NOTE The rule that the error (in using s_n to approximate s) is smaller than the first neglected term is, in general, valid only for alternating series that satisfy the conditions of the Alternating Series Estimation Theorem. The rule does not apply to other types of series.

11.5 Exercises

1. (a) What is an alternating series?
(b) Under what conditions does an alternating series converge?
(c) If these conditions are satisfied, what can you say about the remainder after n terms?

2–20 Test the series for convergence or divergence.

2. $\frac{2}{3} - \frac{2}{5} + \frac{2}{7} - \frac{2}{9} + \frac{2}{11} - \cdots$

3. $-\frac{2}{5} + \frac{4}{6} - \frac{6}{7} + \frac{8}{8} - \frac{10}{9} + \cdots$

4. $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{4}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} - \cdots$

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

6. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{\ln(n+4)}$

7. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{3n-1}{2n+1}$

8. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{n}{\sqrt{n^3+2}}$

9. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n e^{-n}$

10. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{\sqrt{n}}{2n+3}$

11. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{n^2}{n^3+4}$

12. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} n e^{-n}$

13. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} e^{2/n}$

14. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \arctan n$

15. $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(n+\frac{1}{2})\pi}{1+\sqrt{n}}$

16. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n \cos n\pi}{2^n}$

17. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{n}\right)$

18. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{n}\right)$

19. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{n^n}{n!}$

20. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \left(\sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n}\right)$

21–22 Graph both the sequence of terms and the sequence of partial sums on the same screen. Use the graph to make a rough estimate of the sum of the series. Then use the Alternating Series Estimation Theorem to estimate the sum correct to four decimal places.

21. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-0.8)^n}{n!}$

22. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{n}{8^n}$

23–26 Show that the series is convergent. How many terms of the series do we need to add in order to find the sum to the indicated accuracy?

23. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n^6}$ $\quad (|\text{error}| < 0.00005)$

24. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n\, 5^n}$ $\quad (|\text{error}| < 0.0001)$

25. $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{10^n n!}$ $\quad (|\text{error}| < 0.000005)$

26. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} n e^{-n}$ $\quad (|\text{error}| < 0.01)$

27–30 Approximate the sum of the series correct to four decimal places.

27. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n)!}$

28. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n^6}$

29. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1} n^2}{10^n}$

30. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{3^n n!}$

31. Is the 50th partial sum s_{50} of the alternating series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1}/n$ an overestimate or an underestimate of the total sum? Explain.

32–34 For what values of p is each series convergent?

32. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n^p}$

33. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n+p}$

34. $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{(\ln n)^p}{n}$

35. Show that the series $\sum (-1)^{n-1} b_n$, where $b_n = 1/n$ if n is odd and $b_n = 1/n^2$ if n is even, is divergent. Why does the Alternating Series Test not apply?

Graphing calculator or computer required   1. Homework Hints available at stewartcalculus.com