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Comparison Test

1. Direct comparison test :-

If $\sum u_n$ and $\sum v_n$ are two positive term series and $k \neq 0$, a fixed positive number (independent on n) & \exists a positive integer m such that

$$0 < u_n \leq k v_n \quad \forall n \geq m.$$

Then,

i. if $\sum v_n$ converges, then $\sum u_n$ also converges.

ii. if $\sum v_n$ diverges, then $\sum u_n$ also diverges.

Q. Use Direct comparison test to determine convergence or divergence of the following series

1. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2+4}$

for $n \geq 1$, $n^2+4 > n^2$

$$\frac{1}{n^2+4} < \frac{1}{n^2}$$

$$0 < \frac{1}{n^2+4} < \frac{1}{n^2}$$

let $u_n = \frac{1}{n^2+4}$, $v_n = \frac{1}{n^2}$

then, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n$ and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} v_n$ are positive series, such that

$$0 < u_n < v_n$$

since, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} v_n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ is p-series & converges as $p > 1$

\therefore By direct comparison test,
 $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2+4}$ also converges.

$$\overline{n=1} \quad \text{let } u_n = \frac{1}{3^{n+1}}, \quad v_n = \frac{1}{3^n}$$

then, $0 < u_n \leq v_n$, for $n \geq 1$ $\sum \frac{1}{3^n}$ is geometric series with $r = \frac{1}{3} < 1$.
 & this is converges.

Hence, by direct comparison test,
 $\sum \frac{1}{3^{n+1}}$ also converges.

$$\text{iii)} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\ln n}{n^4}$$

since, $\ln n < n$ $\forall n \geq 1$

$$\frac{\ln n}{n^4} < \frac{n}{n^4} = \frac{1}{n^3}$$

$$\text{let } u_n = \frac{\ln n}{n^4}, \quad v_n = \frac{1}{n^3}$$

then, $0 < u_n \leq v_n$ $\forall n \geq 1$

since, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^3}$ is a p-series with $p=3 (>1)$

thus, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^3}$ is converges.

Hence, by direct comparison test,

$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\ln n}{n^4}$ also converges.

$$\text{iv)} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} = 1 + \frac{1}{2!} + \frac{1}{3!} + \dots < 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2 \cdot 2} + \frac{1}{2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2} + \dots$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 < \frac{1}{n!} < \frac{1}{2^{n-1}}$$

$$\text{let } u_n = \frac{1}{n!}, \quad v_n = \frac{1}{2^{n-1}}$$

since, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^{n-1}}$ is convergent geometric series $r = \frac{1}{2} < 1$, so
 by direct comparison test $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!}$ also converges.

ii) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{\gamma n}}{n^3}$

for $n \geq 1$, $0 < e^{\gamma n} < e$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{e^{\gamma n}}{n^3} \leq \frac{e}{n^3}$$

let $u_n = \frac{e^{\gamma n}}{n^3}$, $v_n = \frac{e}{n^3}$

$$0 < u_n \leq k v_n \quad \forall n \geq 1$$

$$k = e^{\gamma n}$$

since, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^3}$ is a p-series with $p=3(>1)$.

$\sum \frac{1}{n^3}$ converges.

Hence, by direct comparison test, $\sum \frac{e^{\gamma n}}{n^3}$ also converges.

iii) $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{n^3-3}$

$$n^2-3 < n^3 \quad \forall n \geq 2$$

$$\frac{1}{n^2-3} > \frac{1}{n^3}$$

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

$$\frac{1}{n} < \frac{n^2}{n^3-3}$$

let, $u_n = \frac{1}{n}$, $v_n = \frac{n^2}{n^3-3}$, $\forall n \geq 2$

then, $0 < u_n \leq v_n \quad \forall n \geq 2$

Now, $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ is divergent harmonic series.

