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## Sequences § 11.1

We now start a new chapter, Ch. 11, on sequences, series, and power series. This is the final topic of the semester.

Def'n An (infinite) sequence is an infinite list

$a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n, \dots$  of real numbers. We also use  $\{a_n\}$  and  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  to denote this sequence.

E.g. We can let  $a_n = \frac{1}{2^n}$  for  $n \geq 1$ , which gives the sequence  $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{8}, \frac{1}{16}, \frac{1}{32}, \dots$

E.g.  $\left\{ \frac{n}{n+1} \right\}_{n=1}^{\infty} = \left\{ \frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{5}, \dots \right\}$

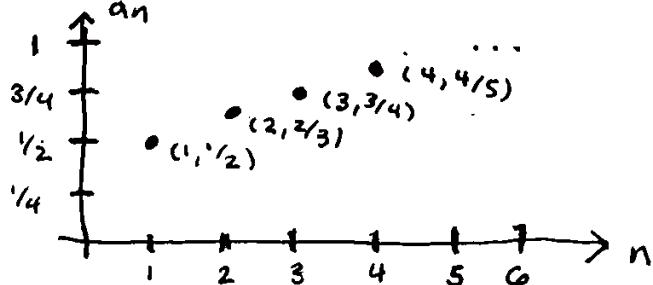
(can also write  $\left\{ \frac{n}{n+1} \right\}_{n=2}^{\infty} = \left\{ \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{5}, \dots \right\}$  to start at  $n=2$ ,

or also  $\left\{ \frac{n+1}{n+2} \right\}_{n=1}^{\infty} = \left\{ \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{5}, \dots \right\}$ .

E.g. Not all sequences have simple formulas for the  $n^{\text{th}}$  term. For example, with  $a_n = n^{\text{th}}$  digit of  $\pi$  after the decimal point, we have  $\{a_n\} = \{1, 4, 1, 5, 9, 2, 6, 5, \dots\}$  but there is no easy way to get the  $n^{\text{th}}$  term here...

Def'n The graph of sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is the collection of points  $(1, a_1), (2, a_2), (3, a_3), \dots$  in the plane.

E.g. For the sequence  $a_n = \frac{n}{n+1}$ , its graph is



The graph of a sequence is like the graph of a function, but we get discrete points instead of a continuous curve. Notice how for this graph, points approach line  $y=1$  ...

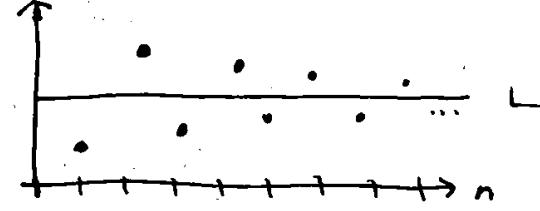
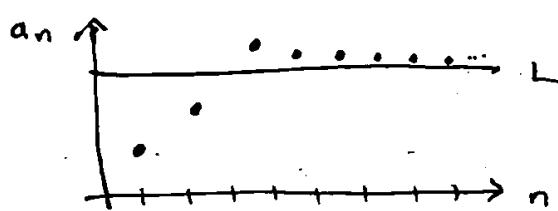
Def'n We say the limit of sequence  $\{a_n\}$  is  $L$ , written " $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$ " or " $a_n \rightarrow L$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ". If, intuitively, we can make the terms  $a_n$  as close to  $L$  as we'd like by taking  $n$  sufficiently large. (Precise definition uses  $\varepsilon$ , like limits in Calc I...)

If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$  exists, we say the sequence converges.

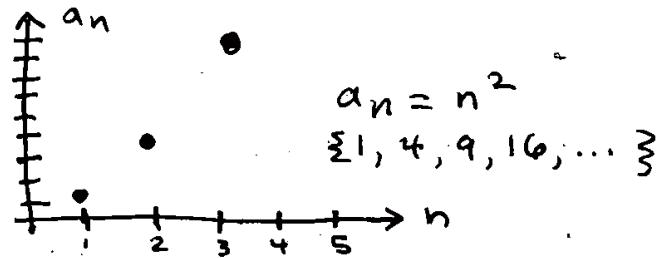
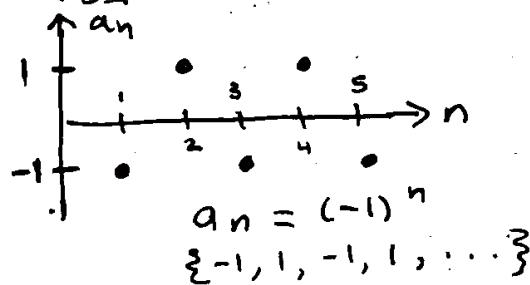
Otherwise, we say the sequence diverges.

