

Assignment 3 – due Friday, August 31

1. S'07 Basic Exam # 10. This one is a bit challenging: all of the hypotheses i)-iv) are necessary.
2. S'07 Basic Exam # 4. This looks like linear algebra at first glance. It is really a mix of a little bit of linear algebra with a lot of analysis.
3. S'07 Basic Exam # 12. The metric here is $d(x, y) = \|x - y\|$.
4. F'04 Basic Exam #1 or S'05 Basic Exam #5 in Analysis section. This is a standard result. I hope that you haven't seen it.
5. W'06 Basic Exam #2.
6. F'06 Basic Exam #3.
7. S'04 Basic Exam #6. This is another one that mixes linear algebra and analysis, but is mostly analysis. Remember that " $\|x\|$ " is a norm, and try the one-dimensional case, $n = 1$, first. The people writing the problem seemed to have difficulty writing $\|x\|$, and various other choices of vertical bars appear in the statement. All norms except $\|x\|_2$ are supposed to be $\|x\|$.
8. (Rudin, p.166) Prove that the series

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

converges uniformly on every bounded interval, but does not converge absolutely for any value of x .

Root Test, Ratio Test and Decreasing Sequences

On Thursday I discussed the topics above in a lecture that was not very focused. Here is the essence of what I was trying to say.

Theorem 1. The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ is convergent if $\overline{\lim} |a_n|^{1/n} < 1$, divergent if $\overline{\lim} |a_n|^{1/n} > 1$, and can be either convergent or divergent if $\overline{\lim} |a_n|^{1/n} = 1$.

The proof of Theorem 1 is a direct application of the following: if $\overline{\lim} b_n = L < \infty$, then, for any $\epsilon > 0$, $b_n > L + \epsilon$ for only finitely many n , but $b_n > L - \epsilon$ for infinitely many n .

Theorem 2. If $a_n \neq 0$ for n sufficiently large, then one has

$$\underline{\lim} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| \leq \underline{\lim} |a_n|^{1/n} \leq \overline{\lim} |a_n|^{1/n} \leq \overline{\lim} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right|.$$

The proof of Theorem 2 uses the property of $\overline{\lim}$ used in proving Theorem 1, the corresponding property of $\underline{\lim}$, and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} p^{1/n} = 1$ for $p > 0$.

Corollary (to Theorem 1). Let $1/R = \lim |a_n|^{1/n}$ with $R = 0$ if $\lim |a_n|^{1/n} = \infty$ and $R = \infty$ if $\lim |a_n|^{1/n} = 0$. Then the power series

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$$

converges for $|x| < R$ and diverges for $|x| > R$.

Corollary (to Theorems 1 and 2). $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges if $\overline{\lim} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| < 1$ and diverges if $\underline{\lim} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| > 1$.

Note that this corollary implies the “undergraduate ratio test”: $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges if $\lim \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| < 1$ and diverges if $\lim \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| > 1$.

If a_n is a decreasing nonnegative sequence, i.e. $a_n \geq a_{n+1} \geq 0$, then one can check that if $n < 2^{m+1}$

$$\sum_{k=1}^n a_k \leq \sum_{k=1}^m 2^k a_{2^k}, \text{ and if } n \geq 2^m, \sum_{k=1}^n a_k \geq a_1 + \sum_{k=1}^m 2^{k-1} a_{2^k}.$$

From this one immediately deduces the handy convergence criterion (discovered by Cauchy):

Theorem 3 (Rudin, Theorem 3.27, and Tao, Prop.7.3.4). If $a_n \geq a_{n+1} \geq 0$, then $\sum a_n$ converges if and only if $\sum 2^n a_{2^n}$ converges.

For instance, $\sum n^{-p}$ converges if and only if the geometric series $\sum 2^{-(p-1)n}$ converges, i.e. if and only if $p > 1$, and $\sum (n(\ln n)^p)^{-1}$ converges if and only if the p -series $\sum (n \ln 2)^{-p}$ converges, i.e. if and only if $p > 1$.