

Math 131A-3: Homework 5

Due: November 1, 2013

1. Do problems 14.2 (a),(f), 14.3(b),(e), 14.4(c), 14.8, 14.12, 14.13 in Ross.
2. Do problems 15.1, 15.4(b) in Ross. [You can use what you know about integration from calculus on 15.4. We'll define it properly later in this course.]
3. Do problems 17.2, 17.5 in Ross.
4. *The number e.* You have probably seen in calculus that Euler's number e may be defined as the limit of the sequence $a_n = (1 + \frac{1}{n})^n$. This is sometimes described as the interaction between the "irresistible force" – to wit, an exponent approaching infinity – and the "immovable object" – to wit, a base approaching 1. Another possible definition of e is

$$e = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!}$$

We will show these expressions are both convergent, and in fact coincide. Let s_n be the partial sums of the series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!}$.

- (a) Show that $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!}$ converges. Call the limit s .
- (b) The binomial theorem states that, for $n \geq 1$ $(1 + x)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} x^k$. With this in mind, show that for $n \geq 1$,

$$a_n = \frac{1}{0!} + \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{n(n-1) \cdots (n-k+1)}{n^k} \frac{1}{k!}$$

Conclude that $a_n \leq s_n$ for all $n \geq 1$, and therefore $\limsup a_n \leq s$.

- (c) For $n \geq m$, show that

$$a_n \geq \frac{1}{0!} + \sum_{k=1}^m \frac{n(n-1) \cdots (n-k+1)}{n^k} \frac{1}{k!}.$$

Letting $n \rightarrow \infty$ for fixed m , observe that we have $\liminf a_n \geq 1 + 1 + \frac{1}{2!} + \cdots + \frac{1}{m!}$. Since m was arbitrary, conclude that $\liminf a_n \geq s$.

- (d) From the above, conclude that (a_n) converges and $\lim a_n = s$. Therefore the two definitions of e above are convergent and equal.