

Series (Part6) – Alternating Series Estimation

Let $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} a_n$ satisfies conditions Leibniz's Theorem

Then, $S \approx S_n = a_1 - a_2 + a_3 - a_4 + \dots + (-1)^{n+1} a_n$
and the error of this approximation is less or equal to a_{n+1}
that is , $|S - S_n| \leq a_{n+1}$

The remainder , $S - S_n$, has the same sign as the first unused term

Example#1

Estimate the magnitude of the error involved in using the sum of the first three terms to approximate the sum of the entire series. Compare it with the actual error.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n = \frac{2}{3} - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^3 - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^4 + \dots$$

a) $S \approx S_3 = \frac{2}{3} - \frac{4}{9} + \frac{8}{27}$

$$a_{n+1} = a_4 = \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^4$$

The error $|E_3| = |S - S_3| \leq |a_4| = \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^4 = \frac{16}{81}$

$$E_3 \leq \frac{16}{81} (\approx 0.198)$$

b) For actual error we will find S and S_3

$$S = \frac{2}{3} - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^3 + \dots = \frac{2}{3} \left(\underbrace{1 + \left(-\frac{2}{3}\right) + \left(-\frac{2}{3}\right)^2 + \dots}_{\left|r\right| = \left|\frac{2}{3}\right| < 1} \right) = \boxed{\frac{2}{5}}$$

$$\frac{1}{1 - \left(-\frac{2}{3}\right)} = \frac{3}{5}$$

$$S_3 = \frac{2}{3} - \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^3 = \frac{2}{3} - \frac{4}{9} + \frac{8}{27} = \frac{18 - 12 + 8}{27} = \frac{14}{27}$$

$$|S - S_3| = \left| \frac{2}{5} - \frac{14}{27} \right| = \left| -\frac{16}{5 \cdot 27} \right| = \underline{0,118}$$

Example#2

Approximate the following sum with an error less than 0.001

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n^2 + n} = S \quad 1) \underline{S \text{ converges absolutely}}$$

$S \approx S_N, N=?$ such that $|S - S_N| < \frac{1}{1000}$

$$|S - S_N| \leq |a_{N+1}| < \frac{1}{1000}$$

$$a_n = \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n^2 + n} \Rightarrow |a_{N+1}| = \left| \frac{(-1)^{N+2}}{(N+1)^2 + (N+1)} \right| < \frac{1}{1000}$$

$$(N+1)^2 + N+1 > 1000$$

$$N^2 + 3N + 2 > 1000$$

Try $N=30 \quad 900 + 90 + 2 = 992 < 1000$

almost...

$$N=31 \quad \text{will work} \Rightarrow \underline{S \approx S_{31}}$$

Example#3

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{10^n \cdot n!}$$

a. Tell if the series converges absolutely or conditionally
 $\sum \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{10^n n!}$ converges absolutely: ① $\sum \frac{1}{10^n n!}$
 $\frac{1}{10^n n!} < \frac{1}{10^n} = \left(\frac{1}{10}\right)^n$
so $\sum \frac{1}{10^n n!}$ conv. by DCT with $\sum \left(\frac{1}{10}\right)^n$ - geometric
b. Find the reasonable partial sum that is within $\frac{1}{20}$ of the sum of the entire series.
 $\underline{\underline{r = \frac{1}{10} < 1}}$
conv.

b) Again, we are looking for N :

$$S \approx S_N, \text{ and } |S - S_N| < \frac{1}{20}$$

$$|a_{N+1}| < \frac{1}{20}$$

$$\left| \frac{(-1)^{N+2}}{10^{N+1} (N+1)!} \right| < \frac{1}{20}$$

$$10^{N+1} \cdot (N+1)! > 20$$

$$\underline{\underline{N=1}} \quad 10^2 \cdot 2! = 100 \cdot 2 > 20 \quad \checkmark$$

$$S \approx S_1$$

$$S \approx S_1 = \frac{(-1)^2}{10 \cdot 1!} = \frac{1}{10}$$

Example#4

a. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n n}{3n^2 + 1}$

Tell if the series converges absolutely or conditionally

① $\sum \frac{n}{3n^2+1}$ $\frac{n}{3n^2+1} \sim \frac{n}{3n^2} = \frac{1}{3n}$

LCT: $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{n}{3n^2+1}}{\frac{1}{n}} = \lim \frac{n^2}{3n^2+1} = \lim \frac{1}{3 + \frac{1}{n^2}} = 3, \quad 0 < 3 < \infty$

so $\sum \frac{n}{3n^2+1}$ diverges by LCT with $\sum \frac{1}{n}, p=1 \Rightarrow \underline{\text{NO abs converg.}}$

