

Series III

More convergence tests ... but first, let's use the integral test a time or two

Recall: (The Integral Test)

If $f(x)$ is decreasing on $[0, \infty)$ and is integrable then if $a_n = f(n)$ (for $n \geq c$), we have $\sum_{n=c}^{\infty} a_n$ converges exactly when the improper integral $\int_c^{\infty} f(x) dx$ converges

Q: Does $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{2^n}$ converge or not?

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2}{2^x} \geq 0 \text{ for } x \geq 0$$

$$f(x) \text{ is } > 0 \text{ for } x > 0$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{2^n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{2^n}$$

Is $f(x)$ decreasing on $[1, \infty)$?

$$f'(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{x^2}{2^x} \right)$$

$$= \frac{2x(2^x) - x^2(2^x \cdot \ln 2)}{(2^x)^2}$$

$$= \frac{2x - x^2(\ln 2)}{2^x}$$

$$= \frac{x(2 - x \ln 2)}{2^x}$$

So $f'(x) < 0$ exactly when $2 - x \ln(2) < 0$
exactly when $x \ln(2) > 2$ _____, _____ $x > \frac{2}{\ln(2)}$
 \downarrow
2.885...

Thus $f'(x) < 0$, and so $f(x)$ is decreasing when $x \geq 3$

$$\text{Thus } \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{2^n} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{2^n} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{2^2}{2^2} + \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{2^n}$$

so the original series converges exactly when $\sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{2^n}$ does

But we can apply the integral test to the last series, because

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2}{2^x} \text{ satisfies the hypothesis on } [3, \infty)$$

ie $\sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{2^n}$ converges as $\sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{2^n}$ which converges as $\int_3^{\infty} \frac{x^2}{2^x} dx$ does:

$$\int_3^{\infty} \frac{x^2}{2^x} dx = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_3^b \frac{x^2}{2^x} dx$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_3^b x^2 \cdot 2^{-x} dx \longrightarrow \begin{array}{l} u = x^2 \\ u' = 2x \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} v' = 2^{-x} \\ v = \frac{-2^{-x}}{\ln(2)} \end{array}$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[x^2 \cdot \frac{-2^{-x}}{\ln(2)} \Big|_3^b - \int_3^b \frac{2x(-2^{-x})}{\ln(2)} dx \right]$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{-b^2 2^{-b}}{\ln(2)} - \frac{-3^2 \cdot 2^{-3}}{\ln(2)} + \frac{2}{\ln(2)} \int_3^b x \cdot 2^{-x} dx \right] \longrightarrow \begin{array}{l} u = x \\ u' = 1 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} v' = 2^{-x} \\ v = \frac{-2^{-x}}{\ln(2)} \end{array}$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{-b^2 2^{-b}}{\ln(2)} + \frac{3^2 \cdot 2^{-3}}{\ln(2)} + \frac{2}{\ln(2)} \left(\frac{-2^{-x} \cdot x}{\ln(2)} \Big|_3^b - \int_3^b \frac{-2^{-x}}{\ln(2)} dx \right) \right]$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{-b^2 2^{-b}}{\ln(2)} + \frac{3^2 \cdot 2^{-3}}{\ln(2)} + \frac{2}{\ln(2)} \left(\frac{-b 2^{-b}}{\ln(2)} - \frac{-3 2^{-3}}{\ln(2)} + \frac{1}{\ln(2)} \int_3^b 2^{-x} dx \right) \right]$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{-b^2 2^{-b}}{\ln(2)} + \frac{3^2 \cdot 2^{-3}}{\ln(2)} + \frac{-b \cdot 2^{-b+1}}{\ln(2)^2} - \frac{-3 \cdot 2^{-3+1}}{\ln(2)^2} + \frac{2}{\ln(2)^2} \cdot \frac{-2^{-x}}{\ln(2)} \Big|_3^b \right]$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{-b^2 2^{-b}}{\ln(2)} + \frac{3^2 \cdot 2^{-3}}{\ln(2)} + \frac{-b \cdot 2^{-b+1}}{\ln(2)^2} - \frac{-3 \cdot 2^{-3+1}}{\ln(2)^2} + \frac{-2^{-b+1}}{\ln(2)^3} + \frac{-2^{-3+1}}{\ln(2)^3} \right]$$

don't need to think about if no "b"

Same way as

use L'Hôpital's Rule

$$\lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{b}{2^{b-1}}$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\ln(2) \cdot 2^{b-1}} \xrightarrow{> 1} = 0$$

So the limit exists $= \frac{3^2 \cdot 2^{-3}}{\ln(2)} - \frac{-3 \cdot 2^{-3+1}}{\ln(2)^2} + \frac{-2^{-3+1}}{\ln(2)^3}$

So $\int_3^b \frac{x^2}{2^x} dx$ converges and hence so does $\sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \frac{n^2}{2^n}$