

Compare and Be Square

1. Let $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ be a convergent series with positive terms.

(a) Why must it be true that for sufficiently large n , $a_n^2 \leq a_n$? Justify!

(b) Use part (a) and the Comparison Test to show that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^2$ converges.

2. Find the error in the following (incorrect) proof that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^2$ converges.

Because $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ is convergent, it follows that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$ exists. Therefore the limit

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n^2}{a_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$$

also exists. Since both $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^2$ are series with positive terms, the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^2$ also converges by Limit Comparison Theorem.