

M16600 Lecture Notes

Section 11.3: The Integral Test

■ **Section 11.3** textbook exercises, page 765: #3, 5, 7, 21, 23, 22. **Note:** For # 21, 23, 22, show that the conditions of the Integral Test are true.

THE INTEGRAL TEST. Suppose f is a continuous, positive, decreasing function on $[1, \infty)$ and let $a_n = f(n)$. Then

(i) If $\int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx$ is convergent, then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ is convergent.

(ii) If $\int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx$ is divergent, then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ is divergent.

Note: When we use the Integral Test, it is not necessary to start the series or the integral at $n = 1$. For instance, in testing the series

$$\sum_{n=4}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(n-3)^2} \quad \text{we use} \quad \int_4^{\infty} \frac{1}{(x-3)^2} dx$$

Also, it is not necessary that f be *always* decreasing. What is important is that f be *ultimately* decreasing, that is decreasing for x larger than some number N . f can be decreasing on $[N, \infty)$.

Example 1: Use the Integral Test to test the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2 + 1}$ for convergence or divergence.

Show that the conditions of the Integral Test are true for this problem.

$$a_n = \frac{1}{n^2 + 1} \Rightarrow f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2 + 1} \quad \rightarrow \text{Is } f \text{ continuous? Yes}$$

replace
n with x

\rightarrow Is f positive? Yes

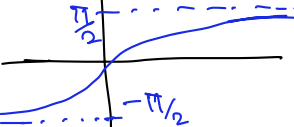
\rightarrow Is f ultimately decreasing? Yes.

$$x^2 + 1 > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{x^2 + 1} > 0$$

check if the denominator becomes 0 or not \rightarrow does not

\rightarrow As x increases, $x^2 + 1$ also increases \Rightarrow denominator is increasing
 $\Rightarrow \frac{1}{x^2 + 1}$ decreases

$$\Rightarrow \text{Calculate } \int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2 + 1} dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^t \frac{1}{x^2 + 1} dx$$



$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left[\tan^{-1}(x) \right]_1^t = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left[\tan^{-1} t - \tan^{-1} 1 \right]$$

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \tan^{-1} t - \frac{\pi}{4} = \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{4} = \frac{\pi}{4} \Rightarrow \text{the integral converges}$$

Note that the series/sum is not $\frac{\pi}{4}$. \Rightarrow the series also converges.

Example 2: Use the Integral Test to test the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\ln n}{n}$ for convergence or divergence.

Show that the conditions of the Integral Test are true for this problem.

$$a_n = \frac{\ln n}{n} \Rightarrow f(x) = \frac{\ln x}{x} \rightarrow \text{Is } f \text{ continuous on } [1, \infty)?$$

replace n with x

Yes.

\rightarrow Is f positive? Yes.

$$\ln x \geq 0 \text{ for } 1 \leq x < \infty$$

$$x > 0$$

\rightarrow Is f decreasing? Yes

* x increases faster than $\ln x$

$$* f'(x) = \frac{x(\ln x)' - \ln x(x)'}{x^2} = \frac{x \times \frac{1}{x} - \ln x}{x^2} = \frac{1 - \ln x}{x^2}$$

$$\text{when } x > e \Rightarrow \ln x > \ln e = 1 \Rightarrow \ln x > 1 \Rightarrow 1 - \ln x < 0$$

$$\Downarrow f'(x) < 0 \Rightarrow f \text{ is decreasing on } [e, \infty)$$

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{\ln x}{x} dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^t \frac{\ln x}{x} dx$$

$$\int \frac{\ln x}{x} dx \rightarrow \text{Substitute } u = \ln x \Rightarrow du = \frac{1}{x} dx$$

$$= \int u du = \frac{u^2}{2} = \frac{1}{2} (\ln x)^2$$

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{\ln x}{x} dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{1}{2} (\ln x)^2 \right]_1^t = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{1}{2} (\ln t)^2 - \frac{1}{2} (\ln 1)^2 \right]$$

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2} (\ln t)^2 = \frac{1}{2} \infty^2 = \infty$$

\Rightarrow the integral diverges \Rightarrow the series also diverges.