

10.4 Comparison Tests

Main Ideas

- **Direct Comparison Test** (page 568)

$\sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ are two series where $0 \leq a_n \leq b_n$ for all n

1. If $\sum b_n$ converges, then $\sum a_n$ also converges.
2. If $\sum a_n$ diverges, then $\sum b_n$ also diverges.

- **Limit Comparison Test** (page 569)

If $a_n > 0$ and $b_n > 0$ for all $n \geq N$ where N is some integer

1. If

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = c$ and $c > 0$ then $\sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ both converge or both diverge.

2. If

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = 0$ and $\sum b_n$ converges, then $\sum a_n$ converges.

3. If

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \infty$ and $\sum b_n$ diverges, then $\sum a_n$ diverges.

Homework Problems

1.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2 + 30}$$

is similar to the p -series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{n^2 + 30} < \frac{1}{n^2} \text{ for all } n \geq 1$$

since the p -series with $p = 2$ converges, so does our series by direct comparison

3.

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

is similar to the p -series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{1/2}}$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{n} - 1} > \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \text{ for all } n$$

since the p -series with $p = 1/2$ diverges, so does our series by direct comparison

5.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos^2 n}{n^{3/2}}$$

since \cos^2 is always between 0 and 1,

$$0 \leq \frac{\cos^2 n}{n^{3/2}} \leq \frac{1}{n^{3/2}}$$

since $\frac{1}{n^{3/2}}$ is a p -series with $p = 3/2 > 1$, meaning it converges,

then by the direct comparison test our series also converges

13.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{5^n}{\sqrt{n} 4^n}$$

compare with series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{5^n}{\sqrt{n} 4^n}}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5^n}{4^n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (5/4)^n = \infty$$

since the series on the bottom diverges (p -series where $p = 1/2 \leq 1$)
the series on top diverges also by limit comparison

33.

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n\sqrt{n^2-1}}$$

$$= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(n+1)\sqrt{(n+1)^2-1}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(n+1)\sqrt{n^2+2n}}$$

after change of bounds (start with $n = 1$) is similar to the p -series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{(n+1)\sqrt{n^2+2n}} < \frac{1}{n^2} \text{ for all } n \geq 1$$

and since $p = 2 > 1$ means the p -series converges, our series also converges by direct comparison