

## Integral Test Explained

If a sequence  $a_n$  is modeled by the function  $f(x)$  such that  $f(n) = a_n$ , then we can use integrals to determine whether or not  $\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} a_n$  converges so long as the function  $f(x)$  is (1) positive and (2) constantly decreasing for some interval  $[k, \infty)$ .

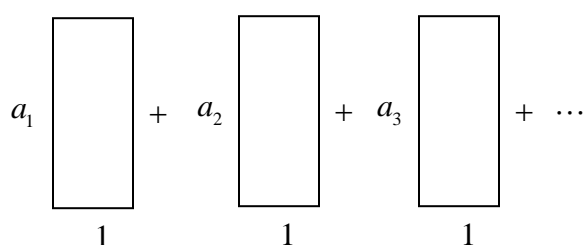
Consider the sum:

$$a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \cdots$$

This sum can be expressed as the sum of the areas of rectangles that have width of 1 and height of  $a_i$

$$a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \cdots$$

$$1 \cdot a_1 + 1 \cdot a_2 + 1 \cdot a_3 + \cdots$$

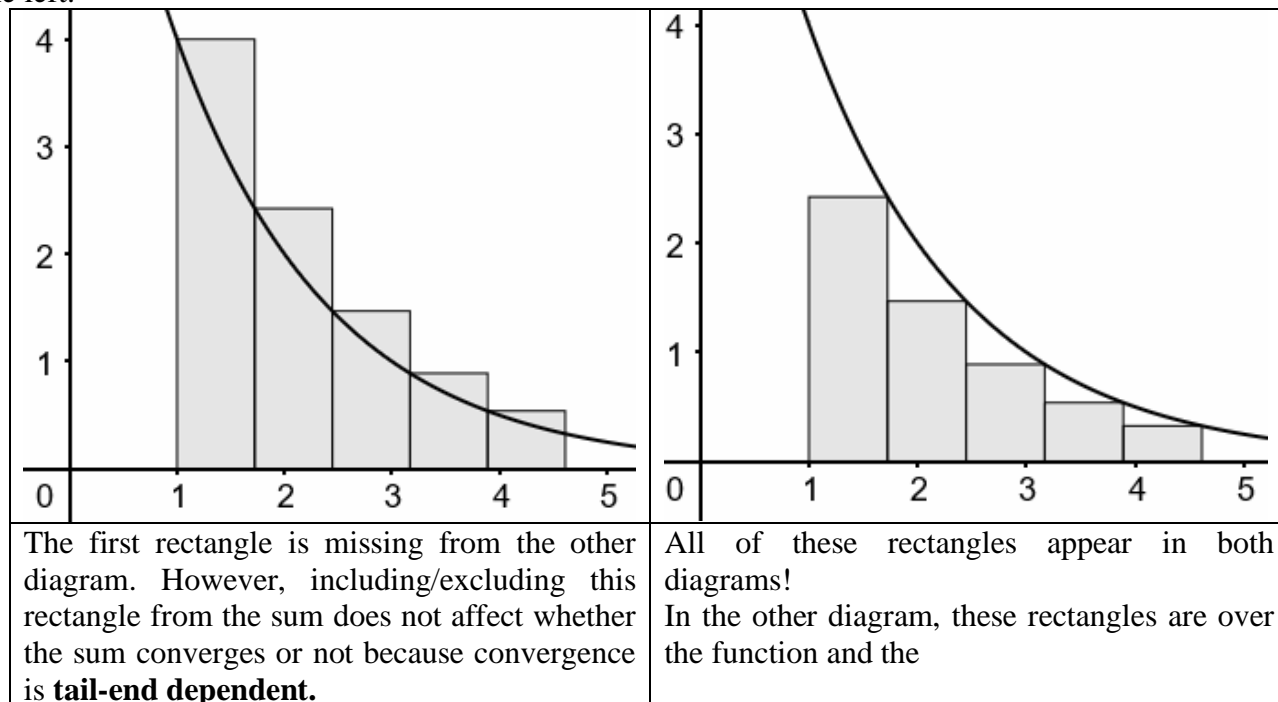


<p>If the sum of the areas of the rectangles is more than the area under the curve, and the area of the curve <math>\rightarrow \infty</math>, then <math>\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} a_n</math> does not converge.</p>	<p>If the sum of the areas of the rectangles is less than the area under the curve, and the area of the curve is finite as <math>x \rightarrow \infty</math>, then <math>\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} a_n</math> converges.</p>
$\int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx < \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} a_n$ <p>Since <math>\int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx \rightarrow \infty</math>, then <math>\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} a_n \rightarrow \infty</math></p>	$\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} a_n < \int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx$ <p>Since <math>\int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx</math> converges, so does <math>\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} a_n</math></p>

How do we know if the rectangles are above or below the function?

We don't know until we determine whether  $\int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx$  converges or does not converge.

Notice that the differences between the two graphs is whether we are using a left-sum or right-sum to approximate the area under the curve and whether or not we include the first rectangle of the diagram on the left.



If  $\int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx \rightarrow \infty$ , we will choose the perspective of the diagram on the left.

If  $\int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx$  converges, we will choose the perspective the diagram on the right.

**THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THESE RECTANGLES!!**

If  $\int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx$  converges, so does  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$

$\int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx \rightarrow \infty$ , so does  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$

## ***p*-series Test Explained**

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$$

If  $p < 0$  then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^p} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^{\text{something negative}}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{\text{something positive}} \neq 0$ , so  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$  does not converge.

Since a  $p$ -series is a series of the form  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$ , we can use the integral test to determine the values of  $p$  that will make the series converge.

If $p = 1$	If $p > 0$
$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^t \frac{1}{x} dx$ $= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \ln  x  \right]_1^t$ $= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (\ln  t  - \ln  1 )$ $\downarrow$ $\infty$ <p>By the Integral Test, <math>\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}</math> does not converge.</p>	$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^p} dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^t x^{-p} dx$ $= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \frac{1}{-p+1} x^{-p+1} \right]_1^t$ $= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left( \left[ \frac{1}{-p+1} t^{-p+1} \right] - \left[ \frac{1}{-p+1} 1^{-p+1} \right] \right)$ $= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{-p+1} \cdot \frac{1}{t^{p-1}} + \frac{1}{-p+1}$ <p>If <math>p &gt; 1</math>, then</p> $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t^{p-1}} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t^{\text{something positive}}} = 0$ <p>Therefore by the Integral Test <math>\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}</math> converges</p> <p>If <math>0 &lt; p &lt; 1</math>, then</p> $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t^{p-1}} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{t^{\text{something negative}}} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} t^{\text{something positive}} \rightarrow \infty$ <p>Therefore by the Integral Test <math>\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}</math> does not converge.</p>