

Comparison tests (Sect. 10.4)

- ▶ Review: Direct comparison test for integrals.
- ▶ Direct comparison test for series.
- ▶ Review: Limit comparison test for integrals.
- ▶ Limit comparison test for series.
- ▶ Few examples.

Comparison tests (Sect. 10.4)

- ▶ **Review: Direct comparison test for integrals.**
- ▶ Direct comparison test for series.
- ▶ Review: Limit comparison test for integrals.
- ▶ Limit comparison test for series.
- ▶ Few examples.

Review: Direct comparison test for integrals

Theorem (Direct comparison test)

If $0 \leq \int_a^\infty f(x) dx \leq \int_a^\infty g(x) dx$, then:

(a) $\int_a^\infty g(x) dx$ converges $\Rightarrow \int_a^\infty f(x) dx$ converges;

(b) $\int_a^\infty f(x) dx$ diverges $\Rightarrow \int_a^\infty g(x) dx$ diverges.

Review: Direct comparison test for integrals

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Example

$\int_0^{\infty} e^{-x^2} dx$ converges,

Review: Direct comparison test for integrals

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$\int_0^\infty e^{-x^2} dx$ converges, since $\int_0^\infty e^{-x^2} dx \leq \int_0^\infty e^{-x} dx$.

Review: Direct comparison test for integrals

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Example

$\int_0^\infty e^{-x^2} dx$ converges, since $\int_0^\infty e^{-x^2} dx \leq \int_0^\infty e^{-x} dx$.

$\int_2^\infty \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}$ diverges,

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$\int_2^\infty \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x^2-1}}$ diverges, since $\int_2^\infty \frac{dx}{x} \leq \int_2^\infty \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x^2-1}}$. ◁

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- ▶ Review: Direct comparison test for integrals.
- ▶ **Direct comparison test for series.**
- ▶ Review: Limit comparison test for integrals.
- ▶ Limit comparison test for series.
- ▶ Few examples.

Direct comparison test for series

Theorem

If the sequences satisfy $0 \leq a_n \leq b_n$ for all $n \geq N$, then

$$(a) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \text{ converges} \Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \text{ converges};$$

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Example

Determine whether the the series $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n+2}{n^2-n}$ converges or not.

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Determine whether the the series $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n+2}{n^2-n}$ converges or not.

Solution: Since $\frac{n+2}{n^2-n} > \frac{n}{n^2-n}$

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Example

Determine whether the the series $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n+2}{n^2-n}$ converges or not.

Solution: Since $\frac{n+2}{n^2-n} > \frac{n}{n^2-n} = \frac{1}{n-1} > \frac{1}{n}$, we conclude that:

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} < \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n+2}{n^2-n}.$$

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$$(a) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \text{ converges} \Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \text{ converges};$$

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Example

Determine whether the the series $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n+2}{n^2-n}$ converges or not.

Solution: Since $\frac{n+2}{n^2-n} > \frac{n}{n^2-n} = \frac{1}{n-1} > \frac{1}{n}$, we conclude that:

$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} < \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n+2}{n^2-n}$. Therefore, $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n+2}{n^2-n}$ diverges. \triangleleft

Direct comparison test for series

Example

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Direct comparison test for series

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We conclude that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n3^n}$ converges.



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- ▶ **Review: Limit comparison test for integrals.**
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Review: Limit comparison test for integrals

Theorem (Limit comparison test)

If positive functions $f, g : [a, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are continuous and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = L, \quad \text{with } 0 < L < \infty,$$

then either both $\int_a^\infty f(x) dx$, $\int_a^\infty g(x) dx$, converge or diverge.

Review: Limit comparison test for integrals

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Example

$$\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x^6 + 1}} \text{ converges}$$

Review: Limit comparison test for integrals

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$\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x^6 + 1}}$ converges because $\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{x^3}$ converges.

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$\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x^6 + 1}}$ converges because $\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{x^3}$ converges.

