



Parul University

Faculty of Engineering & Technology

Department of Applied Sciences and Humanities

1st Year B.Tech Programme (All Branches)

Mathematics – 1 (303191101)

Unit – 4 Sequence and Series (Lecture Note)

Sequence:

- Limit of a sequence
- Convergence & Divergence of a sequence
- Oscillatory sequence
- Sandwich/Squeezing theorem for sequences
- Convergence properties of sequence
- Monotonic sequence (Monotonic increasing & Monotonic decreasing)
- Alternating sequence
- Bounded & Unbounded sequence.

Series:

- Convergence, Divergence & Oscillatory series
- Some properties of infinite series
- Telescoping series
- Geometric series
- p-series, Integral test
- Comparison test
 - (i) Direct
 - (ii) Limit Comparison
- D'Alembert ratio test
- Cauchy's root test
- Alternating series
- Leibnitz test

❖ Sequence:

A sequence is a function whose domain is the set of positive integers.

It is generally written as $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n, \dots$

- If the number of terms in a sequence is infinite, it is called infinite sequence otherwise it is said to be finite sequence

$$e.g. 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \dots \quad ; \quad 1, -1, 2, -2, \dots$$

❖ Limit of a sequence:

Let $\{a_n\}$ be a sequence.

A real number l is said to be the limit of the sequence $\{a_n\}$; if for every $\varepsilon > 0$, there exist an integer N such that $n \geq N \Rightarrow |a_n - l| < \varepsilon$

If such a number exists then we write

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = l.$$

❖ Convergence, Divergence & Oscillations of a Sequence:

- A sequence $\{a_n\}$ is said to be convergent if the sequence has finite limit.

$$i.e. \text{ if } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \text{finite}.$$

- A sequence $\{a_n\}$ is said to be divergent if the sequence has infinite limit.

$$i.e. \quad \text{if } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \pm\infty.$$

For example, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n+1}{n} = 1$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2n = \infty$,

- A sequence $\{a_n\}$ is said to be oscillatory if the sequence is neither convergent nor divergent. For example, let

$$\{u_n\} = \left\{ (-1)^n + \frac{1}{2^n} \right\}$$
$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n = 2, \text{ if } n \text{ is even}$$
$$= 0, \text{ if } n \text{ is odd}$$

Since the limit is not unique, the sequence is oscillatory.

❖ Convergence properties of sequences:

- Let $\{a_n\}$ and $\{b_n\}$ be two convergent sequences and k be any real number, then the following sequences will also converge.

$$1) \quad \{a_n + b_n\} \quad \text{With} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n + b_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n) + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (b_n)$$

$$2) \quad \{ka_n\} \quad \text{With} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (ka_n) = k \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n)$$

$$3) \quad \{a_n b_n\} \quad \text{With} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n b_n) = \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n) \right) \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (b_n) \right)$$

$$4) \quad \left\{ \frac{a_n}{b_n} \right\} \quad \text{With} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{a_n}{b_n} \right) = \frac{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n)}{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (b_n)} ; \quad \left(\text{if } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (b_n) \neq 0 \right)$$

❖ **Some Important Formula:**

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(n)}{n} = 0$	$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{n} = 1$
$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^{\frac{1}{n}} = 1 (x > 0)$	$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^n = 0 (x < 1)$
$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{x}{n} \right)^n = e^x \quad (\text{any } x)$	$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{x^n}{n!} \right) = 0 \quad (\text{any } x)$

Que.: Applying the definition, show that $\left\{ \frac{1}{n} \right\}$ converges 0 as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

To prove: Let $\epsilon > 0$, we must show that there exists an integer N such that for all n ,

$$n > N \Rightarrow \left| \frac{1}{n} - 0 \right| < \epsilon$$

Solution: Let $\epsilon > 0$ be given.

Let N be an integer such that $N > \frac{1}{\epsilon}$.

$$\begin{aligned} n \geq N &\Rightarrow n \geq N > \frac{1}{\epsilon} \\ &\Rightarrow n > \frac{1}{\epsilon} \\ &\Rightarrow \left| \frac{1}{n} - 0 \right| = \frac{1}{n} < \epsilon \\ &\Rightarrow \left| \frac{1}{n} - 0 \right| < \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0$$

Que.: Test the Convergence of the following sequences.

