Analysis 1A — Tutorial 8

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# Introduction

Here is the material to accompany the 8th Analysis Tutorial on the 28th November. As usual, send comments and corrections to [Christian Jones (caj50)](mailto:caj50@bath.ac.uk)

# Lecture Recap

## Series Convergence

Recall from last week that we can define the convergence of an infinite sum/series as follows:

Definition 1.1 (Series Convergence and Partial Sums)

Let be a real sequence. Then converges if and only if the sequence converges, where

is the partial sum. If as , we define

Much like with proving sequence convergence, using the definition each time you want to `evaluate’ a series can get tedious really quickly. Therefore, we really want a couple of tests which can prove convergence without too much hassle. Before we discuss these tests though, we need to introduce the ideas of *absolute and conditional convergence*.

Definition 1.2 (Absolute Convergence)

A real series is absolutely convergent if converges.

For example, if we consider the series , where is given by

we find that

which we know converges from lectures[[1]](#footnote-26). Hence is absolutely convergent. Have we learnt anything about the convergence of here? Turns out the answer is yes, and this is because of the following result.

Proposition 1.1

If a real series is absolutely convergent, then it is convergent.

At this stage, we can introduce the idea of conditional convergence too.

Definition 1.3 (Conditional Convergence)

Let be a real series. If is convergent, but is not, then is said to be conditionally convergent.

### Series Rearrangement

So, what can we do with absolutely convergent series?

Theorem 1.1

Suppose is an absolutely convergent series, and that is a bijection. Then is also an absolutely convergent series, and

This theorem tells us that for an absolutely convergent series, we can order the terms any way we like, and still reach the same value for the series. At this point, you might be interested to know what happens if we don’t have absolute convergence. Long story short, weird things can happen, as is seen in the following theorem.

Theorem 1.2 (Riemann Rearrangement Theorem)

Suppose is conditionally convergent. Then, for any , or , there exists a bijection such that

So what we see here is that we really need to be careful in which order we sum up the terms of a conditionally convergent series!

## Tests for Convergence

Now that we have the idea of absolute convergence, we can state some convergence tests applicable to series.

### Comparison Test

The first of these tests involves comparing the sizes of two series, and is aptly known as the comparison test.

Theorem 1.3 (Comparison Test)

Let and be real sequences, and suppose that there exists a such that Then, if is convergent, is convergent.

Naturally, using this, we can also build a test for divergence to out of the comparison test too.

Corollary 1.1

Let and be real sequences. If there exists a such that , and diverges, then diverges.

Here, we require the values to be non-negative to force any divergence of to be to . If we allowed, say, , then would diverge without limit, making this divergence test useless.

### D’Alembert’s Ratio Test

This one is quite similar to the growth factor test for sequences, except that due to the idea of absolute convergence (and Proposition 1.1), the terms of the series only have to be non-zero:

Theorem 1.4 (D’Alembert’s Ratio Test)

Let be a real sequence with . Suppose

Then:

* If , converges.
* If , then diverges.
* If , the test is inconclusive.

To see why the test fails for , consider the three series:

The first is absolutely convergent, the second is conditionally convergent and the third diverges without any limit at all!

### Cauchy Condensation Test

The final test we’re going to look at here is yet another thing named after Cauchy! This one is very good when the terms of a series involve logarithms, and can also be used to show that

Theorem 1.5 (Cauchy)

Assume satisfies , and is a decreasing sequence. For , define . Then

We conclude here with a [link](https://math.stackexchange.com/questions/2071016/does-sum-infty-3-fracn2lnlnnlnn-converge?rq=1) to an example of the Cauchy condensation test in practice. It’s highly unlikely you’ll ever get something like this in the exam, but the numbers involved are so ridiculous it’s worth including here nonetheless!

# Hints

As per usual, here’s where you’ll find the problem sheet hints!

* [H1.] Think about all the methods you know for proving whether a series converges. Some of the methods from the tutorial may come in handy…
* [H2.] Pretty much the same as homework question 1. However…
  + [H2b.] I’ve got a few pointers for this one. Make sure you know how the binomial coefficient is defined. Also, try to avoid expanding any unnecessary brackets — if you’re writing etc. in your solutions, you’re putting in more effort than needed!
* [H3.] This one is only slightly more involved. Know your definitions, and again, think of possible convergence tests to apply.

1. If you take the *Vector Calculus and PDEs* module next year, you’ll show that this sum equals . [↑](#footnote-ref-26)