

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 $[k, \infty)$.

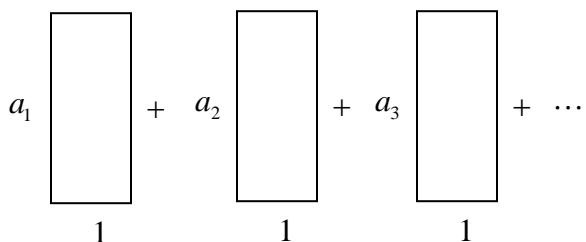
Consider the sum:

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

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

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

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

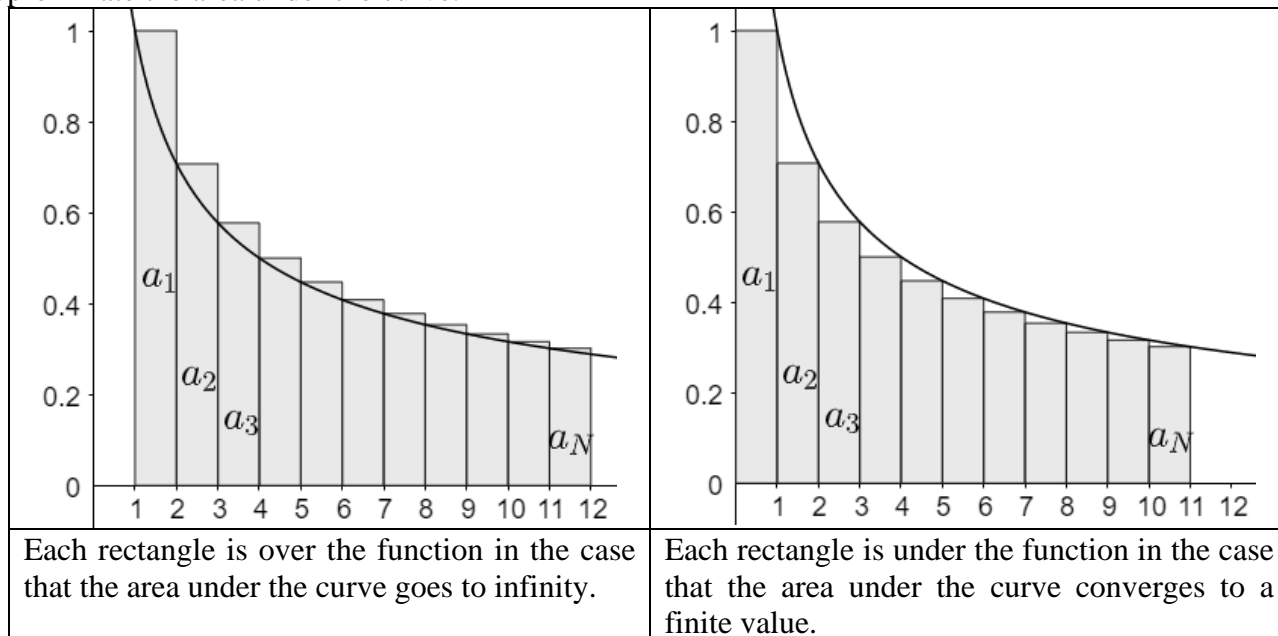


<p>If the sum of the areas of the rectangles is more than the area under the curve, and the area of the curve $\rightarrow \infty$, then $\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} a_n$ does not converge.</p>	<p>If the sum of the areas of the rectangles is less than the area under the curve, and the area of the curve is finite as $x \rightarrow \infty$, then $\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} a_n$ converges.</p>
<p>The graph shows a coordinate plane with x-axis from 1 to 12 and y-axis from 0 to 1. A decreasing curve $f(x)$ is plotted. Rectangles are drawn with widths of 1 and heights $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_N$. The sum of the areas of the rectangles is greater than the area under the curve.</p>	<p>The graph shows a coordinate plane with x-axis from 1 to 12 and y-axis from 0 to 1. A decreasing curve $f(x)$ is plotted. Rectangles are drawn with widths of 1 and heights $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_N$. The sum of the areas of the rectangles is less than the area under the curve.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">$\int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx < \sum_{n=k}^{\infty} a_n$</p> <p>Since $\int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx \rightarrow \infty$, then $\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} a_n \rightarrow \infty$</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">$\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} a_n < \int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx$</p> <p>Since $\int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx$ converges, so does $\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} a_n$</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.



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 ∞ <p>By the Integral Test, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$ 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 $p > 1$, 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 $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$ converges</p> <p>If $0 < p < 1$, 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 $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$ does not converge.</p>