<p>1. $\left\{ \frac{n^2+n}{2n^2-n} \right\}$</p> <p>Solution: Let $a_n = \frac{n^2+n}{2n^2-n}$</p> $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2 + n}{2n^2 - n}$ $= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1 + \frac{1}{n}}{2 - \frac{1}{n}} = \frac{1}{2}$ <p>As the value of limit is finite the</p>	<p>2. $\{2^n\}$</p> <p>Solution: Let $a_n = 2^n$</p> $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2^n$ $= \infty$ <p>As the value of limit of the sequence is infinite the $\{2^n\}$ is divergent.</p> <p>3. $\{2 - (-1)^n\}$</p> <p>Solution: Let $a_n = 2 - (-1)^n$</p>
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$\left\{\frac{n^2+n}{2n^2-n}\right\}$ is convergent. 4. $\{\sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n}\}$ Solution: Let $a_n = \sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n} \times \frac{\sqrt{n+1}+\sqrt{n}}{\sqrt{n+1}+\sqrt{n}}$ $= \frac{n+1-n}{\sqrt{n+1}+\sqrt{n}}$ $= \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}+\sqrt{n}}$ $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}+\sqrt{n}}$ $= 0$ As the value of limit is finite the sequence is convergent.	$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2 - (-1)^n$ $= 2 - 1 = 1, \text{ if } n \text{ is even.}$ $= 2 - (-1) = 3, \text{ if } n \text{ is odd.}$ Since limit is not unique, the $\{2 - (-1)^n\}$ is oscillatory. Exercise: Test the convergence of the following sequences. 1. $\left\{\frac{n}{n^2+1}\right\}$ 2. $\{e^n\}$ 3. $\{1 + (-1)^n\}$
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❖ **Monotonic sequence:**

- A sequence $\{a_n\}$ is said to be monotonically increasing if $a_n \leq a_{n+1}$ for each value of n .

$$a_n - a_{n+1} \leq 0$$

- A sequence $\{a_n\}$ is said to be monotonically decreasing if $a_n \geq a_{n+1}$ for each value of n .
- A sequence $\{a_n\}$ is said to be strictly increasing if $a_n < a_{n+1}$ for each value of n .
- A sequence $\{a_n\}$ is said to be strictly decreasing if $a_n > a_{n+1}$ for each value of n .
- A sequence $\{a_n\}$ is said to be monotonic if it is either increasing or decreasing.

❖ **Bounded & unbounded sequence:**

- A sequence $\{a_n\}$ is said to be bounded above if there is a real number M such that $a_n \leq M$, for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. M is said to be an upper bound of the sequence.
- A sequence $\{a_n\}$ is said to be bounded below if there is a real number m such that $a_n \geq m$, for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. m is said to be a lower bound of the sequence.

➤ A sequence $\{a_n\}$ is said to be bounded if it is both bounded above and bounded below.

➤ A sequence $\{a_n\}$ is said to be unbounded if it is not bounded.

1) $a_n = n$

$$a_n = 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots$$

Also $a_n \geq 1 \Rightarrow a_n$ is bounded below.

2) $a_n = \frac{n}{n+1}$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}, \dots$$

$$a_n \geq \frac{1}{2}, \text{ bounded below}$$

$$a_n < 1, \text{ bounded above}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \leq a_n < 1$$

a_n is bounded.

3) $a_n = \frac{1}{n}$

$$\frac{1}{1}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \dots$$

$$a_n \leq 1, \text{ bounded above}$$

$$a_n > 0, \text{ bounded below}$$

It is bounded.

4) $a_n = (-1)^n$

5) $a_n = (-1)^n \cdot n$

unbounded.

❖ Note that

➤ If $\{a_n\}$ is bounded above and increasing then it is convergent.

➤ If $\{a_n\}$ is unbounded above and increasing then it is divergent to ∞ .

➤ If $\{a_n\}$ is bounded below and decreasing then it is convergent.

➤ If $\{a_n\}$ is unbounded below and decreasing then it is divergent to $-\infty$.

1) The sequence n^2 is **increasing sequence**

$$1, 4, 9, 16, \dots$$

Increasing sequence

2) $\frac{1}{2^n}$ is **decreasing sequence**

❖ **Sandwich theorem:**

Let $\{a_n\}, \{b_n\}, \{c_n\}$ be sequences of real numbers such that

$$(i) c_n \leq a_n \leq b_n ; \forall n \geq n_0, \text{ for some } n_0 \text{ and}$$

$$(ii) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c_n = l = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n$$

$$\text{then } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = l$$

Que. Show that the sequence $\left\{ \frac{\sin n}{n} \right\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converges to 0.

Solution:

$$\text{We know that } -1 \leq \sin n \leq 1 \Rightarrow -\frac{1}{n} \leq \frac{\sin n}{n} \leq \frac{1}{n}$$

$$\text{Further, } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(-\frac{1}{n} \right) = 0 \text{ and } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0.$$

$$\therefore \text{ By sandwich theorem, } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sin n}{n} = 0$$

Example: Test the convergence of the series $a_n = \frac{n}{n^2+1}$.

Solution:

$$a_n = \frac{n}{n^2 + 1}$$

$$a_{n+1} = \frac{n+1}{(n+1)^2 + 1}$$

$$a_n - a_{n+1} = \frac{n}{n^2 + 1} - \frac{n+1}{(n+1)^2 + 1} > 0$$

$$a_n - a_{n+1} > 0$$

It is decreasing sequence.

$$a_n = \frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{5}, \frac{3}{10}, \dots$$

$$a_n \leq \frac{1}{2}, \quad a_n > 0$$

$$0 < a_n \leq \frac{1}{2}.$$

It is bounded.

Every monotonically bounded sequence is convergent.