② AST: 1 - 2 - 3

- | 1) $a_n = \frac{n}{3n^2+1} > 0$
- | 2) $a_n = \frac{1 \text{ degree}}{2 \text{ degree}} \rightarrow$
- 3) $\lim \frac{n}{3n^2+1} = \lim \frac{\frac{1}{n}}{3 + \frac{1}{n^2}} = 0$

$\sum \frac{(-1)^n n}{3n^2+1}$ conver. conditionally.

b. Find the smallest positive integer k so the error $|E_k| < \frac{1}{10}$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n n}{3n^2+1} = \underbrace{-\frac{1}{4} + \frac{2}{13} - \frac{3}{28} + \frac{4}{49} - \dots}_{S_3} \stackrel{\frac{1}{10}}{\overbrace{\dots}} \Rightarrow \underline{k=3}$$

Or same way as we did before

$$|a_{N+1}| = \left| \frac{(-1)^{N+1} (N+1)}{3(N+1)^2+1} \right| = \frac{N+1}{3(N+1)^2+1} < \frac{1}{10}$$

$$\frac{3(N+1)^2 + 1}{N+1} > 10$$

$$3(N+1) + \frac{1}{N+1} > 10$$

Try $N=1$ $6 + \frac{1}{2} < 10$

$N=2$ $3 \cdot 3 + \frac{1}{3} < 10$

$N=3$ $3 \cdot 4 + \frac{1}{4} > 10$

$$S \approx S_3$$

Example#5

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n \cdot \ln n}$$

a. Tell if the series converges absolutely or conditionally

① $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n \cdot \ln n}$, $f(x) = \frac{1}{x \ln x}$ $\begin{cases} a) f(x) > 0 \\ b) f(x) \text{ cont} \\ c) f(x) \rightarrow \end{cases}$ $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n \ln n}$ behaves as $\int_2^{\infty} \frac{1}{x \ln x} dx = \text{diverges.}$ $\begin{cases} \text{no} \\ \text{abs} \\ \text{convergence} \end{cases}$

② AST: $1-2-3$ $\begin{cases} 1) > 0 \\ 2) \rightarrow \\ 3) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n \ln n} = \left(\frac{1}{\infty}\right) = 0 \end{cases}$

$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n \ln n}$ converges conditionally

b. What is the errors upper bound in using 10-th partial sum approximation for the series.

$$S \approx S_{10}$$

(I found a small mistake here, we used $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}$)

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n \ln n} = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2 \ln 2}}_{a_1} - \underbrace{\frac{1}{3 \ln 3}}_{a_2} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{4 \ln 4}}_{a_3} - \dots - \underbrace{\frac{1}{11 \ln 11}}_{a_{10}}$$

$$\text{so } |a_{n+1}| = |a_{10+1}| = |a_{11}| = \underline{\underline{\left| \frac{1}{12 \ln 12} \right|}}$$

$$|E_{10}| \leq \frac{1}{12 \ln 12}$$

Strategy for Testing Series

It is not wise to apply a list of the tests in a specific order until one finally works.

That would be a waste of time and effort.

Instead, as with integration, the main strategy is to classify the series according to its form.

So, the following general questions are useful:

1. Does the n th term approach zero as n approaches infinity?

(If not, the Divergence Test implies the series diverges)

2. Is the series one of the special types – geometric, p – series

or alternating series?

3. If the series has a form that is similar to a p – series or a geometric series,

then one of the comparison tests should be considered.

(In particular, if a_n is a rational function or algebraic function of n (involving roots of polynomials),

then the series should be compared with a p – series)

4. Can the Ratio Test be applied?

(Series that involve factorials or other products (including a constant raised to the n th power)

are often conveniently tested using the Ratio Test)

5. Can the Root Test be applied?

6. Can the Integral Test be applied?

(If $a_n = f(n)$, where $f(n)$ can be easily integrated, then the Integral Test is effective.

But check the conditions!)

