

## Infinite Series

### 2.1. Definitions

A series containing an infinite number of terms  $u_1, u_2, u_3, \dots, u_n, \dots$  that occur according to some definite law, is called *infinite series* and is denoted by

$$u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + \dots + u_n + \dots \text{ or } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n \text{ or simply } \Sigma u_n.$$

The sum of the first  $n$  terms of the series is denoted by  $S_n$ .

$$\therefore S_n = u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + \dots + u_n.$$

### Convergence and Divergence of Series

Consider an infinite series

$$\Sigma u_n = u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + \dots + u_n + \dots$$

and let

$$S_n = u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + \dots + u_n.$$

The given series  $\Sigma u_n$  is said to be *convergent* if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n$  is a finite quantity and the given series is said to be *divergent* if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n$  tends to infinity.

However if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n$  does not tend to a definite limit the given series is known as *oscillatory*, sometimes called *non-convergent series*.

**Example 1.** Discuss the convergence of the series,

$$1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{3^3} + \dots$$

**Sol.** Here 
$$S_n = 1 + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{3^{n-1}}.$$

$$= \frac{1 \cdot (1 - \frac{1}{3^n})}{1 - \frac{1}{3}} \quad (\text{Sum of G.P.})$$

$$= \frac{3}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{3^n} \right)$$

$$= \frac{3}{2} - \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3^{n-1}}$$

$$\text{Now } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{3}{2} - \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3^{n-1}} \right) = \frac{3}{2}$$

Since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n$  is a finite quantity, the given series is convergent.

**Example 2.** Investigate the series for convergence or divergence,

$$1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n + \dots$$

**Sol.** Here 
$$S_n = 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n$$
$$= \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

(Sum of first  $n$  natural numbers)

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \rightarrow \infty$$

Since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n$  is infinite, the given series is divergent.

**Example 3.** Discuss the nature of the series

$$1 - 1 + 1 - 1 + \dots$$

**Sol.** Obviously  $S_n$  is 1 or 0 according as  $n$  is odd or even. Therefore,  $S_n$  cannot tend to a definite limit, hence the given series is oscillatory.

### EXERCISE 2 (a)

Discuss the nature of the following series.

1.  $1 + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{2^3} + \dots$

2.  $1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots$

3.  $1^3 + 2^3 + 3^3 + \dots$

4.  $2 + 6 + 18 + \dots$

5.  $3 + 5 + 7 + \dots$

6.  $k - k + k - k + \dots$

### 2.2. Fundamental Theorem on Infinite Series

The convergence or divergence of an infinite series remains unaffected by removal or addition of a finite number of terms.

Since the sum of a finite number of terms is finite, so their removal from the series or their addition to the series will not change the convergence or divergence of the series.

### 2.3. Convergence of a Geometric Series

Show that the geometric series

$$a + ar + ar^2 + \dots + ar^{n-1} + \dots$$

(i) Converges if  $|r| < 1$

(ii) Diverges if  $r \geq 1$

(iii) Oscillates if  $r \leq -1$

$$\text{Let } S_n = a + ar + ar^2 + \dots + ar^{n-1}$$

...(1)

**Case I.** When  $|r| < 1$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } S_n &= \frac{a(1-r^n)}{1-r} \\ &= \frac{a}{1-r} - \frac{ar^n}{1-r} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{a}{1-r} - \frac{ar^n}{1-r} \right)$$

Since  $|r| < 1$ , therefore,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r^n = 0$ 

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = \frac{a}{1-r} \text{ (a finite quantity)}$$

Since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n$  is a finite quantity, the given series convergesif  $|r| < 1$ .**Case II** When  $r > 1$ We first consider the case when  $r > 1$ 

$$\text{Here } S_n = \frac{a(r^n - 1)}{r - 1}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{ar^n}{r-1} - \frac{a}{r-1} \right)$$

Since  $r > 1$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r^n \rightarrow \infty$ 

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n \rightarrow \infty$$

Since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n$  tends to infinity the givenseries diverges if  $r > 1$ .When  $r = 1$ , we have from (1),

$$\begin{aligned} S_n &= a + a + a + \dots n \text{ times} \\ &= na \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} na \rightarrow \infty.$$

Hence the given series is divergent when  $r = 1$ .Thus the given series diverges if  $r \geq 1$ ,**Case III.** When  $r \leq -1$ .We first consider the case when  $r = -1$ , we have the given series from (1),

$$S_n = a - a + a - \dots n \text{ times}$$

Obviously  $S_n$  oscillates between  $a$  and  $0$ , according as  $n$  is odd or even.

When  $r < -1$ , let  $r = -K$  (where  $K > 1$ )

$$\therefore S_n = \frac{a(1-r^n)}{1-r} = \frac{a[1-(-K)^n]}{1+K}$$

$$= \frac{a[1+(-1)^{n+1}K^n]}{1+K}$$

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a}{1+K} [1+(-1)^{n+1}K^n]$  which oscillates between  $-\infty$  and  $+\infty$ , according as  $n$  is even or odd.

Therefore, the given series oscillates when  $r \leq -1$

#### 2.4. Convergence or Divergence of p-Series

Show that the series

$$\sum n^{-p} = \frac{1}{1^p} + \frac{1}{2^p} + \frac{1}{3^p} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^p} + \dots$$

(i) Converges if  $p > 1$

(ii) Diverges if  $p \leq 1$

(i) **Case I.** When  $p > 1$

Let the terms of the given series be grouped in such a manner that first, second, third.. groups contain 1 term, 4 terms, 8 terms,... respectively. Thus the given series may be written as

$$\frac{1}{1^p} + \left( \frac{1}{2^p} + \frac{1}{3^p} \right) + \left( \frac{1}{4^p} + \frac{1}{5^p} + \frac{1}{6^p} + \frac{1}{7^p} \right) + \dots$$

Now  $\frac{1}{1^p} = 1$

$$\frac{1}{2^p} + \frac{1}{3^p} < \frac{1}{2^p} + \frac{1}{2^p} = \frac{2}{2^p} = \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)^{p-1} \quad \left[ \because \frac{1}{3^p} < \frac{1}{2^p} \right]$$

$$\frac{1}{4^p} + \frac{1}{5^p} + \frac{1}{6^p} + \frac{1}{7^p} < \frac{1}{4^p} + \frac{1}{4^p} + \frac{1}{4^p} + \frac{1}{4^p} = \frac{4}{4^p}$$

$$= \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)^{2(p-1)}$$

Similarly  $\frac{1}{8^p} + \frac{1}{9^p} + \dots + \frac{1}{15^p} < \frac{8}{8^p} = \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)^{3(p-1)}$  and so on.

