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**Assignment:** HW-6 [Sections 10.4, 10.5 & 10.6]

Does the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{n^5}{n^8+8}$  converge absolutely, converge conditionally, or diverge?

A series  $\sum a_n$  converges absolutely (is absolutely convergent) if the corresponding series of absolute values,  $\sum |a_n|$ , converges. If the series converges, but is not absolutely convergent, then the series converges conditionally. Otherwise, the series diverges.

Find the terms of the corresponding series of absolute values.

$$\left| (-1)^{n+1} \frac{n^5}{n^8+8} \right| = \frac{n^5}{n^8+8}$$

Since  $\frac{n^5}{n^8+8}$  is a rational function of  $n$ , use the Comparison Test to determine if  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^5}{n^8+8}$  converges.

For the Comparison Test, let  $\sum a_n$ ,  $\sum c_n$ , and  $\sum d_n$  be series with nonnegative terms. For some integer  $N$ , let  $d_n \leq a_n \leq c_n$  for all  $n > N$ .

If  $\sum c_n$  converges, then  $\sum a_n$  also converges. If  $\sum d_n$  diverges, then  $\sum a_n$  also diverges.

The exponent in the denominator is 3 greater than the exponent in the numerator. Therefore, to use the Comparison Test,

compare  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^5}{n^8+8}$  to  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^3}$ .

The series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^3}$  converges because a p-series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$  converges if  $p > 1$ .

Note that  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^5}{n^8+8} \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^3}$  for all  $n > 1$ . Therefore, the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^5}{n^8+8}$  converges per the Comparison Test.

Therefore,  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{n^5}{n^8+8}$  converges absolutely per the Comparison Test.