

10.4 The Divergence and Integral Tests

we will learn various tests to see if an infinite series converges

last time: geometric series $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} ar^k = a + ar + ar^2 + ar^3 + \dots$ converges if $|r| < 1$

but what about for a non-geometric series, for example $1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{16} + \dots = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2}$
 $= \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{k^2}$

how ~~we~~ can we determine if such a series converges?

let's look at that question from the opposite point of view first

— what property must a convergent series have?

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} S_k = L \rightarrow \text{must happen}$$

$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$

$$S_1 = a_1 \quad \rangle \quad S_2 - S_1 = a_2$$
$$S_2 = a_1 + a_2 \quad \rangle \quad S_3 - S_2 = a_3$$
$$S_3 = a_1 + a_2 + a_3$$
$$S_4 = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4$$
$$\vdots$$
$$S_{k-1} = a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_{k-1} \quad \rangle \quad S_k - S_{k-1} = a_k$$
$$S_k = a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_{k-1} + a_k$$

S_k : k^{th} partial sum
(sum of ~~k^{th}~~ first k terms)

if series converges, then $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} S_k = L$ and $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} S_{k-1} = L$

but $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} (S_k - S_{k-1}) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_k$

$$\underbrace{\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} S_k}_L - \underbrace{\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} S_{k-1}}_L = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_k$$

so, if series $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$ converges, then $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_k = 0$

→ if series converges,
then terms eventually
go to zero

this is called the Divergence Test

important: this if is a one-way if

if series converges, then $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_k = 0$

it is NOT correct to reverse the direction of that if, in general

for example, $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^k$ is a geometric series with $|r| < 1$ so it converges

$$\text{we see } \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} (a_k) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^k = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{3^k} = 0$$

on the other hand, $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \cos(k\pi) = 1 - 1 + 1 - 1 + 1 - 1 + 1 - 1 + \dots$

diverges since $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} S_k$ DNE

$$\text{and we see } \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_k = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \cos(k\pi) \text{ DNE}$$

so, as we see that for a divergent series, $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_k \neq 0$

But, again, just because $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_k = 0$, it does NOT necessarily mean series converges

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

"Harmonic Series"

clearly, $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_k = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{k} = 0$

But, this series actually diverges, even though $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{k} = 0$

