

46. Let  $\sum a_n$  be a series with positive terms and let  $r_n = a_{n+1}/a_n$ . Suppose that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r_n = L < 1$ , so  $\sum a_n$  converges by the Ratio Test. As usual, we let  $R_n$  be the remainder after  $n$  terms, that is<sup>1</sup>

$$R_n = a_{n+1} + a_{n+2} + a_{n+3} + \cdots$$

- (a) If  $\{r_n\}$  is a decreasing sequence and  $r_{n+1} < 1$ , show, by summing a geometric series, that

$$R_n \leq \frac{a_{n+1}}{1 - r_{n+1}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} R_n &= a_{n+1} + a_{n+2} + a_{n+3} + a_{n+4} + \cdots \\ &= a_{n+1} \left( 1 + \frac{a_{n+2}}{a_{n+1}} + \frac{a_{n+3}}{a_{n+1}} + \frac{a_{n+4}}{a_{n+1}} + \cdots \right) \\ &= a_{n+1} \left( 1 + \frac{a_{n+2}}{a_{n+1}} + \frac{a_{n+3}}{a_{n+2}} \cdot \frac{a_{n+2}}{a_{n+1}} + \frac{a_{n+4}}{a_{n+3}} \cdot \frac{a_{n+3}}{a_{n+2}} \cdot \frac{a_{n+2}}{a_{n+1}} + \cdots \right) \\ &= a_{n+1} (1 + r_{n+1} + r_{n+2}r_{n+1} + r_{n+3}r_{n+2}r_{n+1} + \cdots) \end{aligned}$$

and since  $R_n$  is decreasing,

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq a_{n+1} (1 + r_{n+1} + r_{n+1}^2 + r_{n+1}^3 + \cdots) \\ &= \frac{a_{n+1}}{1 - r_{n+1}} \end{aligned}$$

Thus, if  $\{r_n\}$  is a decreasing sequence, then  $R_n \leq \frac{a_{n+1}}{1 - r_{n+1}}$ .

- (b) If  $\{r_n\}$  is an increasing sequence, show that

$$R_n \leq \frac{a_{n+1}}{1 - L}$$

If  $\{r_n\}$  is increasing and  $r_n \rightarrow L$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , then  $r_n < L$  for all  $n$ . So

$$\begin{aligned} R_n &= a_{n+1} (1 + r_{n+1} + r_{n+2}r_{n+1} + r_{n+3}r_{n+2}r_{n+1} + \cdots) \\ &\leq a_{n+1} (1 + L + L^2 + L^3 + \cdots) \\ &= \frac{a_{n+1}}{1 - L} \end{aligned}$$

Thus, if  $\{r_n\}$  is an increasing sequence, then  $R_n \leq \frac{a_{n+1}}{1 - L}$ .

48. Use the sum of the first 10 terms to approximate the sum of the series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{2^n}$$

Use the above results to estimate the sum.

$$s_{10} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{4} + \frac{3}{8} + \frac{4}{16} + \frac{5}{32} + \frac{6}{64} + \frac{7}{128} + \frac{8}{256} + \frac{9}{512} + \frac{10}{1024} \approx 1.988281$$

We compute the ratios  $r_n = \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{n+1}{2^{n+1}} \cdot \frac{2^n}{n} = \frac{n+1}{2n} = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)$ , which form a decreasing sequence (the derivative of the corresponding function is  $-\frac{1}{2n^2} < 0$ ). Then

$$r_{11} = \frac{11+1}{2 \cdot 11}$$

---

<sup>1</sup>Stewart, *Calculus, Early Transcendentals*, p. 743, #46, 48.

Calculus II  
Absolute Convergence and the Ratio and Root Tests

---

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{6}{11} \\ &< 1 \end{aligned}$$

so the error is

$$\begin{aligned} R_{10} &\leq \frac{a_{11}}{1 - r_{11}} \\ &= \frac{\frac{11}{2048}}{1 - \frac{6}{11}} \\ &= \frac{121}{10,240} \\ &\approx 0.0118 \end{aligned}$$