

Example: Determine convergence or divergence of: $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n}{n^3-1}$ (19)

We use the integral test: $\int_2^{\infty} \frac{x}{x^3-1} dx$. Partial fraction decomposition:

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

Also: $\int \frac{dx}{x^2+x+1} = \int \frac{dx}{(x+\frac{1}{2})^2 + \frac{3}{4}} = \int \frac{du}{u^2 + \frac{3}{4}} \quad u = x + \frac{1}{2}$

$$= \int \frac{du}{u^2 + \frac{3}{4}} = \frac{4}{3} \int \frac{du}{(\frac{2u}{\sqrt{3}})^2 + 1} = \frac{4}{3} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \int \frac{dv}{v^2 + 1} = \frac{4}{3} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \cdot \arctan(v) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \arctan\left(\frac{2x+1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)$$

$$= \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \arctan\left(\frac{2x+1}{\sqrt{3}}\right), \quad \int \frac{1-x}{x^2+x+1} dx = \int \left(\frac{3}{x^2+x+1} - \frac{2x+1}{x^2+x+1} \right) \frac{1}{2} dx$$

$$= \frac{3}{2} \int \frac{dx}{x^2+x+1} - \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{2x+1}{x^2+x+1} dx = \sqrt{3} \arctan\left(\frac{2x+1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) - \frac{1}{2} \ln|x^2+x+1|$$

$\int \frac{dx}{x-1} = \ln|x-1|$, so; $\int \frac{x}{x^3-1} dx = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3} \arctan\left(\frac{2x+1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) - \frac{1}{6} \ln|x^2+x+1| + \frac{1}{3} \ln|x-1|$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \arctan\left(\frac{2x+1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) + \frac{1}{6} \ln \left| \frac{x^2-2x+1}{x^2+x+1} \right|$$

Now: $\int_2^{\infty} \frac{x}{x^3-1} dx = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \int_2^R \frac{x}{x^3-1} dx =$

$$= \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \arctan\left(\frac{2x+1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) + \frac{1}{6} \ln \left| \frac{x^2-2x+1}{x^2+x+1} \right| \right) \Big|_2^R = \frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{3}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \arctan\left(\frac{5}{\sqrt{3}}\right) + \frac{\ln(7)}{6}$$

Comparison test: Let $\{a_n\}$ and $\{b_n\}$ be such that eventually $0 \leq a_n \leq b_n$ (i.e. for M big enough $0 \leq a_n \leq b_n$, i.e. from some point onwards).

- (i) If $\sum b_n$ converges then $\sum a_n$ converges. Compare with the comparison test for integrals!
- (ii) If $\sum a_n$ diverges then $\sum b_n$ diverges.

Example: Determine convergence or divergence of $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n}{n^3-1}$. We would like to compare with $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$, but $\frac{1}{n^2} < \frac{n}{n^3-1}$ so the convergence of $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ does not give anything, the comparison test does not apply.

Instead: $\frac{n}{n^3-1} < \frac{2}{n^2}$ so $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n}{n^3-1}$ converges: $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{n^2} < \infty$.

Example: Determine convergence/divergence: $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n+n}$. Using geometric series: $\frac{1}{2^n+n} < \frac{1}{2^n}$ and $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n}$ converges.

Example: Determine conv./div: $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2 - \sin(n)}{n}$. Compare with $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$.

Limit comparison test: Let $\{a_n\}$ and $\{b_n\}$ positive sequences and $L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n}$ finite $\neq 0$.

- (i) If $L > 0$ then $\sum a_n$ converges if $\sum b_n$ converges.

- (ii) If $L = 0$ and $\sum a_n$ converges then $\sum b_n$ converges.

- (iii) If $L = 0$ and $\sum b_n$ converges then $\sum a_n$ converges.

Example: $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n}{n^3-1}$ limit compare with $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$, converges.

Example: $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3n^2+n}{\sqrt{n^{11}+n^4}}$ limit compare with $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{5/2}}$, diverges.