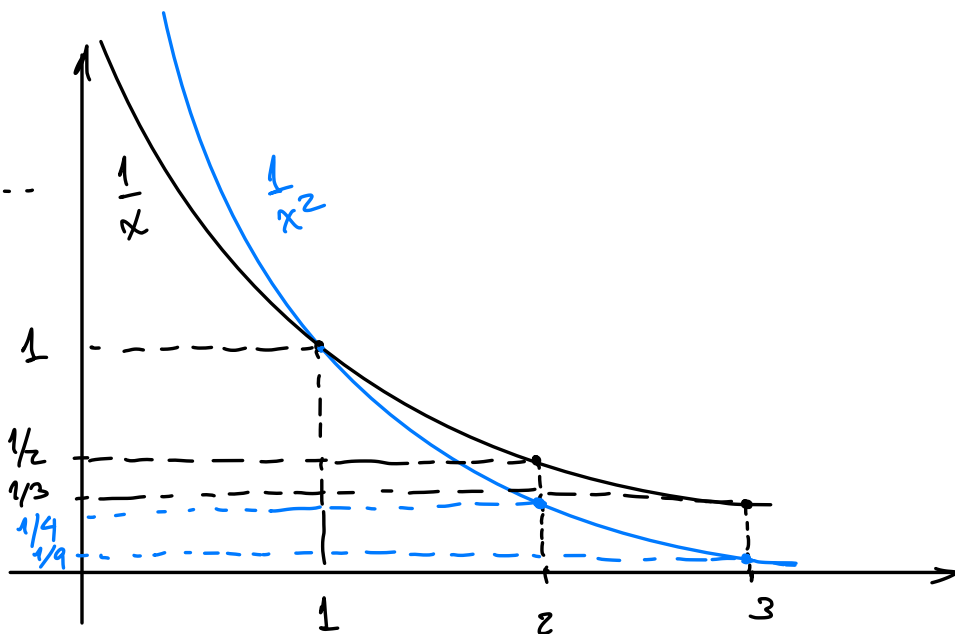


p-Series $p > 0$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p} = 1 + \frac{1}{2^p} + \frac{1}{3^p} + \frac{1}{4^p} + \dots$$

$$a_n = \frac{1}{n^p} = f(n)$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x^p} = x^{-p}$$



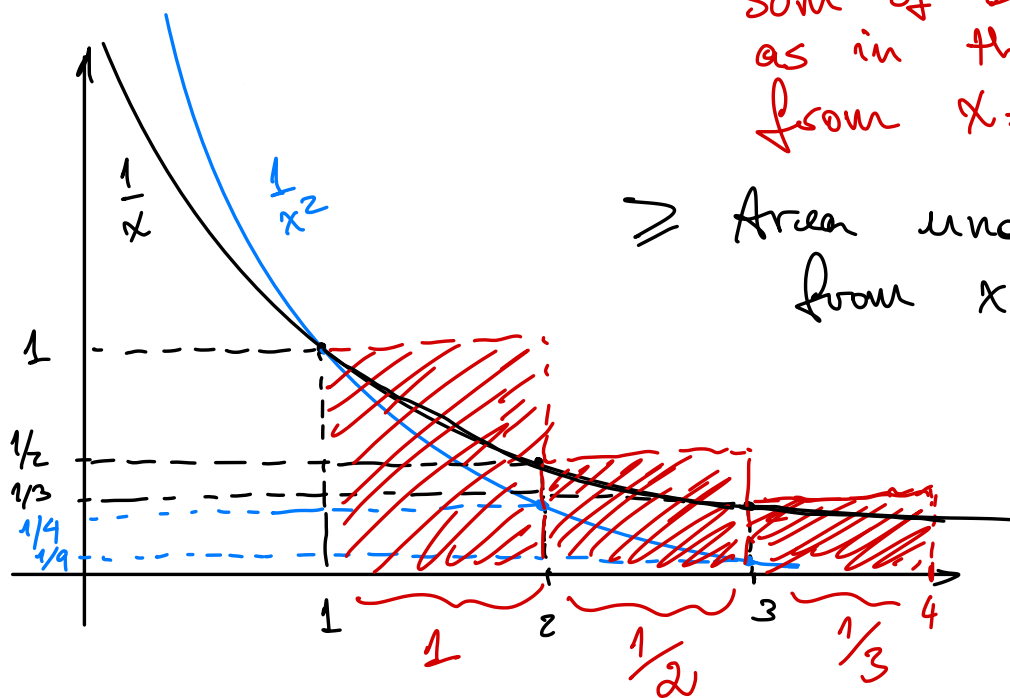
p=1: $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \dots = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n$

