

MATH 411: Week 4

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Problem 7.31

Consider the series

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{\sqrt{n+1}}.$$

(a) Explain (briefly) why the series converges. (Does it converge absolutely?)

(b) If we take the product of the series with itself, then we have

$$c_n = (-1)^n \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(n-k+1)(k+1)}}$$

(you should double check this). Show that each term in this sum is greater than or equal to $\frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}}$, and thus $|c_n| \geq \sqrt{n+1}$.

(c) Explain (briefly) why the previous part implies $\sum c_n$ diverges.

Define the series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n$ by

$$a_n = \frac{(-1)^n}{\sqrt{n+1}}.$$

(a) We'll show that $\sum a_n$ converges absolutely. We note that for any $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}}}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{\frac{n+1}{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{1 + \frac{1}{n}} = 1.$$

Since the sequence $\left\{ \frac{1}{n^{1/2}} \right\}$ is a convergent p -series, the limit comparison test ensures $\left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}} \right\}$ also converges. Since

$$\left| \frac{(-1)^n}{\sqrt{n+1}} \right| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}},$$

we conclude that $\sum a_n$ converges absolutely.

(b) We will show that we have $|c_n| > \sqrt{n+1}$ for all n , where $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n$ is the Cauchy product of $\sum a_n$ with itself. By definition,

$$c_n = (-1)^n \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{(n-k+1)(k+1)}}.$$

If $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and $0 \leq k \leq n$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} k &\leq n \\ k \cdot k &\leq nk \\ -k^2 &\geq -nk \\ nk - k^2 + n + 1 &\geq n + 1 \\ (n - k + 1)(k + 1) &\geq n + 1 \\ \sqrt{(n - k + 1)(k + 1)} &\geq \sqrt{n + 1} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{(n - k + 1)(k + 1)}} &\geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{n + 1}}, \end{aligned}$$

where the last line is justified by the fact that the square root function is non-negative and that here its arguments are nonzero. Now we can say that for any $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{(n-k+1)(k+1)}} &\geq \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}} \\ &\geq \frac{n+1}{\sqrt{n+1}} \\ &= \sqrt{n+1}. \end{aligned}$$

So for any $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$, we have $|c_n| \geq \sqrt{n+1}$.

(c) We'll show that $\sum c_n$ diverges. The series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sqrt{n+1}$ diverges, since its terms are unbounded. The comparison test then ensures $\sum c_n$ also diverges.

□

Problem 7.32

Let $c_n = \sum_{k=0}^n c_n$ (where c_n is defined as above). Prove that $C_n = a_0 B_{n-1} + \dots + a_n B_0$ where $B_n = \sum_{k=0}^n b_k$. Define $\beta_n = B_n - B$ and $A_n = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k$. Explain why the following are true:

(a) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \beta_n = 0$

(b) For all $N \geq 0$, $C_n = A_n B + a_0 \beta_n + a_1 \beta_{n-1} + \dots + a_n \beta_0$

(c) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} A_n B = AB$

Let $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n$ be an absolutely convergent series with $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n = A$, and let $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n$ be a convergent series with $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n = B$. For all $n \geq 0$, define $c_n = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k b_{n-k}$, $C_n = \sum_{k=0}^n c_k$, and $\beta_n = B_n - B$.

Let $n \geq 0$. We'll show that $C_n = a_0 B_n + a_1 B_{n-1} + \cdots + a_n B_0$ where $B_n = \sum_{k=0}^n b_k$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned} C_n &= \sum_{k=0}^n c_k \\ &= (a_0 b_0) + (a_0 b_1 + a_1 b_0) + \cdots + (a_0 b_n + a_1 b_{n-1} + \cdots + a_n b_0) \\ &= a_0(b_0 + b_1 + \cdots + b_n) + a_1(b_0 + b_1 + \cdots + b_{n-1}) + \cdots + a_n b_0 \\ &= a_0 B_n + a_1 B_{n-1} + \cdots + a_n B_0. \end{aligned}$$

(a) We'll show that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \beta_n = 0.$$

Since $\sum b_n = B$, we know $\{B_n\} \rightarrow B$, and thus $\{B_n - B\} \rightarrow B - B = 0$.

(b) Let $n \geq 0$. We'll show that

$$C_n = A_n B + a_0 \beta_n + a_1 \beta_{n-1} + \cdots + a_n \beta_0.$$

We have:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^n a_k \beta_{n-k} &= \sum_{k=0}^n a_k (B_{n-k} - B) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n a_k B_{n-k} - \sum_{k=0}^n a_k B \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n a_k B_{n-k} - A_n B. \end{aligned}$$

We conclude:

$$C_n = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k B_{n-k} = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k \beta_{n-k} + A_n B.$$

(c) We will show that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} A_n B = AB.$$

Since $\{A_n\} \rightarrow A$ and $\{B\}_{n=0}^{\infty} \rightarrow B$, Problem 5.13 ensures $\{A_n B\} \rightarrow AB$.

□

Problem 7.37

Let $\sum a_n$ be a divergent series where $a_n > 0$ for all n . Prove that $\sum \frac{a_n}{1+a_n}$ diverges.

Let $\sum a_n$ be a divergent series with $a_n > 0$ for all n . We'll show that $\sum \frac{a_n}{1+a_n} = \sum \frac{1}{1/a_n + 1}$ diverges.

Assume $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \infty$. Then there's a subsequence $\{a'_n\}$ of $\{a_n\}$ with $\{a'_n\} \rightarrow \infty$. So $\{\frac{1}{a'_n}\} \rightarrow 0$, $\{\frac{1}{a'_n} + 1\} \rightarrow 1$, and $\frac{1}{1/a'_n + 1} \rightarrow 1$. Since there's a subsequence $\{\frac{1}{1/a'_n + 1}\}$ of $\{\frac{a_n}{1+a_n}\}$ that doesn't converge to 0, we know $\{\frac{a_n}{1+a_n}\} \not\rightarrow 0$.

Assume $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L > 0$. Then there's some subsequence $\{a'_n\}$ of $\{a_n\}$ with $\{a'_n\} \rightarrow L$. Since $\{a'_n + 1\} \rightarrow L + 1$ and $1 + a'_n$ is never zero, we have

$$\left\{ \frac{a'_n}{1 + a'_n} \right\} \rightarrow \frac{L}{L + 1} \neq 0.$$

Since there's a subsequence $\left\{ \frac{a'_n}{1 + a'_n} \right\}$ of $\left\{ \frac{a_n}{1 + a_n} \right\}$ that doesn't converge to 0, we know $\left\{ \frac{a_n}{1 + a_n} \right\} \not\rightarrow 0$.

Assume $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$. Then there's some $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that if $n \geq N$, then $a_n < 1$, or $1 - a_n > 0$. So, if $n \geq N$, we have

$$\frac{a_n}{1 + a_n} > \frac{a_n}{1 + a_n + (1 - a_n)} = \frac{a_n}{2}.$$

Since $\sum a_n$ diverges, $\sum \frac{a_n}{2}$ also diverges, and the comparison test ensures $\sum \frac{a_n}{1+a_n}$ diverges.

□