E.g.: The sequence  $a_n = \frac{n}{n+1}$  has  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 1$  (<sup>we'll prove this later...</sup>)

E.g.: Some other convergent sequences look like:



E.g.: Some divergent sequences are:



Notice how this 2<sup>nd</sup> example  $a_n = n^2$  "goes off to  $\infty$ ."

Def'n The notation " $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \infty$ " means that for every  $M$  there is an  $N$  such that  $a_n > M$  for all  $n > N$ .

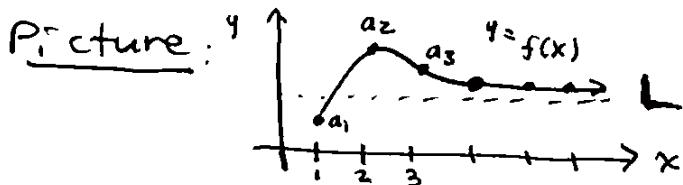
We define " $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = -\infty$ " similarly.

E.g.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^2 = \infty$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} -n = -\infty$ .

Having an infinite limit is one way a sequence can diverge.

Limits of sequences are very similar to limits of functions:

Theorem If  $f(x)$  is a function with  $f(n) = a_n$  for all positive integers  $n$ , then if  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = L$  also  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$ .



E.g.: How to find  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(n)}{n}$ ? Instead, let  $f(x) = \frac{\ln(x)}{x}$ ,  
then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(x)}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1/x}{1} \quad (\text{by L'Hopital's Rule})$   
 $= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} 1/x = 0$

So we also have that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(n)}{n} = 0$ .

3/20 - All the basic rules for limits of functions apply to sequences:

Theorem (Limit Laws for Sequences)

For convergent sequences  $\{a_n\}$  and  $\{b_n\}$ , we have:

- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n + b_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n$ .
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (c \cdot a_n) = c \cdot \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$  for any constant  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ .
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \cdot b_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \cdot \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n$
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = (\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n) / (\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n)$  if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n \neq 0$ .

E.g.: To compute  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{n+1}$ , we can use these rules:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{n+1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{n}} = \frac{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 1}{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 1 + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n}} = \frac{1}{1+0} = 1$$

as claimed! ✓

multiply top and bottom by  $1/n$

Another very useful lemma for computing limits of sequences:

Lemma If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$  and  $f(x)$  is continuous at  $x = L$ , then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(a_n) = f(L)$ .

E.g. Q: What is  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \cos(\frac{\pi}{n})$ ?

A: Notice  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi}{n} = 0$  and  $\cos$  is continuous at 0, so that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \cos(\pi/n) = \cos(0) = 1$ .

Another useful lemma for limits of sequences with sigs:

Lemma If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |a_n| = 0$  then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$ .

E.g. How to compute  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n}$ ? Since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0$ , we also have that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n} = 0$ .

Compare this to  $a_n = (-1)^n$ , which diverges!

One of the most important kind of sequences are the sequences  $a_n = r^n$  for some fixed number  $r \in \mathbb{R}$ .

When does this sequence converge?

We have seen in Calc I that for  $0 < r < 1$ ,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (r^x) = 0 \quad (\text{think: } \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (\frac{1}{2})^x = 0)$$

so  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r^n = 0$  for  $0 < r < 1$  too.

By the absolute value lemma,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r^n = 0$  when  $-1 < r < 0$  as well.

Also, clearly  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 1^n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 1 = 1$ . But other  $r$  diverge!

