

Problem 1: Use the Comparison Test or Limit Comparison Test to decide whether the following series converge or diverge. Be sure to justify your answer.

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

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n - \sqrt{n}} \geq \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$$

The series $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ diverges by the p-test. Therefore, $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n - \sqrt{n}}$ diverges by the Comparison Test.

OR

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{n - \sqrt{n}}}{\frac{1}{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{n - \sqrt{n}} \cdot \frac{1/n}{1/n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}} = 1$$

The series $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ diverges by the p-test. Therefore, $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n - \sqrt{n}}$ diverges by the Limit Comparison Test.

(ii) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2 - 1}{3n^4 + 5}$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2 - 1}{3n^4 + 5} < \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{3n^4} = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$$

The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ converges by the p-test. Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2 - 1}{3n^4 + 5}$ converges by the Comparison Test.

OR

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{n^2 - 1}{3n^4 + 5}}{\frac{1}{n^2}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^4 - n^2}{3n^4 + 5} = \frac{1}{3}$$

The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ converges by the p-test. Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2 - 1}{3n^4 + 5}$ converges by the Limit Comparison Test.

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

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n^3+2}} < \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n^3}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{3/2}}$$

The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{3/2}}$ converges by the p -test. Therefore, the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n^3+2}}$ converges by the Comparison Test.

OR

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n^3+2}}}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n^3}}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{n^3}}{\sqrt{n^3+2}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{\frac{n^3}{n^3+2}} = \sqrt{1} = 1$$

The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{3/2}}$ converges by the p -test. Therefore, the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n^3+2}}$ converges by the Limit Comparison Test.

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

Note that $-2n-1 = -(2n+1)$ and that $2n+1 < 2n^2$ for $n > 1$. [To see this, note that let $f(x) = 2x^2$ and $g(x) = 2x+1$. Now $f(2) = 8$ and $g(2) = 5$ and $f'(x) = 4x > 2 = g'(x)$ for $x > 1$.] The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3n^2-2n-1}{n^3+n+1}$ converges if and only if the series $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{3n^2-2n-1}{n^3+n+1}$ converges.

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{3n^2-2n-1}{n^3+n+1} > \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{3n^2-2n^2}{n^3+n^3+n^3} = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{3n^3} = \frac{1}{3} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$$

The series $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ diverges by the p -test. Therefore, $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{3n^2-2n-1}{n^3+n+1}$ diverges by the Comparison Test

so that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3n^2-2n-1}{n^3+n+1}$ diverges.

OR

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{3n^2-2n-1}{n^3+n+1}}{\frac{1}{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3n^3-2n^2-n}{n^3+n+1} = 3$$

The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ diverges by the p -test. Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3n^2-2n-1}{n^3+n+1}$ diverges by the Limit Comparison Test.

$$(v) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 + \cos n}{n^4}$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 + \cos n}{n^4} < \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 + 1}{n^4} = 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^4}$$

The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^4}$ converges by the p -test. Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 + \cos n}{n^4}$ converges by the Comparison Test.

$$(vi) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{5}{3^n + 1}$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{5}{3^n + 1} < \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{5}{3^n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 5 \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^n$$

The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 5 \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^n$ is geometric with $r = \frac{1}{3}$ so that the series converges. Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{5}{3^n + 1}$ converges by the Comparison Test.

OR

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5}{3^n + 1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3^n}{3^n + 1} = 1$$

The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 5 \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^n$ is geometric with $r = \frac{1}{3}$ so that the series converges. Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{5}{3^n + 1}$ converges by the Limit Comparison Test.

$$(vii) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\ln n}{n+5}$$

$$\text{Since } \ln 1 = 0, \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\ln n}{n+5} = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{\ln n}{n+5}.$$

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{\ln n}{n+5} > \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n+5n} = \frac{1}{6} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$$

The series $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ diverges by the p -test. Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\ln n}{n+5}$ diverges by the Comparison Test.

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

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

The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^3}$ converges by the p -test. Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{(n^2+3)^2}$ converges by the Comparison Test.

