

§8.07

3. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \left(\frac{n}{10}\right)^n$. To use any of our tests, it is important to understand how the terms of the series approach 0. As a first step, consider $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{n}{10}\right)^n = \infty$. This means that the terms are not approaching 0 at all and so the series diverges.

5. $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{\ln n}$. This time the terms do go to 0. Since $\ln x$ is an increasing function, $\frac{1}{\ln n}$ is decreasing, so by the Alternating Series Test this series converges. The series $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\ln n}$ diverges since $\ln n < n$, so $\frac{1}{n} < \frac{1}{\ln n}$ and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ diverges since it is a p -series with $p = 1$. Hence this is a conditionally convergent series.

9. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{\sqrt{n} + 1}{n + 1}$. Check $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{n} + 1}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n + \sqrt{n}}{n + 1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}}{1 + \frac{1}{n}} = 1$. Since $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ is a p -series with $p = \frac{1}{2} < 1$, it diverges and hence so does $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt{n} + 1}{n + 1}$.

Check that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{n} + 1}{n + 1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}}{\sqrt{n} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}} = 0$. To apply the Alternating Series Test,

it remains to check that $\frac{\sqrt{n} + 1}{n + 1}$ is decreasing. To show this, study the function $f(x) = \frac{\sqrt{x} + 1}{x + 1}$. Compute $f'(x) = \frac{\frac{d\sqrt{x}+1}{dx}(x + 1) - (\sqrt{x} + 1)\frac{dx+1}{dx}}{(x + 1)^2} = \frac{\frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}(x + 1) - (\sqrt{x} + 1)}{(x + 1)^2} = \frac{\frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} - \frac{\sqrt{x}}{2} - 1}{(x + 1)^2}$. For $x \geq 1$, $\sqrt{x} \geq 1$ so $\frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} \leq \frac{1}{2}$ so $\frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} - \frac{\sqrt{x}}{2} - 1 < 0$ and hence

$f'(x) < 0$ for all $x \geq 1$. Hence the terms $\frac{\sqrt{n} + 1}{n + 1}$ are decreasing and the Alternating Series Test applies to show that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{\sqrt{n} + 1}{n + 1}$ converges. Since we have already shown $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt{n} + 1}{n + 1}$ diverges, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{\sqrt{n} + 1}{n + 1}$ is a conditionally convergent series.

13. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$. To use the Alternating Series Test first check that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} = 0$ and that the terms $\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ are decreasing (since \sqrt{x} is an increasing function). These two calculations show that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ converges. Since $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ is a p -series with

$p = \frac{1}{2} < 1$, this series diverges, so $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ is a conditionally convergent series.

15. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{n}{n^3 + 1}$. Compare $\frac{n}{n^3 + 1}$ to $\frac{1}{n^2}$: $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{n}{n^3 + 1}}{\frac{1}{n^2}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^3}{n^3 + 1} = 1$. Hence $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{n}{n^3 + 1}$ absolutely converges because $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ is a p -series with $p = 2 > 1$ and so converges.

17. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1}{n+3}$. Since $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n+3} = \sum_{n=4}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ which is a p -series with $p = 1$ and so diverges. Since $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n+3} = 0$ and since $n+3$ is increasing (so $\frac{1}{n+3}$ is decreasing), the Alternating Series Test shows $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1}{n+3}$ converges. Therefore $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1}{n+3}$ conditionally converges.

19. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{3+n}{5+n}$ This time $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3+n}{5+n} = \frac{3}{5} \neq 0$ so the terms of this series do not go to 0 so the series diverges.

31. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n^2 + 2n + 1}$. Compute $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{n^2 + 2n + 1}}{\frac{1}{n^2}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2}{n^2 + 2n + 1} = 1$. Since $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ is a p -series with $p = 2 > 1$, it converges and hence $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n^2 + 2n + 1}$ converges absolutely. One can also proceed as follows. Since $n^2 + 2n + 1 = (n+1)^2$ $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n^2 + 2n + 1} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{(n+1)^2} = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n^2}$. Since $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ is a p -series with $p = 2 > 1$, it converges, so $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n-1}}{n^2 + 2n + 1}$ converges absolutely.

35. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (n+1)^n}{(2n)^n}$. Compute $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{(n+1)^n}{(2n)^n}}{\frac{1}{2^n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{n+1}{n}\right)^n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n = e$ as we saw back in the L'Hôpital's Rule section. The series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n}$ is a geometric series with $r = \frac{1}{2}$ and so converges. Hence $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (n+1)^n}{(2n)^n}$ converges absolutely.

45. Estimate the difference between $\ln 2$ and the first four terms of the series $\ln 2 =$

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

The book checks that the Alternating Series Test applies so $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{n} - \sum_{n=1}^4 (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{n} =$
 $\sum_{n=5}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{n}$. The Alternating Series Test says $0 < \sum_{n=5}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{n} < \frac{1}{5}$ so

$$\frac{7}{12} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} < \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{n} < 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} = \frac{47}{60}$$