

## Infinite Series

Objectives are to explore the following:

1. Convergence vs Divergence
2. Arithmetic Series
3.  $n^{\text{th}}$  Term Test for Divergence
4. Geometric Series Test
5. Direct Comparison Test
6. Integral Test
7. p-Series Test
8. Limit Comparison Test
9. Alternating Series Test
10. Telescoping Series Test
11. Ratio Test
12. Root Test

Caution: Knowing only a few of the first terms of a sequence cannot give absolute knowledge of the rest of the terms. We can only guess as to what may be a possibility.

$$\{a_n\} : \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{8}, \frac{1}{16}, \dots, \frac{1}{2^n}, \dots$$

$$\{b_n\} : \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{8}, \frac{1}{15}, \dots, \frac{6}{(n+1)(n^2 - n + 6)}, \dots$$

$$\{c_n\} : \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{8}, \frac{7}{62}, \dots, \frac{n^2 - 3n + 3}{9n^2 - 25n + 18}, \dots$$

$$\{d_n\} : \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{8}, 0, \dots, \frac{-n(n+1)(n-4)}{6(n^2 + 3n - 2)}, \dots$$

Series as a sequence of partial sums.

The  $n$ th partial sum is  $S_n = a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n$ .

If the sequence of partial sums  $\{S_n\}$  converges to  $S$ , then the series  $\sum a_n$  converges to  $S$ , the sum of the series.

$$S = a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n + \dots$$

1. If  $\{S_n\}$  diverges, then the series diverges.

2. **Geometric Series Test:** An Infinite Geometric Series  $a + ar + ar^2 + ar^3 + ar^4 + \dots$  Converges iff  $|r| < 1$

In this case, The Sum =  $\frac{a}{1-r}$

Find the Sum of the Infinite Series:

$$1. \quad 0.1 + 0.01 + 0.001 + 0.0001 + \dots \qquad \frac{0.1}{1 - \frac{1}{10}} = \frac{0.1}{0.9} = \boxed{\frac{1}{9}}$$

$$2. \quad \frac{3}{10} + \frac{3}{100} + \frac{3}{1000} + \frac{3}{10000} + \dots \qquad \frac{0.3}{0.9} = \boxed{\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$3. \quad 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{16} + \dots \qquad \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}} = \boxed{2}$$

$$4. \quad \frac{15}{100} + \frac{15}{10000} + \frac{15}{100000} + \dots \qquad \frac{\frac{15}{100}}{\frac{99}{100}} = \boxed{\frac{5}{33}}$$

## Series as a Sequence of Partial Sums

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{16} + \dots$$

$$S_1 = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$S_2 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$$

$$S_3 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{7}{8}$$

$$S_n = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{8} + \dots + \frac{1}{2^n} = \frac{2^n - 1}{2^n}$$

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

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1} \right) = \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \right) + \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3} \right) + \left( \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} \right) + \dots \text{ is given by } S_n = 1 - \frac{1}{n+1} \text{ which converges to } 1$$

The above **Convergent Series** is an example of a **Telescopic Series**.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 1 = 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + \dots \text{ **Diverges** because } S_n = n, \text{ the sequence of partial sums diverges.}$$

A condition for  $\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} a_n$  to be a convergent series is that  $\{a_n\}$  converges to 0,

however this condition is not sufficient.

Therefore, if  $\{a_n\}$  does not converge or converges to a value other than 0,

Then the series is divergent. This is the **nth Term Test for Divergence**.

**Geometric Series Test:** The series  $\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} ar^n$  is a geometric series, and therefore **converges iff**  $|r| < 1$ .

**The Integral Test:** If  $f$  is positive, continuous, and decreasing for  $x \geq 1$  and  $a_n = f(n)$ ,

then  $\sum_{n=k}^{\infty} a_n$  and  $\int_k^{\infty} f(x) dx$  either **both converge** or **both diverge**.

Determine the Convergence or Divergence of each Series. Explain your Reasoning.

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

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

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

4. 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(n+2)}$$

5. 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^n$$

6. 
$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

7. 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$$