

**Packet G: Alternating Series, Conditional, and Absolute Convergence (Section 9.5)**

**VIII. Alternating-Series Test.** Let  $a_1 - a_2 + a_3 - a_4 + \dots$  be an alternating series.

- i) If  $a_n > a_{n+1} > 0$  (the sequence  $\{a_n\}$  is strictly decreasing) and
- ii) If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$ ,

then the series converges.

The absolute value of the remainder (error)  $R_n$  involved in approximating the sum  $S$  by  $S_n$  is less than or equal to the first neglected term.

$$|R_n| = |S - S_n| \leq a_{n+1}$$

**IX. Absolute Convergence Test.**

If  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |u_n|$  converges, then  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n$  converges.

A series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n$  is said to **absolutely converge** if  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |u_n|$  converges.

**X. Absolute Ratio Test.** Let  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n$  be a series of nonzero terms and suppose  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|u_{n+1}|}{|u_n|} = \rho$ .

- i) If  $\rho < 1$ , the series converges absolutely (hence converges).
- ii) If  $\rho > 1$ , the series diverges.
- iii) If  $\rho = 1$ , the test is inconclusive.

A series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n$  is called **conditionally convergent** if  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} u_n$  converges but  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |u_n|$  diverges. The alternating harmonic series is the premier example of a conditionally convergent series.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{n} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \dots \text{ converges but } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left| (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{n} \right| = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \dots \text{ diverges.}$$

Show that each of the alternating series converges and then estimate the error made by using the partial sum  $S_9$  as an approximation to the sum  $S$  of the series.

1. 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{2}{3n+1}$$

2. 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

3. 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{\ln(n+1)}$$

4. 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{\ln n}{n}$$

Show that each series converges absolutely.

5. 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(-\frac{3}{4}\right)^n$$

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

7. 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{n}{2^n}$$

8. 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{n^2}{e^n}$$

Classify the series as absolutely convergent, conditionally convergent, or divergent.

9. 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{5n}$$

10. 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{n}{10n+1}$$

11. 
$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{1}{n \ln n}$$

12. 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{n^4}{2^n}$$

$$13. \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{n}{n^2 + 1}$$

$$14. \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos n\pi}{n}$$

$$15. \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos n\pi}{n\sqrt{n}}$$

$$16. \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n(n+1)}}$$

17. 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1} + \sqrt{n}}$$

18. 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-3)^{n+1} \frac{1}{n^2}$$

19. 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{n}{10n^{1.1} + 1}$$

20. 
$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{n-1}{n}$$