Hence, by direct comparison test -

$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{n^3-3}$ is also divergent.

ny it yourself)

$$Q \rightarrow \sum \frac{n^3}{2n^4-1}$$

~~iii) $\sum \frac{1}{n^3+8n}$~~

ii) $\sum \frac{1}{n^3+8n}$

Q. $\sum \frac{n^3}{2n^4-1}$

$2n^4-1 < 2n^4$

$\frac{1}{2n^4-1} > \frac{1}{2n^4}$

so, $\frac{n^3}{2n^4-1} > \frac{n^3}{2n^4} = \frac{1}{2n} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2n} < \frac{n^3}{2n^4-1}$

let $u_n = \frac{n^3}{2n^4-1}$, $v_n = \frac{1}{2n}$, then, $0 < u_n \leq v_n$

Now $\sum \frac{1}{2n}$ is divergence harmonic series
 so, by direct comparison test, $\sum \frac{n^3}{2n^4-1}$ also diverges.

ii) $\sum \frac{1}{n^3+8n}$

$n^3+8n > n^3$
 $\frac{1}{n^3+8n} < \frac{1}{n^3}$

$u_n = \frac{1}{n^3+8n}$, $v_n = \frac{1}{n^3}$

$0 < u_n \leq v_n$ for $n \geq 1$

$\sum \frac{1}{n^3}$ is p-series where $p=3 (>1)$
 converges.

by direct comparison test, $\sum \frac{1}{n^3+8n}$
 it also converges.

Q. → Prove that if $\sum a_n$ is a convergent series of positive series then the series $\sum a_n^2$ also converges.

Proof:-

since, $\sum a_n$ is a convergent series,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$$

i.e. for $\epsilon = 1 \quad \exists m \in \mathbb{N}$ such that
 $\forall n \geq m$
 $|a_n - 0| < 1$

$$\Rightarrow \text{since } a_n > 0 \quad \forall n$$
$$\Rightarrow a_n < \frac{1}{2} \quad \forall n \geq m$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 < a_n^2 < a_n \quad \forall n \geq m$$

since, $\sum a_n$ is convergent series,

By Direct comparison test

$\sum a_n^2$ is convergent.

Note:-

Converse may not be true.

eg. let $\sum a_n = \sum \frac{1}{n}$

$$\sum a_n^2 = \sum \frac{1}{n^2}$$

$\sum a_n^2 = \sum \frac{1}{n^2}$ is convergent p-series with $p=2 (>1)$

However, $\sum a_n$ is not convergent, it is divergent

LIMIT COMPARISON TEST

If $\sum u_n$ and $\sum v_n$ are positive term series such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} = l$, where l is non-zero finite series, then the two series $\sum u_n$ and $\sum v_n$ converges or diverges together.

Proof:-

Let $\sum v_n$ converges.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} = l$$

$$\exists N \in \mathbb{N}$$

such that, $\left| \frac{u_n}{v_n} - l \right| < \epsilon (=1) \quad \forall n \geq N$

$$0 < \frac{u_n}{v_n} < l+1 \quad \forall n \geq N$$

$$u_n < (l+1)v_n \quad \forall n \geq N$$

Since, $\sum v_n$ converges,

$\sum (l+1)v_n$ converges.

By direct comparison test $\sum u_n$ also converges.

Note:- If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} = 0$ or ∞ , the test may not hold.

Example:- Let $\sum u_n = \frac{1}{n^2}$, $\sum v_n = \frac{1}{n}$

$$\frac{u_n}{v_n} = \frac{1/n^2}{1/n} = \frac{1}{n}$$

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

$\sum \frac{1}{n}$ diverges whereas $\sum \frac{1}{n^2}$ converges.

Thus, limit test may not hold if

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

or, let

$$\sum u_n = \frac{1}{n}, \quad \sum v_n = \frac{1}{n^2}$$

$$\frac{u_n}{v_n} = \frac{1/n}{1/n^2} = n$$

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

$\sum u_n$ diverges,

$\sum v_n$ converges.

Q. Use limit comparison test to determine convergence or divergence of the given series:-

i) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n - 1}$

let $u_n = \frac{1}{2^n - 1}$, $v_n = \frac{1}{2^n}$

u_n and v_n are positive for $n \geq 1$

then, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{2^n}{2^n - 1} \right)$

$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{1 - 2^{-n}} \right)$

$= 1$, a finite positive number.

