

Series of real numbers

Ex1: $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{3}{4}\right)^{n-1}$ → a geometric series of rational nr.

$$q = -\frac{3}{4}$$

$$|q| = \frac{3}{4} < 1 \rightarrow \text{Q (convergent)}$$

$$\text{and } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{3}{4}\right)^{n-1} = \frac{1}{1 - \left(-\frac{3}{4}\right)} = \frac{4}{7}$$

Ex2: $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 3^n$ → geometric series of nat. nr. of ratio $q = 3 > 1$ → divergent but $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 3^n = +\infty$

Ex3: $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n$ → geometric series of ratio $q = -1 < 1$ → divergent → without a sum

2nd Classical example - TELESCOPIC SERIES

Def: $\sum x_n$ it is said to be a TELESCOPIC SERIES

if $\exists (a_n) \in \mathbb{R}$ s.t. $x_n = a_n - a_{n+1}$

Proposition

If $\sum x_n$ is a telescopic series ($x_n = a_n - a_{n+1}$) and $\exists \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = e \in \mathbb{R}$ then $\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} x_n = a_k - e$

Proof:

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N} \quad x_n = a_n - a_{n+1} \quad \text{for } n \geq k$$

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N} \quad s_n = x_n = a_n - a_{k+1} \quad \text{for } n \geq k$$

$$s_{k+1} = x_k + x_{k+1} = a_k - a_{k+1} + a_{k+1} - a_{k+2} \\ = a_k - a_{k+2}$$

$$s_n = x_k + \dots + x_n = a_k - a_{k+1} + a_{k+1} - a_{k+2} + \dots + a_n - a_{n+1} = a_k - a_{n+1}$$

$$\rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n - a_{n+1}) = a_k - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_{n+1} = a_k - e$$

$$\rightarrow \exists \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} x_n = a_k - e$$

Remark: If $y_n = b_{n+1} - b_n$
 $\exists e - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n \in \mathbb{R}$ $\rightarrow \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} y_n = e - b_k$

Example: $\sum_{n=5}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(n+1)}$

$$x_n = \frac{1}{n(n+1)} = \frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{n+1} = \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1}$$

We consider the sequence $(a_n) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ having the general term $a_n = \frac{1}{n}$. Because $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$

$$\sum_{n=5}^{\infty} x_n = a_5 - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \frac{1}{5} - 0 = \frac{1}{5}$$

Remark: Basic algebraic operations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication with a scalar, may be considered even for series, the results are implicit as long as we are not in a nontermination case.

$$\text{If } \exists \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} a_n = a \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\exists \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} b_n = b \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$$

and

$\alpha \cdot a + \beta \cdot b$ is NOT
NONDETERMINATION CASE

$$\rightarrow \exists \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} (\alpha \cdot a_n + \beta \cdot b_n) = \alpha \cdot a + \beta \cdot b$$

Example 1. Study $\sum_{n \geq 1} (3 \cdot (-\frac{1}{4})^{n-1} + 4 \cdot (\frac{2}{5})^{n-1})$

We consider $a_n = (-\frac{1}{4})^{n-1}$, $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$b_n = (\frac{2}{5})^{n-1}, \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$$

We study separately $\sum a_n$ & $\sum b_n$

- $\sum a_n$ is a geometric series of ratio $g = -\frac{1}{4} \rightarrow |g| < 1 \rightarrow$ convergent and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-\frac{1}{4})^{n-1} = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{4}} = \frac{4}{3} \in \mathbb{R}$

- $\sum b_n$ is a geometric series of ratio $g = \frac{2}{5} \rightarrow$ C.

and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (\frac{2}{5})^{n-1} = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{2}{5}} = \frac{5}{3} \in \mathbb{R}$

Because $3 \cdot \frac{4}{3} + 4 \cdot \frac{5}{3}$ is not a NOND. CASE

$$\rightarrow 3 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (3 \cdot a_n + 4 \cdot b_n) = 3 \cdot \frac{12}{5} + \frac{20}{3} = \frac{136}{15}$$

Example 2. $\sum_{n \geq 1} (3 \cdot (-\frac{1}{4})^{n-1} + 5 \cdot 2^n)$
C_n, $c_n > 1 \rightarrow \sum c_n$ is D.
Like Ex 1 and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2^n = \infty$

$$3 \cdot \frac{4}{3} + 4 \cdot \infty = \infty \rightarrow$$
 it is not a nondet. case \rightarrow
 $\rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (3a_n + 4 \cdot c_n) = \infty$ (This series is D)

Remark: Unlike when working with sequences, the behaviour of the first few terms of a series matters when we compute the sum of the series.

The nature of the series is nevertheless unbothered by the first few terms.

