

All Tests to Determine an Infinite Series is  
Convergent or Divergent  
Math 201 - Fall 2013

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1. (***n*-th Term Test**) If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \neq 0$ , then  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  is **Divergent**.
2. (**Geometric Series**) Suppose  $a$  and  $r$  are fixed numbers. If  $|r| < 1$ , then

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ar^n$$

is **Convergent** to

$$\frac{a}{1-r}.$$

Otherwise, it is **Divergent**.

3. (**Telescopic Series**) Assume that for all  $n$ ,  $a_n = b_n - b_{n+1}$ , where  $\{a_n\}$  and  $\{b_n\}$  are two sequences. Then

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n = b_1 - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n.$$

4. (**Integral Test**) Suppose that for all  $n$ ,  $a_n = f(n)$ , where  $f$  is a continuous, positive, decreasing function of  $x$  for all  $x \geq N$  ( $N$  is a positive integer). Then

$\sum_{n=N}^{\infty} a_n$  and  $\int_N^{\infty} f(x)dx$  **both converge** or **both diverge**.

5. (**Comparison Test**) Let  $\sum a_n$  and  $\sum b_n$  be series with nonnegative terms. Suppose that for some integer  $N$ ,  $a_n \leq b_n$  for all  $n \geq N$ . Then:
  - If  $\sum b_n$  **converges**, then  $\sum a_n$  **converges**.
  - If  $\sum a_n$  **diverges**, then  $\sum b_n$  **diverges**.

6. (**Limit Comparison Test**) Suppose that  $a_n, b_n > 0$  for all  $n \geq N$ , where  $N$  is a fixed positive integer. If

$$L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n},$$

then

- If  $0 \neq L \neq \infty$  (call it the “**Ideal Case**”), then  $\sum a_n$  and  $\sum b_n$  **both converge** or **both diverge**.
  - If  $L = 0$  and  $\sum b_n$  **converges**, then  $\sum a_n$  **converges**.
  - If  $L = \infty$  and  $\sum b_n$  **diverges**, then  $\sum a_n$  **diverges**.
7. ( **$n$ -th Root Test**) Suppose that  $a_n > 0$  for all  $n \geq N$ , where  $N$  is a fixed positive integer. If

$$L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{a_n},$$

then

- If  $L < 1$ , then  $\sum a_n$  **converges**.
  - If  $L > 1$ , then  $\sum a_n$  **diverges**.
  - If  $L = 1$ , then the test fails.
8. (**Ratio Test**) Suppose that  $a_n > 0$  for all  $n \geq N$ , where  $N$  is a fixed positive integer. If

$$L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n},$$

then

- If  $L < 1$ , then  $\sum a_n$  **converges**.
- If  $L > 1$ , then  $\sum a_n$  **diverges**.
- If  $L = 1$ , then the test fails.