$\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x + \sin(x)}}$ diverges

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$\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x^6 + 1}}$ converges because $\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{x^3}$ converges.

$\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x + \sin(x)}}$ diverges because $\int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{x^{1/2}}$ diverges.

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Limit comparison test for series

Theorem (Limit comparison test)

Assume that $0 < a_n$, and $0 < b_n$ for $N \leq n$.

(a) If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = L > 0$, then the infinite series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$ both converge or both diverge.

(b) If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = 0$, and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$ converges, then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges.

(c) If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \infty$, and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$ diverges, then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ diverges.

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(b) If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = 0$, and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$ converges, then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges.

(c) If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \infty$, and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$ diverges, then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ diverges.

Remark: If the series converge, their values may **not** agree.

Limit comparison test for series

Example

Determine whether the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt{n}}{4n^2 + 7}$ converges or not.

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Solution: We compute the behavior of the series terms for n large:

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$$\frac{\sqrt{n}}{(4n^2 + 7)}$$

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Determine whether the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt{n}}{4n^2 + 7}$ converges or not.

Solution: We compute the behavior of the series terms for n large:

$$\frac{\sqrt{n}}{(4n^2 + 7)} = \frac{\sqrt{n}}{(4n^2 + 7)} \left(\frac{1}{n^2} \right)$$

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Determine whether the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt{n}}{4n^2 + 7}$ converges or not.

Solution: We compute the behavior of the series terms for n large:

$$\frac{\sqrt{n}}{(4n^2 + 7)} = \frac{\sqrt{n}}{(4n^2 + 7)} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right)}{\left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right)} = \frac{\left(\frac{1}{n^{3/2}}\right)}{4 + \left(\frac{7}{n^2}\right)}$$

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For n large $a_n = \frac{\sqrt{n}}{(4n^2 + 7)}$ behaves like $b_n = \frac{1}{4n^{3/2}}$.

We choose $b_n = \frac{1}{4n^{3/2}}$ to do the limit comparison test.

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For n large $a_n = \frac{\sqrt{n}}{(4n^2 + 7)}$ behaves like $b_n = \frac{1}{4n^{3/2}}$.

We choose $b_n = \frac{1}{4n^{3/2}}$ to do the limit comparison test.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \left(\frac{\sqrt{n}}{(4n^2 + 7)} \right) 4n^{3/2}$$

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$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \left(\frac{\sqrt{n}}{(4n^2 + 7)} \right) 4n^{3/2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4n^2}{(4n^2 + 7)}$$

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For n large $a_n = \frac{\sqrt{n}}{(4n^2 + 7)}$ behaves like $b_n = \frac{1}{4n^{3/2}}$.

We choose $b_n = \frac{1}{4n^{3/2}}$ to do the limit comparison test.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \left(\frac{\sqrt{n}}{(4n^2 + 7)} \right) 4n^{3/2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4n^2}{(4n^2 + 7)} = 1.$$

Limit comparison test for series

Example

Determine whether the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt{n}}{4n^2 + 7}$ converges or not.

Solution: $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt{n}}{4n^2 + 7}$ and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4n^{3/2}}$ both converge or diverge.

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The limit test for series says that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt{n}}{4n^2 + 7}$ converges. \triangleleft

Limit comparison test for series

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Solution: We compute the behavior of the series terms for n large:

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We choose $b_n = \left(\frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^{2n}$ to do the limit comparison test,

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$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = 1$$

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For n large $a_n = \frac{3^{2n}}{(2^n + n)}$ behaves like $b_n = \left(\frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^{2n}$.

We choose $b_n = \left(\frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^{2n}$ to do the limit comparison test, hence

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = 1$ and both $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$ converge or diverge.

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Determine whether the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3^{2n}}{2^n + n}$ converges or not.

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the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{3}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^{2n}$ diverges.

We conclude that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3^{2n}}{2^n + n}$ diverges.



