

**Assignment 20: Infinite Series (8.2–7)**  
**Please provide a handwritten response.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

To increase the number of decimal places displayed for this assignment, first execute the command `Digits:=20;`.

**1a.** To find the partial sum  $S_{10}$  of the infinite

series  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^{0.9}}$  execute

`sum(1/k^0.9, k=1..10);`

and record the result in the table. By changing the 10 to 50, etc. complete the second column of the table.

$n$	$S_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k^{0.9}}$	$S_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{5}{k^{1.1}}$
10		
50		
100		
500		
1000		

**1b.** Likewise modify the command in part **a** to find the partial sums of the infinite series

$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{5}{k^{1.1}}$  and complete the third column. Notice that in each row, the entry in the second

column is smaller than that in the third; can this be the case for all  $n$ ? Why?

**1c.** Add one more row to the bottom of the table corresponding to  $n = 5000$  and fill it in; are the results consistent with your answer to part **b**? Execute the command `restart;` to reset *Maple* to its default values.

**2a.** The text explains that the harmonic series  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k}$  diverges. To get an idea of how quickly

or slowly it does so, execute

`s:=n->sum(1./k, k=1..n);`

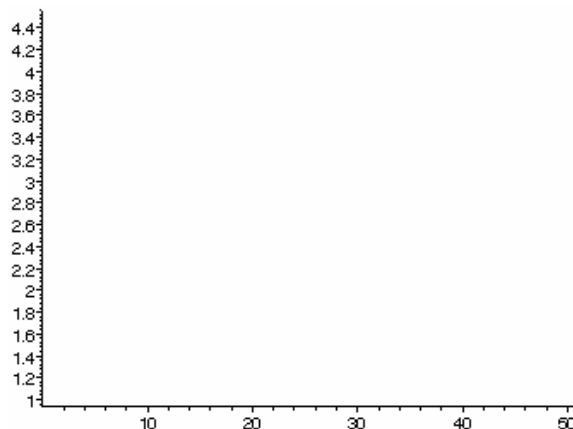
followed by

`psums:= [seq([n, s(n)], n=1..50)]:`

to construct a list called `psums` of ordered

pairs  $\left(n, \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k}\right)$  where the “y-value” is the  $n$ th

partial sum of the harmonic series. Then execute `plot(psums);` and roughly sketch the result on the axes at right.



**2b.** Repeat the last two commands in part **a** with 50 replaced by 500; would you say that the partial sums are approaching  $\infty$  quickly?

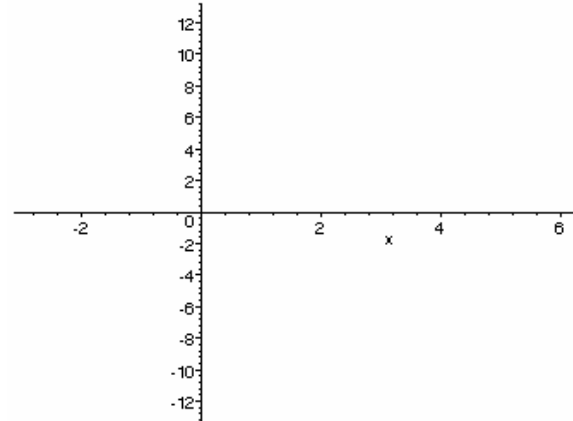
**3a.** To find the Taylor polynomial with  $c = \frac{\pi}{2}$  and  $n = 4$  for  $\cos x$  execute `taylor(cos(x), x=Pi/2, 4);` and record the result below; what do you think the final term means?

**3b.** We can remove this final term using the `convert` command; execute `tp:=convert(%,polynom);` and enter the result below.

**3c.** Now plot the cosine function and the Taylor polynomial over  $-\pi \leq x \leq 2\pi$  by executing

`plot([cos(x), tp], x=-Pi..2*Pi);`

Sketch the result on the axes at right, labeling the graphs; on roughly what interval are the two graphs indistinguishable on your computer screen?

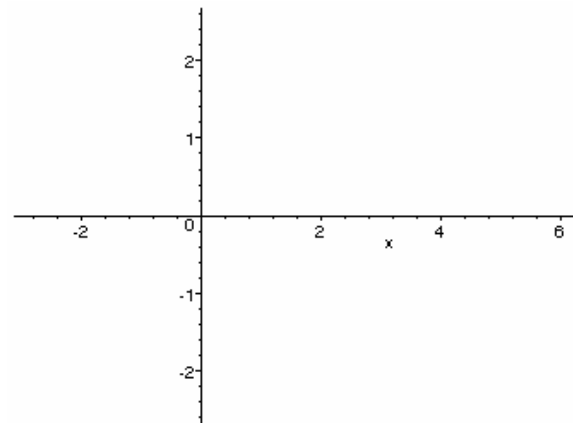


**3d.** Change the **4** in part **a** to **8** and then execute the commands in parts **a–c** once again. Sketch the graph of the new Taylor polynomial, label it, and answer the question in part **c** again.

**3e.** To measure the error in this Taylor approximation, execute

`plot(cos(x) - tp, x=-Pi..2*Pi);`

and sketch the result on the axes at right. How large (positive or negative) does the error become, and for what value(s) of  $x$  is the error greatest?



**3f.** By increasing  $n$  still further while keeping everything else the same, can we reduce the maximum error in part **e** to less than 0.1? Experiment to find how large a value of  $n$  is needed.

**3g.** Try to answer part **f** with  $\cos x$  changed to  $\tan^{-1} x$  (denoted `arctan(x)`),  $c$  to 0 and the interval to  $-1.5 \leq x \leq 1.5$ . Can you find  $n$  large enough? Why?