

5. [10 points]

a. [5 points] Using an appropriate Taylor series for e^x , determine whether the integral

$$\int_0^1 \frac{1}{e^{\sqrt{x}} - 1} dx \quad \text{converges.}$$

Circle one:

CONVERGES

DIVERGES

Justification:

$$e^{\sqrt{x}} = 1 + \sqrt{x} + \frac{1}{2!}(\sqrt{x})^2 + \frac{1}{3!}(\sqrt{x})^3 + \dots \geq 1 + \sqrt{x} \quad \text{if } 0 < x \leq 1.$$

so $e^{\sqrt{x}} - 1 \geq (1 + \sqrt{x}) - 1 = \sqrt{x}$

so $\frac{1}{e^{\sqrt{x}} - 1} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$

$$\int_0^1 \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x}} = \int_0^1 \frac{1}{x^{1/2}} dx \quad \text{converges by the p-test (p=1/2)}$$

so $\int_0^1 \frac{1}{e^{\sqrt{x}} - 1} dx$ converges by comparison.

b. [5 points] Using a Taylor series for a function $f(x)$, compute the exact value of $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{3^{n-1}}$.

(Hint: Consider the function $\frac{1}{1-x}$.)

$$\frac{1}{1-x} = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n$$

Take derivatives of both sides:

$$-(1-x)^{-2}(-1) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n x^{n-1} \quad \text{The } n=0 \text{ term is 0 so can ignore it:}$$

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

That converges by the ratio test when $|x| < 1$. So if $x = \frac{1}{3}$,

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{n-1} = \frac{1}{(1-\frac{1}{3})^2}$$

Answer:

This is a value of a Taylor series for the function $f(x) = \frac{1}{(1-x)^2}$

The radius of convergence of this Taylor series is 1 (No justification needed)

$$\text{Finally, } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{3^{n-1}} = \frac{9}{4} = 2.25$$