OR

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{n}{(n^2+3)^2}}{\frac{1}{n^3}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^4}{(n^2+3)^2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^4}{n^4 + 6n^2 + 9} = 1$$

or of course one could have computed the limit as

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{n}{(n^2+3)^2}}{\frac{1}{n^3}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^4}{(n^2+3)^2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n^2)^2}{(n^2+3)^2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{n^2}{n^2+3} \right)^2 = 1^2 = 1$$

The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^3}$ converges by the p -test. Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{(n^2+3)^2}$ converges by the Limit Comparison Test.

$$(ix) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin^2\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sin^2\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)}{\frac{1}{n^2}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sin\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)}{\frac{1}{n}} \cdot \frac{\sin\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)}{\frac{1}{n}} = 1 \cdot 1 = 1$$

The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ converges by the p -test. Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sin^2\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)$ converges by the Limit Comparison Test.

$$(x) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{6}{n + \sqrt{2n^2 + 5}}$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{6}{n + \sqrt{2n^2 + 5}} > \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{6}{n + \sqrt{2n^2 + 5n^2}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{6}{n + \sqrt{7n^2}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{6}{n + \sqrt{7}n} = \frac{6}{1 + \sqrt{7}} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$$

or if one wanted things to look a bit nicer, one could do...

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{6}{n + \sqrt{2n^2 + 5}} > \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{6}{n + \sqrt{2n^2 + 7n^2}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{6}{n + \sqrt{9n^2}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{6}{n + 3n} = \frac{3}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$$

In either case, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ diverges by the p -test. Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{6}{n + \sqrt{2n^2 + 5}}$ diverges by the Comparison Test.

OR

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{6}{n + \sqrt{2n^2 + 5}}}{\frac{1}{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6n}{n + \sqrt{2n^2 + 5}} \cdot \frac{1/n}{1/n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6}{1 + \frac{\sqrt{2n^2 + 5}}{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6}{1 + \sqrt{\frac{2n^2 + 5}{n^2}}} = \frac{6}{1 + \sqrt{2}}$$

The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ diverges by the p -test. Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{6}{n + \sqrt{2n^2 + 5}}$ diverges by the Limit Comparison Test.

$$(xi) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2 + \ln n}{n^4 + 5}$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2 + \ln n}{n^4 + 5} < \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2 + n^2}{n^4} = 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$$

The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ converges by the p-test. Therefore, the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2 + \ln n}{n^4 + 5}$ converges by the Comparison Test.

$$(xii) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2n-5}{\sqrt{3n^6-2}}$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2n-5}{\sqrt{3n^6-2}} < \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2n}{\sqrt{3n^6-2n^6}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2n}{n^3} = 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$$

The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ converges by the p-test. Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2n-5}{\sqrt{3n^6-2}}$ converges by the Comparison Test.

OR

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{2n-5}{\sqrt{3n^6-2}}}{\frac{1}{n^2}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2n^3-5n^2}{\sqrt{3n^6-2}} \cdot \frac{1/n^3}{1/n^3} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2-5/n}{\sqrt{3n^6-2}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2-5/n}{\sqrt{\frac{3n^6-2}{n^6}}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}$$

The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ converges by the p-test. Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2n-5}{\sqrt{3n^6-2}}$ converges by the Limit Comparison Test.

$$(xiii) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{7 + 4\sqrt[3]{n^4}}{n^2 + 2n + 1}$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{7 + 4\sqrt[3]{n^4}}{n^2 + 2n + 1} > \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt[3]{n^4}}{n^2 + 2n^2 + n^2} = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt[3]{n^4}}{n^2} = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{2/3}}$$

The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{2/3}}$ diverges by the p -test. Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{7 + 4\sqrt[3]{n^4}}{n^2 + 2n + 1}$ diverges by the Comparison Test.

OR

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{7 + 4\sqrt[3]{n^4}}{n^2 + 2n + 1}}{\frac{1}{n^{2/3}}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{7n^{2/3} + 4n^2}{n^2 + 2n + 1} = 4$$

The series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{2/3}}$ diverges by the p -test. Therefore, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{7 + 4\sqrt[3]{n^4}}{n^2 + 2n + 1}$ diverges by the Limit Comparison Test.