Now, $\sum \frac{1}{2^n}$ is convergent geometric series with $|r| = \frac{1}{2} < 1$

\therefore By limit comparison test,
 $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n - 1}$ converges.

ii) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3n-1}{2n^3-4n+5}$

let $u_n = \frac{3n-1}{2n^3-4n+5}$, $v_n = \frac{1}{n^2}$

$= \frac{n(3-\frac{1}{n})}{n^3(2-\frac{4}{n^2}+\frac{5}{n^3})}$

$u_n = \frac{1}{n^2} \left(\frac{3-\frac{1}{n}}{2-\frac{4}{n^2}+\frac{5}{n^3}} \right)$

u_n & v_n both are positive for $n \geq 1$

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{3-\frac{1}{n}}{2-\frac{4}{n^2}+\frac{5}{n^3}} \right) = \frac{3}{2}$, a finite positive number.

$\therefore \sum u_n$ and $\sum v_n$ behave alike (by limit comparison test)

since, $\sum v_n = \sum \frac{1}{n^2}$ converges by p-series $p=2 > 1$, so,

$\sum u_n = \sum \frac{3n-1}{2n^3-4n+5}$ also converges.

Q.1 $\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 \cdot 2}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \cdot 3}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3 \cdot 4}} + \dots$

let $u_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n(n+1)}}$, $v_n = \frac{1}{n}$

$u_n, v_n > 0 \quad \forall n \geq 1$

$\frac{u_n}{v_n} = \frac{n}{\sqrt{n^2+n}} = \frac{n}{n\sqrt{1+\frac{1}{n}}}$

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\frac{1}{n}}} \right)$
 $= 1$, finite positive number.

\therefore By limit comparison test, $\sum u_n$ & $\sum v_n$ converges or diverges together.

Now, $\sum v_n = \sum \frac{1}{n}$ is divergent harmonic series.

$\therefore \sum u_n = \sum \frac{1}{\sqrt{n(n+1)}}$ diverges.

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

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

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

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

u_n & v_n both are positive.

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\frac{1}{n}} + 1} \right) = 1$, a positive finite number

\longrightarrow same

Q1) $\frac{1}{3.7} + \frac{1}{4.9} + \frac{1}{5.11} + \frac{1}{6.13} + \dots$

n^{th} term of given series.

$$a_n = \frac{1}{(n+2)(2n+5)} = \frac{1}{n^2(1+2/n)(2+5/n)}$$

$$u_n = \frac{1}{n^2(1+2/n)(2+5/n)}$$

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

u_n & v_n both positive.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{1}{(1+2/n)(2+5/n)} \right] = \frac{1}{2}, \text{ finite number (}\neq 0\text{)}$$

so, by limit comparison test, given series converges or diverges together

since, $\sum v_n = \sum \frac{1}{n^2}$ is converges p-series $p=2$ (>1)

also $\sum u_n$ converges.

Q2) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{3^n + 5}$

$$u_n = \frac{1}{3^n + 5}, \quad v_n = \frac{1}{3^n}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{3^n + 5} \right) \cdot 3^n$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{3^n(1+5/3^n)} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{1+5/3^n} \right)$$

$= 1$, non-zero finite number.

So, a/c to limit comp. test, series may converge or diverge together.

$\sum v_n = \sum \frac{1}{3^n}$ g.k. $r = \frac{1}{3} < 1$,
~~diverges~~ converges.

Q3) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n+1}{n^p}$

$$u_n = \frac{n+1}{n^p} = \frac{1+1/n}{n^{p-1}}$$

$$v_n = \frac{1}{n^{p-1}}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)$$

$= 1$, non-zero finite no.

$\sum \frac{1}{n^{p-1}}$ converges for $p-1 > 1$
i.e. $p > 2$.

diverges for $p \leq 2$.

Q.7 $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin \frac{1}{n^2}$

$$u_n = \sin \frac{1}{n^2}, \quad v_n = \frac{1}{n^2}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{\sin \frac{1}{n^2}}{\frac{1}{n^2}} \right) = 1, \text{ finite positive no.}$$

$\sum \frac{1}{n^2}$ is convergent p-series $p=2(>1)$.

so, $\sum u_n$ also converges.

Q.7 $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin \frac{1}{n}$

$$u_n = \sin \frac{1}{n}, \quad v_n = \frac{1}{n} \Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_n}{v_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{\sin \frac{1}{n}}{\frac{1}{n}} \right) = 1 \neq 0$$

$\sum v_n = \sum \frac{1}{n}$ diverges.

$\sum u_n$ also diverges.

Q.7 Use direct comparison test to show that,

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

$$\sum u_n = \sum \frac{1}{n^2}$$