Comparison tests (Sect. 10.4)

- ▶ Review: Direct comparison test for integrals.
- ▶ Direct comparison test for series.
- ▶ Review: Limit comparison test for integrals.
- ▶ Limit comparison test for series.
- ▶ **Few examples.**

Few examples

Example

$$(1) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin^2(n)}{6^n}.$$

Few examples

Example

$$(1) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin^2(n)}{6^n}. \quad \text{DGC}$$

Few examples

Example

$$(1) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin^2(n)}{6^n}. \quad \text{DGC} \quad \frac{\sin^2(n)}{6^n} \leq \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^n;$$

Few examples

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$$(1) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin^2(n)}{6^n}. \quad \text{DGC} \quad \frac{\sin^2(n)}{6^n} \leq \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^n; \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^n \text{ converges.}$$

Few examples

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$$(1) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin^2(n)}{6^n}. \quad \text{DGC} \quad \frac{\sin^2(n)}{6^n} \leq \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^n; \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^n \text{ converges.}$$

$$(2) \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n \ln(n)}.$$

Few examples

Example

(1) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin^2(n)}{6^n}$. **DGC** $\frac{\sin^2(n)}{6^n} \leq \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^n$; $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^n$ converges.

(2) $\sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n \ln(n)}$. **ID**

Few examples

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$$(1) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin^2(n)}{6^n}. \quad \text{DGC} \quad \frac{\sin^2(n)}{6^n} \leq \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^n; \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^n \text{ converges.}$$

$$(2) \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n \ln(n)}. \quad \text{ID} \quad \int_3^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x \ln(x)}$$

Few examples

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$$(1) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin^2(n)}{6^n}. \quad \text{DGC} \quad \frac{\sin^2(n)}{6^n} \leq \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^n; \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^n \text{ converges.}$$

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Few examples

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$$(1) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin^2(n)}{6^n}. \quad \text{DGC} \quad \frac{\sin^2(n)}{6^n} \leq \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^n; \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^n \text{ converges.}$$

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$$(1) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin^2(n)}{6^n}. \quad \text{DGC} \quad \frac{\sin^2(n)}{6^n} \leq \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^n; \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^n \text{ converges.}$$

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Since $a_n = f(n)$

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$$(3) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n + 5^n}{n^2 5^n}.$$

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$$(3) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n + 5^n}{n^2 5^n}. \quad \text{LIC} \quad \frac{n + 5^n}{n^2 5^n} \rightarrow \frac{5^n}{n^2 5^n} = \frac{1}{n^2};$$

$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ converges, since $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^2}$ converges. ◀

Ratio test (Sect. 10.5)

- ▶ The ratio test.
- ▶ Using the ratio test.
- ▶ Few more examples.
- ▶ Comment: The root test.

The ratio test

Remark: The ratio test is a way to determine whether a series converges or not.

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Theorem

Let $\{a_n\}$ be a positive sequence with $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \rho$ exists.

- (a) If $\rho < 1$, the series $\sum a_n$ converges.
- (b) If $\rho > 1$, the series $\sum a_n$ diverges.
- (c) If $\rho = 1$, the test is inconclusive.

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- (b) If $\rho > 1$, the series $\sum a_n$ diverges.
- (c) If $\rho = 1$, the test is inconclusive.

Remark: The ratio test compares the series $\sum a_n$ with an appropriate geometric series $\sum r^n$.

The ratio test

Proof: Case (a): Since $a_n \geq 0$, the series $\sum a_n$ is

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$$\text{Since } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \rho$$

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Since $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \rho < 1$, then for any $\epsilon > 0$, small enough such that $\rho + \epsilon = r < 1$,

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$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} < \rho + \epsilon$$

The ratio test

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So $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n \leq \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} a_n + \frac{a_N}{1-r}$ is bounded.

A non-decreasing, bounded above, series converges.

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The test is inconclusive.