❖ **Infinite Series:**

The sum of an infinite sequence of numbers is called **infinite Series**

e.g. $a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \dots + a_n + \dots = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$

- $S_n = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \dots + a_n$ is called n^{th} partial sum of the series.
- The convergence of infinite series depends on the convergence of the corresponding infinite sequence of partial sums.
- The infinite series is

Convergent	If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = S$ (<i>finite</i>)
Divergent	If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = \infty$ or $-\infty$
Oscillatory	If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = \text{neither finite nor } \pm \infty$
Oscillating finitely	If value fluctuates within finite range
Oscillating infinitely	If value fluctuates within ∞ and $-\infty$

- If a series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges to S then we say that the sum of the series is S and we write $S = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$

❖ **Convergence properties of series:**

Let $\sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ be two convergent series and k be any real number, then the following series will also converge.

$$\begin{aligned} 1) \quad \sum (a_n \pm b_n) \quad \text{with} \quad \sum (a_n \pm b_n) &= \sum a_n \pm \sum b_n \\ 2) \quad \sum ka_n \quad \text{With} \quad \sum ka_n &= k \sum a_n \end{aligned}$$

❖ **Telescoping series:**

A series is said to be telescoping if while writing the n^{th} partial sum all terms except first and last vanish.

Que: Check the convergence of the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(n+1)}$.

Solution: Here, $a_n = \frac{1}{n(n+1)} = \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1}$.

$$\frac{1}{1} \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1} \right)$$

Therefore the partial sum is given by,

$$S_n = a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_{n-1} + a_n$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \left(\frac{1}{1} - \frac{1}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3}\right) + \cdots + \left(\frac{1}{n-1} - \frac{1}{n}\right) \\
&\quad + \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1}\right) \\
&= 1 - \frac{1}{n+1} \\
\therefore S &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n+1}\right) = 1 \\
\therefore \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(n+1)} &= 1
\end{aligned}$$

It is convergent.

For example: $\frac{1}{n(n+3)} = \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+3} \right)$

Que. Find the Sum of the series $\log 2 + \log \frac{3}{2} + \log \frac{4}{3} + \cdots + \infty$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
S_n &= \log 2 + \log \frac{3}{2} + \log \frac{4}{3} + \cdots + \log \frac{n+1}{n} \\
&= \log \left(2 \cdot \frac{3}{2} \cdot \frac{4}{3} \cdot \cdots \cdot \frac{n+1}{n} \right) \\
S_n &= \log(n+1) \\
\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \log(n+1) \\
&= \log \infty \\
&= \infty
\end{aligned}$$

As it is infinite therefore the series is divergent.

Que: Find the Sum of the series $\frac{1}{2!} + \frac{2}{3!} + \frac{3}{4!} + \cdots + \infty$

Solution: $a_n = \frac{n}{(n+1)!} = \frac{(n+1)-1}{(n+1)!} = \frac{1}{n!} - \frac{1}{(n+1)!}$

Therefore the partial sum is given by,

$$\begin{aligned}
s_n &= a_1 + a_2 + \cdots + a_{n-1} + a_n \\
&= \left(\frac{1}{1!} - \frac{1}{2!}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2!} - \frac{1}{3!}\right) + \cdots + \left(\frac{1}{(n-1)!} - \frac{1}{n!}\right) \\
&\quad + \left(\frac{1}{n!} - \frac{1}{(n+1)!}\right) \\
&= 1 - \frac{1}{(n+1)!}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore S = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{1}{(n+1)!} \right) = 1$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{2!} + \frac{2}{3!} + \frac{3}{4!} + \dots = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{(n+1)!} = 1$$

❖ Geometric Series:

An infinite series in the form $a + ar + ar^2 + \dots + ar^{n-1} + \dots$ is said to be a geometric series.

It converges to $\frac{a}{1-r}$ if $|r| < 1$ i.e. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ar^{n-1} = \frac{a}{1-r}, |r| < 1$

If $|r| \geq 1$ then the series diverges.

If $r = -1$ then series is oscillatory.

Que. Discuss the convergence of $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 2^n$

Solution:

Given series, $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 2^n = 2^0 + 2^1 + 2^2 + \dots$ is a geometric series with $a = 1$ and $r = 2$

$$r = \frac{2}{1} = 2, \quad r = \frac{4}{2} = 2$$

Since $r = 2 > 1$, the series is divergent.

Que. Check the convergence of a series $\frac{1}{3^0} - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3^2} - \frac{1}{3^3} + \frac{1}{3^4} + \dots$. Also find sum.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} S_n &= 1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{9} - \frac{1}{27} + \dots \\ r &= \frac{a_2}{a_1} = -\frac{\frac{1}{3}}{1} = -\frac{1}{3} \\ r &= \frac{a_3}{a_2} = \frac{\frac{1}{9}}{-\frac{1}{3}} = -\frac{1}{3} \\ r &= -\frac{1}{3} \end{aligned}$$

Here the series is geometric series with $a = 1$ and $|r| = \frac{1}{3}$

Since, $|r| = \frac{1}{3} < 1$, the series is convergent.

$$Sum = \frac{a}{1-r} = \frac{1}{1-(-\frac{1}{3})} = \frac{1}{\frac{4}{3}} = \frac{3}{4}.$$

Que. Discuss the convergence of $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3^{2n}}{4^{2n}}$

Solution: Since,

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3^{2n}}{4^{2n}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(3^2)^n}{(4^2)^n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(9)^n}{(16)^n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{9}{16} \right)^n$$

is a geometric series with $a = \frac{9}{16}$ and $r = \frac{9}{16}$.

