

Worksheet Karma

1. We learned recently that

$$\frac{1}{1-x} = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots$$

as long as $|x| < 1$. You can think of both sides of the equation as *functions of x* , and so we have the surprising new idea that a common function we're familiar with, $\frac{1}{1-x}$, can be expressed as an infinite series, for certain values of x .

Maybe other functions we know and like can also be expressed as series? Suppose that:

$$e^x = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots$$

for some constants a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots , for all x .

- What must a_0 be? Hint: plug in 0 to both sides.
 - Take the derivative of both sides. Now deduce a_1 .
 - Repeat to find a_2, a_3, a_4, \dots
 - Can it really be true?!? Try to test with the first 10 terms of the series and $x = 1$.
2. Find the probability of winning the pass bet in craps.
3. Between 1980 and 2009, there were 7015 Division I basketball games which were tied at the end of regulation play, resulting in at least one overtime period. Suppose p is the probability that an overtime period ends in a tie.
- How many 2nd overtimes do you expect there were? How many 3rd overtimes? How many k th overtimes?
 - There were in fact 8568 total overtime periods between 1980 and 2009. Use that to estimate p .
 - About how many games went 6 or more overtimes, do you guess?
4. Let's prove that a series converges.
- Draw the graph of $y = 1/x^2$ for $x > 0$.
 - Draw in some rectangles representing the Right Hand Sum with $\Delta x = 1$ for $\int_1^\infty dx/x^2$.
 - Explain why this proves that $\sum_{n=2}^\infty 1/n^2$ converges.
 - Of course $\sum_{n=1}^\infty 1/n^2$ is just one bigger than that last sum, so it converges too. But what does it converge to?
5. Use an argument similar to the last one to prove that $\sum_{n=1}^\infty 1/n$ diverges.

6. (From the Winter, 2011 Math 116 final exam) Determine whether the following series converge or diverge, and justify your answer using one or more convergence tests. No credit without justification.

$$(a) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{2^n}{n^2} \qquad (b) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3n-2}{\sqrt{n^5+n^2}} \qquad (c) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1}{n(1+\ln(n))}$$

7. (Fall, 2014) Prove whether these series converge or diverge:

$$(a) \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n \ln(n)}{n} \qquad (b) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{\sqrt{n^3+2}}$$

8. Prove whether the following improper integrals converge or diverge.

$$(a) \int_3^{\infty} \frac{\ln(x)}{x^2} dx \qquad (b) \int_0^{\infty} \frac{3}{4x^2+5\sqrt{x}} dx$$