

# Advanced Calculus (I)

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## 6.3 Absolute convergence

### Definition

Let  $S = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$  be an infinite series.

(i)  $S$  is said to *converge absolutely* if and only if

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |a_k| < \infty.$$

(ii)  $S$  is said to converge *conditionally* if and only if  $S$  converges but not absolutely.

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Suppose that  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$  converges absolutely. Given  $\epsilon > 0$ , choose  $N \in \mathbf{N}$  so that (6) holds. Then

$$\left| \sum_{k=n}^m a_k \right| \leq \sum_{k=n}^m |a_k| < \epsilon$$

for  $M > n \geq N$ . Hence, by the Cauchy Criterion,  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$  converges.

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We shall finish the proof by showing that  $S := \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^k/k$  converges conditionally. Since the harmonic series diverges,  $S$  does not converge absolutely. On the other hand, the tails of  $S$  look like

$$\sum_{j=k}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j}{j} = (-1)^k \left( \frac{1}{k} - \frac{1}{k+1} + \frac{1}{k+2} - \frac{1}{k+3} + \cdots \right).$$

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it is easy to see that the sum inside the parentheses is  
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The supremum  $s$  of the set of adherent points of a sequence  $\{x_k\}$  is called the *limit supremum* of  $\{x_k\}$ .  
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Let  $x \in \mathbf{R}$  and  $\{x_k\}$  be a real sequence.

(i) If  $\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} x_k < x$ , then  $x_k < x$  for large  $k$ .

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If  $\{x_{k_j}\}$  is bounded above by (by C), then it is bounded (since  $x \leq x_k \leq C$  for all  $j \in \mathbf{N}$ ). Hence, by the Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem and the fact that  $x_{k_j} \geq x$ ,  $\{x_{k_j}\}$  has an adherent point  $\geq x$ , i.e.,  $s \geq x$ , another contradiction.

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## Theorem (Root Test)

Let  $a_k \in \mathbf{R}$  and  $r := \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} |a_k|^{1/k}$ .

(i) If  $r < 1$ , then  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$  converges absolutely.

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Let  $a_k \in \mathbf{R}$  with  $a_k \neq 0$  for large  $k$  and suppose that

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A series  $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} b_j$  is called a *rearrangement* of a series  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$  if and only if there is a 1-1 function  $f$  from  $\mathbf{N}$  onto  $\mathbf{N}$  such that

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Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Set  $S_n = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k$ ,  $s = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$ , and  $t_m = \sum_{j=1}^m b_j$ ,

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By definition,  $\frac{a_k^+ = (|a_k| + a_k)}{2}$ . Since both  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |a_k|$  and  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$  converge, it follows from Theorem 6.10 that

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k^+ = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |a_k| + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$$

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## Proof:

By definition,  $\frac{a_k^+ = (|a_k| + a_k)}{2}$ . Since both  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |a_k|$  and  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$  converge, it follows from Theorem 6.10 that

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Suppose that part (ii) is false. By symmetry we may suppose that  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k^+$  converges. Since  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$  converges, it follows from (10) that

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Let  $x \in \mathbf{R}$ . If  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$  is conditionally convergent, then there is a rearrangement of  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$  that converges to  $x$ .

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*Thank you.*