Theorem  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r^n = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } -1 < r < 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } r = 1 \\ \text{does not exist} & \text{for all other } r. \end{cases}$

## Monotone and bounded sequences § 11.1

Def'n the sequence  $\{a_n\}$  is increasing if  $a_n < a_{n+1}$  for all  $n \geq 1$ , and decreasing if  $a_n > a_{n+1}$  for all  $n \geq 1$ . It is called monotone if it is either increasing or decreasing.

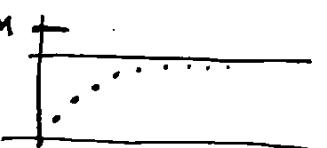
E.g. The sequence  $a_n = n$  is increasing (hence monotone). The sequence  $a_n = (-1)^n$  is neither increasing nor decreasing.

Def'n  $\{a_n\}$  is bounded above if there is some  $M$  such that  $a_n < M$  for all  $n \geq 1$ , it is bounded below if there is  $M$  such that  $a_n > M$  for all  $n \geq 1$ , and it is bounded if it is both bounded above and below.

E.g.:  $a_n = (-1)^n$  is bounded (above by 2 and below by -2), but  $a_n = n$  is unbounded since it goes off to  $\infty$ .

Clearly a sequence which is unbounded (like  $a_n = n$ ) cannot be convergent. Some bounded sequences, (like  $a_n = (-1)^n$ ), are also divergent. But if our sequence is both bounded and monotone, then it must converge!

Thm (Monotone Sequence Theorem) Every bounded, monotone (either increasing or decreasing) sequence converges.

Picture proof:  an increasing sequence bounded by  $M$  will converge to a limit  $L$  with  $L \leq M$ .

E.g.:  $a_n = \frac{1}{n}$  is bounded and monotone (decreasing) so it converges, as we were already aware.

Exercise Use the Monotone Convergence Theorem to explain why  $a_n = \frac{n}{n+1}$  converges (which we also knew...)

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## Series § 11.2

A Series is basically an "infinite sum."

If we have an (infinite) sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} = \{a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots\}$  the corresponding series is

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \dots + a_n + \dots$$

An infinite sum like this does not always make sense:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n = 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + \dots = \infty$$

But sometimes we can sum  $\infty$ -many terms & get a finite number:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{16} + \dots = ???$$

Well,  $\frac{1}{2} = 0.5$ ,  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = 0.75$ ,  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} = 0.875$ ,

and it seems that if we add up more and more terms, we don't go off to  $\infty$ , but instead get closer and closer to  $\underline{1}$ .

Def'n For series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ , the associated partial sums

are  $S_n = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k = a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n$  for  $n \geq 1$ .

If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = L$  then we write  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n = L$  and we

say the series converges. Otherwise, it diverges.

key idea:  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n)$

E.g.: Let  $a_n = \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1} = \frac{1}{n(n+1)}$ . What is  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(n+1)}$ ?

Well,  $S_n = \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{1} - \frac{1}{2}\right)}_{a_1} + \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3}\right)}_{a_2} + \dots + \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{n-1} - \frac{1}{n}\right)}_{a_{n-1}} + \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1}\right)}_{a_n}$

$= 1 - \frac{1}{n+1}$ , so that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 1 - \frac{1}{n+1} = \underline{1}$ .

Thus,  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(n+1)} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1}\right) = \underline{1}$

One of the most important kind of series are the geometric series:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ar^{n-1} = a + ar + ar^2 + ar^3 + \dots, \text{ for real numbers } a \text{ and } r \neq 0.$$

Notice that  $S_n = a + ar + ar^2 + \dots + ar^{n-1}$

and  $r \cdot S_n = ar + ar^2 + \dots + ar^{n-1} + ar^n$

$$\Rightarrow (1-r) \cdot S_n = a$$

$$\Rightarrow S_n = \frac{a - ar^n}{1-r}$$

Since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r^n = 0$  for  $|r| < 1$ , we have:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ar^{n-1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a - ar^n}{1-r} = \frac{a}{1-r} \text{ for } |r| < 1.$$

important formula to remember: value of geo. series when  $|r| < 1$ .

E.g.  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \dots$  is geo. series!

with  $a = \frac{1}{2}$  and  $r = \frac{1}{2}$ . So  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{1 - \frac{1}{2}} = \underline{\underline{1}}$ .

