

Ratio test: Suppose $a_n \neq 0$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and $\exists r \in (0, 1)$ s.t.

$$\left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| \leq r \text{ for all } n \text{ (with finitely many exceptions).}$$

Then $\sum_1^{\infty} a_n$ absolutely converges.

Proof: Fix $k \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| \leq r$ when $n = k, k+1, \dots$.

For any $n > k$ we have

$$\left| \frac{a_{k+1}}{a_k} \right| \leq r$$

$$\left| \frac{a_{k+2}}{a_{k+1}} \right| \leq r$$

\vdots

$$\left| \frac{a_n}{a_{n-1}} \right| \leq r$$

} $n-k$ inequalities.

If we multiply them together, we obtain

$$\frac{|a_n|}{|a_k|} \leq r^{n-k}, \text{ so } |a_n| \leq |a_k| r^{n-k} = \frac{|a_k|}{r^k} r^n, \quad n > k.$$

Write $B = |a_k|/r^k$. Then $|a_n| \leq B r^n$ holds with finitely many exceptional n 's. Since

$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B r^n = B \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} r^n$ converges (geometric series), the comparison test implies $\sum_1^{\infty} |a_n|$ converges, q.e.d.