

9.6 The Ratio and Root Tests

For a series with nonzero terms,

Thm. The Ratio Test

$$\text{if } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right|$$

Thm. The Root Test

$$\text{if } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{a_n}$$

(not on syllabus, but can be used)

<1 , the series converges absolutely.

>1 or $=\infty$, the series diverges.

$=1$, the test is inconclusive, try a different test.

ex. Determine the convergence of $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left| \frac{5^n}{(n+1)!} \right|$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{\frac{5^{n+1}}{(n+1+1)!}}{\frac{5^n}{(n+1)!}} \right| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5^{n+1}}{(n+2)!} \cdot \frac{(n+1)!}{5^n}$$

$6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1$
 $7 \cdot 6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5}{n+2} = 0$$

the series converges absolutely

ex. Determine the convergence of $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n3^n}{4^n}$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+1) \cancel{3^{n+1}}}{4^{\cancel{n+1}}} \cdot \frac{\cancel{4^n}}{n \cancel{3^n}}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+1) \cdot 3}{n \cdot 4} = \frac{3}{4}$$

This converges absolutely.

ex. Does the ratio test help us with $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$?

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

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

Convergent
p-series
 $\frac{1}{p-1}$

No. $\frac{1}{2-1} = 1$

ex. Determine the convergence of $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{2^{4n}}{n^n} \right)$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\frac{2^{4n}}{n^n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2^4}{n} = 0$$

Converges
absolutely

ex. Determine the convergence of

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

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\frac{1}{[\ln(n+1)]^n}}$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\ln(n+1)} = 0$$

converges abs'ly