

Guide to Series Arguments

When arguing convergence or divergence by the following techniques, be sure to at least include all the bulleted information.

Geometric Series:

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

- Convergent geometric series
- $|r| = \left| \frac{2}{3} \right| = \frac{2}{3} < 1$

Telescoping Series:

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

- $S_k = 1 - \frac{1}{k+1}$
- $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{1}{k+1} \right) = 1$
- By definition $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1} \right)$ converges to 1

N-th Term Test:

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

- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{n+1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1+1/n} = 1 \neq 0$
- $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{n+1}$ divergent by nth term test

Integral Test:

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

- $f(x) = \frac{1}{x(1 + \ln^2 x)}$ is positive, decreasing, and continuous
- $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x(1 + \ln^2 x)} = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^b \frac{dx}{x(1 + \ln^2 x)} \quad \begin{array}{l} u = \ln x \\ du = \frac{1}{x} dx \end{array}$
 $= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^{\ln b} \frac{du}{1 + u^2} = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} (\tan^{-1}(\ln b) - \tan^{-1} 0) = \frac{\pi}{2}$
- $\int_1^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x(1 + \ln^2 x)}$ converges, so $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(1 + \ln^2 n)}$ converges by integral test.

P-Series:

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

- $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ divergent p-series $p = \frac{1}{2} \leq 1$

DCT:

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n2^n}$$

- $0 \leq \frac{1}{n2^n} \leq \frac{1}{2^n}$
- $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n}$ is a convergent geometric series $|r| = \left| \frac{1}{2} \right| < 1$
- So, $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n2^n}$ converges by DCT

LCT:

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

- $\frac{1}{n^2}$ and $\frac{1}{n^2 - 1}$ are positive
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{n^2 - 1}}{\frac{1}{n^2}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2}{n^2 - 1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1 - 1/n^2} = 1 > 0$
- And $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ is a conv. p-series $p = 2 > 1$
- So, $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2 - 1}$ conv. by LCT

Ratio Test:

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{2^n}{n!}$$

- $\frac{2^n}{n!} > 0$
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{2^{n+1}}{(n+1)!}}{\frac{2^n}{n!}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{n+1} = 0 < 1$
- So $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{2^n}{n!}$ converges by ratio test

Root Test:

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

- $\left(\frac{\ln n}{n} \right)^n \geq 0$
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\left(\frac{\ln n}{n} \right)^n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln n}{n} = 0 < 1$
(Thm. 5)
- $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\ln n}{n} \right)^n$ converges by root test

AST:

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

- $\frac{1}{n^2} > 0$
- $\frac{1}{n^2}$ is nonincreasing
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = 0$
- So, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n^2}$ converges by AST

ACT:

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

- $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left| \frac{\cos n}{n^2} \right| = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{|\cos n|}{n^2}$
 - $0 \leq \frac{|\cos n|}{n^2} \leq \frac{1}{n^2}$
 - $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ is convergent p-series $p = 2 > 1$
 - So, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left| \frac{\cos n}{n^2} \right|$ converges by DCT
- So, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos n}{n^2}$ converges by ACT