

# TELESCOPIC SERIES, RATIO & ROOT TEST

Ex  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(n+1)} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1} \right)$

partial sums:  $S_k = \sum_{n=1}^k \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1} \right)$

$S_3: \sum_{n=1}^3 \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1} \right) = \underbrace{\left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \right)}_{n=1} + \underbrace{\left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3} \right)}_{n=2} + \underbrace{\left( \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} \right)}_{n=3}$

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

$S_k = \sum_{n=1}^k \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1} \right) = \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \right) + \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3} \right) + \left( \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} \right) + \dots + \left( \frac{1}{k} - \frac{1}{k+1} \right)$

$= 1 - \frac{1}{k+1}$

REMEMBER:  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} S_k = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=1}^k a_n$

Here's a formula for the partial sums  $S_k$ . So we can compute the sum with  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} S_k$ .

$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{k+1} \right) \underset{\rightarrow 0}{=} 1$

$\therefore \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1} \right) = 1$

## RECALL

absolute convergence: A series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  is absolutely convergent if  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n|$  converges.

Absolute converge implies convergence BUT convergence does NOT imply absolute convergence.

Ex  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \cdot \frac{1}{n}$  converges ( $\ln(2)$ )

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

TEST FOR CONVERGENCE (can check absolute convergence too)

## RATIO TEST for $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$

(R1) if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|a_{n+1}|}{|a_n|} = L < 1$ , then  $\sum a_n$  converges absolutely

(R2) if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|a_{n+1}|}{|a_n|} = L > 1$ , then  $\sum a_n$  diverges

If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|a_{n+1}|}{|a_n|} = 1$ , then we can't make a conclusion.

Ex  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt{n} \cdot (-1)^n}{n^2 + 5}$  → compute separately first

RATIO TEST  $\frac{|a_{n+1}|}{|a_n|} = \frac{\sqrt{n+1}}{(n+1)^2 + 5} = \frac{\sqrt{n+1}}{n^2 + 2n + 6}$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|a_{n+1}|}{|a_n|} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{n+1} \cdot (n^2 + 5)}{\sqrt{n} \cdot (n^2 + 2n + 6)}$$

... simplify ...

$= 1$  ∴ no conclusion can be drawn

## ROOT TEST for $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$

(1) if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} = L < 1$  : absolute convergence

(2) if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} = L > 1$  : diverges

If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} = 1$  : no conclusion

Ex  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n$  → geometric series ( $q = \frac{2}{3}$ )

$= \frac{1}{1 - \frac{2}{3}} = \frac{1}{\frac{3-2}{3}} = \boxed{3}$   $|q| < 1$ , so it converges

sum =  $\frac{1}{1-q} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} q^n$

ROOT TEST  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (|a_n|)^{\frac{1}{n}}$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n\right)^{\frac{1}{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{n \cdot \frac{1}{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right) = \boxed{\frac{2}{3}} < 1$$

∴  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n$  converges absolutely, so it's also convergent.

Ex 2  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^n} (-1)^n$ . Check for absolute convergence.  
 $\leftarrow$   $n$  is in the exponent, so try the root test

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1}{n^n} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1}{n^{n \cdot \frac{1}{n}}} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1}{n} \right) = 0 < 1$$

$\therefore$  the series is absolutely convergent.

Ex 3  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( -\frac{2n+3}{3n+2} \right)^n$  \* use root test

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\left( \frac{2n+3}{3n+2} \right)^n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{2n+3}{3n+2} \right) \stackrel{* \text{ L'Hopital's }}{=} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{2}{3} \right) = \frac{2}{3} < 1$$

$\therefore$  the series is absolutely convergent.

Comparison test example

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

This converges by the integral test because the exponent  $> 1$

Integral test example

$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^2 \cdot e^{-n^3}$  \* the series converges iff the integral does

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_1^{\infty} x^2 \cdot e^{-x^3} dx \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} u = x^3 \\ du = 3x^2 dx \end{array} \right. \\ &= \int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{3} \cdot e^{-u} du \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{3} \cdot \int_1^{t^3} e^{-u} du = \frac{1}{3} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left( -e^{-u} \right) \Big|_1^{t^3} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left( \underbrace{-e^{-t^3}}_{\rightarrow 0} - (-e^{-1}) \right) = \frac{1}{3} \cdot e^{-1} = \boxed{\frac{1}{3e}} \end{aligned}$$

## Ratio test examples

1)  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n$   $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|a_{n+1}|}{|a_n|} = L$  if  $L < 1$ , abs. conv.  
if  $L > 1$ , div.

$$|a_{n+1}| = \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{n+1}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{n+1}}{\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n \cdot \frac{2}{3}}{\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^n} = \frac{2}{3} < 1, \therefore \text{converges (absolutely)}$$

2)  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{n^2+1}$   $a_{n+1} = \frac{n+1}{(n+1)^2+1} = \frac{n+1}{n^2+2n+2}$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+1)(n^2+1)}{n(n^2+2n+2)} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^3+n+n^2+1}{n^3+2n^2+2n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{n^3}(n^3+n+n^2+1)}{\frac{1}{n^3}(n^3+2n^2+2n)}$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1 + \frac{1}{n^2} + \frac{1}{n^3} + \frac{1}{n^4}}{1 + \frac{2}{n} + \frac{2}{n^2}} = 1 \leftarrow \text{no conclusion!}$$

If there's no conclusion, we use a different test.

i.e. the integral test

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{x}{x^2+1} dx \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} u = x^2 + 1 \\ du = 2x dx \end{array} \right.$$

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_2^{t^2+1} \frac{x}{u} \cdot \frac{du}{2x} = \frac{1}{2} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_2^{t^2+1} \frac{1}{u} du$$

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2} \cdot \ln(u) \Big|_2^{t^2+1} = \frac{1}{2} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (\ln|t^2+1| - \ln(2)) = \boxed{\infty}$$

$\therefore$  the integral diverges, and so does the series.