

Problem 1: (15 points) Determine if the series is convergent or divergent.

(a) $\sum \frac{\arctan(n)}{n^2 + 1}$

Solution: $a_n = \arctan(n) / (1 + n^2)$. Let $f(x) = \arctan x / (1 + x^2)$. Then, f is positive and continuous on $[1, \infty)$ and since $f'(x) = \frac{1 - 2x \arctan x}{(1 + x^2)^2} < 0$ for all x in $[1, \infty)$ we conclude that f is also decreasing on this interval.

$$\begin{aligned} \int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^t \frac{\arctan x}{1 + x^2} dx \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2} \left[(\arctan t)^2 - (\arctan 1)^2 \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\pi^2}{4} - \frac{\pi^2}{16} \right) = \frac{3\pi^2}{32} \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by the integral test the series $\sum \frac{\arctan(n)}{1 + n^2}$ is convergent.

(b) $\sum \frac{n}{(4 + n^2)^{3/4}}$

Solution: $a_n = \frac{n}{(4 + n^2)^{3/4}}$. Let $b_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$. Then, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n / b_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n\sqrt{n}}{(4 + n^2)^{3/4}} = 1$, and $\sum b_n$ diverges (p-series with $p = \frac{1}{2}$) and therefore by the LCT (the limit comparison test) $\sum a_n$ diverges. (Recall that if $0 < \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n / b_n < \infty$ then $\sum a_n$ diverges iff $\sum b_n$ diverges, or, $\sum a_n$ converges iff $\sum b_n$ converges.) Can you apply the B.C.T. (the basic comparison test)?

(c) $\sum \frac{4^n (n!)}{(2n)!}$

Solution: $a_n = \frac{4^n n!}{(2n)!} \Rightarrow \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{4^{n+1} (n+1)! (2n)!}{(2(n+1))! 4^n n!} = \frac{2}{2n+1}$. Thus $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = 0 = L < 1$, and hence by the ratio test the series is convergent. (Recall that if $L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n}$ or $L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{a_n}$ then the positive term-series $\sum a_n$ converges if $L < 1$, diverges if $L > 1$ and the test is inconclusive if $L = 1$).

Problem 2: (10 points) determine if the series is absolutely convergent, conditionally convergent or divergent.

$$(d) \sum (-1)^{n-1} \frac{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 \cdots (2n)}{n!}$$

Solution: Alternating series with $a_n = \frac{2 \cdot 4 \cdot 6 \cdots 2n}{n!} = \frac{2^n \cdot n!}{n!} = 2^n \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \infty$. Hence the series $\sum (-1)^{n-1} a_n$ diverges (since its general term $(-1)^{n-1} a_n \not\rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$).

$$(e) \sum \frac{(-3)^{n+1}}{2^{2n}}$$

Solution: The alternating series $\sum \frac{(-3)^{n+1}}{2^{2n}} = \sum (-1)^{n+1} 3 \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^n$ converges absolutely since

$\sum 3 \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^n = 3 \sum \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^n$ converges (geometric series with $r = 3/4 < 1$).