Since $r = \frac{9}{16} < 1$, it is convergent. Further it converges to $\frac{a}{1-r} = \frac{\left(\frac{9}{16}\right)}{\left(1-\left(\frac{9}{16}\right)\right)} = \frac{9}{7}$

Que. Check the convergence of $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{4^n + 5^n}{6^n}$

Solution:

$$\sum C_n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\left(\frac{4}{6}\right)^n + \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^n \right] = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{4}{6}\right)^n + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^n = \sum a_n + \sum b_n$$

where $a_n = \left(\frac{4}{6}\right)^n$ and $b_n = \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^n$

For $\sum a_n$, $r = \left(\frac{4}{6}\right) < 1$, hence $\sum a_n$ is convergent. And $\sum a_n = \frac{\left(\frac{4}{6}\right)}{\left(1-\frac{4}{6}\right)} = \frac{4}{2} = 2$.

Similarly, for $\sum b_n$, $r = \left(\frac{5}{6}\right) < 1$ so $\sum b_n$ is also convergent.

And $\sum b_n = \frac{\left(\frac{5}{6}\right)}{\left(1-\frac{5}{6}\right)} = 5$

Thus, the sum of $\sum a_n + \sum b_n$ is also convergent. *i. e.* $\sum c_n$ is convergent.

Further, $\sum c_n = \sum a_n + \sum b_n = 2 + 5 = 7$

Exercise:

- 1) Find the sum of $\sum_{n \rightarrow 1}^{\infty} \frac{3^{n-1}-1}{6^{n-1}}$
- 2) Find the sum of $\sum_{n \rightarrow 1}^{\infty} \frac{4^n+1}{6^n}$
- 3) Prove that $1 + \frac{2}{3} + \frac{4}{9} + \frac{8}{27} + \frac{16}{81} + \dots$ converges and find its sum.
- 4) Prove that $5 - \frac{10}{3} + \frac{20}{9} - \frac{40}{27} + \dots$ converges and find its sum.

❖ P-Series Test

The Series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$ converges if $p > 1$ and diverges if $p \leq 1$.

Exercise: Check if the following series is convergent or divergent.

1. $\sum \frac{1}{x^3}$ 2. $\sum \frac{1}{x^{-3}}$ 3. $\sum \frac{1}{x}$ 4. $\sum \frac{1}{x^{\frac{3}{4}}}$

❖ **Zero test of Divergence (Divergence test):**

If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \neq 0$ then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ must be divergent

Note: If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$ then nothing can be said about convergence of the series

$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$. We have to apply another test for convergence

Que. Test the convergence of following series.

1) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \sin \frac{1}{n}$

Solution:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n \sin \frac{1}{n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sin \left(\frac{1}{n} \right)}{\left(\frac{1}{n} \right)} = 1 \neq 0$$

Hence, by zero test, the series is divergent.

2) $\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} + \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} + \sqrt{\frac{3}{4}} + \dots \infty$

Solution:

Here, $a_n = \sqrt{\frac{n}{n+1}}$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{\frac{n}{n+1}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{\frac{n}{n \left(1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{\frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)}} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{(1+0)}} \\ &= 1 \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by zero test, the series is divergent.

Que. Prove that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2-1}{n^2+1}$ is divergent.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2-1}{n^2+1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{n^2} \right)}{n^2 \left(1 + \frac{1}{n^2} \right)} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left(1 - \frac{1}{n^2} \right)}{\left(1 + \frac{1}{n^2} \right)} = \frac{(1-0)}{(1+0)} = 1 \\ &\neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by zero test, the series is divergent.

❖ **Direct Comparison Test**

Let $\sum a_n$ be a series with no negative terms.

- (a) $\sum a_n$ converges if there is a convergent series $\sum c_n$ with $a_n \leq c_n$ for all $n > N$, for some integer N .
- (b) $\sum a_n$ diverges if there is a divergent series of nonnegative terms $\sum d_n$ with $a_n \geq d_n$ for all $n > N$, for some integer N .

❖ Limit Comparison Test

Suppose that $a_n > 0$ and $b_n > 0$ for all $n \geq N$ (N an integer).

- (a) If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = c > 0$, then $\sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ both converge or both diverge.
- (b) If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = 0$ and $\sum b_n$ converges, then $\sum a_n$ converges.
- (c) If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \infty$ and $\sum b_n$ diverges, then $\sum a_n$ diverges.

Note: $b_n = \frac{\text{Highest power term in numerator}}{\text{Highest power term in denominator}}$

Que. for what value of p does the series $\frac{2}{1^p} + \frac{3}{2^p} + \frac{4}{3^p} + \dots$ is convergent?