$$S_1 = 1$$

$$S_2 = 1 + \frac{1}{2} = 1.5$$

$$S_3 = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} = 1.833$$

$$S_4 = 2.0833$$

⋮

$$S_{20} = 3.5977$$

⋮

$$S_{50} = 4.4992$$

⋮

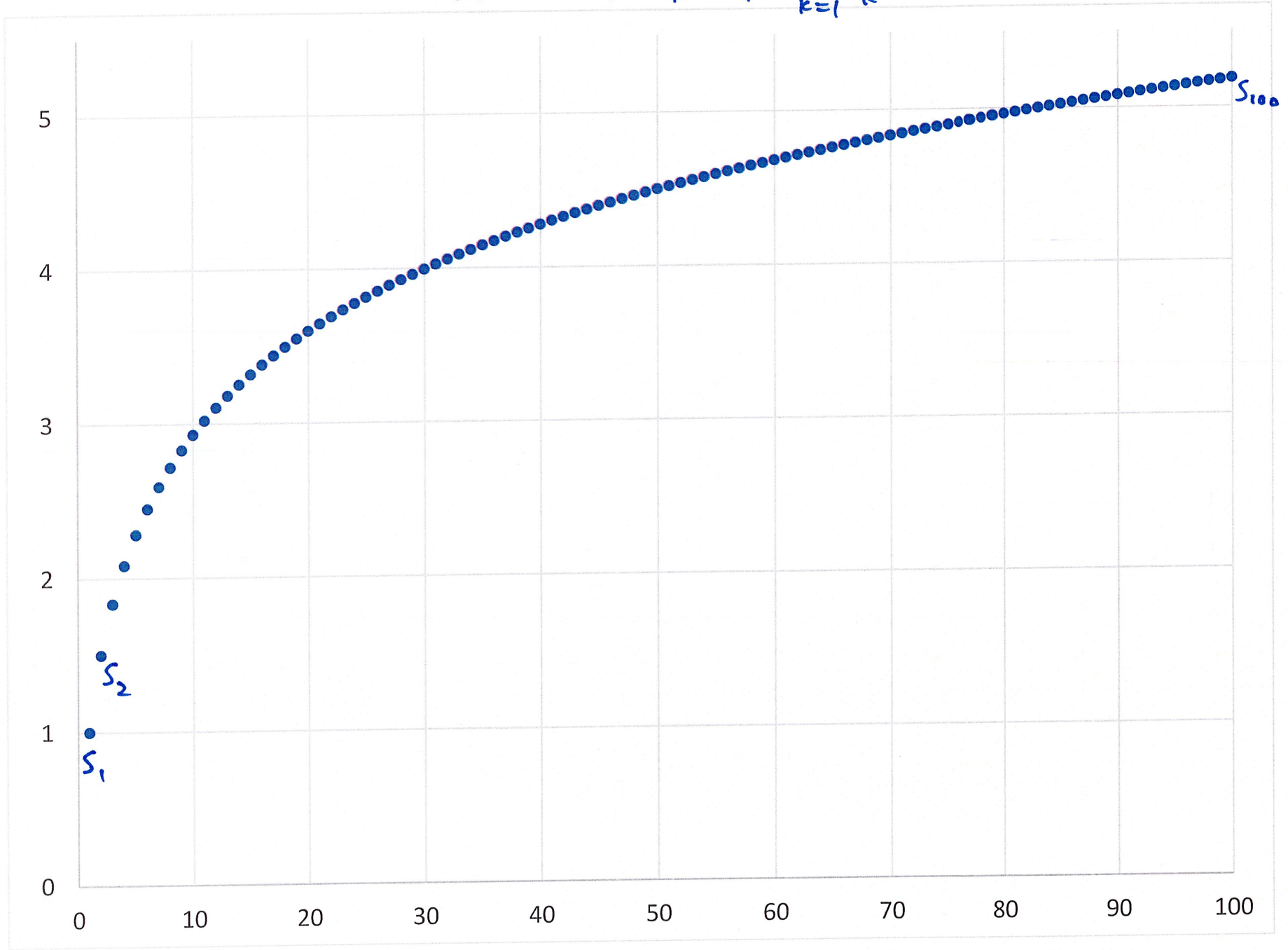
$$S_{100} = 5.1874$$

⋮

$$S_{500} = 6.7928$$

S_k does not stop growing

Partial Sums (S_n) of $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k}$



So, if $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_k = 0$, the series might converge.

How do we make sure? We need another test.

