

Remainder Estimates (Solutions)

1. Approximate $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n^2}$ using the first 4 terms.

$$\begin{aligned} S_4 &= 1 - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{9} - \frac{1}{16} \\ &= \frac{115}{144} \\ &\approx 0.7986. \end{aligned}$$

By the Alternating Series Estimation Theorem,

$$|R_4| \leq b_5 = \frac{1}{5^2} = \frac{1}{25} = 0.04.$$

2. Approximate $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n^3 + 1}$ using the first 3 terms.

$$\begin{aligned} S_3 &= -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{9} - \frac{1}{28} \\ &= -\frac{107}{252} \\ &\approx -0.4246. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$|R_3| \leq b_4 = \frac{1}{4^3 + 1} = \frac{1}{65} \approx 0.0154.$$

3. How many terms are needed to approximate $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n^5}$ to within 0.0001?

We want

$$|R_n| \leq b_{n+1} = \frac{1}{(n+1)^5} < 0.0001.$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{(n+1)^5} < 0.0001 &\iff (n+1)^5 > 10000 \\ &\iff n+1 > \sqrt[5]{10000} \approx 6.31. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the smallest such n is $n = 6$, so 6 terms are needed.

4. Use the first 5 terms of $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{\ln(n+1)}{n^2}$ to approximate the sum.

$$\begin{aligned} S_5 &= -\frac{\ln 2}{1^2} + \frac{\ln 3}{2^2} - \frac{\ln 4}{3^2} + \frac{\ln 5}{4^2} - \frac{\ln 6}{5^2} \\ &\approx -0.6931 + 0.2747 - 0.1540 + 0.1006 - 0.0717 \\ &\approx -0.5436. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$|R_5| \leq b_6 = \frac{\ln 7}{6^2} \approx 0.0541.$$

5. Determine the minimum number of terms needed to estimate $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n \ln n}$ with error less than 0.01.

We need

$$|R_n| \leq b_{n+1} = \frac{1}{(n+1) \ln(n+1)} < 0.01.$$

Checking nearby values,

$$\frac{1}{29 \ln 29} > 0.01, \quad \frac{1}{30 \ln 30} < 0.01.$$

So the smallest n is $n = 29$.

Since the series starts at $n = 2$, this means using terms $n = 2$ through $n = 29$, i.e. 28 terms.

6. Approximate $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2 + 1}$ using the first 5 terms.

$$\begin{aligned} S_5 &= \sum_{n=1}^5 \frac{1}{n^2 + 1} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{17} + \frac{1}{26} \\ &\approx 0.8973. \end{aligned}$$

Using the Integral Test Remainder Estimate,

$$\begin{aligned} R_5 &\leq \int_5^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2 + 1} dx \\ &= \tan^{-1}(x) \Big|_5^{\infty} \\ &= \frac{\pi}{2} - \tan^{-1}(5) \\ &\approx 0.1974. \end{aligned}$$

So the error is less than 0.1974.

7. Estimate the remainder when approximating

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

by its partial sum through $n = 10$.

Let $f(x) = \frac{1}{x(\ln x)^2}$. Then

$$\int_{11}^{\infty} f(x) dx \leq R_{10} \leq \int_{10}^{\infty} f(x) dx.$$

Using $u = \ln x$, $du = \frac{1}{x} dx$,

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{1}{x(\ln x)^2} dx &= \int u^{-2} du \\ &= -\frac{1}{u} + C \\ &= -\frac{1}{\ln x} + C. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{10}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x(\ln x)^2} dx &= \frac{1}{\ln 10}, \\ \int_{11}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x(\ln x)^2} dx &= \frac{1}{\ln 11}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{\ln 11} \leq R_{10} \leq \frac{1}{\ln 10}}.$$

8. Estimate $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{3/2}}$ using the first 8 terms.

$$\begin{aligned} S_8 &= \sum_{n=1}^8 \frac{1}{n^{3/2}} \\ &\approx 1 + 0.3536 + 0.1925 + 0.1250 + 0.0894 + 0.0680 + 0.0540 + 0.0442 \\ &\approx 1.9267. \end{aligned}$$

Also,

$$\begin{aligned} R_8 &\leq \int_8^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^{3/2}} dx \\ &= -2x^{-1/2} \Big|_8^{\infty} \\ &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{8}} \\ &\approx 0.7071. \end{aligned}$$

9. Find the smallest n such that $\sum_{k=2}^n \frac{1}{k(\ln k)^2}$ approximates the full sum within 0.05.

We want

$$R_n \leq \int_n^{\infty} \frac{1}{x(\ln x)^2} dx < 0.05.$$

Using $u = \ln x$, $du = \frac{1}{x} dx$,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_n^{\infty} \frac{1}{x(\ln x)^2} dx &= \int_{\ln n}^{\infty} \frac{1}{u^2} du \\ &= \frac{1}{\ln n}. \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\ln n} < 0.05 &\iff \ln n > 20 \\ &\iff n > e^{20}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the smallest integer n is

$$\boxed{n = 485,165,196}.$$

10. Approximate $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{\ln n}{n^3}$ using the first 6 terms.

$$\begin{aligned} S_6 &= \sum_{n=2}^7 \frac{\ln n}{n^3} \\ &\approx 0.0866 + 0.0407 + 0.0217 + 0.0129 + 0.0083 + 0.0057 \\ &\approx 0.1758. \end{aligned}$$

For the error,

$$R_6 \leq \int_7^{\infty} \frac{\ln x}{x^3} dx.$$

Using integration by parts with

$$u = \ln x, \quad dv = x^{-3} dx, \quad du = \frac{1}{x} dx, \quad v = -\frac{1}{2x^2},$$

we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{\ln x}{x^3} dx &= -\frac{\ln x}{2x^2} + \frac{1}{2} \int x^{-3} dx \\ &= -\frac{\ln x}{2x^2} - \frac{1}{4x^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} R_6 &\leq \left. -\frac{\ln x}{2x^2} - \frac{1}{4x^2} \right|_7^\infty \\ &= \frac{\ln 7}{98} + \frac{1}{196} \\ &\approx 0.0250. \end{aligned}$$

So the error is less than 0.0250.