Adding corresponding sides, we get

$$\frac{1}{1^p} + \left( \frac{1}{2^p} + \frac{1}{3^p} \right) + \left( \frac{1}{4^p} + \frac{1}{5^p} + \frac{1}{6^p} + \frac{1}{7^p} \right)$$

$$+ \left( \frac{1}{8^p} + \frac{1}{9^p} + \dots + \frac{1}{15^p} \right) + \dots < 1 + \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)^{p-1} + \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)^{2(p-1)}$$

$$+ \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)^{3(p-1)} + \dots$$

or  $\sum n^{-p} < 1 + \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)^{p-1} + \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)^{2(p-1)} + \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)^{3(p-1)} + \dots$



The series on the right hand side is a geometric series with common ratio  $(\frac{1}{2})^{p-1} < 1$  (when  $p > 1$ ), hence convergent.

Thus the given series is convergent when  $p > 1$ .

(ii) **Case II.** When  $p = 1$

The given series becomes,

$$\begin{aligned} & 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{8} + \dots \\ &= 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \left( \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} \right) + \left( \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{8} \right) + \dots \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad 1 + \frac{1}{2} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Now  $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} > \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$

$\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{8} > \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$

Similarly  $\frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{10} + \frac{1}{11} + \dots + \frac{1}{16} > \frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{16} + \dots + \frac{1}{16}$   
 $+ \dots 8 \text{ times} = \frac{1}{2} \text{ and so on.}$

Adding corresponding sides, we get

$$\begin{aligned} & 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{8} \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad + \dots > 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

The series on the right hand side (ignoring the first term) is a geometric series with common ratio unity hence divergent.

Thus the given series is divergent when  $p = 1$ .

**Case III.** When  $p < 1$ .

$$\frac{1}{1^p} = 1$$

$$\frac{1}{2^p} > \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\frac{1}{3^p} > \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\frac{1}{4^p} > \frac{1}{4} \text{ and so on.}$$

Adding corresponding sides, we get

$$\frac{1}{1^p} + \frac{1}{2^p} + \frac{1}{3^p} + \frac{1}{4^p} + \dots > 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \dots$$

The series on right hand side is divergent (by case II)

Thus the given series is divergent when  $p < 1$ .

## 2.5. Positive Term Series

An infinite series in which all the terms from and after some term are positive, is called a positive term infinite series or **positive term series**. For example  $-1-2-3+1+\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{4}+\frac{1}{8}+\dots$ , is a positive term series, because from 4th term onward all the terms of the series are positive.

### Convergence or Divergence of a positive term Series

We have so far discussed the convergence or divergence of a series by evaluating the sum of first  $n$  terms of the series. However, it is not easy to calculate the sum of first  $n$  terms of every series. Thus it is not possible to determine the nature of every series by direct application of definition. Hence various other methods have been derived to determine the convergence of a series.

### Necessary Condition for Convergence of a Series

**Theorem.** If  $\sum u_n$  is a convergent series of positive terms, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n = 0.$$

$$\text{Let } S_n = u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + u_4 + \dots + u_n$$

Since  $\sum u_n$  is convergent,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = K \text{ (say)}$$

$$\text{Also } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{n-1} = K$$

$$\text{Now } u_n = S_n - S_{n-1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (S_n - S_{n-1}) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{n-1} \\ &= K - K = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{or } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n = 0$$

Hence the condition.

**Note 1.** It must be noted carefully that converse of the above theorem is not true, i.e. even if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n = 0$ , the series  $\sum u_n$  may not converge.

$$\text{For example, let } \sum u_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \dots + \frac{1}{n} + \dots$$

$$\text{Here } u_n = \frac{1}{n}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0$$

But we have seen that the given series is divergent.

**Note 2.** The result can effectively be applied to show that the given series is divergent if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n \neq 0$ .

For example, let  $\sum u_n = 1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n + \dots$

Here  $u_n = n$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \neq 0$$

Hence the given series is divergent.

## 2.6. Tests for Convergence and Divergence of a Series

### Comparison Test

If  $\sum u_n$  and  $\sum v_n$  be two positive term series, such that from and after some particular term  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} = k$  (a non-zero finite quantity), then  $\sum u_n$  and  $\sum v_n$  either both converge or both diverge.

**Proof.** Let the series from and after the particular term be  $u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + \dots + u_n + \dots$

Now for all values of  $n$ ,

$$\text{let } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} = k$$

Therefore by definition of limit, there exists a positive number  $\epsilon$ , such that

$$\left| \frac{u_n}{v_n} - k \right| < \epsilon \text{ for all } n$$

$$\text{i.e. } -\epsilon < \frac{u_n}{v_n} - k < \epsilon$$

$$\text{or } k - \epsilon < \frac{u_n}{v_n} < k + \epsilon \quad \dots (1)$$

**Case I.** When  $\sum v_n$  is convergent.

From (1), we have

$$\frac{u_n}{v_n} < k + \epsilon \quad \text{for all } n.$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{or } u_n < (k + \epsilon) v_n \\ \text{or } \sum u_n < \sum (k + \epsilon) v_n \\ \text{or } \sum u_n < (k + \epsilon) \sum v_n \end{array}$$

Each term of the series  $\sum u_n$  is term by term less than the corresponding terms of  $(k + \epsilon) \sum v_n$ . Since  $\sum v_n$  is convergent, therefore,  $\sum u_n$  is also convergent.

**Case II.** When  $\sum v_n$  is divergent

From (1), we have

$$\frac{u_n}{v_n} > (k - \epsilon) \text{ for all } n.$$

$$\therefore u_n > (k - \epsilon) v_n$$

or  $\Sigma u_n > (k - \epsilon) \Sigma v_n$

Each term of  $\Sigma u_n$  is term by term greater than the corresponding terms of  $(k - \epsilon) \Sigma v_n$ . Since  $\Sigma v_n$  is divergent, therefore,  $\Sigma u_n$  is also divergent.

**Note 1.** This test is very useful when degree of  $n$ , in  $u_n$  can readily be determined.

**Note 2.** To select auxiliary series  $\Sigma v_n = \Sigma \frac{1}{n^p}$ , it should be noted that  $p$  = Difference in degree of  $n$  in denominator and numerator of  $u_n$ .

**Example 1.** Test for convergence of the series,

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{10} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^2 + 1} + \dots$$

**Sol.** Here  $u_n = \frac{1}{n^2 + 1}$

Let  $\Sigma v_n = \Sigma \frac{1}{n^2}$  be an auxiliary series,

(See note 2, Art. 2.6)

$$\therefore v_n = \frac{1}{n^2}$$

Now,  $\frac{u_n}{v_n} = \frac{n^2}{n^2 + 1} = \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{1}{n^2}\right)}$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{1}{n^2}\right)} = 1 \quad (\text{a non-zero, finite quantity})$$

Hence  $\Sigma u_n$  and  $\Sigma v_n$  converge or diverge together.

But  $\Sigma v_n = \Sigma \frac{1}{n^2}$  is convergent (being  $p$  series with  $p > 1$ ), therefore,  $\Sigma u_n$  is also convergent.

