Math 131A-1: Homework 6

Due: February 13, 2015

1. Read Sections 17-18 in Ross.

2. Do problems 14.2 (a),(f), 14.3(b),(e), 14.4(c), 14.5, 14.8, 14.12, 14.13 in Ross.

3. 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.]

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 $n \to \infty$ 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.