

1. Does the series converge? Explain why or why not.

(a)
$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{2}{n^2 + 1}$$

Solution: This converges by comparison with $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{2}{n^2}$, since $\frac{2}{n^2+1} < \frac{2}{n^2}$ and $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ is a p -series with $p > 1$. You can also see this by the integral test, since $\int_0^{\infty} \frac{2}{x^2+1} dx = 2 \arctan(x) \Big|_0^{\infty} = \pi < \infty$.

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

Solution: This diverges since $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2n} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$, and the harmonic series diverges.

(c)
$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2 \log(n)}$$

Solution: This converges. Compare with $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$, since $\frac{1}{n^2 \log(n)} < \frac{1}{n^2}$.

(d)
$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{e^n + n}{e^n + 2^n}$$

Solution: This diverges since the terms $\frac{e^n+n}{e^n+2^n} \rightarrow 1$ (not zero!) as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

(e)
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sqrt{\frac{n^3 - 1}{n^6 + 1}}$$

Solution: This converges. $\sqrt{\frac{n^3 - 1}{n^6 + 1}} < \sqrt{\frac{n^3}{n^6}} = \frac{1}{n^{3/2}}$. The series converges by comparison with the convergent series $\sum \frac{1}{n^{3/2}}$.

(f)
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2 - 5n/2}$$

Solution: This converges. First, you want to ignore the $n = 1$ and $n = 2$ term since they are negative. Then, use the integral test:

$$\int_3^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x^2 - 5x/2} = \frac{2}{5} \log \left(\frac{x - 5/2}{x} \right) \Big|_3^{\infty} = \frac{2}{5} \log 6 < \infty.$$

Alternately, you can use the comparison test. You'd like to compare with $\sum \frac{1}{n^2}$ but the terms of our series are larger than $\frac{1}{n^2}$. The trick is to notice that eventually $5n/2 < \frac{n^2}{2}$. This happens for all $n > 5$. Then $n^2 - 5n/2 > n^2 - \frac{n^2}{2} = \frac{n^2}{2}$ so that $\frac{1}{n^2 - 5n/2} < \frac{2}{n^2}$. The series converges since $\sum \frac{2}{n^2}$ converges.