**Example 2.** Test the convergence or divergence of the series,

$$\frac{2}{1^p} + \frac{3}{2^p} + \frac{4}{3^p} + \frac{5}{4^p} + \dots \infty$$

**Sol.** Here  $u_n = \frac{n+1}{n^p}$

$\therefore$  Now let  $\Sigma v_n = \Sigma \frac{1}{n^{p-1}}$  be the auxiliary series,



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$$\begin{aligned} \therefore v_n &= \frac{1}{n^{p-1}} \\ \frac{u_n}{v_n} &= \frac{n+1}{n^p} \cdot n^{p-1} \\ &= \frac{n+1}{n} = \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right) \\ \therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right) \\ &= 1 \quad [\text{a non-zero finite quantity}] \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\sum u_n$  and  $\sum v_n$  converge or diverge together.

But  $\sum v_n = \sum \frac{1}{n^{p-1}}$  is,

- (i) Convergent if  $p-1 > 1$  i.e.  $p > 2$   
(ii) Divergent if  $p-1 \leq 1$  i.e.  $p \leq 2$   
 $\therefore \sum u_n$  converges if  $p > 2$  and diverges if  $p \leq 2$

**Example 3.** Discuss the nature of the series,

$$\sum u_n = \sum \left( -\frac{2}{5n+1} \right)$$

**Sol.** Here  $u_n = \frac{2}{5n+1}$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Let } \sum v_n &= \sum \frac{1}{n} \\ v_n &= \frac{1}{n} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Now } \frac{u_n}{v_n} = \frac{2n}{5n+1}$$

$$= \frac{2}{\left( 5 + \frac{1}{n} \right)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{\left( 5 + \frac{1}{n} \right)} \\ &= \frac{2}{5} \quad [\text{a non-zero finite quantity}] \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\sum u_n$  and  $\sum v_n$  converge or diverge together.

But  $\sum v_n = \sum \frac{1}{n}$  is known to be divergent, therefore, the given series is also divergent.

## 2.7. Comparison of Ratios

If  $\Sigma u_n$  and  $\Sigma v_n$  be two positive term series such that from and after some particular term,

$$\frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} > \frac{v_n}{v_{n+1}}$$

and if  $\Sigma v_n$  is convergent, then  $\Sigma u_n$  is also convergent.

**Proof.** Let the two series  $\Sigma u_n$  and  $\Sigma v_n$ , from and after the particular term be,

$u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + \dots$  and  $v_1 + v_2 + v_3 + \dots$ , respectively.

Since 
$$\frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} > \frac{v_n}{v_{n+1}}$$

$$\frac{u_1}{u_2} > \frac{v_1}{v_2}, \frac{u_2}{u_3} > \frac{v_2}{v_3}, \frac{u_3}{u_4} > \frac{v_3}{v_4} \text{ and so on}$$

or 
$$\frac{u_2}{u_1} < \frac{v_2}{v_1}, \frac{u_3}{u_2} < \frac{v_3}{v_2}, \frac{u_4}{u_3} < \frac{v_4}{v_3} \text{ and so on ... (1)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + \dots &= u_1 \left( 1 + \frac{u_2}{u_1} + \frac{u_3}{u_1} + \dots \right) \\ &= u_1 \left( 1 + \frac{u_2}{u_1} + \frac{u_3}{u_2} \cdot \frac{u_2}{u_1} + \dots \right) \\ &< u_1 \left( 1 + \frac{v_2}{v_1} + \frac{v_3}{v_2} \cdot \frac{v_2}{v_1} + \dots \right) \\ &= \frac{u_1}{v_1} (v_1 + v_2 + v_3 + \dots) \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + \dots < \frac{u_1}{v_1} (v_1 + v_2 + v_3 + \dots)$$

Now series  $\Sigma v_n$  is convergent, therefore,  $\Sigma u_n$  is also convergent.

**Note.** Similarly we can show  $\Sigma u_n$  is divergent if

(i)  $\Sigma v_n$  is divergent.

and (ii) from and after some particular term,

$$\frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} < \frac{v_n}{v_{n+1}}$$

## 2.8. D' Alembert's Ratio Test

If  $\Sigma u_n$  be a positive term series such that from and after some particular term,

$$\text{Lt}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} = k, \text{ then } \Sigma u_n$$

- (i) Converges, if  $k < 1$   
(ii) Diverges, if  $k > 1$ .

**Proof.** Let the series from and after the particular term be  
 $u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + \dots + u_n + \dots$

**Case I.** When  $k < 1$ .

By definition of a limit, a positive number  $\lambda (k < \lambda < 1)$  can be found such that

$$\frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} < \lambda, \quad \text{for all } n \quad \dots(1)$$

$$\text{Thus } \frac{u_2}{u_1} < \lambda, \frac{u_3}{u_2} < \lambda, \frac{u_4}{u_3} < \lambda, \dots \text{and so on.} \quad \dots(2)$$

Now  $u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + \dots + u_n + \dots$

$$\begin{aligned} &= u_1 \left( 1 + \frac{u_2}{u_1} + \frac{u_3}{u_1} + \frac{u_4}{u_1} + \dots \right) \\ &= u_1 \left( 1 + \frac{u_2}{u_1} + \frac{u_3}{u_2} \cdot \frac{u_2}{u_1} + \frac{u_4}{u_3} \cdot \frac{u_3}{u_2} \cdot \frac{u_2}{u_1} + \dots \right) \\ &< u_1 (1 + \lambda + \lambda^2 + \lambda^3 + \dots) \quad \text{[By (2)]} \\ &= \frac{u_1}{1 - \lambda}, \text{ a finite quantity.} \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\sum u_n$  is convergent.

**Case II.** When  $k > 1$ .

By definition of limit, we have

$$\frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} > 1.$$

Now  $S_n = u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + \dots + u_n$

$$\begin{aligned} &= u_1 \left( 1 + \frac{u_2}{u_1} + \frac{u_3}{u_1} + \dots + \frac{u_n}{u_1} \right) \\ &= u_1 \left( 1 + \frac{u_2}{u_1} + \frac{u_3}{u_2} \cdot \frac{u_2}{u_1} + \dots + \frac{u_n}{u_{n-1}} \cdot \frac{u_{n-1}}{u_{n-2}} \dots \frac{u_2}{u_1} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore S_n > u_1 (1 + 1 + 1 + \dots n \text{ terms})$$

or  $S_n > nu_1$

Now  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n > \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} nu_1$  which tends to infinity.

Hence  $\sum u_n$  is divergent.

**Note.** If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} = 1$ , the test fails to give any information about convergence or divergence of the series and therefore further tests are needed. For example let

$$\sum u_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \dots + \frac{1}{n} + \dots$$

Here  $u_n = \frac{1}{n}, \quad u_{n+1} = \frac{1}{(n+1)}$

$$\therefore \frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} = \frac{n}{n+1} = \frac{1}{(1+1/n)}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{(1+1/n)} = 1$$

The series  $\sum u_n$  is known to be divergent, being  $p$ -series with  $p=1$ .

