

## Alternating Series Test

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

Let  $b_n = \frac{1}{n}$ . Then:

- $b_n > 0$ , decreasing
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = 0$

The series converges by the Alternating Series Test.

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

Let  $b_n = \frac{1}{n^2}$ . Then:

- $b_n > 0$ , decreasing
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = 0$

The series converges by the Alternating Series Test.

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

Let  $b_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ . Then:

- $b_n > 0$ , decreasing
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = 0$

The series converges by the Alternating Series Test.

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

Let  $b_n = \frac{1}{\ln(n+1)}$ . Then:

- $b_n > 0$ , decreasing
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = 0$

The series converges by the Alternating Series Test.

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

Let  $b_n = \frac{n}{n+1}$ . Then:

- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = 1 \neq 0$

The Alternating Series Test does not apply. The series diverges by the Test for Divergence.

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

Let  $b_n = \frac{1}{n + (-1)^n}$ . Then:

- $b_n$  is not decreasing, because the even and odd terms alternate:

$$b_{2k} = \frac{1}{2k+1}, \quad b_{2k+1} = \frac{1}{2k}$$

so, for example,  $b_{2k} > b_{2k+1}$ .

The Alternating Series Test does not apply.

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

Let  $b_n = \frac{1}{n^{1/3}}$ . Then:

- $b_n > 0$ , decreasing
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = 0$

The series converges by the Alternating Series Test.

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

Let  $b_n = \frac{1}{n^2 + \ln n}$ . Then:

- $b_n > 0$ , decreasing for  $n \geq 2$
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = 0$

The series converges by the Alternating Series Test.

9.  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n \cdot \sin(1/n)}{n}$

Let  $b_n = \frac{\sin(1/n)}{n}$ . Then:

- $b_n > 0$
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = 0$
- To show  $b_n$  is decreasing for  $n \geq 1$ , define  $f(x) = \frac{\sin(1/x)}{x}$ . Then

$$f'(x) = -\frac{\cos(1/x)}{x^3} - \frac{\sin(1/x)}{x^2} < 0 \text{ for } x \geq 1,$$

so  $b_n = f(n)$  is decreasing.

The series converges by the Alternating Series Test.

10.  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \cdot \frac{1}{n^{0.9}}$

Let  $b_n = \frac{1}{n^{0.9}}$ . Then:

- $b_n > 0$ , decreasing
- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = 0$

The series converges by the Alternating Series Test.