Solution:

$$\text{Here, } a_n = \frac{n+1}{n^p} = \frac{n(1+\frac{1}{n})}{n^p} = \frac{(1+\frac{1}{n})}{n^{(p-1)}} = \frac{1}{n^{(p-1)}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right).$$

$$\text{Let } b_n = \frac{1}{n^{(p-1)}}. \text{ Then } \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right) = 1 + 0 = 1 \neq 0$$

$\therefore \sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ both converges or diverges together.

$\sum b_n = \sum \frac{1}{n^{(p-1)}}$ converges for $p - 1 > 1$, i.e. for $p > 2$ and it diverge otherwise.

$\therefore \sum a_n = \sum \frac{n+1}{n^p}$ converges for $p \geq 2$ and it diverge otherwise.

Que. Test the convergence of

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2n^2 + 2n}{5 + n^5}$$

Solution:

$$\text{Here, } a_n = \frac{2n^2 + 2n}{5 + n^5} = \frac{n^2(2+\frac{2}{n})}{n^5(\frac{5}{n^5}+1)} = \frac{1}{n^3} \frac{(2+\frac{2}{n})}{(\frac{5}{n^5}+1)}.$$

$$\text{Let } b_n = \frac{n^2}{n^5} = \frac{1}{n^3}. \text{ Then } \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \frac{(2+\frac{2}{n})}{(\frac{5}{n^5}+1)}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left(2 + \frac{2}{n}\right)}{\left(\frac{5}{n^5} + 1\right)} = \frac{(2 + 0)}{(0 + 1)} = 2 \neq 0$$

$\therefore \sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ both converges or diverges together.

Now, $\sum b_n = \sum \frac{1}{n^3}$ is a p - series with $p = 3 > 1$. Hence, it is convergent.

$\therefore \sum a_n = \sum \frac{2n^2+2n}{5+n^5}$ converges. [by comparison test]

Que: Test the convergence of $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt{n}}{n^2+1}$

Sol: $a_n = \frac{\sqrt{n}}{n^2+1}$

$$b_n = \frac{\sqrt{n}}{n^2} = \frac{1}{n^{2-\frac{1}{2}}} = \frac{1}{n^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{\sqrt{n}}{n^2+1}}{\frac{1}{n^{\frac{3}{2}}}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{\frac{3}{2}} \frac{\sqrt{n}}{n^2+1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2}{n^2+1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2}{n^2 \left(1 + \frac{1}{n^2}\right)} = 1 \neq 0$$

$\therefore \sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ both converges or diverges together.

$b_n = \frac{1}{n^{\frac{3}{2}}}$, By p - series, $p = \frac{3}{2} > 1$, it is convergent.

By Limit comparison Test, $\sum a_n$ is convergent.

Que. Test the convergence of the series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^p}{\sqrt{n+1} + \sqrt{n}}$$

Solution:

$$\text{Here, } a_n = \frac{n^p}{\sqrt{n+1} + \sqrt{n}} = \frac{n^p}{n^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\sqrt{1+\frac{1}{n}} + 1 \right)} = \frac{1}{n^{\frac{1}{2}-p}} \frac{1}{\left(1 + \sqrt{1+\frac{1}{n}} \right)}.$$

$$\text{Let } b_n = \frac{n^p}{n^{\frac{1}{2}}} = \frac{1}{n^{\frac{1}{2}-p}}. \text{ Then } \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \frac{1}{\left(1 + \sqrt{1+\frac{1}{n}} \right)}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\left(1 + \sqrt{1+\frac{1}{n}} \right)} = \frac{1}{(1 + \sqrt{1+0})} = \frac{1}{2} \neq 0$$

$\therefore \sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ both converges or diverges together.

Now, $\sum b_n = \sum \frac{1}{n^{\frac{1}{2}-p}}$ is a p - series which converges for $\frac{1}{2} - p > 1$, i. e. for

$p < -\frac{1}{2}$ and diverges otherwise.

$\therefore \sum a_n = \sum \frac{n^p}{\sqrt{n+1}+\sqrt{n}}$ also converges for $p < -\frac{1}{2}$ and diverges otherwise.[by comparison test]

Que. Test the convergence of the series

$$\frac{1}{1 \cdot 2} + \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3} + \frac{1}{3 \cdot 4} + \dots$$

Solution:

$$\text{Here, } a_n = \frac{1}{n \cdot (n+1)} = \frac{1}{n^2} \frac{1}{\left(1+\frac{1}{n}\right)}.$$

$$\text{Let } b_n = \frac{1}{n^2}. \text{ Then } \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \frac{1}{\left(1+\frac{1}{n}\right)}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\left(1+\frac{1}{n}\right)} = \frac{1}{(1+0)} = 1 \neq 0$$

$\therefore \sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ both converges or diverges together.

Now, $\sum b_n = \sum \frac{1}{n^2}$ is a p -series with $p = 2 > 1$. Hence, it is convergent.

