

Chapter 3: Series

3.2 Convergence Tests

- Lemma 3.1

Let $a_n \geq 0$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and let $s_k = \sum_{n=1}^k a_n$. Then

$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges if and only if (s_n) is bounded.

Proof. Since $s_{n+1} = s_n + a_{n+1} \geq s_n$, it follows that (s_n) is an increasing sequence. By Theorem 2.9, this sequence and hence the series converges if and only if the sequence (s_n) is bounded. \square

- Theorem 3.6 (Comparison Test)

Let $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$ be series with nonnegative terms and assume that $a_n \leq b_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$.

31 Def and Ex $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = s \in \mathbb{R}$

* $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n = s$ if $(s_n) \rightarrow s$

where $s_n = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k$

* GEOM SERIES $|r| < 1 \Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \rightarrow$

But $|r| \geq 1 \Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \nrightarrow$

* $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \rightarrow \Rightarrow a_n \rightarrow 0$

* TD $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \neq 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \nrightarrow$ * Rules

if all the terms are nonnegative

$s_{n+1} = \sum_{k=1}^{n+1} a_k$
 $= \sum_{k=1}^n a_k + a_{n+1}$
 $= s_n + a_{n+1}$
 $\geq s_n$
 since $a_n \geq 0$
 $s_{n+1} \geq s_n$

Thm 2.9 $(a_n) \nearrow |a_n| \leq M \Rightarrow (a_n) \rightarrow$
 Thm 2.6 $(a_n) \rightarrow \Rightarrow |a_n| \leq M$



- (i) If $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$ converges, then also $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges.
- (ii) If $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ diverges, then also $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$ diverges.

Proof. Let $s_k = \sum_{n=1}^k a_n$ and $t_k = \sum_{n=1}^k b_n$. Then both (s_k) and (t_k) are increasing sequences with $s_k \leq t_k$.

Hence, if $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$ converges, then (t_k) is bounded, say $t_k \leq M$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, and $s_k \leq t_k \leq M$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$. Hence (s_k) is a bounded sequence and thus converges by Lemma 3.1.

(ii) is the contrapositive of (i). \square

• Example 3.5

Test the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin^2 n + 10}{n + 2^n}$ for convergence.

Solution. Putting

$$a_n = \frac{\sin^2 n + 10}{n + 2^n}$$

$$\sin^2 n + 10 \leq 1 + 10 = 11$$

$$a_n = \frac{\sin^2 n + 10}{n + 2^n} \leq \frac{11}{n + 2^n} < \frac{11}{2^n} = 11 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = b_n$$

it follows that $0 < a_n < 11 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n =: b_n$. By Theorem 3.1, the series with general term b_n converges.

Hence $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin^2 n + 10}{n + 2^n}$ converges by the Comparison Test.
 $\text{thm 3 } 6 < 11$

- **Definition 3.2**

1. A series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ is called **absolutely convergent** if

the series of its absolute values $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n|$ converges.

2. A series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ is called **conditionally convergent** if it is convergent but not absolutely convergent.

- **Theorem 3.7** Every absolutely convergent series is convergent.

Proof. Let $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ be absolutely convergent. Let $\epsilon > 0$.

Then, by Theorem 3.5, there is $K \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for

all $m \geq k \geq K$, $\sum_{n=k}^m |a_n| < \epsilon$. Because of

$$\left| \sum_{n=k}^m |a_n| \right| = \sum_{n=k}^m |a_n|$$

$$\left| \sum_{n=k}^m a_n \right| \leq \sum_{n=k}^m |a_n|$$

$$|a_1 + a_2| \leq |a_1| + |a_2|$$

it follows that $\left| \sum_{n=k}^m a_n \right| < \epsilon$ for these k, m and there-

fore $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges by Theorem 3.5. \square

- **Definition 3.3** An **alternating series** is a series of the form

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n b_n \quad \text{or} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} b_n \quad \text{with } b_n \geq 0.$$

• **Theorem 3.8 (Alternating series test)**

If the alternating series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n b_n$ or $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} b_n$

satisfies

(i) $b_n \geq b_{n+1}$ for all n ,

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

then the series converges.

Proof. For $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $m \in \mathbb{N}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (-1)^k \sum_{n=k}^{k+2m} (-1)^n b_n \\
 &= (b_k - b_{k+1}) + (b_{k+2} - b_{k+3}) + \cdots + (b_{k+2m-2} - b_{k+2m-1}) \\
 & \quad + b_{k+2m} \quad \text{Handwritten: } \rightarrow b_{k+2m} \\
 &= b_k - (b_{k+1} + b_{k+2}) - \cdots - (b_{k+2m-1} - b_{k+2m}). \quad \text{Handwritten: } \leq b_k
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$0 \leq b_{k+2m} \leq (-1)^k \sum_{n=k}^{k+2m} (-1)^n b_n \leq b_k.$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & 0 \leq (-1)^k \sum_{n=k}^{k+2m+1} (-1)^n b_n \leq b_k - b_{k+2m+1} \leq b_k. \\
 & \text{Handwritten: } = (-1)^k \sum_{n=k}^{k+2m} (-1)^n b_n + (-1)^k (-1)^{k+2m+1} b_{k+2m+1}
 \end{aligned}$$

