

Determine whether the following series converge or diverge, and state the test you used to arrive at your conclusion.

1.

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

**Solution:** Alternating series. The terms  $b_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$  are decreasing, and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} = 0$ , so the AST says this converges.

2.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^n}{10^n}$$

**Solution:** This is a geometric series with ratio  $r = \frac{e}{10} < 1$ . A geometric series with  $|r| < 1$  converges, so this converges. For the variant

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

note that this is still a geometric series, with  $r = e/4 < 1$ , so is convergent:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^n}{2^{2n}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^n}{4^n}.$$

3.

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

**Solution:** Try limit comparison test with  $b_n = \frac{1}{n^2}$ . You'll see

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n+2}{n^3+2n+1} \div \frac{1}{n^2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^3+2n^2}{n^3+2n+1} = 1.$$

Since  $c = 1 > 0$  and  $\sum \frac{1}{n^2}$  converges, the limit comparison test says that the series converges.

4.

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

**Solution:** Ratio test. Compute

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+1)!}{e^{(n+1)^2}} \div \frac{n!}{e^{n^2}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n+1}{e^{2n+1}} = 0.$$

Since the ratio is 0 and  $0 < 1$ , the ratio test says this converges.

5.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (\sqrt[n]{3} - 1)^n$$

**Solution:** Root test. Compute

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{(\sqrt[n]{3} - 1)^n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{3} - 1 = 0,$$

since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{3} = 1$ . As the limit is 0 and  $0 < 1$ , the root test says this converges.

6.

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

**Solution:** Ratio test. Compute

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+1)2^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \div \frac{n2^n}{n!} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{n} = 0.$$

As the limit is 0 and  $0 < 1$ , the ratio test says that this converges.

7.

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

**Solution:** Divergence test. Compute

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

As this limit is not equal to zero, the divergence test says that the series diverges.

8.

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

**Solution:** Use the comparison test, replacing  $\ln n$  with  $\sqrt{n} > \ln n$ . Thus

$$a_n = \frac{\ln n}{n} < b_n = \frac{\sqrt{n}}{n^2} = \frac{1}{n^{3/2}}.$$

Since this is a  $p$ -series with  $p = 3/2 > 1$ , it converges, and hence the original series converges as well.

9.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n + e^n}{n^2 + 10^n}$$

**Solution:** Limit comparison test, comparing to the convergent geometric series  $b_n = \frac{e^n}{10^n}$ . Compute

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n + e^n}{n^2 + 10^n} \div \frac{e^n}{10^n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left(\frac{n}{10^n}\right) + 1}{\left(\frac{n^2}{10^n}\right) + 1} = 1.$$

Since  $c = 1 > 0$  and the comparison series converges, LCT says that the original series converges too.

Alternatively, you can split this up into two series:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n + e^n}{n^2 + 10^n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{n^2 + 10^n} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^n}{n^2 + 10^n}.$$

You can do comparison test with each piece, eliminating the  $n^2$  in the denominator:

$$\frac{n}{n^2 + 10^n} \leq \frac{n}{10^n} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{e^n}{n^2 + 10^n} \leq \frac{e^n}{10^n}.$$

The second of these is a convergent geometric series (see problem 2). The first of these is seen to be convergent, e.g. by ratio test.

10.

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

**Solution:** Root test. Compute

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{\left(\frac{n}{n+2}\right)^{n^2}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{n}{n+2}\right)^n.$$

To evaluate the limit, rewrite  $n$  as  $(n+2) - 2$  and simplify:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{n}{n+2}\right)^n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{(n+2) - 2}{n+2}\right)^n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{2}{n+2}\right)^n.$$

Remembering that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n = e,$$

and more generally

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{c}{n}\right)^n = e^c,$$

we can recognize this limit as giving  $e^{-2}$ . As this is less than 1, the Root test gives that the series is convergent.

11.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \arctan\left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right)$$

**Solution:** Limit comparison test with the convergent series  $\sum \frac{1}{n^2}$ . Compute

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\arctan\left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right)}{\frac{1}{n^2}}.$$

Set  $x = \frac{1}{n^2}$ , and see

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\arctan\left(\frac{1}{n^2}\right)}{\frac{1}{n^2}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\arctan(x)}{x} = 1.$$

(The limit can be computed by L'Hopital, or recognized as the derivative of  $\arctan(x)$  at  $x = 0$ ). Since  $c = 1 > 0$ , LCT says that since  $\sum \frac{1}{n^2}$  converges, so does the original series.