Further, let  $\sum u_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \dots$

Here  $u_n = \frac{1}{n^2}$  and  $u_{n+1} = \frac{1}{(n+1)^2}$

$$\therefore \frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} = \frac{n^2}{(n+1)^2} = \frac{1}{(1+1/n)^2}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} = 1$$

But the given series is convergent, being  $p$ -series with  $p > 1$ . Thus we see that when

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} = 1,$$

D' Alembert's ratio test fails.

**Example 1.** Test for convergence the series,

$$\frac{1}{1+2} + \frac{2}{1+2^2} + \frac{3}{1+2^3} + \dots$$

**Sol.** Here  $u_n = \frac{n}{1+2^n}$

$$\therefore u_{n+1} = \frac{n+1}{1+2^{n+1}}$$

$$\therefore \frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} = \frac{n+1}{1+2^{n+1}} \times \frac{1+2^n}{n}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{n+1}{n} \cdot \frac{1+2^n}{1+2^{n+1}} \\
 &= \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right) \cdot \frac{\left(1 + \frac{1}{2^n}\right)}{\left(2 + \frac{1}{2^n}\right)} \\
 \therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right) \cdot \left(1 + \frac{1}{2^n}\right)}{\left(2 + \frac{1}{2^n}\right)} = \frac{1}{2} < 1
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence the given series is convergent.

**Example 2.** Test for convergence the series

$$1 + 3x + 5x^2 + 7x^3 + \dots \quad (x > 0)$$

**Sol.** Here  $u_n = (2n-1)x^{n-1}$

$$u_{n+1} = (2n+1)x^n$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \therefore \frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} &= \frac{(2n+1)}{(2n-1)} \cdot \frac{x^n}{x^{n-1}} \\
 &= \frac{(2+1/n)}{(2-1/n)} \cdot x
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(2+1/n)}{(2-1/n)} \cdot x = x$$

The given series converges if  $x < 1$  and diverges for  $x > 1$ .

If  $x=1$ , the test fails and we apply further tests.

When  $x=1$ , we have

$$u_n = (2n-1)$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (2n-1) \neq 0$$

Since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n \neq 0$ , the given series diverges for  $x=1$ .

Hence the given series converges for  $x < 1$  and diverges for  $x > 1$ .

**Example 3.** Discuss the convergence and divergence of the series

$$(i) \sum [ \sqrt[3]{n+1} - \sqrt[3]{n} ]$$

$$(ii) \sum \sin \frac{1}{n}.$$

**Sol.** (i) Here  $u_n = (n+1)^{1/3} - n^{1/3}$

$$\begin{aligned} &= n^{1/3} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^{1/3} - n^{1/3} \\ &= n^{1/3} \left[ \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^{1/3} - 1 \right] \\ &= n^{1/3} \left[ \left\{ 1 + \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{n} + \frac{\frac{1}{3}(\frac{1}{3}-1)}{2!} \cdot \frac{1}{n^2} + \dots \right\} - 1 \right] \\ &= n^{1/3} \left( \frac{1}{3n} - \frac{1}{9n^2} + \dots \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{n^{2/3}} \left( \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{9n} + \dots \right) \end{aligned}$$

Let  $v_n = \frac{1}{n^{2/3}}$ . Applying the comparison test, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^{2/3}} \left( \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{9n} + \dots \right) \bigg/ \frac{1}{n^{2/3}} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{9n} + \dots \right) = \frac{1}{3}, \end{aligned}$$

which is a non-zero finite quantity. Therefore, both the series  $\sum u_n$  and  $\sum v_n$  either converge or diverge together. But  $\sum v_n$  ( $p = \frac{2}{3} < 1$ ) is known to be divergent. As such  $\sum u_n$  is also divergent.

$$(ii) \text{ Here } u_n = \sin \frac{1}{n}.$$

$$\text{Let } v_n = \frac{1}{n}$$

$$\text{Now } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \sin \frac{1}{n} \bigg/ \frac{1}{n} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1$$

where

$$\frac{1}{n} = x.$$

But  $\sum v_n$  is a divergent series ( $p=1$ ).

Therefore  $\sum u_n = \sum \sin \frac{1}{n}$  is also a divergent series.

### EXERCISE 2 (b)

Test for convergence of the series.

①.  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{5} + \frac{3}{10} + \dots + \frac{n}{n^2+1} + \dots$

~~②.~~  $\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} + \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} + \sqrt{\frac{3}{4}} + \dots + \sqrt{\frac{n}{n+1}} + \dots \quad \frac{u_n}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}}$

③.  $\frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \frac{1}{8^2} + \dots$

4.  $\frac{1}{1 \cdot 3} + \frac{1}{3 \cdot 5} + \frac{1}{5 \cdot 7} + \dots \quad \frac{u_n}{\sqrt{n}}$

5.  $\frac{3}{2^2 \cdot 3^2} + \frac{5}{3^2 \cdot 4^2} + \frac{7}{4^2 \cdot 5^2} + \dots \quad "$

6.  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt[3]{2}}{3\sqrt{2}} + \frac{\sqrt[3]{3}}{4\sqrt{3}} + \dots \quad "$

7.  $\frac{1}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3} + \frac{3}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4} + \frac{5}{3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5} + \dots \quad "$

8.  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{5} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{10} + \frac{\sqrt{4}}{17} + \dots \quad "$

~~9.~~  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2 \cdot 2^2} + \frac{1}{3 \cdot 2^3} + \dots \infty$

10.  $x + \frac{3}{5}x^2 + \frac{8}{10}x^3 + \dots + \frac{n^2-1}{n^2+1}x^n + \dots \quad (x > 0)$

11.  $\frac{x}{1 \cdot 2} + \frac{x^2}{2 \cdot 3} + \frac{x^3}{3 \cdot 4} + \dots$

12.  $x + \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^5}{5} + \dots \infty$

13.  $1 + 3x + 5x^2 + 7x^3 + \dots$

14.  $1^2 + 2^2x + 3^2x^2 + \dots \quad (0 \leq x < 1)$

~~15.~~  $1 + \frac{2^p}{2!} + \frac{3^p}{3!} + \frac{4^p}{4!} + \dots \infty$

16.  $\frac{1}{1+2} + \frac{2}{1+2^2} + \frac{3}{1+2^3} + \dots \infty$

17.  $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{2^2}{3^2} + \frac{3^2}{3^3} + \dots \infty$