"Harmonic Series"

$$S_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n}$$

Sum of areas of red rectangles as in the picture below from $x=1$ up to $x=n+1$

\geq Area under $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ from $x=1$ up to $x=n+1$



$$= \int_1^{n+1} \frac{1}{x} dx$$

$$= \ln(n+1)$$

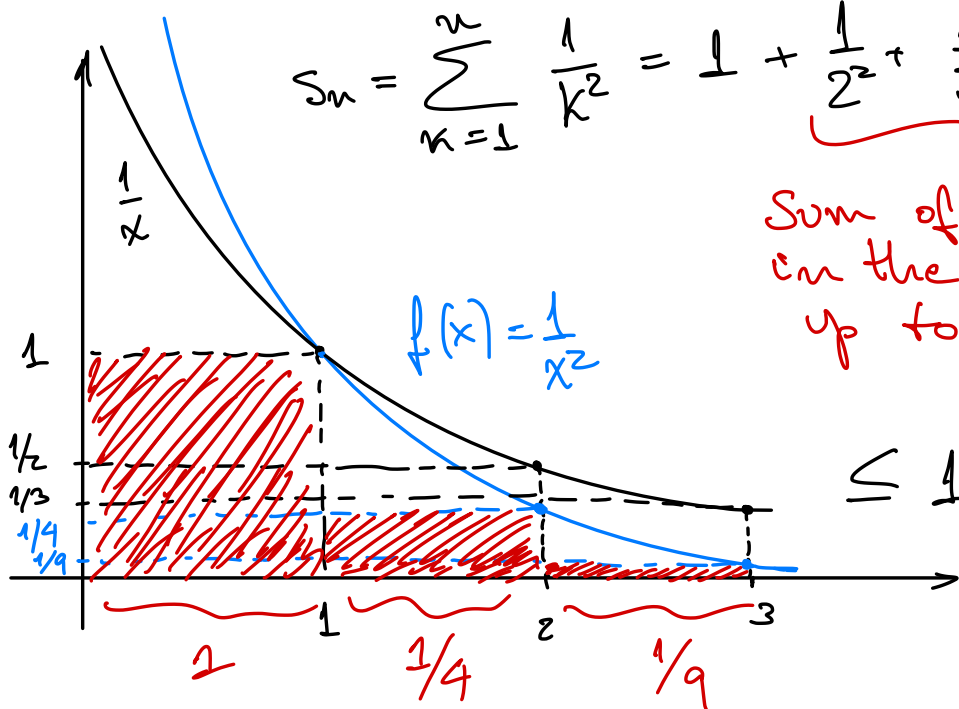
Therefore, $S_n \geq \ln(n+1)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Taking limits as $n \rightarrow +\infty$ on both sides, we find:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n \geq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \ln(n+1) = +\infty$$

Thus $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = +\infty$, and hence $\sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{n} = +\infty$.

$p=2$: $\sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = 1 + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots$

$$S_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k^2} = 1 + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{4^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^2}$$



Sum of areas of red rectangles in the picture, from $x=1$ up to $x=n$.

$\leq 1 +$ Area under $f(x)$ from $x=1$ to $x=n$

$$\int x^{-2} dx = \frac{x^{-2+1}}{-2+1} = -\frac{1}{x}$$

$$= 1 + \int_1^n \frac{1}{x^2} dx$$

$$= 1 + \left(-\frac{1}{x}\right) \Big|_1^n$$

$$= 1 - \frac{1}{n} + 1 = 2 - \frac{1}{n}$$

Therefore, $s_n \leq 2 - \frac{1}{n}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$,
 so taking limits as $n \rightarrow +\infty$, we find:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2 - \frac{1}{n} = 2$$

