

Section Section 7.8: Improper Integrals

Comparison Theorem for Improper Integrals

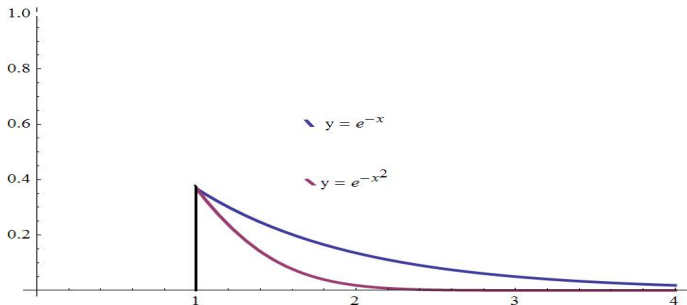


Figure: Graphs of $y = e^{-x}$ and $y = e^{-x^2}$ together. Note that for all $x \geq 1$, $e^{-x^2} < e^{-x}$. What should be true about $\int_1^\infty e^{-x} dx$ and $\int_1^\infty e^{-x^2} dx$?

Comparison

Evaluate the improper integral $\int_1^{\infty} e^{-x} dx$

$$\int_1^{\infty} e^{-x} dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^t e^{-x} dx$$

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left. -e^{-x} \right|_1^t$$

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left[-e^{-t} - (-e^{-1}) \right] = 0 + e^{-1} = \frac{1}{e}$$

The integral is convergent.

Comparison

$$y = e^{-x}$$

$$y = e^{-x^2}$$

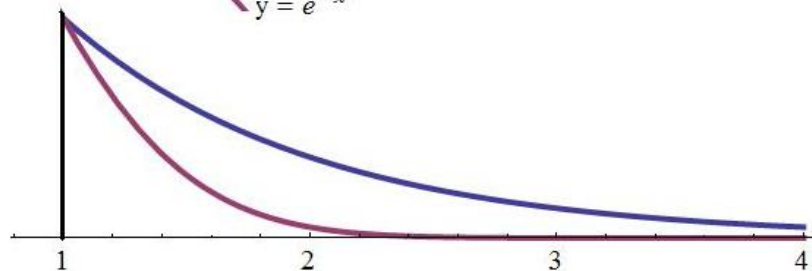


Figure: If the area under the blue curve is finite, can the area under the red curve be infinite?

Comparison Theorem

Suppose f and g are continuous functions with $f(x) \geq g(x) \geq 0$ for $x \geq a$. Then

- (a) if $\int_a^\infty f(x) dx$ converges, then $\int_a^\infty g(x) dx$ converges.
- (b) if $\int_a^\infty g(x) dx$ diverges, then $\int_a^\infty f(x) dx$ diverges.

Example

Determine if the integral

$$\int_1^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx$$

is convergent or divergent.

$$\text{For all } x \geq 1 \quad e^{-x} \geq e^{-x^2} \geq 0$$

$$\text{and } \int_1^{\infty} e^{-x} dx \text{ is convergent.}$$

Hence $\int_1^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx$ converges by the comparison theorem.

$$\text{Here, } f(x) = e^{-x} \text{ and } g(x) = e^{-x^2}$$

Recall $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} dx$ diverges.

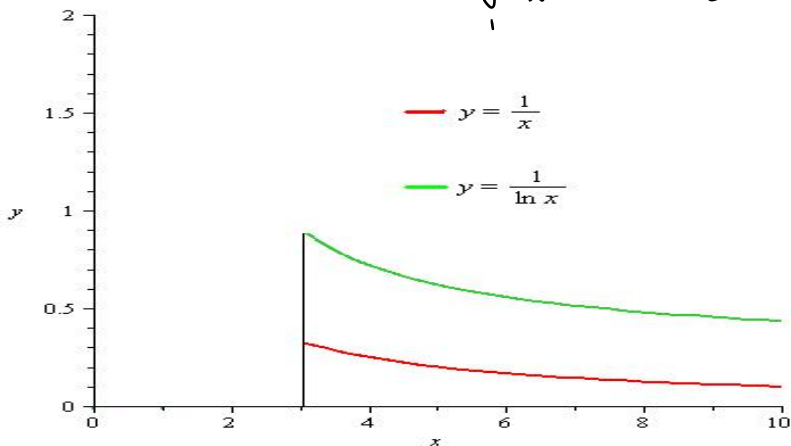


Figure: The curves $y = \frac{1}{x}$ and $y = \frac{1}{\ln x}$ plotted together for $x \geq 3$.

Example

Determine if the integral

$$\int_3^{\infty} \frac{dx}{\ln x}$$

is convergent or divergent.

For all $x > 3$ $\frac{1}{\ln x} \geq \frac{1}{x} > 0$

and $\int_3^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} dx$ diverges.

Hence $\int_3^{\infty} \frac{1}{\ln x} dx$ diverges by the comparison theorem.

