

Does $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\sin n}{9n-1} \right)^n$ diverge, converge absolutely, or converge conditionally?

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\left| \left(\frac{\sin n}{9n-1} \right)^n \right|} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\left(\frac{\sin n}{9n-1} \right)^n} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sin n}{9n-1} \end{aligned}$$

Note that you CANNOT use L'hôpital's rule on this limit problem. (The top does not go to infinity or to zero.) But, note the following inequalities:

$$\begin{aligned} -1 &\leq \sin n \leq 1 \\ \frac{-1}{9n-1} &\leq \frac{\sin n}{9n-1} \leq \frac{1}{9n-1} \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-1}{9n-1} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{9n-1} = 0$$

by the Squeeze Theorem for Sequences,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sin n}{9n-1} = 0$$

Note that this number (0) is L . Since $L < 1$, by the Root Test, the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\sin n}{9n-1} \right)^n$ converges absolutely.