This is what we expected above!

For  $|r| \geq 1$ , geo. series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ar^{n-1}$  diverges.

Consider in particular the case  $a = r = 1$ .

Then  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ar^{n-1} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 1 = 1 + 1 + 1 + \dots$ , so the partial

sums are  $S_n = 1 + 1 + \dots + 1 = n$ , and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = \infty$ .

In general, in order to converge, the terms in a series must approach zero:

Theorem (Divergence Test) If  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  converges,

then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$ . So if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \neq 0$ ,  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  diverges.

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WARNING: The divergence test says that if terms do not go to zero, the series diverges.

But converse does not hold: the terms  $a_n$  can go to 0, while the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  still diverges.

The most important (counter)example is the harmonic series:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} + \dots$$

Of course,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0$ , but  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$  still diverges.

How to see this? Ignore the 1 at the start, and

$$\text{consider } \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}}_{\geq \frac{1}{2}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4}}_{\geq 2 \cdot \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{2}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{8}}_{\geq 4 \cdot \frac{1}{8} = \frac{1}{2}} + \dots$$

The trick, as shown above, is to break the series into chunks consisting of 1, 2, 4, 8, ... terms.

If we add up the terms in each chunk, we get a sum bigger than  $\frac{1}{2}$ . So overall sum is  $\geq \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \dots$ .

But a sum of  $\infty$ -many  $\frac{1}{2}$ 's must diverge!

So the harmonic series, which is bigger than that, diverges too.

Theorem (Laws for series)

Let  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  and  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$  converge.

Then •  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n + b_n) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$

and •  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c \cdot a_n = c \cdot \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  for any  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ .

WARNING:  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cdot b_n \neq \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n\right) \cdot \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n\right)$ .

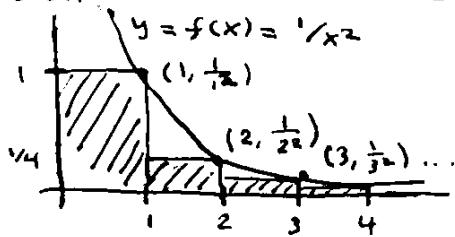
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### Integral test for convergence § 11.3

We saw a couple series whose convergence we could establish because we had a simple formula for the partial sums.

That's not possible for most series. We need tools to study convergence.

Consider the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ . There's no simple formula for its partial sums. But let's draw the following picture:



plot the sequence  $a_n = \frac{1}{n^2}$   
and use this to make  
rectangles of width = 1  
and height =  $a_n$

Notice that the area of the  $n^{\text{th}}$  rectangle  $= a_n \times 1 = a_n$ ,

so the sum of areas  $= a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \dots = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ .

Also notice that we plotted the curve  $y = f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$ .

The area under  $y = f(x)$  from  $x=1$  to  $\infty$  is visibly less than  $a_2 + a_3 + a_4 + \dots = (\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n) - a_1$ .

But we can compute area under  $y = f(x)$  as an improper integral:

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

Thus,  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \leq a_1 + \int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} dx = 1 + 1 = 2$ , so in particular this series converges: it has a finite value.

(Since all the terms are positive, if it diverged it would go off to  $\infty$ . Being bounded means it converges.)

This way of comparing a series to an associated integral is called the integral test for convergence.

It can be used to establish divergence as well:

### Theorem (Integral Test for Convergence / Divergence)

Let  $f(x)$  be a continuous, positive, (eventually) decreasing function on  $[1, \infty)$ , and let  $a_n = f(n)$  for all  $n \geq 1$ .

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

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

E.g. We saw before that harmonic series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$  diverges.

We can also prove this using the integral test:

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

Comparing  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$  and  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ , a natural question is:

for which values of  $p$  does the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$  converge?

(The book calls these series "p-series".)

Theorem The series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$ :

- diverges for  $p \leq 1$
- converges for  $p > 1$ .

Pf: First note that if  $p \leq 0$  then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^p} \neq 0$ ,

so the series diverges by the Test for Divergence.