~~18.~~  $\frac{2}{1} + \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8}{1 \cdot 5 \cdot 9} + \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8 \cdot 11}{1 \cdot 5 \cdot 9 \cdot 13} + \dots$

$$(19) \quad 1 + \frac{1^2 \cdot 2^2}{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5} + \frac{1^2 \cdot 2^2 \cdot 3^2}{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 9} + \dots$$

$$20. \quad \frac{1}{e} + \frac{8}{e^3} + \frac{27}{e^5} + \dots$$

Discuss the nature of the following series

$$(21) \quad \sum \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1} + \sqrt{n}}$$

$$22. \quad \sum \frac{(n+1)}{n^n}$$

$$23. \quad \sum (\sqrt{n^2+1} - \sqrt{n^2-1})$$

$$24. \quad \sum (\sqrt{n^2+1} - n)$$

$$25. \quad \sum \frac{n}{n^2+1}$$

$$26. \quad \sum \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \tan \frac{1}{n}$$

(Hint. Let  $u_n = \frac{1}{n^{3/2}}$ )

$$(27) \quad \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\log n}$$

$$28. \quad \sum \sin \left( \frac{1}{n^2} \right)$$

$$(29) \quad \sum \left( 1 - \cos \frac{\pi}{n} \right)$$

30. Show that the following series

$$(a) \quad \frac{x}{x+1} + \frac{x^2}{x+2} + \frac{x^3}{x+3} + \dots$$

$$(b) \quad \frac{x}{a \cdot 1^2 + b} + \frac{2x^2}{a \cdot 2^2 + b} + \frac{3x^3}{a \cdot 3^2 + b} + \dots$$

converge when  $x < 1$  and diverge when  $x \geq 1$ .

2.9. **Raabe's Test.** [Higher Ratio Test]

If  $\sum u_n$  be a positive term series, such that from and after some particular term

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left( \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} - 1 \right) = k, \text{ then } \sum u_n,$$

(i) Converges if  $k > 1$

(ii) Diverges if  $k < 1$

**Proof.** Let the series from and after the particular term be

$$u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + \dots + u_n + \dots$$



**Case I.** When  $k > 1$ 

Let  $p$  be a positive number such that  $k > p > 1$  and compare the given series  $\sum u_n$  with an auxiliary series.

$$\sum v_n = \sum \frac{1}{n^p},$$

which is convergent when  $p > 1$ . Now  $\sum u_n$  converges if,

$$\frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} > \frac{v_n}{v_{n+1}} \quad (\text{See Art. 2.7})$$

$$\text{i.e. if } \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} > \frac{(n+1)^p}{n^p} = \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^p \quad \left[ \because v_n = \frac{1}{n^p} \right]$$

$$\text{or if } \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} > 1 + p \cdot \frac{1}{n} + \frac{p(p-1)}{1 \cdot 2} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{n}\right)^2 + \dots$$

$$\text{or if } n \left( \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} - 1 \right) > p + \frac{p(p-1)}{1 \cdot 2} \cdot \frac{1}{n} + \dots$$

$$\text{or if } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left( \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} - 1 \right) > \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[ p + \frac{p(p-1)}{2n} + \dots \right]$$

$$\text{or if } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left( \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} - 1 \right) > p$$

$$\text{i.e. if } k > p, \text{ which is true.}$$

$$\left[ \because \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left( \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} - 1 \right) = k \right]$$

Hence the given series  $\sum u_n$  is convergent.

**Case II.** When  $k < 1$ .

Let  $p$  be a positive number such that  $k < p < 1$  and compare the given series with an auxiliary series

$$\sum v_n = \sum \frac{1}{n^p},$$

which is divergent when  $p < 1$ .

Now  $\sum u_n$  diverges if

$$\frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} < \frac{v_n}{v_{n+1}}$$

$$\text{or if } \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} < \frac{(n+1)^p}{n^p} = \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^p$$

$$\text{or if } \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} < 1 + \frac{p}{n} + \frac{p(p-1)}{1 \cdot 2} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{n}\right)^2 + \dots$$

$$\text{or if } n \left( \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} - 1 \right) < p + \frac{p(p-1)}{1 \cdot 2} \cdot \frac{1}{n} + \dots$$

or if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left( \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} - 1 \right) < \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[ p + \frac{p(p-1)}{1 \cdot 2} \left( \frac{1}{n} \right) + \dots \right]$   
 or if  $k < p$  which is true.

Hence the given series  $\sum u_n$  diverges.

**Note 1.** The higher ratio test fails if  $k=1$

**Note 2.** This test is applied when the ratio test fails.

**Example 1.** Test for convergence the series,

$$\frac{2^2}{3 \cdot 4} + \frac{2^2 \cdot 4^2}{3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 \cdot 6} + \frac{2^2 \cdot 4^2 \cdot 6^2}{3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 \cdot 6 \cdot 7 \cdot 8} + \dots \infty$$

**Sol.** Here  $u_n = \frac{2^2 \cdot 4^2 \cdot 6^2 \dots (2n)^2}{3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 \dots (2n+2)}$

and

$$u_{n+1} = \frac{2^2 \cdot 4^2 \cdot 6^2 \dots (2n)^2 \cdot (2n+2)^2}{3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 \dots (2n+2)(2n+3)(2n+4)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} &= \frac{2^2 \cdot 4^2 \cdot 6^2 \dots (2n)^2}{3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 \dots (2n+2)} \\ &\quad \times \frac{3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5 \dots (2n+2)(2n+3)(2n+4)}{2^2 \cdot 4^2 \cdot 6^2 \dots (2n)^2 (2n+2)^2} \\ &= \frac{(2n+3)(2n+4)}{(2n+2)^2} \\ &= \frac{(2+3/n)(2+4/n)}{(2+2/n)^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(2+3/n)(2+4/n)}{(2+2/n)^2} = 1$$

Hence the ratio test fails and we apply higher ratio test.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } n \left( \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} - 1 \right) &= n \left[ \frac{(2n+3)(2n+4)}{(2n+2)^2} - 1 \right] \\ &= \frac{6n^2 + 8n}{(2n+2)^2} \\ &= \frac{(3+4/n)}{2(1+1/n)^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left( \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} - 1 \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(3+4/n)}{2(1+1/n)^2} = \frac{3}{2} (>1)$$

Hence the given series converges.

**Example 2.** Discuss the convergence of the series.

$$\frac{1}{3} x + \frac{1 \cdot 2}{3 \cdot 5} x^2 + \frac{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7} x^3 + \dots \infty \quad (x > 0)$$

**Sol.** Here  $u_n = \frac{1.2.3 \dots n}{3.5.7 \dots (2n+1)} x^n$

and  $u_{n+1} = \frac{1.2.3 \dots n.(n+1)}{3.5.7 \dots (2n+1)(2n+3)} x^{n+1}$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} &= \frac{1.2.3 \dots n}{3.5.7 \dots (2n+1)} x^n \times \frac{3.5.7 \dots (2n+1)(2n+3)}{1.2.3 \dots n(n+1)} \times \frac{1}{x^{n+1}} \\ &= \frac{(2n+3)}{(n+1)} \cdot \frac{1}{x} \\ &= \left( 2 + \frac{3}{n} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{x} \\ &= \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{x} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( 2 + \frac{3}{n} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{x} \\ &= \frac{2}{x} \end{aligned}$$

The given series converges if  $\frac{2}{x} > 1$ , i.e.  $2 > x$  or  $x < 2$   
and diverges if  $\frac{2}{x} < 1$  or  $2 < x$  or  $x > 2$ .