$\therefore \sum a_n = \sum \frac{1}{n(n+1)}$ converges. [by comparison test]

Que. Test the convergence of

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots + n^2}$$

Solution:

$$a_n = \frac{1}{1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots + n^2} = \frac{1}{\sum n^2} = \frac{1}{\left(\frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}\right)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{n^3} \frac{6}{1 \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right) \left(2 + \frac{1}{n}\right)}$$

$$= \frac{6}{n \cdot n \cdot n \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right) \left(2 + \frac{1}{n}\right)}$$

$$(n^2 + n)(2n + 1) = (2n^3 + n^2 + 2n^2 + n) = 2n^3 + 3n^2 + n$$

$$= n^3 \left(2 + \frac{3}{n} + \frac{1}{n^2}\right)$$

$$\text{Let } b_n = \frac{1}{n^3}. \text{ Then } \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \frac{6}{\left(1+\frac{1}{n}\right)\left(2+\frac{1}{n}\right)}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6}{\left(1+\frac{1}{n}\right)\left(2+\frac{1}{n}\right)} = \frac{6}{(1+0)(2+0)} = 3 \neq 0$$

$\therefore \sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ both converges or diverges together.

Now, $\sum b_n = \sum \frac{1}{n^3}$ is a p - series with $p = 3 > 1$. Hence, it is convergent.

$\therefore \sum a_n = \sum \frac{1}{1^2+2^2+3^2+\dots+n^2}$ converges. [by comparison test]

❖ Ratio Test(D' Alembert Ratio Test)

Let $\sum a_n$ be a series with positive terms and suppose that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = L$

- Then
- (a) the series converges if $L < 1$
 - (b) the series diverges if $L > 1$,
 - (c) the test is fail if $L = 1$

Que. Test the convergence of a series $\sum \frac{1}{n!}$

Solution:

Here $a_n = \frac{1}{n!} \Rightarrow a_{n+1} = \frac{1}{(n+1)!}$ and

$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{n!}{(n+1)!} = \frac{1}{n+1}$$

$$\therefore L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n+1} = 0 < 1$$

Hence, by ratio test, given series is convergent.

Que. Test the convergence of the series $\frac{1}{2!} + \frac{2}{3!} + \frac{3}{4!} + \dots$

Solution:

Here $a_n = \frac{n}{(n+1)!}$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow a_{n+1} &= \frac{n+1}{(n+2)!} \text{ and } \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{n+1}{(n+2)!} \frac{(n+1)!}{n} = \frac{(n+1)!}{(n+2)(n+1)!} \frac{n+1}{n} \\ &= \frac{1}{n+2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n+2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right) = 0(1+0) = 0 < 1$$

Hence, by ratio test, given series is convergent.

Que. Test the convergence of the series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{4^n - 1}{3^n}$

Solution:

Here $a_n = \frac{4^n - 1}{3^n}$

$$\Rightarrow a_{n+1} = \frac{4^{n+1} - 1}{3^{n+1}} \text{ and}$$

$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{4^{n+1} - 1}{3^{n+1}} \frac{3^n}{4^n - 1} = \frac{3^n}{3^{n+1}} \frac{4^n \left(4 - \frac{1}{4^n}\right)}{4^n \left(1 - \frac{1}{4^n}\right)} = \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{4 - \frac{1}{4^n}}{1 - \frac{1}{4^n}} \right)$$

$$\therefore L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{4 - \frac{1}{4^n}}{1 - \frac{1}{4^n}} \right) = \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{4 - 0}{1 - 0} \right) = \frac{4}{3} > 1$$

Hence, by ratio test, given series is divergent.

Que. Example: Test the convergence of the series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{n3^n(n+1)!}{2^n n!}$

Solution:

$$a_n = \frac{n3^n(n+1)!}{2^n n!}$$

$$= n(n+1) \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^n$$

$$\Rightarrow a_{n+1} = (n+1)(n+2) \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{n+1} \text{ and}$$

$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{(n+1)(n+2) \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{n+1}}{n(n+1) \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^n} = \frac{(n+2)}{n} \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)$$

$$= \left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right) \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)$$

$$\therefore L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right) \left(\frac{3}{2}\right) = (1 + 0) \left(\frac{3}{2}\right) = \frac{3}{2} > 1$$

Hence, by ratio test, given series is divergent.

Que. Test the convergence of

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots + n^2}$$

Solution:

$$a_n = \frac{1}{1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots + n^2} = \frac{1}{\sum n^2} = \frac{1}{\left(\frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}\right)}$$

$$= \frac{6}{n(n+1)(2n+1)}$$

$$\Rightarrow a_{n+1} = \frac{6}{(n+1)(n+2)(2(n+1)+1)} = \frac{6}{(n+1)(n+2)(2n+3)} \text{ and}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} &= \frac{6}{(n+1)(n+2)(2n+3)} \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6} = \frac{n(2n+1)}{(n+2)(2n+3)} \\
&= \frac{\left(2 + \frac{1}{n}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)\left(2 + \frac{3}{n}\right)} \\
\therefore L &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left(2 + \frac{1}{n}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)\left(2 + \frac{3}{n}\right)} \\
&= \frac{(2+0)}{(1+0)(2+0)} = 1
\end{aligned}$$

Hence, by ratio test fails.

We need to use some other test to check the convergence of the series.

