

pg. 783, #6

Determine whether the following series is absolutely convergent or conditionally convergent: $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{n}{n^2+4}$.

Solution:

Let $a_n = (-1)^{n-1} \frac{n}{n^2+4}$. Therefore, $|a_n| = \frac{n}{n^2+4}$ and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \cdot \frac{1}{|a_n|} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \frac{n^2+4}{n} = 1.$$

Consequently, since $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ diverges it follows from limit comparison test that $\sum |a_n|$ diverges. However, $\frac{n}{n^2+4}$ is decreasing with respect to n and thus by alternating series test $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{n}{n^2+4}$ converges. Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{n}{n^2+4}$ converges conditionally. ■

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Determine if the following series converges:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n 5^{2n}}{10^{n+1}}$$

Solution:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+1) 5^{2(n+1)}}{10^{n+2}} \cdot \frac{10^{n+1}}{n 5^{2n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{25}{10} \cdot \frac{n+1}{n} = \frac{5}{2}.$$

Therefore, by the ratio test this series diverges. ■

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Determine if the following series converges or diverges:

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

Solution:

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

Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \sin\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)$ diverges. ■

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

Solution:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \cdot a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \cdot \frac{n^2}{e^{1/n}} = 1.$$

Therefore, by the limit comparison test since $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ converges it follows that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{1/n}}{n^2}$ converges.

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$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(n!)^n}{n^{4n}}$$

Solution:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{[(n+1)!]^{n+1} n^{4n}}{[n!]^n n^{4n+4}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{[(n+1)!]^n \cdot (n+1)!}{[n!]^n n^4}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+1)^n \cdot (n+1)!}{n^4} = \infty.$$

Therefore, this series diverges.