The test fails at  $x=2$

When  $x=2$ ,

$$\frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} = \frac{(2n+3)}{(n+1)} \cdot \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\therefore n \left( \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} - 1 \right) = n \left[ \frac{(2n+3)}{2(n+1)} - 1 \right]$$

$$= \frac{n}{2n+2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\left( 2 + \frac{2}{n} \right)}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left( \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} - 1 \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\left( 2 + \frac{2}{n} \right)} = \frac{1}{2} (< 1)$$

Thus the series diverges when  $x=2$ .

Hence the given series converges when  $x < 2$  and diverges for  $x > 2$ .

## 2.10. Logarithmic Test

If  $\sum u_n$  be a positive term series, such that from and after some particular term,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \log \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} = k, \text{ then } \sum u_n$$

(i) converges if  $k > 1$

(ii) diverges if  $k < 1$ .

**Proof.** Let from and after the particular term the series be

$$u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + \dots + u_n + \dots$$

**Case I.** When  $k > 1$ .

Let  $p$  be a positive number such that  $k > p > 1$  and compare the given series with an auxiliary series

$$\sum v_n = \sum \frac{1}{n^p},$$

which is convergent when  $p > 1$ .

Now  $\sum u_n$  is convergent if

$$\frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} > \frac{v_n}{v_{n+1}}$$

or if

$$\frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} > \frac{(n+1)^p}{n^p} = \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^p$$

or if

$$\log \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} > p \log \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)$$

$$\left[ \because \log \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^p = p \log \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right) \right]$$

or if

$$\log \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} > p \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{2n^2} + \dots \right)$$

or if

$$n \log \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} > p - \frac{p}{2n} + \dots$$

or if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \log \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} > p$$



or if  $k > p$  which is true.

Hence the given series is convergent.

**Case II.** The case when  $k < 1$  can be proved similarly.

**Note 1.** The above test fails when  $k=1$ .

**Example 1.** Test the convergence of the series

$$\sum \frac{(n-1)^{n-1}}{n^n}$$

**Sol.** Here  $u_n = \frac{(n-1)^{n-1}}{n^n}$

$$u_{n+1} = \frac{n^n}{(n+1)^{n+1}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} &= \frac{(n-1)^{n-1}}{n^n} \cdot \frac{(n+1)^{n+1}}{n^n} \\ &= \frac{n^{n-1} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n-1} \cdot n^{n+1} \cdot \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n+1}}{n^{2n}} \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n-1} \cdot \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n+1} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{or } \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} = \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n-1} \cdot \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n \cdot \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)$$

$$\therefore n \log \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} = n \left[ (n-1) \log \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) + \log \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n + \log \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right) \right]$$

$$= n \left[ (n-1) \left( -\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{2n^2} - \frac{1}{3n^3} + \dots \right) \right.$$

$$\left. + \log \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n + \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{2n^2} + \dots \right) \right]$$

$$= n \left[ \left( -1 + \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{2n} + \dots \right) \right.$$

$$\left. + \log \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n + \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{2n^2} + \dots \right) \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \log \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left[ \left( -1 + \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{2n} + \dots \right) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \log \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^n + \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{2n^2} + \dots \right) \right] \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left[ \left( -1 + \frac{1}{2n} - \dots \right) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \log e + \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{2n^2} + \dots \right) \right] \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left[ -1 + \frac{3}{2n} + 1 + \dots \right] \\
&= \frac{3}{2} > 1. \quad \left[ \because \log e = 1 \right]
\end{aligned}$$

Hence the given series converges.

**Example 2.** Test the convergence of the series

$$1 + \frac{2x}{2!} + \frac{3^2 x^2}{3!} + \frac{4^3 x^3}{4!} + \frac{5^4 x^4}{5!} + \dots$$

**Sol.** Here  $u_n = \frac{n^{n-1} x^{n-1}}{n!}$

and

$$u_{n+1} = \frac{(n+1)^n x^n}{(n+1)!}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\therefore \frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} &= \frac{(n+1)^n}{n^{n-1}} \cdot \frac{x}{n+1} \\
&= \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^n \cdot \frac{n}{n+1} \cdot x.
\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Thus } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^n \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{n}} \cdot x \right] = ex$$

Therefore, the series is convergent when  $ex < 1$  and divergent when  $ex > 1$ . When  $ex = 1$  or  $x = 1/e$  we apply further test.

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \log \frac{u_n}{u_{n+1}} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \log \left\{ \frac{n^{n-1}}{(n+1)^n} \cdot e(n+1) \right\} \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \log \left[ \frac{e}{\left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^{n-1}} \right] \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left\{ \log e - (n-1) \log \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right) \right\}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \left\{ 1 - (n-1) \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{2n^2} + \frac{1}{3n^3} \dots \right) \right\} \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ n - (n-1) + \frac{(n-1)}{2n} - \frac{(n-1)}{3n^2} + \dots \right\} \\
&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left\{ \frac{3}{2} - \frac{1}{2n} - \frac{(n-1)}{3n^2} + \dots \right\} = \frac{3}{2} > 1
\end{aligned}$$

As such the given series is convergent when  $x=1/e$ .

### EXERCISE 2 (c)

Test the following series for convergence or divergence.

1.  $\frac{1}{3}x + \frac{1.2}{3.5}x^2 + \frac{1.2.3}{3.5.7}x^3 + \dots \infty \quad (x > 0)$

2.  $\frac{2}{5}x + \frac{2.4}{5.8}x^2 + \frac{2.4.6}{5.8.11}x^3 + \dots \infty \quad (x > 0)$

3.  $\frac{3}{7}x + \frac{3.6}{7.10}x^2 + \frac{3.6.9}{7.10.13}x^3 + \dots \infty \quad (x > 0)$

4.  $\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{1.3}{2.4} \frac{x^5}{5} + \frac{1.3.5}{2.4.6} \frac{x^7}{7} + \dots \infty$

5.  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1.3}{2.4} \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1.3.5}{2.4.6} \cdot \frac{1}{3} + \dots \infty$

6.  $1 + \frac{\alpha \beta}{1 \cdot \gamma} x + \frac{\alpha(\alpha+1)\beta(\beta+1)}{1.2 \cdot \gamma(\gamma+1)} x^2 + \frac{\alpha(\alpha+1)(\alpha+2)\beta(\beta+1)(\beta+2)}{1.2.3 \cdot \gamma(\gamma+1)(\gamma+2)} x^3 + \dots$

### 2.11. Cauchy Root Test

If  $\Sigma u_n$  be a positive term series, such that from and after some particular term,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (u_n)^{1/n} = k, \text{ then } \Sigma u_n$$

(i) converges if  $k < 1$

(ii) diverges if  $k > 1$ .

