

2018 AP[®] CALCULUS BC FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

just part a

6. The Maclaurin series for $\ln(1+x)$ is given by

$$x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} + \dots + (-1)^{n+1} \frac{x^n}{n} + \dots$$

On its interval of convergence, this series converges to $\ln(1+x)$. Let f be the function defined by

$$f(x) = x \ln\left(1 + \frac{x}{3}\right)$$

- (a) Write the first four nonzero terms and the general term of the Maclaurin series for f .
- (b) Determine the interval of convergence of the Maclaurin series for f . Show the work that leads to your answer.
- (c) Let $P_4(x)$ be the fourth-degree Taylor polynomial for f about $x = 0$. Use the alternating series error bound to find an upper bound for $|P_4(2) - f(2)|$.

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2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 6

(a) The first four nonzero terms are $\frac{x^2}{3} - \frac{x^3}{2 \cdot 3^2} + \frac{x^4}{3 \cdot 3^3} - \frac{x^5}{4 \cdot 3^4}$.

The general term is $(-1)^{n+1} \frac{x^{n+1}}{n \cdot 3^n}$.

2 : { 1 : first four terms
1 : general term

or $\ln(1+x)$ is given by

$$x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} + \dots + (-1)^{n+1} \frac{x^n}{n} + \dots$$

$$f(x) = x \ln\left(1 + \frac{x}{3}\right)$$

$$(b) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{\frac{(-1)^{n+2} x^{n+2}}{(n+1)(3^{n+1})}}{\frac{(-1)^{n+1} x^{n+1}}{n \cdot 3^n}} \right| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{-x}{3} \cdot \frac{n}{(n+1)} \right| = \left| \frac{x}{3} \right|$$

$$\left| \frac{x}{3} \right| < 1 \text{ for } |x| < 3$$

Therefore, the radius of convergence of the Maclaurin series for f is 3.

— OR —

The radius of convergence of the Maclaurin series for $\ln(1+x)$ is 1, so the series for $f(x) = x \ln\left(1 + \frac{x}{3}\right)$ converges absolutely for $\left|\frac{x}{3}\right| < 1$.

$$\left| \frac{x}{3} \right| < 1 \Rightarrow |x| < 3$$

Therefore, the radius of convergence of the Maclaurin series for f is 3.

When $x = -3$, the series is $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{(-3)^{n+1}}{n \cdot 3^n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3}{n}$, which

diverges by comparison to the harmonic series.

When $x = 3$, the series is $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{3^{n+1}}{n \cdot 3^n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{3}{n}$, which

converges by the alternating series test.

The interval of convergence of the Maclaurin series for f is $-3 < x \leq 3$.

5 : {
1 : sets up ratio
1 : computes limit of ratio
1 : radius of convergence
1 : considers both endpoints
1 : analysis and interval of convergence

— OR —

5 : {
1 : radius for $\ln(1+x)$ series
1 : substitutes $\frac{x}{3}$
1 : radius of convergence
1 : considers both endpoints
1 : analysis and interval of convergence

(c) By the alternating series error bound, an upper bound for $|P_4(2) - f(2)|$ is the magnitude of the next term of the alternating series.

$$|P_4(2) - f(2)| < \left| -\frac{2^5}{4 \cdot 3^4} \right| = \frac{8}{81}$$

2 : {
1 : uses fifth-degree term
as error bound
1 : answer

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