Property:

- Let $\sum x_n$ be a series of real nr. and consider $k \in \mathbb{N}, k > 1$.

$$\text{If } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_n = e \in \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \sum_{n=k+1}^{\infty} x_n = e - (x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_k)$$

• The nature of the series is not altered by this behaviour

Examples:

$$\sum_{n=4}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{1}{5}\right)^{n-1}$$

$$\sum_{n=5}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{1}{5}\right)^{n-1} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{1}{5}\right)^{n-1} - (x_1 + x_2 + x_3) =$$

$$x_n = \left(-\frac{1}{5}\right)^{n-1}$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{5}} - \left(1 - \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{25}\right) = \frac{5}{4} - \frac{16 - 5 + 1}{25} = \frac{5}{4} - \frac{12}{25} = \frac{625 - 48}{100} = \frac{145}{100} = \frac{29}{20}$$

$$\rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{1}{5}\right)^{n-1} \neq \sum_{n=5}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{1}{5}\right)^{n-1} \text{ but THEY HAVE THE SAME NATURE (C)}$$

SERIES WITH POSITIVE TERMS (SPT)

Def: Let $\sum x_n$ be a series of real numbers. It is said to be a SPT if $x_n > 0 \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

Properties

• $\sum x_n$ SPT $\rightarrow (s_n)$ is increasing

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$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (s_n) \in \mathbb{R}$$

• \leftrightarrow If $\sum x_n$ SPT, it always has a sum

$$\cdot \sum x_n \text{ SPT } \left\{ \begin{array}{l} + \\ D \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_n = \infty$$

Proof:

• For a random $n \in \mathbb{N}$ $s_{n+1} - s_n = x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n + x_{n+1} - (x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n) = x_{n+1} > 0 \rightarrow$

$\rightarrow (s_n)$ - increasing $\rightarrow \exists \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n$ (*)

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$$\cdot \exists p \sum x_n \text{ SPT} \left. \begin{array}{l} + \\ D \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \exists \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n$$

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n \in \{-\infty, \infty\}$

but from $\circledast \rightarrow \exists \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n$
 $(s_n) - \text{increasing} \left. \begin{array}{l} \rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = \infty \\ \text{thus } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_n = \infty \end{array} \right\}$

Theorem

Let $\sum x_n$ be a random series of real numbers.
 $\text{If } \sum x_n \text{ is C} \rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 0$

Remark

The reverse statement of the theorem does not hold

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 0 \rightarrow ?$$

Examples:

$\sum \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$ has $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 0$ and is C.

$\sum \frac{1}{n}$ has $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 0$ but is D.

Remark

In practice, we find it very useful to apply the equivalent negation of the theorem.

$$p \rightarrow q \leftrightarrow \neg q \rightarrow \neg p$$

If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n \neq 0 \rightarrow \sum x_n$ is D.

Examples:

1. $\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{n}}$

$$x_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{n}} \text{ and } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 1 \neq 0 \rightarrow \sum x_n \text{ is D}$$

Bonus! $\sum x_n$ is SPT? $\rightarrow \exists \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} = \infty$

As a consequence

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} + \dots + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \right) = \infty$$

2. $\sum_{n \geq 1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^n$

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

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = e \neq 0 \rightarrow \sum x_n \text{ is } \text{SPT} \rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_n = \infty$$

! This theorem applies for random types of series

3. $\sum_{n \geq 1} (-1)^n$

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (-1)^n \neq 0$ (rule of aplication) $\rightarrow \sum x_n$ is D (without a sum)

because $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{2n} = 1$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{2n+1} = -1$$

Comparison criteria
for SPT

criterium - sg

criterium - pl.

Remark: When applying comparison criteria for SPT we usually consider:

• either the geometric series $\sum g^n$ | C: $|g| < 1$
D: $g \geq 1$

• or the generalized harmonic series $\sum \frac{1}{n^\alpha}$ | C: $\alpha > 1$
D: $\alpha \leq 1$

C1C: Let $\sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ be two SPT s.t. $\exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t.

$\forall n \geq n_0, a_n \neq b_n$.

Then ① $\sum b_n - C \rightarrow \sum a_n - C$

② $\sum a_n - D \rightarrow \sum b_n - D$

Remark: C1C does not cover 2 cases:

• $\sum a_n - C$

• $\sum b_n - D$

C2C: Consider $\sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ SPT s.t. $\exists \rho = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} \in [0, \infty]$

a) If $\rho = 0 \rightarrow$ ①, ② - C1C

b) If $\rho \in (0, \infty)$ \rightarrow ③ $\sum a_n \text{ & } \sum b_n$ has the same nat.

c) If $\rho = \infty \rightarrow$ ④ $\sum a_n - C \rightarrow \sum b_n - C$ (c1c reversed)
⑤ $\sum b_n - D \rightarrow \sum a_n - D$

