



Calculus BC: Convergence of Series with Positive Terms (section 10.3)

Example 1 – Divergence of the Harmonic Series

Show that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ diverges. $= 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \dots$

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x} dx = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^R \frac{1}{x} dx$$

$$= \ln |x| \Big|_1^R = \ln R - \ln 1$$

Example 2

Determine whether $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{(n^2+1)^2}$ converges. $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{2}{25} + \frac{3}{100} + \dots$

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{x}{(x^2+1)^2} dx$$

$$u = x^2 + 1$$

$$du = 2x dx$$

$$\frac{1}{2} du = x dx$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_2^{\infty} \frac{du}{u^2} \text{ converges}$$

so \sum converges

by the Integral Test

Example 3

Show that $S = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2^{-n!}$ converges. $= \frac{1}{2^{1!}} + \frac{1}{2^{2!}} + \frac{1}{2^{3!}} + \frac{1}{2^{4!}}$

compare to $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2^{-n}$

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{64} + \frac{1}{2^{24}}$$

$$\sum 2^{-n!} < \sum 2^{-n} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{for } n > 2 \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{16}$$

converges

$\sum 2^{-n!}$ converges by
Comparison Test

Example 4

Show that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n} 3^n}$ converges.

$$\sum \frac{1}{3^n} > \sum \frac{1}{\sqrt{n} 3^n}$$

for $n > 1$

$\sum \frac{1}{\sqrt{n} 3^n}$ converges
by Comparison Test

$$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2} \cdot 9} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3} \cdot 27} + \dots$$

$$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{27} + \dots$$

geometric $r = \frac{1}{3}$
(converges)

Example 5

Determine whether $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\ln n}$ converges. $\frac{1}{\ln 2} + \frac{1}{\ln 3} + \frac{1}{\ln 4} + \dots$

$$\sum \frac{1}{n} \text{ diverges} \quad 1.4 \quad 0.9 \quad 0.7$$

$$\sum \frac{1}{\ln n} > \sum \frac{1}{n} \quad \frac{1}{2} \quad \frac{1}{3} \quad \frac{1}{4}$$

$\sum \frac{1}{\ln n}$ diverges by
Comparison Test

5 f 1 : 19, 20, 24, 25, 27, 29

Example 6 – Using the Comparison Test Correctly

Study the convergence of $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(\ln n)^2}$.

Example 7

Show that $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{n^4 - n}$ converges.

$$\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{16}$$
$$\frac{4}{16-2} + \frac{9}{81-3} + \frac{16}{256-4}$$

Try Comparison Test

$$\frac{n^2}{n^4 - n} > \frac{1}{n^2}$$

Try Limit Comparison Test

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{n^2}}{\frac{n^2}{n^4 - n}} = \frac{n^4 - n}{n^4} \rightarrow 1$$

$$\sum \frac{n^2}{n^4 - n}$$

using limit comp $1 - \frac{1}{n^3}$

Example 8

Determine whether $\sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n^2-4}}$ converges.

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n^2-4}} > \frac{1}{n}$$

↑
diverges

$$\sum \frac{1}{\sqrt{n^2+4}}$$

$$\frac{\frac{1}{n}}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n^2+4}}} = \frac{\sqrt{n^2+4}}{n}$$

→ 1

$\sum \frac{1}{\sqrt{n^2+4}}$ diverges
by L.C.T.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

diverges

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{1.1}}$$

converges

581: 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13