Ratio test (Sect. 10.5)

- ▶ The ratio test.
- ▶ **Using the ratio test.**
- ▶ Few more examples.
- ▶ Comment: The root test.

Using the ratio test

Example

Determine whether the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^n}{n!}$ converges or not.

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Therefore, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n}$

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Therefore, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{(n+1)} = 0$.

Since $\rho = 0 < 1$, the series converges.



Using the ratio test

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Determine whether the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(n-1)!}{(n+1)^2}$ converges or not.

Solution: We use the ratio test, since $a_n = \frac{(n-1)!}{(n+1)^2} > 0$. Then,

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Since $\rho = \infty > 1$, the series diverges.



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Therefore, the series diverges.



Ratio test (Sect. 10.5)

- ▶ The ratio test.
- ▶ Using the ratio test.
- ▶ **Few more examples.**
- ▶ Comment: The root test.

Few more examples

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Few more examples

Example

Determine whether the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{5n \ln(n)}{6^n}$ converges or not.

Solution: We start with the ratio test, since $a_n = \frac{5n \ln(n)}{6^n} \geq 0$.

$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{5(n+1) \ln[(n+1)]}{6^{(n+1)}} \frac{6^n}{5n \ln(n)}$$

$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{1}{6} \left(\frac{n+1}{n} \right) \frac{\ln(n+1)}{\ln(n)} \rightarrow \frac{1}{6}$$

Since $\rho = \frac{1}{6} < 1$, the ratio test says that **the series converges.** \triangleleft

Ratio test (Sect. 10.5)

- ▶ The ratio test.
- ▶ Using the ratio test.
- ▶ Few more examples.
- ▶ **Comment: The root test.**

Comment: The root test

Theorem

Let $\{a_n\}$ be a positive sequence with $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{a_n} = \rho$ exists.

- (a) If $\rho < 1$, the series $\sum a_n$ converges.
- (b) If $\rho > 1$, the series $\sum a_n$ diverges.
- (c) If $\rho = 1$, the test is inconclusive.

Comment: The root test

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Remark: The root test also compares the series $\sum a_n$ with an appropriate geometric series $\sum r^n$.

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Since $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{a_n} = \rho < 1$, then for any $\epsilon > 0$, small enough such that $\rho + \epsilon = r < 1$, there exists N large with

$$\sqrt[n]{a_n} < \rho + \epsilon$$

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So $\sum a_n$ is bounded. A non-decreasing, bounded above, series converges. The proofs for (b), (c) are similar to ratio test. \square

Alternating series and absolute convergence (Sect. 10.6)

- ▶ Alternating series.
- ▶ Absolute and conditional convergence.
- ▶ Absolute convergence test.
- ▶ Few examples.

Alternating series

Definition

An infinite series $\sum a_n$ is an *alternating series* iff holds either

$$a_n = (-1)^n |a_n| \quad \text{or} \quad a_n = (-1)^{n+1} |a_n|.$$

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Example

- ▶ The alternating harmonic series:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \cdots$$

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Alternating series

Theorem (Leibniz's test)

If the sequence $\{a_n\}$ satisfies: $0 < a_n$, and $a_{n+1} \leq a_n$, and $a_n \rightarrow 0$, then the alternating series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} a_n$ converges.

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Proof: Write down the partial sum s_{2n} as follows

$$\begin{aligned} s_{2n} &= a_1 - a_2 + a_3 - a_4 + a_5 - \cdots + s_{2n-1} - s_{2n} \\ &= (a_1 - a_2) + (a_3 - a_4) + \cdots + (s_{2n-1} - s_{2n}) \\ &= a_1 - (a_2 - a_3) - (a_4 - a_5) - \cdots - (s_{2n-2} - s_{2n-1}) - s_{2n}. \end{aligned}$$

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Therefore converges, $s_{2n} \rightarrow L$.

Since $s_{2n+1} = s_{2n} + a_{2n+1}$, and $a_n \rightarrow 0$, then $s_{2n+1} \rightarrow L + 0 = L$.