So suppose  $0 < p < 1$ . Then  $\int \frac{1}{x^p} dx = \frac{1}{1-p} x^{1-p}$

So that  $\int_1^\infty \frac{1}{x^p} dx = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \frac{1}{1-p} x^{1-p} \right]_1^t = \infty$ ,

so the series diverges by the Integral Test.

We have already seen that  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$  diverges,

so finally assume  $p > 1$ . Then  $\int \frac{1}{x^p} dx = \frac{-1}{(p-1)x^{p-1}}$

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

so the series converges by the Integral Test.  $\blacksquare$

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### Estimating Remainders with Integrals §11.3

Integrals are useful for establishing convergence of series,

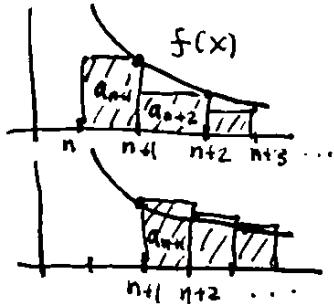
but don't tell us the exact value of the series.

Still, they can be used to estimate the value of the series.

As above, let  $f(x)$  be a continuous, positive, decreasing fn. on  $[1, \infty)$  and let  $a_n = f(n)$  for all  $n \geq 1$ . We want to estimate Value of series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ . A simple estimate for any series is a partial sum  $S_n = a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n$ , for some finite value of  $n$ . How good of an estimate is  $S_n$  for the true value of the series  $S$ ? Define the remainder to be  $R_n = S - S_n$ .

E.g.: For  $S = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n}$ , have  $S_2 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$ , and know  $S = 1$ , so  $R_2 = \frac{1}{4}$ .

By looking at the two pictures below:



$$\leftarrow \text{Over estimate} \\ R_n = a_{n+1} + a_{n+2} + \dots \leq \int_n^{\infty} f(x) dx$$

$$\leftarrow \text{under estimate} \\ R_n = a_{n+1} + a_{n+2} + \dots \geq \int_{n+1}^{\infty} f(x) dx$$

Theorem We have  $\int_{n+1}^{\infty} f(x) dx \leq R_n \leq \int_n^{\infty} f(x) dx$

E.g.: For  $S = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ ,  $S_4 = 1 + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{16} \approx 1.42$ , and by thm:

$$\int_5^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} dx \leq R_4 \leq \int_4^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} dx$$

$$1/5 \leq R_4 \leq 1/4$$

$$0.2 \leq S - 1.42 \leq 0.25$$

$$1.62 \leq S \leq 1.67 \leftarrow \begin{matrix} \text{good estimate} \\ \text{of } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \end{matrix}$$

(In fact,  $S = \frac{\pi^2}{6} \approx 1.64\dots$ , but that result is beyond this class...)

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### Comparison Tests for Series § 11.4

We know the geometric series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n}$  converges ( $|r| < 1$ ).

The series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n+1}$  seems very similar, but how can we show it converges or diverges? In fact, we can compare the two series!

#### Theorem (Direct Comparison Test for series)

Let  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  and  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$  be two series whose terms are all positive. Then:

1) If  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$  converges and  $a_n \leq b_n$  for all  $n$   
then  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  converges too.

2) If  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$  diverges and  $a_n \geq b_n$  for all  $n$   
then  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  diverges too.

Note: positive terms here is very important!

E.g.: Notice that  $\frac{1}{2^{n+1}} \leq \frac{1}{2^n}$  for all  $n \geq 1$ ,  
(dividing 1 by a bigger number gives something smaller)  
So therefore  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^{n+1}}$  also converges.

E.g.: Easy to show that if  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  diverges/converges,  
then  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c \cdot a_n = c \cdot \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  also diverges/converges  
for any nonzero scalar  $c \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ .

So  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n}$  also diverges, like harmonic series.

And then notice  $\frac{1}{2^{n-1}} \geq \frac{1}{2^n}$  for all  $n \geq 1$ ,

So therefore  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^{n-1}}$  also diverges by direct comparison.

The series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n - 1}$  also seems very similar to  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n}$ .  
 So we expect that it would also converge.  
 Unfortunately,  $\frac{1}{2^n - 1} > \frac{1}{2^n}$  for all  $n \geq 1$ , wrong direction of inequality to show convergence by direct comparison.

