MATH 009C - Summer 2017

Quiz 5: July 25, 2017

1. Determine whether the series converges or diverges. If it converges, find its sum. (Show all the steps!)

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{e^n} + \frac{1}{n(n+1)} \right)$$

Solution: First note the first term is a geometric series, and the second is a telescoping series. We can only break the series into two parts if both of the series are convergent. So we deal with them separately. First the geometric series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{e^n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{e}\right)^n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{e} \left(\frac{1}{e}\right)^{n-1} = \frac{1/e}{1-1/e} = \frac{1}{e-1} \quad \text{convergent since } \frac{1}{e} < 1$$

The second series requires that we use the definition of a series, a limit of partial sums. The second series has the general term $a_n = \frac{1}{n(n+1)} = \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1}$, then the partial sum s_n is

$$s_n = \left(\frac{1}{1} - \frac{1}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3}\right) + \dots + \left(\frac{1}{n-1} - \frac{1}{n}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1}\right)$$
$$= 1 - \frac{1}{n+1}$$

Then by taking the limit of partial sums, we have

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} 1 - \frac{1}{n+1} = 1$$

So since both series are convergent, we can break the sum, and we have already computed the sums individually, hence

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

Please, show all work.

2. Determine whether the series converges or diverges.

(a)
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ne^{-n}$$

(b)
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\arctan(n)}{n^3}$$

(c)
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1+5^n}{1+2^n}$$

Solution:

(a) Use the integral test with $f(x) = xe^{-x}$. The function f(x) needs to be positive for x > 1. Exponentials are always positive, and x > 0 since we are only considering x > 1. The function f(x) is continuous since it is the product of continuous functions. Lastly, the derivative is decreasing

$$f'(x) = e^{-x} + (-1)xe^{-x} = e^{-x}(1-x) < 0$$
 for $x > 1$.

Therefore, we apply the integral test and integrate the improper integral

$$\int_{1}^{\infty} x e^{-x} = \lim_{t \to \infty} \int_{1}^{t} x e^{-x} dx$$

= $\lim_{t \to \infty} -e^{-x} (x+1) \Big|_{1}^{t}$ (integration by parts)
= $-\lim_{t \to \infty} e^{-t} (t+1) + \frac{2}{3}$
= $0 + \frac{2}{e} = \frac{2}{e}$ convergent

(b) Apply the Comparison Test with $b_n = \frac{1}{n^3}$, which is a convergent *p*-series since p > 1. Recall, that arctangent is bounded above, i.e. $\arctan(x) < \frac{\pi}{2}$, therefore, we have that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\arctan(x)}{n^3} \le \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\pi/2}{n^3} = \frac{\pi}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^3} < \infty$$

Therefore, by Comparison Test, the original series is convergent.

(c) Compute the limit

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1+5^n}{1+2^n} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1+5^n}{1+2^n} \cdot \frac{\frac{1}{5^n}}{\frac{1}{5^n}} = \frac{0+1}{0+0} = \infty$$

So by Test for Divergence, the series is divergent.