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If the sequence $\{a_n\}$ satisfies: $0 < a_n$, and $a_{n+1} \leq a_n$, and $a_n \rightarrow 0$, then the alternating series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} a_n$ converges.

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Therefore converges, $s_{2n} \rightarrow L$.

Since $s_{2n+1} = s_{2n} + a_{2n+1}$, and $a_n \rightarrow 0$, then $s_{2n+1} \rightarrow L + 0 = L$.

We conclude that $\sum (-1)^{n+1} a_n$ converges. □

Alternating series

Example

Show that the alternating harmonic series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n}$ converges.

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Show that the alternating harmonic series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n}$ converges.

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The sequence $\{a_n\}$ satisfies the hypothesis in the Leibniz test:

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Show that the alternating harmonic series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n}$ converges.

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The sequence $\{a_n\}$ satisfies the hypothesis in the Leibniz test:

► $|a_n| > 0$;

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- ▶ $|a_n| > 0$;
- ▶ $|a_{n+1}| < |a_n|$;
- ▶ $|a_n| \rightarrow 0$.

We then conclude that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n}$ converges. ◁

Alternating series and absolute convergence (Sect. 10.6)

- ▶ Alternating series.
- ▶ **Absolute and conditional convergence.**
- ▶ Absolute convergence test.
- ▶ Few examples.

Absolute and conditional convergence

Remarks:

- ▶ Several convergence tests apply only to positive series.

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- ▶ A series $\sum a_n$ is *absolutely convergent* iff the series $\sum |a_n|$ converges.

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Definition

- ▶ A series $\sum a_n$ is *absolutely convergent* iff the series $\sum |a_n|$ converges.
- ▶ A series *converges conditionally* iff it converges but does not converge absolutely.

Absolute and conditional convergence

Example

- ▶ The alternating harmonic series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n}$ converges conditionally.

Absolute and conditional convergence

Example

- ▶ The alternating harmonic series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n}$ converges conditionally.

Because the harmonic series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ diverges and the alternating harmonic series converges.

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If the series $\sum |a_n|$ converges, then the series $\sum a_n$ converges.

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If the series $\sum |a_n|$ converges, then the series $\sum a_n$ converges.

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The converse is not true.

Absolute convergence test

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Remark:

The converse is not true. A series can converge conditionally:

Absolute convergence test

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If the series $\sum |a_n|$ converges, then the series $\sum a_n$ converges.

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The converse is not true. A series can converge conditionally:

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Hence $\sum a_n$ converges. □

Alternating series and absolute convergence (Sect. 10.6)

- ▶ Alternating series.
- ▶ Absolute and conditional convergence.
- ▶ Absolute convergence test.
- ▶ **Few examples.**

Few examples

Example

Determine whether the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{4n}{4n^6 + 5}$ converges absolutely, conditionally, or does not converge at all.

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$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n}$$

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Since the harmonic series diverges, then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\ln(n)}$ diverges;

therefore, the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{\ln(n)}$ diverges absolutely.

Few examples

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Determine whether the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{\ln(n)}$ converges absolutely, conditionally, or does not converge at all.

Solution: Recall: The series diverges absolutely.

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Hence, the series converges conditionally.



Few examples

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Determine whether the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-100)^n}{n!}$ converges absolutely, conditionally, or does not converge at all.

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The ratio test implies $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-100)^n}{n!}$ converges absolutely.

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Solution: We test absolute convergence: $|a_n| = \left| \frac{(-100)^n}{n!} \right| = \frac{100^n}{n!}$.

Let us check the ratio test:

$$\frac{|a_{n+1}|}{|a_n|} = \frac{100^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \frac{n!}{100^n} = \frac{100(100^n)}{(n+1)n!} \frac{n!}{100^n} = \frac{100}{(n+1)} \rightarrow 0.$$

The ratio test implies $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-100)^n}{n!}$ converges absolutely.

Therefore, the series converges.

