

1. Determine with reasons whether the following series are convergent or divergent:

(a) $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(\ln n)^2}$ Apply the integral test.

Get $\int_2^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x(\ln x)^2} = \int_{\ln 2}^{\infty} \frac{du}{u^2}$ by substituting $u = \ln x$.

4

But $\int_{\ln 2}^{\infty} \frac{du}{u^2}$ converges, as it is of form $\int_a^{\infty} \frac{du}{u^p}$ with $p > 1$.

Thus the given series also converges.

(b) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n+n^{3/2}}$

3

Since $n+n^{3/2} > n^{3/2}$, we have $\frac{1}{n+n^{3/2}} < \frac{1}{n^{3/2}}$. But $\sum \frac{1}{n^{3/2}}$ converges (p-series with $p = \frac{3}{2} > 1$), so $\sum \frac{1}{n+n^{3/2}}$ also converges by comparison.

(c) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^3 + 6n^2 + 3n + 1}{7n^3 + 5n^2 + 2n + 5}$

3

We have $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^3 + 6n^2 + 3n + 1}{7n^3 + 5n^2 + 2n + 5} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1 + \frac{6}{n} + \frac{3}{n^2} + \frac{1}{n^3}}{7 + \frac{5}{n} + \frac{2}{n^2} + \frac{5}{n^3}} = \frac{1}{7} \neq 0$

Since the terms of the series don't limit to 0, the series must diverge. [This is the "test for divergence".]

(d) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3n^3 + 5n^2 - 1}{2n^5 + 7n^3 + 3}$ Use limit comparison to compare with $\sum \frac{1}{n^2}$.

4

Get $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{3n^3 + 5n^2 - 1}{2n^5 + 7n^3 + 3} \right) / \left(\frac{1}{n^2} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3n^5 + 5n^4 - 1}{2n^3 + 7n^3 + 3} = \frac{3}{2}$

Since $\sum \frac{1}{n^2}$ converges, the given series also converges.

(e) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{3^n}$ (if convergent, find its value)

3 This is geometric with initial term $\frac{1}{3}$, common ratio $\frac{1}{3}$.

Since $\frac{1}{3} < 1$, it converges, and its sum is $\frac{\frac{1}{3}}{1 - \frac{1}{3}} = \frac{3}{2}$.

(f) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n + \sqrt{n}}$

This is an alternating series. Clearly the sequence $\left\{ \frac{1}{n + \sqrt{n}} \right\}$

3 is decreasing and limits to 0 as $n \rightarrow \infty$, so by the alternating series test the given series converges.