

i) **Convergence of a Geometric Series**

A geometric series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} ar^n = a + ar + ar^2 + \dots$  with ratio  $r$  diverges if  $|r| \geq 1$  and converges if  $|r| < 1$ .

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} ar^n = \begin{cases} \text{Converges to } \frac{a}{1-r} & \text{if } -1 < r < 1 \\ \text{Diverges} & \text{if } |r| \geq 1 (r \leq -1 \vee r \geq 1) \end{cases} \quad r \leq -1 \text{ or } r \geq 1$$

ii) **Divergent Test (nth-Term Test for Divergence)**

If the sequence  $\{a_n\}$  does not converge to 0, then the series  $\sum a_n$  diverges.

(i.e.; If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \neq 0$ , then the series  $\sum a_n$  diverges)

iii) **Integral Test**

If  $f$  is positive, continuous, and decreasing for  $x \geq 1$  and  $f(n) = a_n, n \geq 0$ , then  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  &  $\int_1^{\infty} f(x)dx$

either both converge or both diverge.

iv) **Convergence of  $p$ -series**

The  $p$ -series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p} = \frac{1}{1^p} + \frac{1}{2^p} + \frac{1}{3^p} + \dots \dots \dots \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{converges if } p > 1, \text{ and} \\ \text{diverges if } p \leq 1 \end{array} \right.$

Examples:  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$  Converges,  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$  (Harmonic Series) Diverges

Note:  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} \dots \dots \dots$  (Alternating Harmonic Series) Converges

v) **The Alternating Series Test**

The alternating series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} a_n = a_1 - a_2 + a_3 - a_4 \dots \dots \dots \quad a_n > 0$

satisfies

a)  $a_{n+1} \leq a_n$  for all  $n$  (i.e; the sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is decreasing)

b)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$

then the series is convergent.

vi) **Direct Comparison Test**

Let  $0 \leq a_n \leq b_n$  for all  $n$ .

a) If  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$  converges, then  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  converges.

b) If  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  diverges, then  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$  diverges.

vii) **Limit Comparison Test**

Suppose  $a_n > 0, b_n > 0$ , and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = L$

where  $L$  is **finite** and **positive**. Then the two series  $\sum a_n$  and  $\sum b_n$  either both converge or both diverge.

vii) **The Ratio Test**

a) If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = \rho < 1$ , then the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  is absolutely convergent.

b) If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = \rho > 1$  or  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = \infty$ , then the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  is divergent.

Note that if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = 1$ , the Ratio Test gives no information.