

You may use the fact that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{x+1}{x} \right)^x = e \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{x}{x+1} \right)^x = \frac{1}{e}$$

without explanation. Note that the first few digits of e are 2.718.

1. (a) Complete the statement of the *ratio* test:

Suppose a_n is a positive number for all $n \geq 1$.

ANSWER: copy from Sec 11.6. Don't forget to include $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n}$ in your statement.

- (b) Please circle **ONE** series that you want to work with:

$$\sum \frac{5^n}{n!} \quad \text{or} \quad \sum \frac{n!}{n^n} \quad (\text{similar to Sec 11.6 Example 5 pg 741}).$$

- (c) Show your work for attempting to use the ratio test to this series to determine whether it converges or diverges.

For $a_n = \frac{5^n}{n!}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \frac{n!}{5^n} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5}{n+1} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{5}{n}}{1 + \frac{1}{n}} \\ &= \frac{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5}{n}}{1 + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n}} \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

For $a_n = \frac{n!}{n^n}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+1)!}{(n+1)^{(n+1)}} \frac{n^n}{n!} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (n+1) \frac{n^n}{(n+1)^{(n+1)}} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (n+1) \frac{n^n}{(n+1)^n (n+1)} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{n}{n+1} \right)^n \\ &= \frac{1}{e} \quad \text{as given at the top of the page} \end{aligned}$$

See also book's solution for a similar-looking series Sec 11.6 Example 5 pg 741.

- (d) If the ratio test is conclusive, determine whether the series is convergent or divergent. Otherwise, state that the ratio test is inconclusive.

The two series converge by the ratio test since $0 < 1$ and $\frac{1}{e} < 1$.

2. Please *circle* **ONE** series below to work with:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\ln n}{n} \quad \text{or} \quad \sum_{n=4}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n - 9} \quad (\text{from Sec 11.4 Examples 2 and 3}).$$

Try Divergence Test: Both $\frac{\ln n}{n}$ and $\frac{1}{2^n - 9}$ converge to 0. So the Divergence Test is inconclusive.

Try Ratio test:

For $a_n = \frac{\ln n}{n}$: you know that ratio tests will be *inconclusive* for terms involving only constants, log, and polynomials. See first page of “growth rates” notes: https://egunawan.github.io/fall17/notes/notes11_6part3key.pdf

For $a_n = \frac{1}{2^n - 9}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2^n - 9}{2^{n+1} - 9} \\ &\stackrel{L}{=} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln 2 \cdot 2^n}{\ln 2 \cdot 2^{n+1}} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} < 1. \end{aligned}$$

By the ratio test, $\sum_{n=4}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n - 9}$ converges.

Try Limit Comparison Test (LCT):

For $a_n = \frac{\ln n}{n}$: Try $b_n = \frac{1}{n}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln n}{n} \cdot \frac{n}{1} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \ln n = \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\sum b_n$ diverges by the harmonic series test (p -series test), by the Limit Comparison Test, we conclude that $\sum a_n$ also diverges. (See also book’s solution using Comparison Test. Sec 11.4 Example 2 pg 728-729.)

For $a_n = \frac{1}{2^n - 9}$: Try $b_n = \frac{1}{2^n}$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^n - 9} \cdot \frac{2^n}{1} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2^n}{2^n - 9} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1 - \frac{9}{2^n}} \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{9}{2^n}} = 1 \end{aligned}$$

We know that $\sum b_n$ converges by the geometric series test (or you can show this using the ratio test or root test). So, by the Limit Comparison test, we conclude that $\sum a_n$ also diverges. (Warning: if $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n}$ had been ∞ , we cannot conclude anything).

3. Please *circle* **ONE** series below to work with:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2n^2 + 3n}{\sqrt{5+n^5}} \quad \text{or} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{5}{2n^2 + 4n + 3} \quad (\text{from Sec 11.4 Examples 1 and 4}).$$

Try Divergence Test: Both $\frac{2n^2+3n}{\sqrt{5+n^5}}$ and $\frac{5}{2n^2+4n+3}$ converge to 0. The Divergence Test is inconclusive.

Try Ratio test (for both): Before trying it, you know that ratio tests will be inconclusive for series that look like p -series.

Try Limit Comparison Test (LCT):

For $a_n = \frac{2n^2+3n}{\sqrt{5+n^5}}$:

Try $b_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$.

See textbook Sec 11.4 Example 4 page 730 for solution.

For $a_n = \frac{5}{2n^2+4n+3}$:

Try $b_n = \frac{1}{n^2}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5}{2n^2 + 4n + 3} \frac{n^2}{1} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5n^2}{2n^2 + 4n + 3} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5}{2 + \frac{4n}{n^2} + \frac{3}{n^2}} \\ &= \frac{5}{2 + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4}{n} + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3}{n^2}} \\ &= \frac{5}{2 + 0 + 0} \\ &= \frac{5}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\sum b_n$ converges by the p -series test, by the Limit Comparison Test, we conclude that $\sum a_n$ also converges.

(See also textbook Sec 11.4 Example 1 page 728 for solution using the comparison test. I think my LCT solution will takes less time to do in case the term of your series has minus signs in the denominator.)