

So far: 1. G.S

2. T.S.

3. D.T.T.

4. I.T.T.

5. P-Test

6. DCTT

7. LCTT

8. ALT.

Alternating Series

Def: An alternating series is a series of the form $a_1 + a_2 - a_3 + a_4 - a_5 + \dots$
Such as $1 + 2 - 3 + 4 - 5 + 6 \dots$

(ALT)

The Alternating Series Test: Let $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} a_n = a_1 - a_2 + a_3 - a_4 + a_5 - \dots$ ($a_n > 0$)

Satisfies the following conditions:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{i) } a_{n+1} \leq a_n \\ \text{ii) } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0 \end{array} \right\} \text{Decreasing without negative sign.}$$

Then the series is convergent.

Ex: Determine whether the following series is convergent or divergent.

a) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{n}\right) \stackrel{\text{let}}{=} a_n$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} a_{n+1} = \frac{1}{n+1} \leq \frac{1}{n} = a_n \\ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

\therefore by ALT. $\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{1}{n}$ is convergent

b) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n 3n}{4n-1}$ this is an alternating series, but $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3n}{4n-1} = \frac{3}{4} \neq 0$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \cdot \left(\frac{3n}{4n-1}\right) \stackrel{\text{let}}{=} a_n$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3n}{4n-1} = \frac{3}{4} \neq 0 \Rightarrow \text{ALT fails.}$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{(-1)^n \cdot 3n}{4n-1}\right) \stackrel{\text{let}}{=} a_n$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(-1)^n \cdot 3n}{4n-1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (-1)^n \cdot \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3n}{4n-1}\right)$$

$$= \text{DNE} \cdot \frac{3}{4} = \text{DNE} \neq 0$$

$$(-1)^n \text{ oscillates}$$

is divergent.

\therefore By D.T.T. $\Rightarrow \sum a_n$ is convergent

c) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \left(\frac{1}{2^n} \right) \stackrel{\text{let}}{=} a_n$

i) $a_n = \frac{1}{2^n} ; a_{n+1} = \frac{1}{2^{n+1}}$

$a_n = \frac{1}{2^n} > \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} = a_{n+1}$

ii) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^n} = 0$

By A.L.T.
 $\Rightarrow \sum (-1)^n a_n$ is
 convergent

d) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{n^2}{n^3 + 1}$; Let $a_n = \frac{n^2}{n^3 + 1}$; How do we know $a_n = \frac{n^2}{n^3 + 1}$ is decreasing, consider

the following function $f(x) = \frac{x^2}{x^3 + 1} \Rightarrow f'(x) = \frac{x(2 - x^3)}{(x^3 + 1)^2} \Rightarrow f'(x) < 0$ for $x > \sqrt[3]{2}$ i.e.

$a_n = \frac{n^2}{n^3 + 1}$ is decreasing.

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2}{n^3 + 1} = 0$. By the Alternating Series Test, $a_n = \frac{n^2}{n^3 + 1}$ is convergent.

e) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos(n\pi)}{\sqrt{3n+2}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{3n+2}} \stackrel{\text{let } a_n}{=} a_n.$

i) $a_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3n+2}} \geq a_{n+1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3(n+1)+2}}.$

ii) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{3n+2}} = 0$

By A.L.T. $\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n a_n$ is convergent

f) $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{n}{n^4+5}$ ✓

Error Analysis for A.L.T.

Estimating Sums:

Alternating Series Estimation Theorem: If $S = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} a_n$ is the sum of an alternating series that satisfies

i) $0 \leq a_{n+1} \leq a_n$ and ii) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$ Then $|R_n| = |S - S_n| \leq |a_{n+1}|$

Error = $|R_n| \leq |a_{n+1}|$

Ex: Approximate the sum of the alternating harmonic series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n}$ with an error of less than 0.01.

Sol: Error = $|R_n| < 0.01$.

where $|R_n| \leq |a_{n+1}|$, where $a_n = \frac{1}{n}$.

$$|R_n| \leq \left| \frac{1}{n+1} \right| < 0.01$$

$$\frac{1}{n+1} < 0.01 = \frac{1}{0.01} < n+1$$

$$n > 100 - 1 = 99.$$

Ex: How many terms are needed in computing the sum of $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n^3 + 2n + 4}$ to ensure its accuracy to 0.001

Sol: $n = ?$ such that $|\text{error}| < 0.001$

where $|\text{error}| = |R_n| < |a_{n+1}|$.

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

$$|\text{Error}| = |R_n| < \frac{1}{(n+1)^3 + 2(n+1) + 4} < \frac{0.001}{\frac{1}{1000}}$$

Trial & error:

Pick $n = 5 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{6^3 + 12 + 4} = 0.00431$

?

< 0.001

pick $\boxed{n=49} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{\underbrace{(50)^3 + 2(50) + 4}_{0.0000007}} < 0.001$

$\boxed{n=49} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{10^3 + 2(10) + 4} = \frac{1}{1024} = 0.0009 < 0.001$

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 Error Analysis.

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{For } \underline{\text{I.T.T.}} \quad \text{Error} = |R_n| \leq \int_n^{\infty} f(x) dx \\ \text{For } \underline{\text{A.L.T.}} \quad \text{Error} = |R_n| \leq |a_{n+1}| \end{array} \right.$

$\sum \frac{n}{(5n^2+1)^7} \Rightarrow f(x) = \frac{x}{(5x^2+1)^7} \leftarrow \text{I.T.T.}$

$\sum \frac{\cancel{(-1)^n} \cdot 1}{(5n^2+1)^7} \Rightarrow a_n = \frac{1}{(5n^2+1)^7} \leftarrow \text{A.L.T.}$

Error: $\int_n^{\infty} \frac{x}{(5x^2+1)^7} dx \leq 0.001$

Error: $a_{n+1} = \frac{1}{(5(n+1)^2+1)^7} \leq 0.001$

$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{\sqrt{n^2+5n}}$ — ALT.

$n = ?$ such that error ≤ 0.001

$|R_n| \leq |a_{n+1}|$ where $a_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n^2+5n}}$

$|R_n| \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{(n+1)^2+5(n+1)}} \leq \frac{0.001}{10^{-3}}$

Try: error $n = 99$

$\frac{1}{\sqrt{100^2+5(100)}} = 0.0097$

$n = 999$ $\frac{1}{\sqrt{1000^2+5(1000)}} = \underline{0.00097} < 0.001$

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$$\sqrt{1000^2 + 5(1000)}$$