In the following examples we don't work out all the details but simply indicate which tests should be used.

EXAMPLE 1 $\displaystyle\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n-1}{2n+1}$

Since $a_n \to \frac{1}{2} \neq 0$ as $n \to \infty$, we should use the Test for Divergence.

EXAMPLE 2 $\displaystyle\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt{n^3+1}}{3n^3+4n^2+2}$

Since a_n is an algebraic function of n, we compare the given series with a p-series. The comparison series for the Limit Comparison Test is $\Sigma\, b_n$, where

$$b_n = \frac{\sqrt{n^3}}{3n^3} = \frac{n^{3/2}}{3n^3} = \frac{1}{3n^{3/2}}$$

EXAMPLE 3 $\displaystyle\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ne^{-n^2}$

Since the integral $\int_1^\infty xe^{-x^2}\,dx$ is easily evaluated, we use the Integral Test. The Ratio Test also works.

EXAMPLE 4 $\displaystyle\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{n^3}{n^4+1}$

Since the series is alternating, we use the Alternating Series Test.

EXAMPLE 5 $\displaystyle\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^k}{k!}$

Since the series involves $k!$, we use the Ratio Test.

EXAMPLE 6 $\displaystyle\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2+3^n}$

Since the series is closely related to the geometric series $\Sigma\, 1/3^n$, we use the Comparison Test.

11.7 Exercises

1–38 Test the series for convergence or divergence.

1. $\displaystyle\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n+3^n}$

2. $\displaystyle\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(2n+1)^n}{n^{2n}}$

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

4. $\displaystyle\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{n}{n^2+2}$

5. $\displaystyle\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2 2^{n-1}}{(-5)^n}$

6. $\displaystyle\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2n+1}$

7. $\displaystyle\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n\sqrt{\ln n}}$

8. $\displaystyle\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^k k!}{(k+2)!}$

9. $\displaystyle\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k^2 e^{-k}$

10. $\displaystyle\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^2 e^{-n^3}$

11. $\displaystyle\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{n^3} + \frac{1}{3^n}\right)$

12. $\displaystyle\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k\sqrt{k^2+1}}$

13. $\displaystyle\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3^n n^2}{n!}$

14. $\displaystyle\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin 2n}{1+2^n}$

15. $\displaystyle\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{2^{k-1}3^{k+1}}{k^k}$

16. $\displaystyle\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2+1}{n^3+1}$

17. $\displaystyle\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot \cdots \cdot (2n-1)}{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8 \cdot \cdots \cdot (3n-1)}$

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

19. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \frac{\ln n}{\sqrt{n}}$

20. $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt[3]{k} - 1}{k(\sqrt{k} + 1)}$

21. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n \cos(1/n^2)$

22. $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2 + \sin k}$

23. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \tan(1/n)$

24. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \sin(1/n)$

25. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n!}{e^{n^2}}$

26. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2 + 1}{5^n}$

27. $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{k \ln k}{(k + 1)^3}$

28. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{1/n}}{n^2}$

29. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{\cosh n}$

30. $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (-1)^j \frac{\sqrt{j}}{j + 5}$

31. $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{5^k}{3^k + 4^k}$

32. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(n!)^n}{n^{4n}}$

33. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{n}{n + 1}\right)^{n^2}$

34. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n + n \cos^2 n}$

35. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{1+1/n}}$

36. $\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(\ln n)^{\ln n}}$

37. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (\sqrt[n]{2} - 1)^n$

38. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (\sqrt[n]{2} - 1)$

Power Series

A **power series** is a series of the form

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n x^n = c_0 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + c_3 x^3 + \cdots$$

where x is a variable and the c_n's are constants called the **coefficients** of the series. For each fixed x, the series [1] is a series of constants that we can test for convergence or divergence. A power series may converge for some values of x and diverge for other values of x. The sum of the series is a function

$$f(x) = c_0 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + \cdots + c_n x^n + \cdots$$

whose domain is the set of all x for which the series converges. Notice that f resembles a polynomial. The only difference is that f has infinitely many terms.

For instance, if we take $c_n = 1$ for all n, the power series becomes the geometric series

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = 1 + x + x^2 + \cdots + x^n + \cdots$$

which converges when $-1 < x < 1$ and diverges when $|x| \geq 1$. (See Equation 11.2.5.)

More generally, a series of the form

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n(x - a)^n = c_0 + c_1(x - a) + c_2(x - a)^2 + \cdots$$

is called a **power series in $(x - a)$** or a **power series centered at a** or a **power series about a**. Notice that in writing out the term corresponding to $n = 0$ in Equations 1 and 2 we have adopted the convention that $(x - a)^0 = 1$ even when $x = a$. Notice also that when $x = a$ all of the terms are 0 for $n \geq 1$ and so the power series [2] always converges when $x = a$.

Trigonometric Series
A power series is a series in which each term is a power function. A **trigonometric series**

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (a_n \cos nx + b_n \sin nx)$$

is a series whose terms are trigonometric functions. This type of series is discussed on the website

www.stewartcalculus.com

Click on *Additional Topics* and then on *Fourier Series*.

For what values of x is the series $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n! x^n$ convergent?

We use the Ratio Test. If we let a_n, as usual, denote the nth term of the series, then $a_n = n! x^n$. If $x \neq 0$, we have

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = \lim_{n \to \infty} \left| \frac{(n + 1)! x^{n+1}}{n! x^n} \right| = \lim_{n \to \infty} (n + 1)|x| = \infty$$

Notice that

$$(n + 1)! = (n + 1)n(n - 1) \cdot \cdots \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1 = (n + 1)n!$$