

Some results about series.

1. Geometric Series.

$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ar^{n-1}$ converges when $|r| < 1$; it converges to the sum $\frac{a}{1-r}$ when $|r| < 1$.

2. Test for Divergence.

If $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges, then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$.

3. Integral Test.

For $f(x)$ continuous on $[1, \infty)$, positive and decreasing to 0, the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f(n)$ converges if and only if the improper integral $\int_1^{\infty} f(x)dx$ converges.

4. Comparison Tests.

Direct comparison test: compares series of positive terms, term-by-term.

Limit comparison test: compares series of positive terms $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$ when $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = L$ a finite limit not equal to 0.

5. Root Test.

Let $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |a_n|^{1/n} = L$. If $L < 1$ then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ is absolutely convergent, and if $L > 1$ then it is divergent.

6. Ratio Test.

Let $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|a_{n+1}|}{|a_n|} = L$. If $L < 1$ then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ is absolutely convergent, and if $L > 1$ then it is divergent.

7. Alternating Series Test.

If a_n are positive, decreasing to 0, then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} a_n$ is convergent. Moreover, the n th partial sum is within a_{n+1} of the sum of the whole series.

8. Power series.

Ratio test is useful for computing the radius of convergence of a power series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(x-a)^n$.

9. Taylor and Maclaurin Series.

Taylor series for $f(x)$ centered about a is given by

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!} (x-a)^n$$

Maclaurin series for $f(x)$ is the Taylor series for $f(x)$ centered about 0.

10. Remainder Estimate.

Taylor's inequality states that if $|f^{(n+1)}(x)| \leq M$ on the interval $[a-d, a+d]$, then

$$|f(x) - T_n(x)| \leq \frac{M|x-a|^{(n+1)}}{(n+1)!}$$

on the interval $[a-d, a+d]$. Here $T_n(x)$ is the *degree n Taylor polynomial approximation* to $f(x)$.