Instead we can use the following:

Theorem (Limit Comparison Test for Series)

Let  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  and  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$  be series with positive terms.

Suppose  $c = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n}$  exists and  $c \neq 0$  and  $c \neq \pm \infty$ .

Then  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  converges if and only if  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$  converges.

E.g.: Notice  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1/2^n}{1/(2^n - 1)} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2^n - 1}{2^n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1 - \frac{1}{2^n}}{1} = 1$ ,

So since  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n}$  converges, by Limit Comparison  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n - 1}$  converges too.

E.g.: Consider a series like  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{8n}{5n^2 + n - 1}$ .

How to decide convergence/divergence? Compare to  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ :

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{8n}{5n^2 + n - 1} \right) / \left( \frac{1}{n} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{8n^2}{5n^2 + n - 1} = \frac{8}{5}, \text{ so}$$

by limit comparison,  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{8n}{5n^2 + n - 1}$  also diverges.

Exercise: Show  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{8n}{5n^3 + n - 1}$  converges

Hint: Use Limit Comparison to  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ .

Key takeaway: For series whose terms are rational functions, check biggest power of  $n$  on top vs. on bottom.

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## Alternating Series § 11.5

The convergence tests we've seen (integral test, comparison) are for series with positive terms only.

Things become more complicated when there are sigs.

The most important kind of series with signs are the alternating series, where terms switch positive to negative to positive, to negative, etc.

like  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{1}{n} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} - \dots$

or  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{3n}{4n-1} = -\frac{3}{3} + \frac{6}{7} - \frac{9}{11} + \frac{12}{15} - \dots$

As we can see, an alternating series has the form:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} b_n \quad \text{or} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n b_n \quad \text{where } b_n \text{ is a sequence of } \underline{\text{positive}} \text{ numbers}$$

(which form it has depends on if it starts positive or negative)

### Theorem (Alternating Series Test)

For an alternating series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} b_n = b_1 - b_2 + b_3 - b_4 + \dots$

where  $b_n > 0$  are all positive, if we have that:

- $b_{n+1} \leq b_n$  for all  $n \geq 1$  (terms are getting smaller)

- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = 0$  (terms go to zero),

then the series converges.

E.g. The alternating harmonic series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{1}{n}$

satisfies these conditions: •  $\frac{1}{n+1} < \frac{1}{n}$

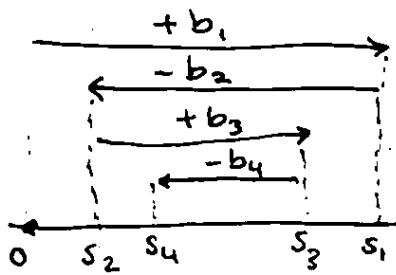
• and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0$

So  $1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} - \dots$  converges, unlike usual harmonic series.

Idea: terms cancel each other, so sum more likely to converge!

Skipped!

### Picture proof of Alternating Series Test:



We start with 0. We add  $+b_1$  to get  $s_1$ . Then we subtract  $-b_2$  to get  $s_2$ . Etc. But we never go back further than where we just were, since  $b_{n+1} \leq b_n$ . So we get "trapped" in a smaller and smaller space, as the  $b_n \rightarrow 0$  when  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Thus, the series must converge.  $\square$

In fact, we can use this argument to estimate the series:

Thm Let  $s = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} b_n$  be an alternating series, satisfying conditions: •  $b_{n+1} \leq b_n$  for all  $n$  & •  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = 0$ .

Let  $s_n = b_1 - b_2 + b_3 - \dots \pm b_n$  be the  $n^{\text{th}}$  partial sum and  $R_n = s - s_n$  be the remainder (error) of this partial sum.

Then  $|R_n| (= |s - s_n|) \leq b_{n+1}$ .

"Error is bounded by next term."

E.g. Let's compute  $s = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n}$  accurately to within 0.1.

We compute  $s_9 = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{7} - \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{9} = \frac{1879}{2520} \approx 0.745\dots$

and by thm,  $|R_n| \leq \frac{1}{10}$  (next term), so  $s \approx 0.745\dots \pm 0.1$ .