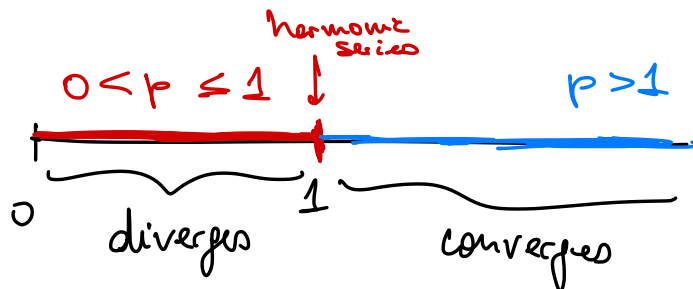
Thus $(s_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is an increasing sequence,
 bounded from above by 2, therefore it converges.

(It can be shown that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = \frac{\pi^2}{6} < 2$).

Theorem. The p -series $\sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$ converges if and only if $p > 1$.

Proof:

If $p > 1$, then



$$s_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k^p} = 1 + \frac{1}{2^p} + \frac{1}{3^p} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^p}$$

$$\leq 1 + \int_1^n \frac{1}{x^p} dx = 1 + \left(\frac{x^{1-p}}{1-p} \right) \Big|_1^n =$$

$$= 1 + \frac{n^{\overbrace{1-p}^{< 0}}}{1-p} - \frac{1}{1-p} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow +\infty} 1 + \frac{1}{p-1}$$

The sequence of partial sums $(s_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is increasing and bounded from above by $1 + \frac{1}{p-1}$ and thus

converges:
$$\sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{n^p} \leq 1 + \frac{1}{p-1} < \infty.$$

If $0 < p \leq 1$, then $\frac{1}{n^p} \geq \frac{1}{n}$. So by the

Comparison Test,
$$\sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{n^p} \geq \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{n} = +\infty.$$

so
$$\sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{n^p} = +\infty.$$

harmonic series

Integral Test

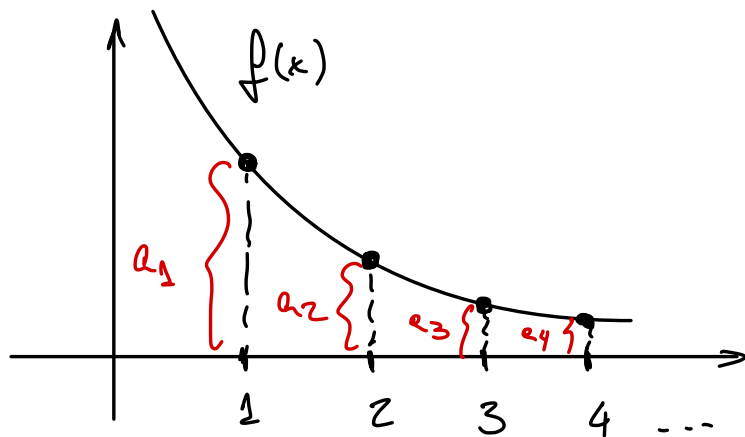
Suppose that $f(x)$ is continuous, positive, decreasing on the half-line $[1, +\infty)$. Then

$$\sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} a_n \text{ converges} \iff \int_1^{+\infty} f(x) dx \text{ converges}$$

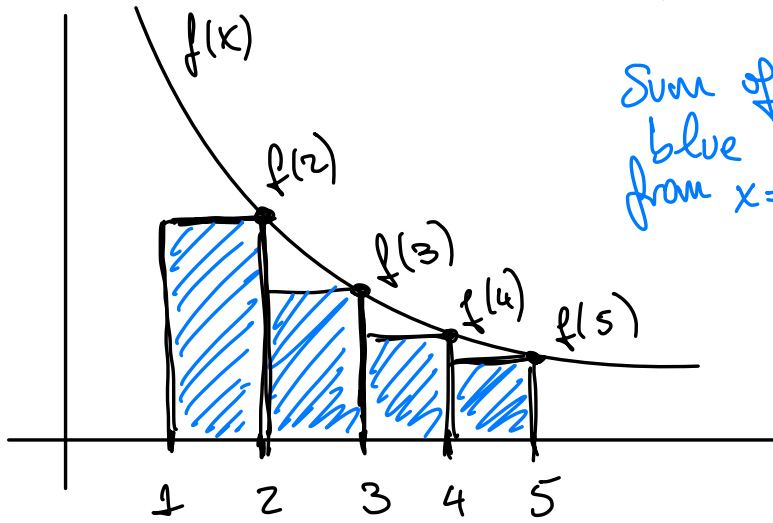
where $a_n = f(n)$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Pf.: Consider the partial sums