C3C Let $\sum a_n$ & $\sum b_n$ SPT s.t. $\exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\forall n \geq n_0$

$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \leq \frac{b_{n+1}}{b_n} \Rightarrow$$
 C1C

Theorem: (D'Alembert criterion for series)

Let $\sum a_n$ be a series SPT s.t. $\exists \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} (\epsilon \in (0, \infty))$

If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} < 1 \rightarrow \sum a_n$ is C

$> 1 \rightarrow \sum a_n$ is D

?? Remark: (Root CRITERION)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{a_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n}$$

Remark: D'Alembert & the root criterion are

used if $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n}$ or $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{a_n} = 1$ case in
which we have to consider one other approaches

Examples: Study the nature of the series:

a) $\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{3^{n-1}}{4^{n-1} + 5^{n-1}}$

Approach 1

$$x_n = \frac{3^{n-1}}{4^{n-1} + 5^{n-1}} > 0 \rightarrow \text{SPT}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x_{n+1}}{x_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3^n}{4^n + 5^n} \cdot \frac{4^{n-1} + 5^{n-1}}{3^{n-1}} = 3 \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4^{n-1} + 5^{n-1}}{4^n + 5^n}$$
$$= 3 \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(\frac{4}{5})^{n-1} + 1}{(\frac{4}{5})^n + 1} = \frac{3}{5} < 1$$

DA $\rightarrow \sum x_n$ is C.

Remark: When in the formulation of x_n we encounter constants at the power of n we can do
try a comparison to the geometric series

Approach 2

$$\bullet x_n = \frac{3^{n-1}}{4^{n-1} + 5^{n-1}} \leq \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^{n-1}$$

• $\sum y_n$ is a geometric series of ratio $q = \frac{3}{5} \rightarrow C$

$$x_n \leq y_n$$

CIC $\rightarrow \sum x_n - C$

b) $\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n^3 + 2n^2 + 5}}$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n^3 + 2n^2 + 5}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n^3}} \rightarrow 0, x_n, y_n - \text{SPT}$$

$$\sum y_n = \sum \frac{1}{n^{\frac{3}{2}}} \quad \begin{cases} \text{HARMONIC} \\ \text{SERIES} \end{cases} \rightarrow \sum y_n - C \quad \begin{cases} \text{CIC} \\ \text{DA} \end{cases} \rightarrow \sum x_n - C \quad \checkmark$$
$$\frac{3}{2} > 1 \quad x_n \leq y_n$$

! $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x_{n+1}}{x_n} = 1 \rightarrow (?)$

! $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 0 \rightarrow (?)$

! $x_n < \frac{1}{n} \rightarrow$ CIC does not cover

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Approach 2

$|C2C b|$ is the most complete criteria to be applied since it covers all possible cases

When in the formulation of the general term we have n constant we try $|C2C b|$ with $b_n = \frac{1}{n^{\alpha}}$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x_n}{b_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{n^3 + 2n^2 + 5}}{\frac{1}{n^{\alpha}}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{\alpha} \frac{\sqrt{n^3 + 2n^2 + 5}}{1} \quad \alpha = \frac{3}{2}$$

!! My goal is to have the limit $\in (0, \infty)$ I set α s.t. $(\text{Re } \alpha, \infty)$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x_n}{b_n} = 1 \in (0, \infty) \xrightarrow{C2C} \sum x_n \approx \sum b_n = \sum \frac{1}{n^{3/2}}$$

$\sum \frac{1}{n^{3/2}}$ is the harmonic series with $\alpha = \frac{3}{2} > 0 \rightarrow C \rightarrow \sum x_n = C$

c) $\sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{1}{n \cdot n!}$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 0 \rightarrow ?$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x_{n+1}}{x_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\frac{(n+1)!}{n!}} \cdot \frac{n!}{n+1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{n+1} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = 0 \leftarrow C$$

$$\frac{1}{n \cdot n!} < \frac{1}{n^2} \dots$$

d) $\sum_{n \geq 1} \left(\frac{n^2 + 3n + 1}{n^2 - 2n - 6} \right)^n$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{n^2 + 3n + 1}{n^2 - 2n - 6} \right)^n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{5n^2 + 10n + 1}{n^2 - 2n - 6} \right)^n \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{5n^2 + 10n}{n^2 - 2n - 6} \right)^{\frac{n^2 - 2n - 6}{5n^2 + 10n}} = e^5 \\ &= 0 \quad \neq 0 \rightarrow \sum_{n \geq 1} x_n = 0 \end{aligned}$$

BONUS $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_n = \infty$

When in x_n we spot $f(n)^{g(n)}$ we might apply
the root criterion (not for this case)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{x_n} = 1 \rightarrow \textcircled{?}$$