Using comparison test as follows:

$$a_n = \frac{1}{1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots + n^2} = \frac{1}{\sum n^2} = \frac{1}{\left(\frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}\right)} = \frac{1}{n^3} \frac{6}{1\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)\left(2 + \frac{1}{n}\right)}$$

$$\text{Let } b_n = \frac{1}{n^3}. \text{ Then } \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \frac{6}{\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)\left(2 + \frac{1}{n}\right)}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6}{\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)\left(2 + \frac{1}{n}\right)} = \frac{6}{(1+0)(2+0)} = 3 \neq 0$$

$\therefore \sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ both converges or diverges together.

Now, $\sum b_n = \sum \frac{1}{n^3}$ is a p -series with $p = 3 > 1$. Hence, it is convergent.

$\therefore \sum a_n = \sum \frac{1}{1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + \dots + n^2}$ converges. [by comparison test]

Que. Test the convergence of the series $2 + \frac{3}{2}x + \frac{4}{3}x^2 + \frac{5}{4}x^3 + \dots$

Solution: Here $a_n = \frac{n+1}{n}x^{n-1}$

$$\begin{aligned}
\Rightarrow a_{n+1} &= \frac{n+2}{n+1}x^n \text{ and } \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{(n+2)x^n}{n+1} \frac{n}{(n+1)x^{n-1}} = \frac{n^2\left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)}{n^2\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^2}x \\
&= \frac{\left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^2}x
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore L &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^2} x \\ &= \frac{(1+0)}{(1+0)^2} x = x\end{aligned}$$

Hence, by ratio test, given series is (i) convergent if $x < 1$
(ii) divergent if $x > 1$

For $x = 1$.

$$\begin{aligned}a_n &= \frac{n+1}{n} = 1 + \frac{1}{n} \\ \Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right) = (1+0) \\ &= 1 \neq 0\end{aligned}$$

\therefore By zero test, given series diverges for $x = 1$.

Hence, by ratio test, given series is (i) convergent if $x < 1$
(ii) divergent if $x \geq 1$

❖ Root Test (Cauchy Root Test)

Let $\sum a_n$ be a series with $a_n \geq 0$ for $n \geq N$ for some N and suppose that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |a_n|^{\frac{1}{n}} = L$$

Then (a) the series converges if $L < 1$
(b) the series diverges if $L > 1$,
(c) the test fails if $L = 1$

Que. Test the convergence of series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3^n}{2^{n+3}}$

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}a_n &= \frac{3^n}{2^{n+3}} = \frac{1}{8} \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^n \\ \Rightarrow |a_n|^{\frac{1}{n}} &= \left| \frac{1}{8} \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^n \right|^{\frac{1}{n}} = \frac{1}{8^{\frac{1}{n}}} \left(\frac{3}{2}\right) \\ \Rightarrow L &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |a_n|^{\frac{1}{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{8^{\frac{1}{n}}} \left(\frac{3}{2}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{8^0} \left(\frac{3}{2}\right) = \frac{3}{2} > 1\end{aligned}$$

Hence, by root test, given series is divergent.

Que. Test the convergence of series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{n}{2n+5} \right)^n$

Solution:

$$a_n = \left(\frac{n}{2n+5} \right)^n = \left(\frac{1}{2 + \frac{5}{n}} \right)^n$$

$$\Rightarrow |a_n|^{\frac{1}{n}} = \left| \left(\frac{1}{2 + \frac{5}{n}} \right)^n \right|^{\frac{1}{n}} = \left(\frac{1}{2 + \frac{5}{n}} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow L &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |a_n|^{\frac{1}{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{2 + \frac{5}{n}} \right) = \left(\frac{1}{2+0} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} < 1 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by root test, given series is convergent.

Que: $\left(\frac{2^2}{1^2} - \frac{2}{1} \right)^{-1} + \left(\frac{3^3}{2^3} - \frac{3}{2} \right)^{-2} + \left(\frac{4^4}{3^4} - \frac{4}{3} \right)^{-3} + \dots$

Sol: $a_n = \left[\left(\frac{n+1}{n} \right)^{n+1} - \frac{n+1}{n} \right]^{-n}$

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

$$= \frac{1}{e-1} < 1$$

Hence, by root test, given series is convergent.

Que. Test the convergence of series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \right)^{-n^{\frac{3}{2}}}$

Solution:

$$a_n = \left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \right)^{-n^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

$$\Rightarrow |a_n|^{\frac{1}{n}} = \left| \left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \right)^{-n^{\frac{3}{2}}} \right|^{\frac{1}{n}} = \left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \right)^{-\left(\frac{3}{n^{\frac{1}{2}}} \right)(n^{-1})} = \left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \right)^{-\sqrt{n}} = \left(\left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \right)^{\sqrt{n}} \right)^{-1}$$

$$\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n = e^x \quad (\text{any } x)\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |a_n|^{\frac{1}{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}\right)^{-\sqrt{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}\right)^{\sqrt{n}}\right)^{-1} = (e^1)^{-1} = \frac{1}{e} < 1$$

Hence, by root test, given series is convergent.