**Proof.** Let the series from and after the particular term be

$$u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + \dots + u_n + \dots$$

**Case. I.** When  $k < 1$ .

By definition of a limit a positive  $l$  ( $k < l < 1$ ) can be found such that

$$(u_n)^{1/n} < l$$

$$\therefore (u_n) < l^n$$

$$\text{or } \Sigma u_n < \Sigma l^n$$

The series on the right hand side is a geometric series with common ratio  $l$  ( $< 1$ ), hence convergent.

$\therefore \Sigma u_n$  is also convergent.

**Case II.** When  $k > 1$ .

By definition of limit

$$(u_n)^{1/n} > 1$$

$$\text{i.e. } u_1 > 1, u_2 > 1, u_3 > 1, \dots, u_n > 1$$

$$\therefore u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + \dots + u_n + \dots > 1 + 1 + 1 + \dots + 1 + \dots$$

The series on the right hand sides is obviously divergent.

Therefore the given series  $\Sigma u_n$  is also divergent.

**Note.** The test fails if  $k=1$ .

**Example 1.** Discuss the convergence of the series,

$$1 + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^n} + \dots$$

$$\text{Sol. Here } u_n = \frac{1}{n^n} \quad \text{or } (u_n)^{1/n} = \frac{1}{n}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (u_n)^{1/n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0 < 1$$

Hence the given series is convergent.

**Example 2.** Discuss the convergence of the series.

$$\sum \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^{n^2}$$

$$\text{Sol. Here } u_n = \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^{n^2}$$

$$\therefore (u_n)^{1/n} = \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^n$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (u_n)^{1/n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^n = e > 1$$

Therefore the given series is divergent.

**Example 3.** Test the series for convergence and divergence,

$$\frac{1}{2} \cdot x + \left( \frac{2}{3} \right)^4 \cdot x^2 + \left( \frac{3}{4} \right)^9 \cdot x^3 + \dots + \left( \frac{n}{n+1} \right)^{n^2} \cdot x^n + \dots$$



**Sol.** Here  $u_n = \left(\frac{n}{n+1}\right)^{n^2} \cdot x^n$

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore (u_n)^{1/n} &= \left(\frac{n}{n+1}\right)^n \cdot x \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{1+1/n}\right)^n \cdot x \\ &= \frac{x}{(1+1/n)^n}\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (u_n)^{1/n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x}{(1+1/n)^n} = \frac{x}{e}$$

The given series converges if  $\frac{x}{e} < 1$ , i.e.  $x < e$  and diverges if  $x/e > 1$ , i.e.  $x > e$ .

The above test fails at  $x=e$ .

When  $x=e$

$$u_n = \left(\frac{n}{n+1}\right)^{n^2} \cdot e^n$$

Now  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n \neq 0$ , therefore, the given series diverges at  $x=e$ .

Hence the given series converges for  $x < e$  and diverges for  $x \geq e$ .

### EXERCISE 2 (d)

Discuss the convergence and divergence of the following series :

1.  $\frac{1}{3} + \left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{3}{7}\right)^3 + \dots + \left(\frac{n}{2n+1}\right)^n + \dots$

2.  $\frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^3 + \left(\frac{3}{8}\right)^5 + \dots$

3.  $\frac{3}{4} + \left(\frac{5}{7}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{7}{10}\right)^3 + \dots$

4.  $x + \frac{x^2}{2^2} + \frac{x^3}{3^2} + \dots$

⑤  $(x+3) + 2^2(x+3)^2 + 3^3(x+3)^3 + \dots$

### 2.12. Alternating Series

An infinite series in which from and after some particular term, the terms are alternately positive and negative is called an alternating series.

The general form of the series is

$$u_1 - u_2 + u_3 - u_4 + \dots \quad [u_n > 0]$$

For example  $1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \dots$  is an alternating series.

### Leibnit's Test for Convergence of Alternating Series

An alternating series

$$u_1 - u_2 + u_3 - u_4 + \dots \quad [u_n > 0]$$

is convergent, if for all values of  $n$ ,

$$(i) \quad u_{n+1} < u_n$$

$$(ii) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n = 0$$

**Proof.** Let the sum of first  $2n$  terms of the series be denoted by  $S_{2n}$ .

$$\therefore S_{2n} = (u_1 - u_2) + (u_3 - u_4) + (u_5 - u_6) + \dots + (u_{2n-1} - u_{2n}) \quad \dots(1)$$

$$\text{Since} \quad u_n > u_{n+1},$$

$$u_1 > u_2 > u_3 > \dots \quad \dots(2)$$

From (1) and (2) it follows that the expression in each of the brackets in (1) is positive.

Hence the sum  $S_{2n}$  is positive, i.e.  $S_{2n} > 0$

$$\text{Now } S_{2n+1} = u_1 - [(u_2 - u_3) + (u_4 - u_5) + \dots + (u_{2n} - u_{2n+1})]$$

The expression in each of the parenthesis is positive and subtracted from  $u_1$ .

$$\therefore S_{2n+1} \leq u_1$$

$$\text{Also} \quad S_{2n+1} = S_{2n} + u_{2n+1}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{2n+1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{2n} + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_{2n+1} \quad \dots(3)$$

The given series is convergent if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{2n+1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{2n} \quad \dots(4)$$

Therefore, from (3) and (4), we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_{2n+1} = 0 \text{ for all } n.$$

Replacing  $(2n+1)$  by  $n$ , we have

$$\text{or} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n = 0$$

Thus the given series is convergent if

$$(i) u_1 > u_2 > u_3 > \dots$$

$$(ii) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n = 0$$

**Note 1.** It must be noted carefully that both the conditions are satisfied simultaneously for convergence of an alternating series.

**Note 2.** An alternating series if not convergent is oscillatory.

**Example 1.** Discuss the convergence of the series,

$$1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \dots$$

**Sol.** The terms of the series are alternately positive and negative, and also each term is numerically less than the preceding term,

$$i.e. \quad u_n > u_{n+1} \quad \text{for all } n \quad \dots(1)$$

$$\text{Also} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0 \quad \dots(2)$$

From the conditions (1) and (2), the given series converges.

**Example 2.** Test the convergence of the series,

$$1 - \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{5^2} - \frac{1}{7^2} + \dots$$

**Sol.** The terms of the series are alternately positive and negative and also each term is numerically less than the preceding term, i.e.,

$$u_n > u_{n+1} \quad \text{for all } n \quad \dots(1)$$

$$\text{Also} \quad u_n = \frac{1}{(2n-1)^2}$$

$$\therefore \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{(2n-1)^2} = 0 \quad \dots(2)$$

From the conditions (1) and (2), the given series converges.

