

# Lecture 5

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## D'Alembert's ratio test

In a positive term series  $\sum U_n$ , if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{U_{n+1}}{U_n} = \lambda$  then the series converges for  $\lambda < 1$  and diverges for  $\lambda > 1$ , but this test fails for  $\lambda = 1$ .

Ex: We know that  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$  is divergent while  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$  is convergent.

for  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{U_{n+1}}{U_n} = \frac{n}{n+1} = \frac{1}{1+\frac{1}{n}} = 1$ .

for  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{U_{n+1}}{U_n} = \frac{n^2}{(n+1)^2} = \frac{1}{(1+\frac{1}{n})^2} = 1$ .

Thus this test fails when  $\lambda = 1$ .

**Proof.**

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{U_{n+1}}{U_n} = \lambda$$

$\Rightarrow$  for  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists a stage  $n_1$  such that

$$\lambda - \epsilon < \frac{U_{n+1}}{U_n} < \lambda + \epsilon \quad \forall \quad n \geq n_1$$

Thus we need to show that  $\sum_{n=n_1}^{\infty} U_n$  is convergent if  $\lambda < 1$ .

$$s_1 = u_1$$

$$s_2 = u_1 + u_2 = u_1 \left[ 1 + \frac{u_2}{u_1} \right]$$

$$s_3 = u_1 + u_2 + u_3 = u_1 \left[ 1 + \frac{u_2}{u_1} + \frac{u_3}{u_1} \right] = u_1 \left[ 1 + \frac{u_2}{u_1} + \frac{u_3}{u_2} \cdot \frac{u_2}{u_1} \right]$$

$\vdots$

$$s_n = u_1 + u_2 + \dots + u_n = u_1 \left[ 1 + \frac{u_2}{u_1} + \frac{u_3}{u_2} \cdot \frac{u_2}{u_1} + \dots + \frac{u_n}{u_{n-1}} \cdot \frac{u_{n-1}}{u_{n-2}} \dots \frac{u_2}{u_1} \right]$$

case (i)  $\lambda < 1$ , choose  $\epsilon > 0$  such that  $r = \lambda + \epsilon < 1$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{U_{n+1}}{U_n} < r < 1 \quad \forall \quad n \geq n_1$$

$$s_1 = u_1$$

$$s_2 = u_1 \left[ 1 + \frac{u_2}{u_1} \right] < u_1(1 + r)$$

$$s_3 = u_1 \left[ 1 + \frac{u_2}{u_1} + \frac{u_3}{u_1} \right] = u_1 \left[ 1 + \frac{u_2}{u_1} + \frac{u_3}{u_2} \cdot \frac{u_2}{u_1} \right] < u_1(1 + r + r^2)$$

⋮

$$s_n = u_1 \left[ 1 + \frac{u_2}{u_1} + \frac{u_3}{u_2} \cdot \frac{u_2}{u_1} + \dots + \frac{u_n}{u_{n-1}} \cdot \frac{u_{n-1}}{u_{n-2}} \dots \frac{u_2}{u_1} \right] < u_1(1 + r + r^2 + \dots + r^{n-1})$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n < \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_1(1 + r + r^2 + \dots + r^{n-1})$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n < u_1 \left[ \frac{1}{1 - r} \right]$$

$\Rightarrow s_n$  is monotonically increasing bounded above sequence.

$\Rightarrow s_n$  is convergent  $\Rightarrow \sum U_n$  is convergent.

case (ii)  $\lambda > 1$

$$\lambda - \epsilon < \frac{U_{n+1}}{U_n} < \lambda + \epsilon \quad \forall \quad n \geq n_1$$

choose  $\epsilon > 0, r = \lambda - \epsilon > 1$

$$1 < r < \frac{U_{n+1}}{U_n} \quad \forall \quad n \geq n_1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{U_{n+1}}{U_n} > 1 \quad \forall \quad n \geq n_1$$

$\Rightarrow s_n > u_1(1 + 1 + \dots + 1) = nu_1$

$\Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n \rightarrow \infty$

$\Rightarrow \sum U_n$  is divergent when  $\lambda > 1$

## Cauchy's root test

In a positive term series  $\sum U_n$ , if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (U_n)^{1/n} = \lambda$  then the series converges for  $\lambda < 1$  and diverges for  $\lambda > 1$ , but the test fails when  $\lambda = 1$ .

**Proof.**

case (i)  $\lambda < 1$

There exists for  $\epsilon > 0$ , a stage  $n_1$  such that  $(U_n)^{1/n} < \lambda + \epsilon \quad \forall \quad n \geq n_1$ .

choose  $\epsilon > 0$  such that  $r = \lambda + \epsilon < 1$

$$\begin{aligned} (U_n)^{1/n} &< r \quad \forall \quad n \geq n_1 \\ \Rightarrow U_n &< r^n \quad \forall \quad n \geq n_1 \end{aligned}$$

By comparison test  $\sum U_n$  is convergent since  $\sum r^n$  is convergent for  $r < 1$ .

case (ii)  $\lambda > 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda - \epsilon &< (U_n)^{1/n} \quad \forall \quad n \geq n_1 \\ \Rightarrow (U_n)^{1/n} &> 1 \quad \forall \quad n \geq n_1 \end{aligned}$$

but the necessary condition for convergent is  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} U_n = 0$  which is not possible when  $U_n > 1$ .

$\Rightarrow \sum U_n$  is divergent.

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Ex: Discuss the convergence of  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{3^n}$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{U_{n+1}}{U_n} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+1)^2}{3^{n+1}} \cdot \frac{3^n}{n^2} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{3} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^2 = \lambda = \frac{1}{3} < 1 \end{aligned}$$

$\lambda < 1 \Rightarrow \sum U_n$  is convergent.

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Ex: Test the convergence of  $\frac{2}{1} + \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8}{1 \cdot 5 \cdot 9} + \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8 \cdot 11}{1 \cdot 5 \cdot 9 \cdot 13} + \dots$

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

$$U_{n+1} = U_n \left( \frac{3n+8}{4n+9} \right)$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{U_{n+1}}{U_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3 + \frac{8}{n}}{4 + \frac{9}{n}} = \frac{3}{4}$$

$\lambda < 1 \Rightarrow$  series is convergent

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