Here $f(x) = \frac{1}{\ln x}$ and $g(x) = \frac{1}{x}$

Determine if the Integral Converges or Diverges

$$(a) \int_{\pi}^{\infty} \frac{2 + \sin x}{x^3} dx$$

Recall $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^p} dx$ converges.
 $p = 3 > 1$

$$1 \leq 2 + \sin x \leq 3 \quad \text{since } -1 \leq \sin x \leq 1$$

$$\text{so } \frac{1}{x^3} \leq \frac{2 + \sin x}{x^3} \leq \frac{3}{x^3}$$

$$\text{Since } \frac{3}{x^3} \geq \frac{2 + \sin x}{x^3} \geq 0 \quad \text{for } x \geq \pi$$

$$\text{and } \int_{\pi}^{\infty} \frac{3}{x^3} dx \text{ converges, } \int_{\pi}^{\infty} \frac{2 + \sin x}{x^3} dx$$

converges by the comparison theorem.

Determine if the Integral Converges or Diverges

$$(b) \int_1^{\infty} \frac{\arctan x}{\sqrt{x}} dx$$

Recall $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x}}$ diverges
 $p = \frac{1}{2} \leq 1$

$$\text{For } x \geq 1 \quad \frac{\pi}{4} \leq \arctan x \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\text{So } \frac{\frac{\pi}{4}}{\sqrt{x}} \leq \frac{\arctan x}{\sqrt{x}} \leq \frac{\pi/2}{\sqrt{x}}$$

$$\text{Since } \frac{\arctan x}{\sqrt{x}} \geq \frac{\pi/4}{\sqrt{x}} \geq 0 \text{ for } x \geq 1$$

$$\text{and } \int_1^{\infty} \frac{\pi/4}{\sqrt{x}} dx \text{ diverges, } \int_1^{\infty} \frac{\arctan x}{\sqrt{x}} dx$$

diverges by the comparison theorem.

Section 8.1: Sequences

Definition: A **sequence** is a function whose domain is a subset of the integers and whose range is a subset of the real numbers.

Typically, the domain is the positive $\{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ or the nonnegative $\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ integers.

A sequence is often presented as a list of numbers $f(1), f(2), f(3), \dots$ (think *comma separated list*).

Here, $f(1)$ is called the *first term*, $f(2)$ is called the *second term*, and in general

$f(n)$ is called the n^{th} term in the sequence.

Defining Sequences and Notation

Example: Consider the function $f(n) = e^{-n}$ with domain $\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$.

We can represent this as a list $1, e^{-1}, e^{-2}, \dots$

We can represent this by giving it a short hand name and using a subscript $s_n = f(n)$

$$s_0 = f(0) = 1, \quad s_1 = f(1) = e^{-1}, \quad s_2 = f(2) = e^{-2}, \dots$$

We can also represent the sequence using curly bracket notation

$$\{s_n\} = \{e^{-n}\}, \quad \text{or to highlight the domain} \quad \{s_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty} = \{e^{-n}\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$$

Plot of a Sequence

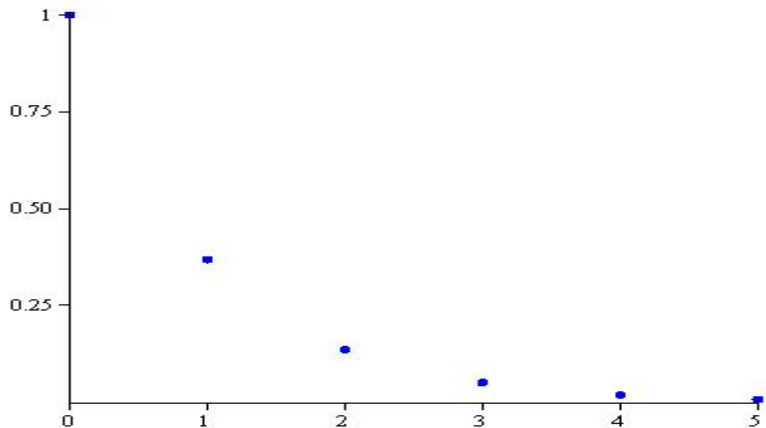


Figure: Plot of the sequence $\{e^{-n}\}$. Note that the graph consists of distinct points.

Examples

Write the first four terms of the sequence defined by the indicated relation.

$$(a) \quad \{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} = \left\{ \frac{2n}{n+1} \right\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$$

$$a_1 = \frac{2 \cdot 1}{1+1} = \frac{2}{2} = 1$$

$$a_2 = \frac{2 \cdot 2}{2+1} = \frac{4}{3}$$

$$a_3 = \frac{2 \cdot 3}{3+1} = \frac{6}{4} = \frac{3}{2}$$

$$a_4 = \frac{2 \cdot 4}{4+1} = \frac{8}{5}$$

$$(b) \quad \{a_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty} = \{(-1)^n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$$

$$a_0 = (-1)^0 = 1, \quad a_1 = (-1)^1 = -1, \quad a_2 = (-1)^2 = 1, \quad a_3 = (-1)^3 = -1$$

A recursively defined sequence

The **Fibonacci sequence**, $\{f_n\}$ is defined by

$$f_0 = 1, \quad f_1 = 1, \quad f_n = f_{n-1} + f_{n-2} \quad \text{for } n \geq 2.$$

Write the first 6 terms of this sequence.

$$f_0 = 1$$

$$f_1 = 1$$

$$f_2 = f_1 + f_0 = 1 + 1 = 2$$

$$f_3 = f_2 + f_1 = 2 + 1 = 3$$

$$f_4 = f_3 + f_2 = 3 + 2 = 5$$

$$f_5 = f_4 + f_3 = 5 + 3 = 8$$