E.g. Decide if the alternating series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{3n}{4n-1} \text{ converges or diverges.}$$

Here:  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3n}{4n-1} = \frac{3}{4} \neq 0$ , so we cannot use the

alternating series test to establish convergence.

Actually,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (-1)^n \frac{3n}{4n-1}$  does not exist, so by the divergence test (terms don't go to 0) series diverges!

## § 11.5

Absolute convergence vs. Conditional convergence

Def'n A series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  is absolutely convergent if  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n|$  (series of absolute values) converges.

Thm If  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  is absolutely convergent, then it is convergent.

Def'n Series is called conditionally convergent if it is convergent but not absolutely convergent.

E.g. The alternating harmonic series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1}{n}$  is conditionally convergent, since it converges, but  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |(-1)^n \frac{1}{n}| = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$  (harmonic series) diverges.

## The Ratio Test § 11.6

For a geometric series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ar^{n-1}$ , convergence/divergence is determined by ratio  $|a_{n+1}/a_n| = |r|$  of terms.  
In fact, this is important for any series:

Theorem (Ratio Test for Absolute Convergence)

For series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ , let  $L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|a_{n+1}|}{|a_n|}$  (limiting ratio of successive terms).

If  $L < 1$ , then the series converges absolutely, (and hence converges),

If  $L > 1$  (including  $L = \infty$ ), then the series diverges.

If  $L = 1$ , the test is inconclusive (could go either way).

Pf idea: We compare the series to geometric series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} L^{n-1}$ , which converges if  $L < 1$  and diverges if  $L > 1$ . 

E.g. Does the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{n^3}{3^n}$  converge absolutely?

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Here } |a_n| &= \frac{n^3}{3^n}, \text{ so } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|a_{n+1}|}{|a_n|} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+1)^3 / 3^{n+1}}{n^3 / 3^n} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+1)^3}{3^n} \cdot \frac{3^n}{n^3} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{n+1}{n} \right)^3 \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{3} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^3 = \frac{1}{3} (1+0)^3 = \frac{1}{3}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|a_{n+1}|}{|a_n|} = \frac{1}{3} < 1$ , this series converges absolutely.

The ratio test is useful when the series has terms involving  $2^n, 3^n, e^n$ , etc. that are exponential in  $n$ .

These factors are "more important" than polynomials.

E.g. Let's try applying the ratio test to  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ .

$$\text{Here } L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|a_{n+1}|}{|a_n|} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{Y_{n+1}^2}{Y_n^2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2}{(n+1)^2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{n}{n+1} \right)^2 = 1.$$

So the ratio test is inconclusive: it fails to detect whether  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$  converges or diverges (we know it converges).

In fact, ratio test fails for any p-series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$ .

This makes sense, since most of the examples of conditionally convergent series we know are related to p-series, and the ratio test cannot detect conditional convergence.

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## Power Series § 11.8

A power series is a series of the form

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n x^n = c_0 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + c_3 x^3 + \dots$$

Here the  $c_n$  are a sequence of numbers we call coefficients, while " $x$ " is a variable, which we can specialize to any number.

For example, if  $c_n = 1$  for all  $n \geq 1$ , then we get

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x^n = 1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + \dots$$

the geometric series with ratio  $x$ , which converges  $\Leftrightarrow |x| < 1$ .  
We can think of the power series as defining a function

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n x^n$$

which is defined for  $x$  such that the series converges.

for example,  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = \frac{1}{1-x}$  for  $|x| < 1$ .

More generally, for a number  $a$ , we can consider a power series centered at  $a$ , which is a series of form

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n (x-a)^n = c_0 + c_1 (x-a) + c_2 (x-a)^2 + \dots$$

Ex. Find the values of  $x$  for which the power series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(x-3)^n}{n}$$
 converges. Idea: use ratio test.

$$L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|a_{n+1}|}{|a_n|} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|x-3|^{n+1}}{n+1} \cdot \frac{n}{|x-3|^n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |x-3| \left( \frac{n}{n+1} \right) = |x-3|.$$

So when  $|x-3| < 1$ , series converges & when  $|x-3| > 1$ , series diverges.

