§12.3–The Integral Test

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Outline

1 The Integral test

Theorem

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If f(x) is continuous, nonnegative, and decreasing on the interval $[1,\infty)$, then

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f(n) \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{1}^{\infty} f(x) dx$$

converge or diverge together.



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- By comparing areas, we find that

$$f(k+1) \le \int_k^{k+1} f(x) dx \le f(k)$$

for k > 1.

Thus

$$\int_1^{n+1} f(x)dx \leq s_n \leq f(1) + \int_1^n f(x)dx.$$

• If the integral converges, then so does s_n ; if s_n converges, so does the integral.



$$\bullet \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k}$$

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$$\bullet \ \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2}$$

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$$\bullet \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k(\ln(k))^2}$$