



planetmath.org

Math for the people, by the people.

conditionally convergent real series

Canonical name	ConditionallyConvergentRealSeries
Date of creation	2013-03-22 18:41:41
Last modified on	2013-03-22 18:41:41
Owner	pahio (2872)
Last modified by	pahio (2872)
Numerical id	7
Author	pahio (2872)
Entry type	Theorem
Classification	msc 26A06
Classification	msc 40A05
Related topic	SumOfSeriesDependsOnOrder

**Theorem.** If the series

$$u_1 + u_2 + u_3 + \dots \quad (1)$$

with real terms  $u_i$  is conditionally convergent, i.e. converges but  $|u_1| + |u_2| + |u_3| + \dots$  diverges, then the both series

$$a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \dots \quad \text{and} \quad -b_1 - b_2 - b_3 - \dots \quad (2)$$

consisting of the positive and negative terms of (1) are divergent — more accurately,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n a_n = +\infty \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n (-b_n) = -\infty.$$

*Proof.* If both of the series (2) were convergent, having the sums  $A$  and  $-B$ , then we had

$$0 \leq |u_1| + |u_2| + \dots + |u_n| < A + B$$

for every  $n$ . This would however mean that (1) would converge absolutely, contrary to the conditional convergence. If, on the other hand, one of the series (2) were convergent and the other divergent, then we can see that (1) had to diverge, contrary to what is supposed in the theorem. In fact, if e.g.  $a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \dots$  were convergent, then the partial sum  $a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n$  were below a finite bound for each  $n$ , whereas the  $n^{\text{th}}$  partial sum of the divergent one of (2) would tend to  $-\infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ; then should also the  $n^{\text{th}}$  partial sum of (1) tend to  $-\infty$ .