

Abs. convergence & the ratio and root tests (1)

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Notice that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n^2}$ and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ both converge.
on the other hand.

$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n}$ converges and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ diverges.

The 1st is an example of an absolutely convergent series while the 2nd is conditionally convergent.

Defn. $\sum a_n$ is absolutely convergent if $\sum |a_n|$ converges.

Defn. $\sum a_n$ is conditionally convergent if it is convergent, but not absolutely convergent.

Ex1: Determine the convergence or divergence of $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos(\pi n)}{n^3}$.

Thm: If a series is abs. conv, then it is convergent. (proof in text).

The Ratio Test

i) If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| < 1$, then $\sum a_n$ converges absolutely.

ii) If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| > 1$, then $\sum a_n$ diverges.

iii) else it is inconclusive.

Ex 2: Test $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{10^n}{(n+1) 4^{2n+1}}$ for convergence.

consider $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{\frac{10^{n+1}}{(n+2) 4^{2(n+1)+1}}}{\frac{10^n}{(n+1) 4^{2n+1}}} \right| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{10 \cdot 10^n (n+1) \cdot 4^{2n+1}}{10^n (n+2) \cdot 16 \cdot 4^{2n+1}} \right|$

$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{10 (n+1)}{16 (n+2)} \right| = \frac{10}{16}$

Hence, the series converges by the ratio test.

□ proof of the ratio test.

(i) If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| > 1$, then $\exists N$ s.t. $n > N$ implies

$\left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| > 1 \Rightarrow |a_{n+1}| > |a_n|$ for $n > N$.

but this implies $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \neq 0$ and so

$\sum a_n$ diverges

(i) We are going to show convergence by creating a convergent geometric series that is above $\sum |a_n|$ and thus showing convergence by a comparison.

We have $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = L < 1$. So, $\exists r$ st.

$L < r < 1$. Since $L < r$, $\exists N$ st. $n \geq N$

implies $\left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| < r$ for $n \geq N$.

$\Rightarrow |a_{n+1}| < |a_n| r$ for $n \geq N$.

$\Rightarrow |a_{N+1}| < |a_N| r$

and $|a_{N+2}| < |a_{N+1}| r < |a_N| r^2$

and $|a_{N+3}| < |a_{N+2}| r < |a_{N+1}| r^2 < |a_N| r^3$

\vdots

and in general, $|a_{N+k}| < |a_N| r^k$ for $k \geq 1$.

Now $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |a_N| r^k$ is a convergent geometric series.

and by comparison, $\sum_{n=N+1}^{\infty} |a_n|$ is convergent.

$\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n|$ is convergent, so $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ is

absolutely convergent. \square

Ex 3: Test $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n!}{n^n}$ for convergence.

Ratio Test.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{\frac{(n+1)!}{(n+1)^{n+1}}}{\frac{n!}{n^n}} \right| &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{(n+1)! n^n}{n! (n+1)^{n+1}} \right| \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{n^n}{(n+1)^n} \right| \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{n}{n+1} \right)^n \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{n+1}{n} \right)^{-n} \\ &= \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n} \right)^n \right)^{-1} \\ &= e^{-1} < 1. \end{aligned}$$

So, the series is convergent, absolutely.

Root Test

- i) If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} < 1$, $\sum a_n$ converges absolutely.
- ii) If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} > 1$, $\sum a_n$ diverges.
- iii) else, the root test is inconclusive.

Ex 4: Test $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ using the root test.

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[N]{\frac{1}{N}} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} N^{-\frac{1}{N}} \quad \text{indeterminate form.}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^{-\frac{1}{x} \ln(x)}$$

$$= e^{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-\ln(x)}{x}}$$

$$= e^{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{x}}$$

$$= e^0$$

$= 1$ inconclusive, but we know the harmonic series diverges

Ex 5: Test $\sum \frac{1}{n^2}$ using the root test.

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[N]{N^{-2}} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} N^{-\frac{2}{N}} \quad \text{indeterminate form.}$$

$$= e^{\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-2 \ln(x)}{x}}$$

$$= e^{\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-2}{x}}$$

$$= e^0$$

$= 1$. inconclusive, but we know that the series is convergent by the p-test.

(c) claim: If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} > 1$, then $\sum a_n$ diverges.

□ proof.

If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} > 1$, then $\exists N$ s.t. $n > N$ implies $\sqrt[n]{|a_n|} > 1$. This in turn implies that $|a_n| > 1^n > 1$ for $n > N$. So, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \neq 0$ and $\sum a_n$ is divergent. □

(i) claim: If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} = L < 1$, then $\sum a_n$ converges.

□ proof.

As w/ the ratio test, we will show convergence by comparing to a convergent geometric series.

We have $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} = L < 1$. So, $\exists r$ s.t.

$L < r < 1$. Since $L < r$, $\exists N$ s.t. $n > N$

implies $\sqrt[n]{|a_n|} < r < 1$ for $n > N$. But this means $|a_n| < r^n < 1$ for $n > N$. Summing the terms when $n > N$ we have.

$$\sum_{n=N}^{\infty} |a_n| < \sum_{n=N}^{\infty} r^n \quad \text{which is a convergent geometric series.}$$

Thus $\sum_{n=N}^{\infty} |a_n|$ converges by

comparison and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges absolutely. □

still need to cover rearrangements