

- Therefore,

$$g'_n(x) \rightarrow h(x) \text{ (pointwise).}$$

- We check if $g'_n \rightarrow h$ uniformly.
- Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned} g''_n(x) &= \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{2nx}{(nx^2+1)^2} \right) = \frac{-2n(3nx^2-1)}{(nx^2+1)^3} = 0, \text{ iff} \\ 3nx^2-1 &= 0, \text{ so } x_n = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{3n}}. \end{aligned}$$

- Therefore,

$$g'_n \left(\pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{3n}} \right) = \frac{2n \left(\pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{3n}} \right)}{\left(\frac{n}{3n} + 1 \right)^2} = \pm \frac{3}{8} \sqrt{3n}$$

- Since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g'_n \left(\pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{3n}} \right) = \pm \infty,$$

the sequence g'_n is not uniformly convergent h .

Example Verify that

$$\int_0^t e^x dx = e^t - 1$$

using

$$e^t = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^n}{n!}, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

and the corollary above.

Solution: By the Weierstrass M -test,

$$e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

converges uniformly on every finite interval.

- Let $x > 0$ be given and consider interval $[0, x]$, then

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^x e^t dt &= \int_0^x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^n}{n!} dt = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int_0^x \frac{t^n}{n!} dt = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} - 1 = e^x - 1.\end{aligned}$$

Example Find $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n}$, if $|x| < 1$ and compute the sum $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n}$.

Solution: We know that, for all $\epsilon > 0$,

$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n$ converges uniformly to

$$\begin{aligned}f &: [-1 + \epsilon, 1 - \epsilon] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \\ f(x) &= \frac{1}{1-x} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n,\end{aligned}$$

Moreover, the series representing f on

$$[-1 + \epsilon, 1 - \epsilon]$$

is convergent uniformly.

- Let $x \in (-1, 1)$.

There is $\epsilon > 0$, such that $x \in [-1 + \epsilon, 1 - \epsilon]$, so

$$\begin{aligned}-\ln(1-x) &= \int_0^x \frac{1}{1-t} dt = \int_0^x f(t) dt = \int_0^x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} t^n dt \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int_0^x t^n dt = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n}\end{aligned}$$

- The formula above is valid for all $\epsilon > 0$, on the interval

$$[-1 + \epsilon, 1 - \epsilon].$$

- It follows that the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n}$ converges pointwise to

$$\begin{aligned}f &: (-1, 1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \\ f(x) &= -\ln(1-x).\end{aligned}$$

- For $x \neq 1$, since

$$\sum_{k=0}^n x^k = \frac{1-x^{n+1}}{1-x} = \frac{1}{1-x} - \frac{x^{n+1}}{1-x}.$$

after integrating both sides

$$\begin{aligned}\int_0^x \left(\sum_{k=0}^n t^k \right) dt &= \sum_{k=0}^n \int_0^x t^k dt = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{x^{k+1}}{k+1} \\ &= -\ln(1-x) - \int_0^x \frac{t^{n+1}}{1-t} dt, \text{ hence} \\ \left| \sum_{k=0}^n \int_0^x t^k dt + \ln(1-x) \right| &= \left| \int_0^x \frac{t^{n+1}}{1-t} dt \right|.\end{aligned}$$

- Thus

$$\left| \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{x^{k+1}}{k+1} + \ln(1-x) \right| = \left| \int_0^x \frac{t^{n+1}}{1-t} dt \right|$$

- If $x = -1$, since

$$\frac{1}{1-t} \leq 1,$$

for $-1 \leq t < 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{k+1} + \ln 2 \right| &\leq \left| \int_0^{-1} \frac{t^{n+1}}{1-t} dt \right| \leq \int_{-1}^0 \left| \frac{t^{n+1}}{1-t} \right| dt \leq \int_{-1}^0 |t^{n+1}| dt \\ &= \int_0^1 t^{n+1} dt = \frac{1}{n+2}. \end{aligned}$$

- Thus, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{k+1} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n+1} = -\ln 2, \text{ so} \\ -\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} &= -\ln 2 \end{aligned}$$

- It follows that

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