PRINT Your Name:

Quiz 13 — April 13, 2012 – Section 7 – 11:15 – 12:05

Remove everything from your desk except a pencil or pen.

Write in complete sentences.

The quiz is worth 5 points.

Find the sum of $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} nx^n$ for |x| < 1.

Answer. We know that $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = \frac{1}{1-x}$ for |x| < 1. Take the derivative to get

 $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} nx^{n-1} = \frac{1}{(1-x)^2} \text{ for } |x| < 1. \text{ Multiply by } x \text{ to get: } \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} nx^n = \frac{x}{(1-x)^2} \text{ for } |x| < 1.$

Of course, when n = 0, nx^n is zero; so $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} nx^n = \frac{x}{(1-x)^2}$ for |x| < 1.