Now let $\epsilon > 0$. Since $b_k \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$, there is $K \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $b_K < \epsilon$. Hence for all $l > k > K$:

$$\left| \sum_{n=k}^l (-1)^n b_n \right| \leq b_k \leq b_K < \epsilon.$$

by Thm 3.5

Hence the alternating series converges. \square

- **Note.** $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = 0$ is necessary by Theorem 3.3 since $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (-1)^n b_n = 0 \Leftrightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = 0 \Leftrightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (-1)^{n-1} b_n = 0$

- **Example 3.6** The alternating series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{3n}{4n-1}$ does not converge since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3n}{4n-1} = \frac{3}{4} \neq 0$$

and thus (ii) is not satisfied, which is necessary for convergence. See the note following the statement of the Alternating Series Test. (Div Test!)

- **Example 3.7** Find whether the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{n^2}{n^3 + 1}$ is convergent.

Solution. Clearly, we have an alternating series with

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2}{n^3 + 1} = 0.$$

To show that $b_n \geq b_{n+1}$ we have at least the following 2 choices:

1. Show the inequality directly by cross-multiplication and simplification $b_n / b_{n+1} \geq 1 ?$

2. Show that $f(x) = \frac{x^2}{x^3 + 1}$ has a negative derivative for sufficiently large x . $f'(x) < 0 ?$

Alternatively, write

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

Then

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

is the sum of two alternating series which converge by the alternating series test; hence the series converges.

- **Theorem 3.9 (Ratio Test)**

(i) If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sup \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = L < 1$, then the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges absolutely.

(ii) If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \inf \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = l > 1$, then the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ diverges.

Proof. Note that the ratio test assumes $a_n \neq 0$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

(i) Let $\epsilon > 0$ such that $L + \epsilon < 1$.

Then there is $K \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| < L + \epsilon$ for all $n \geq K$. Hence, for $m > K$:

$$|a_m| = |a_K| \underbrace{\left| \frac{a_{K+1}}{a_K} \right| \cdots \left| \frac{a_m}{a_{m-1}} \right|}_{m-K} < |a_K| (L + \epsilon)^{m-K}. \quad (*)$$

$0 < L + \epsilon < 1$

Since $\sum_{m=K}^{\infty} |a_K| (L+\epsilon)^{m-K}$ is a convergent geometric series, it follows from (*) and the Comparison Test, Theorem 3.6, that $\sum_{m=K}^{\infty} a_m$ converges absolutely. Hence also $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges absolutely.

$\hookrightarrow l'$

(ii) Let $l' \in (1, l)$. Then there is $K \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| > l'$ for all $n \geq K$. Hence for $m > K$:

$$|a_m| = |a_K| \left| \frac{a_{K+1}}{a_K} \right| \cdots \left| \frac{a_m}{a_{m-1}} \right| > |a_K|, \quad |a_m| > \epsilon$$

so that $a_n \not\rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Hence $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ diverges by the Test of Divergence, Theorem 3.3. \square

• Theorem 3.10 (Root Test)

(i) If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sup \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} = L < 1$, then the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges absolutely.

(ii) If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sup \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} = L > 1$, then the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ diverges.

Proof.

(i) Let $\epsilon > 0$ such that $L + \epsilon < 1$. Then there is $K \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\sqrt[n]{|a_n|} < L + \epsilon$ for all $n \geq K$. Hence $|a_n| < (L + \epsilon)^n$ for all $n \geq K$: Since $\sum_{n=K}^{\infty} (L + \epsilon)^n$ is a convergent geometric series, it follows from the comparison test, Theorem 3.6, that $\sum_{n=K}^{\infty} a_n$ converges absolutely. Hence also $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges absolutely.

(ii) Let $L' \in (1, L)$. Then for each $K \in \mathbb{N}$ there is $m \geq K$ such that $\sqrt[n]{|a_n|} > L'$. Hence $|a_m| > (L')^m > 1$ for this m , and we conclude $a_n \not\rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Indeed, if $a_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, for $\epsilon = 1$ there would be $K \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $|a_n| < 1$ for all $n > K$.

Hence $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ diverges by the Test of Divergence. \square

Tutorial

• ~~Theorem 3.2.1.~~

1. Test $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^n + 5 \left(\frac{3}{4} \right)^n \right\} n \sin \left(\frac{1}{n} \right)$ for convergence.

2. Prove that the sequence $(a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converges if and only if

(i) $(a_{2n})_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converges,

(ii) $(a_{2n-1})_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converges,

(i) $(a_n - a_{n-1}) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

3. Use Tut 2 to prove that the Alternating Series.

Hint. Show that $(s_{2n})_{n=1}^{\infty}$ and $(s_{2n-1})_{n=1}^{\infty}$ are monotonic sequences.

4. Use the alternating series test, ratio test or root test to test for convergence:

(a) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{(-1)^n n}{2n+1} \right)^{2n}$, (b) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n! 2^n}{(2n)!}$,

(c) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \left(e - \left(1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^n \right)$, (d) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^n}{(n!)^2}$,

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