Que. Test the convergence of the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{n+2}{n+3}\right)^n x^n$

Solution:

$$a_n = \left(\frac{n+2}{n+3}\right)^n x^n$$

$$\Rightarrow |a_n|^{\frac{1}{n}} = \left|\left(\frac{n+2}{n+3}\right)^n x^n\right|^{\frac{1}{n}} = \left(\frac{n+2}{n+3}\right) x$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow L &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |a_n|^{\frac{1}{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{n+2}{n+3}\right) x = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1 + \frac{2}{n}}{1 + \frac{3}{n}}\right) x \\ &= \left(\frac{1+0}{1+0}\right) x = x \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by root test, given series is (i) convergent if $x < 1$
(ii) divergent if $x > 1$.

For $x = 1$.

$$a_n = \left(\frac{n+2}{n+3}\right)^n = \left(\frac{1 + \frac{2}{n}}{1 + \frac{3}{n}}\right)^n = \frac{\left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)^n}{\left(1 + \frac{3}{n}\right)^n}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)^n}{\left(1 + \frac{3}{n}\right)^n} = \frac{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{2}{n}\right)^n}{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{3}{n}\right)^n} = \frac{(e)^2}{(e)^3} = \frac{1}{e} \\ &\neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

\therefore By zero test, given series diverges for $x = 1$.

Hence, by root test, given series is (i) convergent if $x < 1$
(ii) divergent if $x \geq 1$.

Alternative series

A series in which the terms are alternatively positive and negative is called an alternating Series. *e.g.* $1 - 4 + 9 - 16 + \dots$

❖ Leibnitz Test

The infinite Series $a_1 - a_2 + a_3 - \dots$ in which the terms are alternatively positive and negative is convergent if (i) $a_n \geq a_{n+1}$ i.e. series is decreasing (ii) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$

Note: If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \neq 0$ then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ is oscillatory.

Que. Test the convergence of the series $1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \dots$

Solution:

Here $u_n = \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n}$ $u_{n+1} = \frac{(-1)^{n+2}}{n+1}$

$$|u_n| = \frac{1}{n} \quad |u_{n+1}| = \frac{1}{n+1}$$

1)

$$\begin{aligned} |u_n| - |u_{n+1}| &= \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1} \\ &= \frac{n+1-n}{n(n+1)} \\ &= \frac{1}{n(n+1)} > 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$|u_n| - |u_{n+1}| > 0 \Rightarrow |u_n| > |u_{n+1}|$$

Thus each term is less than its preceding term.

Now

2)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |u_n| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0$$

Thus by Leibnitz's test the alternating series is convergent.

Que. Test the convergence of the series $2 - \frac{3}{2} + \frac{4}{3} - \frac{5}{4} + \dots$

Solution:

Here $u_n = \frac{(-1)^{n+1}(n+1)}{n}$ $u_{n+1} = \frac{(-1)^{n+2}(n+2)}{n+1}$

$$|u_n| = \frac{(n+1)}{n} \quad |u_{n+1}| = \frac{n+2}{n+1}$$

1)

$$\begin{aligned} |u_n| - |u_{n+1}| &= \frac{n+1}{n} - \frac{n+2}{n+1} \\ &= \frac{(n+1)^2 - n(n+2)}{n(n+1)} \\ &= \frac{1}{n(n+1)} > 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$|u_n| - |u_{n+1}| > 0 \Rightarrow |u_n| > |u_{n+1}|$$

Thus each term is less than its preceding term.

Now

2)

$$\begin{aligned} n \xrightarrow{\lim} \infty |u_n| &= n \xrightarrow{\lim} \infty \frac{n+1}{n} \\ &= n \xrightarrow{\lim} \infty \frac{n\left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)}{n} \\ &= 1 \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Thus by Leibnitz's test the alternating series is oscillating.

Que. Test the convergence of the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{n+1}}{2n-1}$

Solution:

$$u_n = \frac{(-1)^{n+1} x^{n+1}}{2n-1} \quad u_{n+1} = \frac{(-1)^{n+2} x^{n+2}}{2n+1}$$

$$|u_n| = \frac{x^{n+1}}{2n-1} \quad |u_{n+1}| = \frac{x^{n+2}}{2n+1}$$

1)

$$\begin{aligned} |u_n| - |u_{n+1}| &= \frac{x^{n+1}}{2n-1} - \frac{x^{n+2}}{2n+1} \\ &= \frac{(2n+1)x^{n+1} - x^{n+2}(2n-1)}{(2n-1)(2n+1)} \\ &= \frac{x^{n+1}[(2n+1) - (2n-1)x]}{(4n^2 - 1)} > 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$|u_n| - |u_{n+1}| > 0 \Rightarrow |u_n| > |u_{n+1}|$$

Now

2)

$$\begin{aligned} n \xrightarrow{\lim} \infty |u_n| &= n \xrightarrow{\lim} \infty \frac{x^{n+1}}{2n-1} \\ &= 0 \quad \text{if } x < 1 \end{aligned}$$

Thus by Leibnitz's test the alternating series is convergent.