

Quiz 1

Feb. 23, 2006

1. (5pts) Determine if the sequence converges or diverges. If it converges, determine the limit.

$$a_n = \frac{2n^2 + 1}{n^2 - 3}$$

Ans:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2n^2 + 1}{n^2 - 3} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2 + 1/n^2}{1 - 3/n^2} = 2$$

The sequence converges to 2

2. (5pts) Determine if the series converges or diverges. If it converges, find the sum.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{3^k} + \frac{2}{k} \right)$$

Ans:

(i) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{3^k}$ converges (geometric series)

(ii) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{k} = 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k}$ diverges (harmonic series)

Therefore $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{3^k} + \frac{2}{k} \right)$ diverges.

3. (0pt) Achilles and the tortoise-“You can never catch up.”

“In a race, the quickest runner can never overtake the slowest, since the pursuer must first reach the point whence the pursued started, so that the slower must always hold a lead.”
(Aristotle *Physics VI:9, 239b15*)

Being very fast, Greek hero Achilles gives the Tortoise a head start. But that would be a big mistake, claims Zeno, for then Achilles could never catch up. Why not? The proof is that by the time Achilles reaches the Tortoise's starting point S_1 , the Tortoise will have moved a little to S_2 , but then by the time Achilles reaches S_2 the Tortoise will have moved on to S_3 , but then by the time ...

Write your solutions as complete as possible. Working time: 10 minutes.