Test the series for convergency/divergency:

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

div by n-th term

$$a_n = \frac{n^2 - 1}{n^2 + n} \rightarrow 1 \neq 0$$

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

$$\frac{n-1}{n^2+n} \sim \frac{1}{n}$$

DCT or LCT
diverges by
comparison
with $\sum \frac{1}{n}$

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

$$\frac{1}{n^2+n} \sim \frac{1}{n^2}$$

Show DCF
or LCF
with $\sum \frac{1}{n^2}$

Converges

$$4. \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{n - 1}{n^2 + n}$$

converges condit.
(see #1) by
AST (check 1-2-3)

$$5. \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{nlnn}$$

$$6. \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{nlnn}{(n+1)^3}$$

$$7. \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(lnn)^{lnn}}$$

$$8. \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1} lnn}{\sqrt{n}}$$

#5) ① $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n lnn}$ (show divergence by Integral)
Test

② AST 1-2-3 \Rightarrow conv. conditionally

$$\#8) \textcircled{1} \sum \frac{lnn}{\sqrt{n}}, \quad \frac{lnn}{\sqrt{n}} > \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}},$$

so diverges by DCT with $\sum \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}, p=\frac{1}{2} < 1$ div
 \Rightarrow no abs conv

$$\#6 \quad \text{1) } \sum \frac{n \ln n}{(n+1)^3} : \quad \frac{n \ln n}{(n+1)^3} \sim \frac{n \ln n}{n^3} = \frac{\ln n}{n^2}$$

so, first, by LCT $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{n \ln n}{(n+1)^3}}{\frac{\ln n}{n^2}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^3}{(n+1)^3} = 1$

we can say, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n \ln n}{(n+1)^3}$ behaves at $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\ln n}{n^2}$

How $\sum \frac{\ln n}{n^2}$ behaves?

Use Integral Test: $f(x) = \frac{\ln x}{x^2}$ (Check $a-b-c$)

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{\ln x}{x^2} dx = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^R \frac{\ln x}{x^2} dx = ?$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{\ln x}{x^2} dx &= \left(u = \ln x \rightarrow du = \frac{1}{x} dx, \quad dv = \frac{1}{x^2} dx \rightarrow v = -\frac{1}{x} \right) = -\frac{1}{x} \ln x + \int \frac{1}{x^2} dx = \\ &= \lim -\left(\left(\frac{\ln R}{R} - \frac{1}{R} \right) - \left(0 + \frac{1}{0} \right) \right) = 1 \quad (\text{conv}) ! \end{aligned}$$

so, $\sum \frac{\ln n}{n^2}$ conv $\Rightarrow \sum \frac{n \ln n}{(n+1)^3}$ conv. too.

#7

we can show $(\ln n)^{\ln n} > n^2$ for n big enough

$$\begin{aligned} \ln(\ln n^{\ln n}) &> \ln(n^2) \\ \ln \cdot \ln(\ln n) &> 2 \ln \ln n \\ \ln(\ln n) &> 2 \end{aligned}$$

Then, $\frac{1}{\ln n^{\ln n}} < \frac{1}{n^2}$

and $\sum \frac{1}{\ln n^{\ln n}}$ conv by DCT with $\sum \frac{1}{n^2}$, $p=2>1$ conv.

9. $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n + n \cos^2 n}$

10. $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{\cos\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)}{n^2 + 4n}$

11. $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{\sin \frac{1}{n}}{\sqrt{n}}$

12. $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{\arctan n}{n \sqrt{n}}$

13. $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{3^n n^2}{n!}$

14. $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{2^n n!}{(n+2)!}$

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

16. $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n!}{e^{n^2}}$

17. $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (\sqrt[n]{2} - 1)$

From Series_Part4

$$4. \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{(n+2)(n-2)}$$

$$5. \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{4^n}{3(n+1)^{n-1}}$$

$$6. \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos^2 n + 1}{n^2 + 1}$$

$$7. \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n + 2^{-n}}{n2^n - 1}$$

$$8. \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3}{n\sqrt{\ln n}}$$

$$9. \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\ln(n^2)}$$

$$10. \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{e^n}$$

$$11. \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{e^n}$$

$$12. \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^n}{n}$$

$$13. \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(n) + 2^n}{n + 5^n}$$

$$14. \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{n+1}{3n}\right)^n$$