**Example 3.** Test the convergence of the series,

$$x - \frac{x^3}{2^2} + \frac{x^3}{3^2} - \frac{x^4}{4^2} + \dots$$

**Sol.** Here we shall apply D' Alembert test,

$$u_n = (-1)^{n-1} \frac{x^n}{n^2}$$

$$\text{and} \quad u_{n+1} = (-1)^n \frac{x^{n+1}}{(n+1)^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} &= -\frac{x^{n+1}}{(n+1)^2} \cdot \frac{n^2}{x^n} \\ &= -\frac{1}{(1+1/n)^2} \cdot x\end{aligned}$$

$$\left| \frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} \right| = \left| \frac{-1}{(1+1/n)^2} \cdot x \right| = \frac{1}{(1+1/n)^2} |x|$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{u_{n+1}}{u_n} \right| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \frac{1}{(1+1/n)^2} \right] |x| = |x|$$

Therefore the given series converges, when  $|x| < 1$  and diverges for  $|x| > 1$ .

When  $|x| = 1$ , D' Alembert's ratio test fails.

Now when  $|x| = 1$ , the series can be shown to be convergent by Leibnitz's test.

Hence the given series is convergent for  $|x| \leq 1$  and divergent for  $|x| > 1$ .

### EXERCISE 2 (e)

Examine each of the following series for convergence or divergence :

1.  $1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{8} + \dots$

2.  $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{2^3} + \frac{3}{4} - \frac{1}{3^3} - \frac{4}{5} + \frac{1}{4^3} + \dots$

3.  $\frac{1}{2^2} - \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} - \frac{1}{5^2} + \dots$

4.  $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3} + \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4} - \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4 \cdot 5} + \dots$

5.  $\sum \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n!}$

6.  $\sum \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{\log n}$

7.  $1 - \frac{x}{1^2} + \frac{x^2}{2^2} - \frac{x^3}{3^2} + \dots$

8.  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}-1} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}+1} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}-1} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}+1} + \dots$

### 2.13. Absolute Convergence

A series  $\sum u_n$  is said to be absolutely convergent if  $\sum u_n$  and  $\sum |u_n|$  both converge.

For example let

$$\Sigma u_n = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2^2} - \frac{1}{2^3} + \dots \infty$$

Here  $\Sigma u_n$  is convergent by Leibnitz's rule.

Also 
$$\Sigma |u_n| = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{2^3} + \dots \infty$$

is convergent, being a geometric series with common ratio  $\frac{1}{2}$  ( $< 1$ )

Hence the given series is absolutely convergent.

#### 2.14. Conditional Convergence

A series  $\Sigma u_n$  is said to be conditionally convergent if  $\Sigma u_n$  converges but  $\Sigma |u_n|$  does not converge.

For example let

$$\Sigma u_n = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \dots \infty$$

Here  $\Sigma u_n$  is convergent by Leibnitz's rule

Now  $\Sigma |u_n| = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \dots \infty$ , is a divergent series being a  $p$ -series with  $p=1$ .

Thus  $\Sigma u_n$  converges but  $\Sigma |u_n|$  diverges.

Hence the given series  $\Sigma u_n$  is conditionally convergent.

#### EXERCISE 2 (f)

Find out which of the following series converge absolutely or conditionally :

1.  $1 - \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{5^2} - \frac{1}{7^2} + \frac{1}{9^2} - \dots$

2.  $\frac{1}{\log 2} - \frac{1}{\log 3} + \frac{1}{\log 4} - \dots$

3.  $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{2^3} - \dots$

4.  $\frac{1}{\sqrt[5]{2}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt[5]{3}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt[5]{4}} - \dots + (-1)^n \frac{1}{\sqrt[5]{n}} + \dots$

5.  $\sum \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{\sqrt{n}}$

6.  $\sum \frac{(-1)^{n-1} n}{n^2 + 1}$

7.  $1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{4}} + \dots$





- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 3. Convgt.  | 4. Convgt.                                      |
| 5. Convgt.  | 6. Convgt.                                      |
| 7. Convgt.  | 8. Convgt.                                      |
| 9. Convgt.  | 10. Convgt. for $x < 1$ ; Divgt. for $x \geq 1$ |
| 11. Convgt. for $x \leq 1$ ; Divgt. for $x > 1$ . |   |
| 12. Convgt. for $x < 1$ ; Divgt. for $x \geq 1$ . |   |
| 13. Convgt. for $x < 1$ ; Divgt. for $x \geq 1$ . |   |
| 14. Convgt.                                       | 15. Convgt.                                     |
| 16. Convgt.                                       | 17. Convgt.                                     |
| 18. Convgt.                                       | 19. Divgt.                                      |
| 20. Convgt.                                       | 21. Divgt.                                      |
| 22. Convgt if $p > 2$ and Divgt. for $p \leq 2$ . |   |
| 23. Convgt.                                       | 24. Divergent.                                  |
| 25. Divgt.  | 26. Convgt.                                     |
| 27. Divgt.  | 28. Convgt.                                     |
| 29. Convgt.                                       |   |

**Exercise 2. (c) (Page 71)**

1. Convgt. for  $x < 2$  and Divgt. for  $x \geq 2$
2. Convgt. for  $x < \frac{3}{2}$  and Divgt. for  $x \geq \frac{3}{2}$
3. Convgt. for  $x \leq 1$  and Divgt. for  $x > 1$
4. Convgt. for  $x \leq 1$  and Divgt. for  $x > 1$
5. Convgt.
6. Convgt for  $x < 1$ , Divgt. for  $x > 1$  ; when  $x = 1$ , Convgt. if  $\gamma - \alpha - \beta > 0$  and Divgt. for  $\gamma - \alpha - \beta \leq 0$ ,

**Exercise 2 (d) (Page 73)**

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1. Convgt.   | 2. Convgt. |
| 3. Convgt.   |            |
| 4. Convgt. for $x \leq 1$ and Divgt. for $x > 1$ . | 5. Divgt.  |

**Exercise 2 (e) (Page 76)**

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1. Convgt.   | 2. Convgt. |
| 3. Convgt.   | 4. Convgt. |
| 5. Convgt.   | 6. Convgt. |
| 7. Convgt. for $ x  \leq 1$ and Divgt. for $ x  > 1$ . |            |
| 8. Divgt.  |            |

**Exercise 2 (f) (Page 77)**

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Abs. convgt.          | 2. Conditionally convgt. |
| 3. Abs. convgt.          | 4. Conditionally convgt. |
| 5. Conditionally convgt. | 6. Conditionally convgt. |
| 7. Conditionally convgt. |                          |

**Exercise 3 (Page 84-85)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. $\frac{4}{2x-3} - \frac{1}{x-1}$                | 2. $1 - \frac{2}{x-3} + \frac{6}{x-4}$    |
| 3. $\frac{1}{x-1} + \frac{2}{x-2} + \frac{3}{x+4}$ | 4. $\frac{3}{5(s-1)} - \frac{4}{15(s+4)}$ |
|  | $-\frac{1}{3(s-2)}$                       |