

Lesson 22

Section 11.4

The Comparison tests

We want to compare two series.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} r^n$$

Converges if $|r| < 1$
Diverges if $|r| \geq 1$

$$\left\{ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p} \right.$$

Converges if $p > 1$
Diverges if $p \leq 1$

$$\left\{ \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(\ln n)^p} \right.$$

Converges if $p > 1$
Diverges if $p \leq 1$

Variations of these
Series.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$$

$$\frac{1}{n} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \leq \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n}$$

The partial sums

$$S_N = \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{1}{n} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n \leq \sum_{n=1}^N \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$$

S_N is increasing.

on the other hand

$$S_N \leq \sum_{n=1}^N \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$$

$$S_N < 1$$

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} S_N = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$$

converges.

Comparison test 1 If

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$$

(1) $0 \leq a_n \leq b_n$ for $n \geq N_0$
(2) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$ converges. Then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges.

Example $a_n = \frac{1}{n} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$

$$b_n = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$$

$$0 \leq a_n \leq b_n$$

Since $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$ converges

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \text{ converges.}$$

Example $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2 + 3n + 7}$

$$n^2 + 3n + 7 > n^2$$

$$\text{If } a > b > 0$$

$$\frac{1}{a} < \frac{1}{b}$$

$$3 > 2$$

$$\frac{1}{3} < \frac{1}{2}$$

$$0 < \frac{1}{n^2 + 3n + 7} < \frac{1}{n^2}$$

Since $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$
Converges

Converges.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2 + 3n + 7}$$

Comparison test 2

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n, \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$$

$$0 < a_n \leq b_n$$

If $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ diverges

then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$ diverges.

Example:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\ln n}{n}.$$

$$\frac{\ln n}{n} \geq \ln 2 \quad \text{for } n \geq 2.$$

$$\frac{\ln n}{n} \geq \frac{\ln 2}{n}$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\ln 2}{n} = \ln 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$$

diverges

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\ln n}{n} \text{ diverges}$$

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

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n^2 + 3n}}$$

"looks like"

When n is large

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n^2 + 3n}}$$

$$\sim \frac{1}{n}$$

$$n^2 + 3n > n^2$$

$$\frac{1}{n^2 + 3n} < \frac{1}{n^2}$$

$$\underbrace{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n^2 + 3n}}}_{\text{blue bracket}} < \underbrace{\frac{1}{n}}_{\text{blue bracket}}$$

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

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n^2+3n}} > \frac{c}{\sqrt{n^2}}$$

$$n^2 + 3\underline{n} \leq n^2 + 3\underline{n}^2 \leq 4n^2$$

$$n^2 + 3n \leq 4n^2$$

$$\frac{1}{n^2+3n} \geq \frac{1}{4n^2}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n^2+3n}} > \frac{1}{2n}$$

But $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2n}$ diverges and

So $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n^2+3n}}$

Rephrase the Comparison Test.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n, \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$$

$$a_n > 0, \quad b_n > 0$$

$$0 < C_1 < \frac{a_n}{b_n} < C_2$$

Then Either
(1) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$ converge

OR
(2) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$ diverge.

Example.

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

For n large

$$n^3 + 4n^2 + 1 \sim n^3$$

$$\sqrt{n^3 + 4n^2 + 1} \sim n^{3/2}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n^3 + 4n^2 + 1}} \sim \frac{1}{n^{3/2}}$$

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

$$\frac{1}{n^{3/2}}$$

is

candidate

for comparison.

$$a_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n^3 + 4n^2 + 1}}$$

$$b_n = \frac{1}{n^{3/2}}$$

$$\frac{a_n}{b_n} = \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n^3 + 4n^2 + 1}}}{\frac{1}{n^{3/2}}}$$

$$= \frac{n^{3/2}}{\sqrt{n^3 + 4n^2 + 1}}$$

$$n^{3/2}$$

$$= \frac{n^{3/2}}{\sqrt{n^3 (1 + 4/n + 1/n^3)}} =$$

$$= \frac{n^{3/2}}{n^{3/2} \sqrt{1 + 4/n + 1/n^3}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + 4/n + 1/n^3}}$$

$$\frac{a_n}{b_n} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{4}{n} + \frac{1}{n^3}}}$$

$$C_1 < \frac{a_n}{b_n} \leq C_2$$

Conclusion: Either

Also $\rightarrow$ Converges $\sum_{h=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n^3 + 4n^2 + 1}}$ and

$\sum_{h=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{3/2}}$ Converges