

Lecture 7

Alternating series

$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n = u_1 - u_2 + u_3 - u_4 + u_5 \cdots$; $u_i \geq 0$ is alternating series as alternating terms have opposite signs.

Leibnitz test

An alternating series converges if

1. Each term is numerically less than its preceding term $u_{n+1} < u_n \quad \forall \quad n$.
2. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} U_n = 0$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} S_{2n} &= u_1 - u_2 + u_3 - \cdots + u_{2n-1} - u_{2n} \\ &= \underbrace{(u_1 - u_2)}_{+ve} + \underbrace{(u_3 - u_4)}_{+ve} + \cdots + (u_{2n-1} - u_{2n}) \end{aligned}$$

if $u_{n+1} < u_n \quad \forall \quad n$,

$$S_{2n+2} = S_{2n} + \underbrace{(U_{2n+1} - U_{2n+2})}_{+ve}$$

$\Rightarrow \{S_{2n}\}$ is monotonically increasing sequence.

$$\begin{aligned} S_{2n} &= u_1 - u_2 + u_3 - u_4 + \cdots - u_{2n} \\ &= u_1 - \underbrace{(u_2 - u_3)}_{+ve} - \underbrace{(u_4 - u_5)}_{+ve} \cdots - \underbrace{u_{2n}}_{+ve} \\ &\Rightarrow S_{2n} < u_1 \quad \forall \quad n \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow \{S_{2n}\}$ is convergent.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{2n+1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{2n} + u_{2n+1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{2n} + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} U_{2n+1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{2n+1} = L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{2n}$$

$\Rightarrow \{S_{2n}\}$ & $\{S_{2n+1}\}$ are both convergent.

$\Rightarrow \{S_n\}$ is also convergent.

$\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n U_n$ is convergent if $\{U_n\}$ is decreasing & $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} U_n = 0$.

Ex: $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{x^n}{n(n-1)}$; $0 < x < 1$ is an alternating series where

$$U_n = \frac{x^n}{n(n-1)}$$

$$U_{n+1} - U_n = \frac{x^{n+1}}{n(n+1)} - \frac{x^n}{n(n-1)}$$

$$= \frac{x^n}{n} \left[\frac{x(n-1) - (n+1)}{(n+1)(n-1)} \right]$$

$$= \frac{x^n}{n} \left[\frac{n(x-1) - (x+1)}{(n+1)(n-1)} \right]$$

since $0 < x < 1$, $U_{n+1} - U_n < 0$

$\Rightarrow \{U_n\}$ is monotonically decreasing.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} U_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^n}{n(n-1)} = 0$$

\Rightarrow By Leibnitz test, $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} \frac{x^n}{n(n-1)}$ is convergent.

Convergence of arbitrary series $\sum U_n$

- Absolutely convergent series** : A series is absolutely convergent if $\sum U_n$ is convergent.
- Conditionally convergent series** : A series is conditionally convergent if $\sum U_n$ is convergent in the given form but $\sum |U_n|$ is divergent (divergent in

the absolute form).

$$\text{Ex: } \sum (-1)^n \frac{1}{n^2}$$

$\sum \left| \frac{1}{n^2} \right|$ is convergent.

⇒ it is absolutely convergent series.

Ex: $\sum (-1)^n \frac{1}{n}$ is convergent by leibnitz test but,

$\sum \left| (-1)^n \frac{1}{n} \right| = \sum \frac{1}{n}$ is divergent.

⇒ It is convergent in the given form but divergent in absolute form.

⇒ It is conditionally convergent series.

Theorem. Every absolutely convergent series is convergent but converse need not be true.

Reimann's rearrangement theorem

For a conditionally convergent series, for any real x there is an rearrangement of $\sum U_n$ which converges to x .

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