

Calculus II

Ratio test basic

Todor Milev

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Example

Test the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{n^3}{3^n}$ for absolute convergence.

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$$\left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = \left| \frac{(-1)^{n+1} \frac{(n+1)^3}{3^{n+1}}}{(-1)^n \frac{n^3}{3^n}} \right|$$

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Therefore the series is

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 &= \frac{1}{3} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^3 \\
 &\rightarrow \frac{1}{3} < 1
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore the series is **absolutely convergent** by the Ratio Test.