Notice  $|x-3| < 1 \Leftrightarrow 2 < x < 4$ . For  $x=2$  and  $x=4$ , ratio test inconclusive.

But  $x=2 \Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n}$  alt. harmonic series  $\Rightarrow$  converges and  $x=4 \Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$  harmonic series  $\Rightarrow$  diverges.

In summary, this series converges exactly for  $2 \leq x < 4$ .

Thm For power series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(x-a)^n$ , only three things can happen:

- i) The series converges only when  $x=a$ . (" $R=0$ ")
- ii) The series converges for all  $x$ . (" $R=\infty$ ")
- iii) There is a positive number  $R$  such that the series converges when  $|x-a| < R$  and diverges when  $|x-a| > R$ .

Pf idea: Ratio test, like last example.  $\square$

The number  $R$  in the above thm called radius of convergence (where we declare  $R=0$  in case i) and  $R=\infty$  in case ii).

The interval  $a-R \leq x \leq a+R$  is called the interval of convergence of the series.

WARNING: Whether series converges at endpoints  $a-R, a+R$  is tricky, usually have to use something beyond ratio test.

E.g.: For  $n$  a positive integer, the number  $n$  factorial is  $n! = n \times (n-1) \times (n-2) \times \dots \times 3 \times 2 \times 1$  (and  $0! = 1$ ).

Consider power series centered at 0 w/ coeff's  $c_n = \frac{1}{n!}$ :

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} x^n = \frac{1}{0!} + \frac{1}{1!} x + \frac{1}{2!} x^2 + \frac{1}{3!} x^3 + \dots = 1 + x + \frac{1}{2} x^2 + \frac{1}{6} x^3 + \dots$$

Let's find the radius of convergence of this series.

$$L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|c_{n+1}|}{|c_n|} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|x|^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \cdot \frac{n!}{|x|^n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|x|}{(n+1)}$$

For any fixed  $x$ ,  $(n+1)$  is eventually much bigger than  $|x|$ ,

$$\text{so } L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|x|}{n+1} = 0 \text{ for every } x.$$

Thus, Ratio Test says that  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} x^n$  converges

for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , i.e., radius of convergence is  $R = \infty$ .

Exercise: Show radius of convergence of  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n! x^n$  is  $0$ .  $\square$

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## Representing functions as power series § 11.9

We have seen that  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x^n = 1 + x + x^2 + \dots = \frac{1}{1-x}$  for  $|x| < 1$ .

So we can represent the function  $f(x) = \frac{1}{1-x}$  as a power series  $f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x^n$ , at least for  $|x| < 1$ .

Another way to think about this: we have the partial sums

$S_n(x) = 1 + x + x^2 + \dots + x^n$ , which are polynomials in  $x$ .

And  $f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n$  means  $f(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n(x)$  for  $|x| < 1$ .

We can represent many other functions (especially rational functions) as power series, via algebraic manipulations:

E.g.: How to write  $f(x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$  as a power series?

$$\text{Write } \frac{1}{1+x^2} = \frac{1}{1-(-x^2)} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-x^2)^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n x^{2n}$$

$$\text{important substitution technique!} \quad = 1 - x^2 + x^4 - x^6 + x^8 - \dots$$

This geometric series converges for  $|(-x^2)| < 1$ , i.e.,  $|x| < 1$ .

E.g.: How to find power series representation of  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x+2}$ ?

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Write } \frac{1}{2+x} &= \frac{1}{2(1+\frac{x}{2})} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{1+\frac{x}{2}} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{1-(-\frac{x}{2})} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{-x}{2}\right)^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{n+1}} x^n \end{aligned}$$

This geo. series converges for  $|\frac{-x}{2}| < 1$ , i.e.,  $|x| < 2$   
meaning for  $x \in (-2, 2)$ .

E.g.: What about  $f(x) = \frac{x^3}{x+2}$ ? Here we write:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{x^3}{x+2} &= x^3 \cdot \frac{1}{x+2} = x^3 \cdot \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{n+1}} x^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{2^{n+1}} x^{n+3} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} x^3 - \frac{1}{4} x^4 + \frac{1}{8} x^5 - \dots \end{aligned}$$

As in previous example, the interval of convergence is  $(-2, 2)$ . //