

## Series Convergence Tests

Test	When To Use	Conclusions <sup>1</sup>
Geometric Series	$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} ar^k$	Converges to $\frac{a}{1-r}$ if $ r  < 1$ ; diverges if $ r  \geq 1$ .
$k^{th}$ Term Test	All series	If $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_k \neq 0$ , the series diverges.
Integral Test	Where $a_k = f(k)$ and $f$ is continuous, decreasing, and $f(x) \geq 0$ for all $x$ .	$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k$ and $\int_1^{\infty} f(x)dx$ either <i>both</i> converge or <i>both</i> diverge.
$p$ -series	$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^p}$	Converges for $p > 1$ ; diverges for $p \leq 1$ .
Comparison Test	Where $0 \leq a_k \leq b_k$ for all $k$	If $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} b_k$ converges, then $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k$ converges. If $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k$ diverges, then $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} b_k$ diverges.
Limit Comparison Test	Where for all $k$ : $a_k \geq 0$ , $b_k \geq 0$ and $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_k}{b_k} = L > 0$	$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k$ and $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} b_k$ either <i>both</i> converge or <i>both</i> diverge.
Alternating Series Test	$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^{k+1} a_k$ where $a_k > 0$ for all $k$	If $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_k = 0$ and $a_{k+1} \leq a_k$ for all $k$ , then the series converges.
Absolute Convergence	Series with both positive and negative terms (including alternating series)	If $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty}  a_k $ converges then $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$ converges (absolutely).
Ratio Test	Any series (especially those involving exponentials and/or factorials)	For $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \left  \frac{a_{k+1}}{a_k} \right  = L$ , If $L < 1$ , then $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$ converges absolutely. If $L > 1$ , then $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$ diverges. If $L = 1$ , then no conclusion can be drawn.
Root Test	Any series (especially those involving exponentials)	For $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[k]{ a_k } = L$ , If $L < 1$ , then $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$ converges absolutely. If $L > 1$ , then $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} a_k$ diverges. If $L = 1$ , then no conclusion can be drawn.

<sup>1</sup>Be careful with your conclusions! For example, with the  $k^{th}$  Term Test, if  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_k = 0$ , the series does *not necessarily* converge. For another example, consider the harmonic series. See also the sheet on Logical Operators.