Math 1B quiz solutions

October 25, 2006

1 Find a power series representation for  $\frac{1}{1+x^2}$  around x = 0. (Hint: Use a power series you already know) (5 points)

This is similar to the expression for the geometric series, so

$$\frac{1}{1+x^2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n x^{2n}$$

2 Show that

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^n}{n!}$$

is a solution to the differential equation f(x) + f'(x) = 0 (5 points)

Taking the derivative term by term,

$$f'(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n n x^{n-1}}{n!}$$
$$= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{n-1}}{(n-1)!}$$

because the n = 0 term is just 0

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1} x^n}{n!}$$

Then,

$$f(x) + f'(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^n}{n!} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1} x^n}{n!}$$
$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{((-1)^n - (-1)^n) x^n}{n!} = 0$$

3 What is the function represented by the power series in the previous problem?

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-x)^n}{n!} = e^{-x}$$