

# Mathematics II (BSM 102)

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BSM 102

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# Convergence Test

## Cauchy's Convergence Principle for Series:

A series  $z_1 + z_2 + \cdots$  is convergent if and only if for every given  $\epsilon > 0$  (no matter how small) we can find an  $N$  (which depends on  $\epsilon$ , in general) such that  $|z_{n+1} + z_{n+2} + \cdots + z_{n+p}| < \epsilon$  for every  $n > N$  and  $p = 1, 2, \cdots$

**Absolute Convergence:** A series  $z_1 + z_2 + \cdots$  is called absolutely convergent if the series of the absolute values of the terms

$$\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} |z_m| = |z_1| + |z_2| + \cdots$$

is convergent.

If  $z_1 + z_2 + \cdots$  converges but  $|z_1| + |z_2| + \cdots$  diverges, then the series  $z_1 + z_2 + \cdots$  is called, more precisely, **conditionally convergent**.

Example:

The series  $1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \cdots$  converges, but only conditionally since the harmonic series diverges, as proved earlier.

# P-series/ Comparison Test

**P-series Test:** The p-series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$  is convergent if  $p > 1$  and divergent if  $p \leq 1$

## Comparison Test:

- i. Suppose there exists an integer  $N$  such that  $0 \leq a_n \leq b_n$  for all  $n \geq N$ ,  
If  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$  converges, then  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  converges.
- ii. Suppose there exists an integer  $N$  such that  $a_n \geq b_n \geq 0$  for all  $n \geq N$ ,  
If  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$  diverges, then  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  diverges.

(Compare either with p-series:  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$  or with geometric series:  $\sum ar^{n-1}$ )

## Examples:

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

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

# Limit Comparison Test:

Let  $a_n, b_n \geq 0$  for all  $n \geq 1$ .

- If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n/b_n = L \neq 0$ , then  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  and  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$  both converge or both diverge.
- If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n/b_n = 0$  and  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$  converges, then  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  converges.
- If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n/b_n = \infty$  and  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$  diverges, then  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  diverges.

**Examples:** Consider the two series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 1/\sqrt{n}$  and  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 1/n^2$ .

These series are both p-series with  $p = 1/2$  and  $p = 2$ , respectively. Since  $p = 1/2 < 1$ , the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 1/\sqrt{n}$  diverges.

On the other hand, since  $p = 2 > 1$ , the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 1/n^2$  converges.

# Ratio Test:

**Ratio Test** If a series  $z_1 + z_2 + \cdots$  with  $z_n \neq 0 (n = 1, 2, \cdots)$  has the property that for every  $n$  greater than some  $N$ ,

$$\left| \frac{z_{n+1}}{z_n} \right| \leq q < 1$$

(where  $q < 1$  is fixed), this series converges absolutely. If for every  $n > N$ ,

$$\left| \frac{z_{n+1}}{z_n} \right| \geq 1$$

$$(n > N)$$

the series diverges.

**Ratio Test:** If a series  $z_1 + z_2 + \cdots$  with  $z_n \neq 0 (n = 1, 2, \cdots)$  is such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{z_{n+1}}{z_n} \right| = L$ , then:

- a) If  $L < 1$ , the series converges absolutely.
- b) If  $L > 1$ , the series diverges.
- c) If  $L = 1$ , the series may converge or diverge, so that the test fails and permits no conclusion.

# Cauchy's Root Test

**Root Test:** If a series  $z_1 + z_2 + \cdots$  is such that for every  $n$  greater than some  $N$ ,

$$\sqrt[n]{|z_n|} \leq q < 1$$

( $n > N$ ) (where  $q < 1$  is fixed), this series converges absolutely. If for infinitely many  $n$ ,

$$\sqrt[n]{|z_n|} \geq 1$$

the series diverges.

**Root Test:** If a series  $z_1 + z_2 + \cdots$  is such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|z_n|} = L$$

then:

- (a) The series converges absolutely if  $L < 1$ .
- (b) The series diverges if  $L > 1$ .
- (c) If  $L = 1$ , the test fails; that is, no conclusion is possible.

# Properties of Convergence

Let  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  and  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$  be convergent series. Then the following algebraic properties hold.

i. The series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n + b_n)$$

converges and

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n + b_n) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$$

(Sum Rule)

ii. The series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n - b_n)$  converges and

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n - b_n) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n. \quad (\text{Difference Rule})$$

iii. For any real number  $c$ , the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ca_n$  converges and

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ca_n = c \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n. \quad (\text{Constant Multiple Rule})$$



# Exercise:

1. Test the absolute convergence of the following series:

(a)  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n}$

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

2. Test for convergence or divergence by ratio test:

(a)  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{n!}{5^n}$

(b)  $a_n = \frac{(-10)^n}{4^{2n+1}(n+1)}$

(c)  $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{(2n-1)!}$

# Thank You