

Summary of Convergence Tests

NAME	STATEMENT	COMMENTS
Divergence Test	If $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} u_k \neq 0$, then $\sum u_k$ diverges.	If $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} u_k = 0$, then $\sum u_k$ may or may not converge.
Integral Test	Let $\sum u_k$ be a series with positive terms, and let $f(x)$ be the function that results when k is replaced by x in the general term of the series decreasing and continuous for $x \geq a$, then $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} u_k \text{ and } \int_a^{+\infty} f(x) dx$ both converge or both diverge.	This test only applies to series that have positive terms. Try this test when $f(x)$ is easy to integrate.
Comparison Test	Let $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$ and $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} b_k$ be series with nonnegative terms such that $a_1 \leq b_1, a_2 \leq b_2, \dots, a_k \leq b_k, \dots$ If $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} b_k$ converges, then $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$ converges, and if $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$ diverges, then $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} b_k$ diverges.	This test only applies to series with nonnegative terms. Try this test as a last resort: other tests are often easier to apply.
Limit Comparison Test	Let $\sum a_k$ and $\sum b_k$ be series with positive terms such that $p = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{a_k}{b_k}$ If $0 < p < +\infty$ then both series converge or diverge.	This easier to apply than the comparison test, but still requires some skills in choosing the series $\sum b_k$ for comparison.
Ratio Test	Let $\sum u_k$ be a series with positive terms and suppose $p = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{u_{k+1}}{u_k}$ (a) Series converge if $p < 1$ (b) Series diverges if $p > 1$ or $p = +\infty$ (c) The test is inconclusive if $p = 1$.	Try this test when u_k involves factorials or k th power.
Root Test	Let $\sum u_k$ be a series with positive terms such that $p = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[k]{u_k}$ (a) Series converge if $p < 1$ (b) Series diverges if $p > 1$ or $p = +\infty$ (c) The test is inconclusive if $p = 1$.	Try this test when u_k involves k th power.
Alternating Series Test	If $a_k > 0$ for $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, then the series $a_1 - a_2 + a_3 - a_4 + \dots$ Converge if the following condition hold : (a) $a_1 \geq a_2 \geq a_3 \geq a_4 \dots$ (b) If $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_k = 0$.	This test applies only to alternating series.
Ratio Test for Absolute Convergence	Let $\sum u_k$ be a series with positive terms such that $p = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{ u_{k+1} }{ u_k }$ (a) Series converge if $p < 1$ (b) Series diverges if $p > 1$ or $p = +\infty$ (c) The test is inconclusive if $p = 1$.	The series need not have positive terms and need not be alternating to use this test.