

Limit Comparison Test for Series

Let $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n, \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n$ be series w/ nonnegative terms.

• If $0 < \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} < \infty$, then
 $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n, \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n$ both converge or both diverge.

• If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = 0$ and $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n$ converges,
then $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n$ converges.

• If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \infty$ and $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_n$ diverges,
then $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n$ diverges.

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

diverge

(Compare to $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2n}{n^2} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{n}$)

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

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{2n+1}{n^2+2n+1} \right) \left(\frac{n}{2} \right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2n^2+n}{2n^2+4n+2}$$

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

Since $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} < \infty$, LCT says

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2n+1}{n^2+2n+1} \text{ and } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{n} \text{ both converge or}$$

both diverge.

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$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1+n \cdot \ln(n)}{n^2+5} \quad \text{diverge}$$

(Compare to $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$.)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1+n \ln(n)}{n^2+5}}{\frac{1}{n}}$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n+n^2 \ln(n)}{n^2+5} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\cancel{n}^2 \ln(n)}{\cancel{n}^2}$$

$$= \infty$$

As $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \infty$ + $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ diverges,

we know $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1+n \ln(n)}{n^2+2}$ diverges.

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$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\ln n}{n^{3/2}}$$

Guess: $\frac{1}{n}$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{\ln n}{n^{3/2}}}{\frac{1}{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n \cdot \ln n}{n^{3/2}}$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(n)}{n^{1/2}} \stackrel{\text{L'H}}{=} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1/n}{\frac{1}{2} n^{-1/2}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{n}}$$

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

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{\sqrt{n}} = 0 \leftarrow \text{Didn't help!}$$

Guess: $\sum \frac{1}{n^2} \leftarrow$ converges

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{\ln n}{n^{3/2}}}{\frac{1}{n^2}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2 \ln n}{n^{3/2}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln n}{\sqrt{n}} = \infty$$

Correct Guess: $\sum \frac{1}{n^{5/4}} \leftarrow$ converge

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{\ln n}{n^{3/2}}}{\frac{1}{n^{5/4}}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^{5/4} \ln n}{n^{6/4}}$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln n}{n^{1/4}} \stackrel{\text{L'H}}{=} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1/n}{\frac{1}{4} n^{-5/4}}$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1/n}{\frac{1}{4} n^{-5/4}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4 n^{3/4}}{1} = 0$$

As $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = 0$ + $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{5/4}}$ converges,

I know by LCT $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\ln n}{n^{3/2}}$ converges too.

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