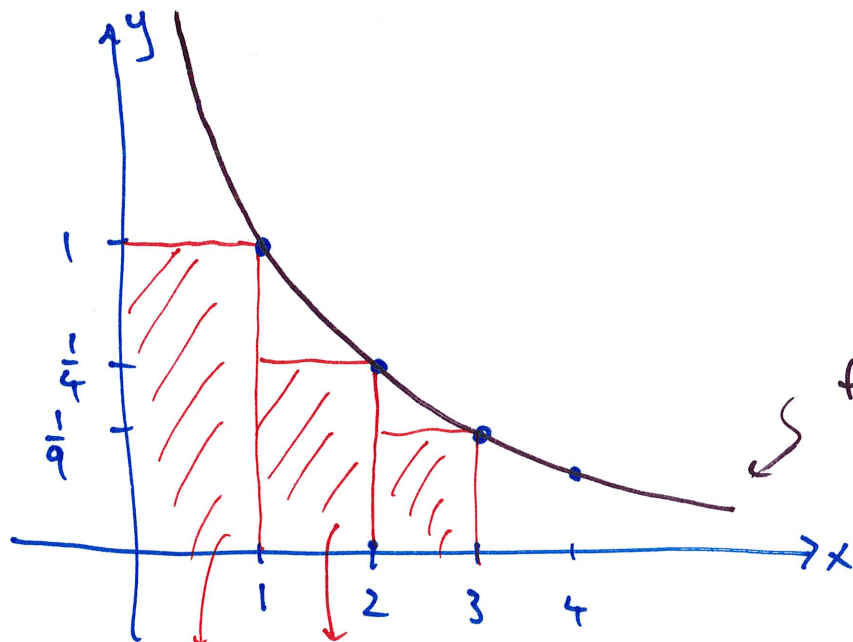
Today: integral test

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2} = 1 + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{25} + \dots$$

$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{k^2} = 0$, so this series might converge

treat these as points from $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$ at $x=1, 2, 3, \dots$

let's graph these



area = 1
 $S_1 = 1$

area = $\frac{1}{4}$

now look at $1 + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{16} + \dots$

as a Riemann Sum

each partial sum is the
total area of first boxes

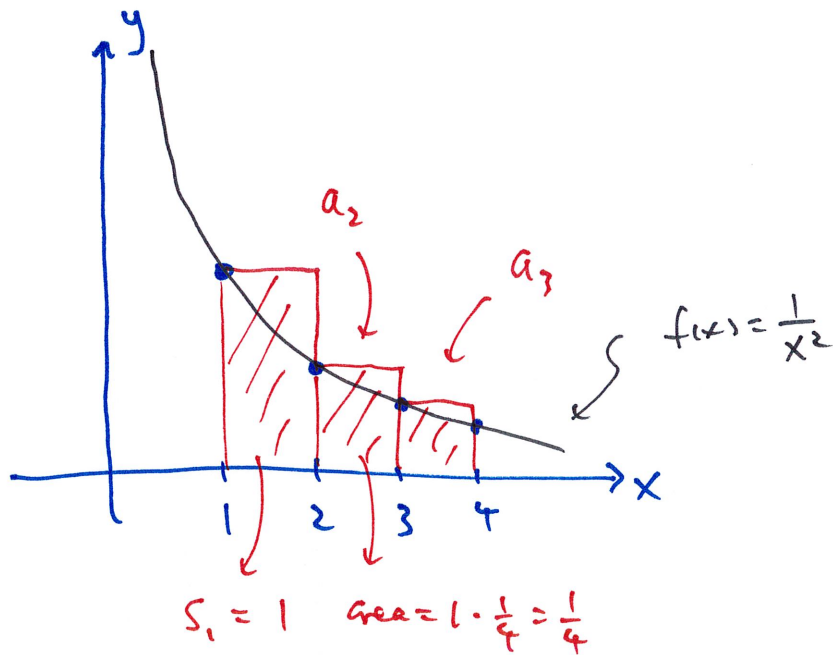
we see from the picture

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2} \leq 1 + \int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} dx$$

first box

we will come
back to this

now let's look at $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2} = 1 + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{9} + \dots$ as a RIGHT Riemann Sum



this time, sum of boxes is bigger than area under curve

so,

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2} \geq \int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} dx$$

combining the two facts, we see

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} dx \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2} \leq 1 + \int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} dx$$

Integral Test

if the left and right bounds are NOT $\pm \infty$, then series converges

so, therefore, for $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a(k)$ to converge, the integral $\int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx$ MUST converge

where $f(x)$ is function where $a(k)$ is sampled

So does $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2}$ converge?

It passes the Divergence Test : $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{k^2} = 0$

Integral Test : $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} dx \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2} \leq 1 + \int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} dx$

So, if $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} dx$ converges, then series $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2}$ converges

does $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} dx$ converge? Yes, in fact, $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^p} dx$ converges if $p > 1$

So, this means $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^p}$ converges if $p > 1$
"p-series"

follow up to Integral Test : P-series Test

$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^p}$ converges if $p > 1$

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

$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^{10}}$ converges

the Integral Test is very general, but if the improper integral is hard to calculate, we might use a different ~~series~~ test (we will see a few more)