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MAT176 (Spring 2019)

Quiz 4

Decide whether each of the following alternating series converges or diverges. If it converges, decide whether it converges conditionally or absolutely.

Justify your answers with appropriate convergence tests.

1. (5 pts) $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n n}{n^2+1}$ converges conditionally

Alternating Series Test: $a_n = \frac{n}{n^2+1}$ is positive, decreasing

and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{n^2+1} = 0$

Let $f(x) = \frac{x}{x^2+1}$ has
 $f'(x) = \frac{(x^2+1) - x \cdot 2x}{(x^2+1)^2} = \frac{1-x^2}{(x^2+1)^2} < 0$
 if $x > 1$

$\Rightarrow \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n n}{n^2+1}$ converges.

To check if it converges absolutely:

$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{n^2+1} = +\infty$ diverges by Limit Comp. Test with $b_n = \frac{1}{n}$ (harmonic series)
 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{n}{n^2+1}}{\frac{1}{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2}{n^2+1} = 1 \Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{n^2+1}$ and $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ both behave in the same way

2. (5 pts) $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n \pi^n}{(2n+1)!}$

thus, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n n}{n^2+1}$ converges conditionally (diverge).

Ratio test:

$$L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{(-1)^{n+1} \pi^{n+1}}{(2(n+1)+1)!} \cdot \frac{(2n+1)!}{(-1)^n \pi^n} \right|$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi (2n+1)!}{(2n+3)!} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi (2n+1)!}{(2n+3)(2n+2)(2n+1)!}$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi}{(2n+3)(2n+2)} = 0 < 1$$

Thus, this series converges absolutely!