

Selected Notes on Infinite Series

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May 2017

1 Geometric series

A geometric series is $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n$ where each term is a multiple r of the previous, i.e. $a_{n+1} = ra_n$ for all $n \geq 0$.

Theorem If $|r| < 1$, then the series converges with the sum $\frac{a_0}{1-r}$. If $|r| \geq 1$, it diverges.

Theorem If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \neq 0$ or the limit does not exist, then $\sum a_n$ diverges.

Theorem The harmonic series $\sum \frac{1}{n}$ diverges.

2 Integral test

Theorem If $f(n) = a_n$ for all n , then $\sum a_n$ and $\int f(x)dx$ either both converge or diverge.

3 Comparison test

Suppose $\sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ are positive-term series. Then

1. $\sum a_n$ converges if $\sum b_n$ converges and $a_n \leq b_n$ for all n .
2. $\sum a_n$ diverges if $\sum b_n$ diverges and $a_n \geq b_n$ for all n .