

§ 9.4 Tests for Convergence concluded.

We've learned that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n}$ is a conditionally convergent series (it converges by the Alternating Series Test but $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left| \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} \right| = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ diverges).

Fact Soon we'll learn that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} = \ln 2$.

Something weird :

① Start with

$$\ln 2 = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{6} + \dots$$

② Rearrange the terms so that every positive term is followed by two negative terms:

$$1 - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{6} - \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{10} - \frac{1}{12} + \dots$$

③ Add parentheses and simplify:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (1 - \frac{1}{2}) - \frac{1}{4} + (\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{6}) - \frac{1}{8} + (\frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{10}) - \frac{1}{12} + \dots \\
 &= (\frac{1}{2}) - \frac{1}{4} + (\frac{1}{6}) - \frac{1}{8} + (\frac{1}{10}) - \frac{1}{12} + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

④ Notice this is half of what we started with!

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\frac{1}{2}) - \frac{1}{4} + (\frac{1}{6}) - \frac{1}{8} + (\frac{1}{10}) - \frac{1}{12} + \dots \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{6} + \dots \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \ln 2
 \end{aligned}$$

Theorem (Riemann Rearrangement Theorem)

- ① if $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ is conditionally convergent, the terms can be rearranged to converge to any value $L \in \mathbb{R}$.
- ② if $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ is absolutely convergent, every rearrangement of the terms converges to the same value.