$$s_n = \sum_{k=1}^n a_k = \sum_{k=1}^n f(k)$$



Since we are assuming $f(x)$ is positive, we have $f(k) > 0, \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$, so $(S_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is an increasing sequence. Let us bound it from above using the assumption that $\int_1^{+\infty} f(x) dx < \infty$. For each $n \geq 2$:



Sum of areas of blue rectangles from $x=1$ up to $x=n$

$$= f(2) + f(3) + \dots + f(n)$$

$$= a_2 + a_3 + \dots + a_n$$

Rectangles touching graph of $f(x)$ at the top right corner

$$\leq \left(\text{Area under graph of } f(x) \text{ between } x=1 \text{ to } x=n. \right)$$

$$= \int_1^n f(x) dx.$$

Thus:

$$S_n = a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n$$

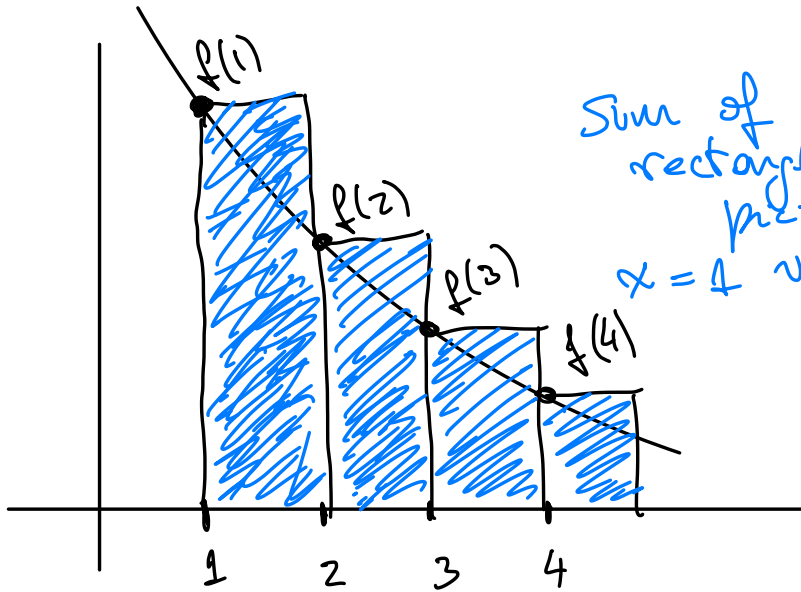
$$\leq a_1 + \int_1^n f(x) dx$$

Taking limits as $n \rightarrow +\infty$,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_1 + \int_1^{+\infty} f(x) dx = a_1 + \int_1^{+\infty} f(x) dx < \infty$$

Therefore $(S_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges (bc it is bounded from above and increasing).

Conversely, suppose $\sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} a_n$ converges; i.e. $(S_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges.



Sum of areas of rectangles in picture from $x=1$ up to $x=n+1$

$$= f(1) + f(2) + \dots + f(n)$$

$$= a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n$$

$$= S_n$$

$$\geq \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{Area under} \\ \text{graph of } f(x) \\ \text{from } x=1 \text{ up to} \\ x=n+1. \end{array} \right)$$

Use rectangles that touch the graph of $f(x)$ at the top left corner

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

Thus, for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$S_n \geq \int_1^{n+1} f(x) dx$$

Taking limits as $n \rightarrow +\infty$,

$$L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n \geq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^{n+1} f(x) dx = \int_1^{+\infty} f(x) dx$$

hypothesis Thus $\int_1^{+\infty} f(x) dx < \infty$.

□

Alternating Series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} (-1)^{n+1} a_n = a_1 - a_2 + a_3 - a_4 + a_5 - a_6 + \dots$$

signs alternate.

"Alternating series test"

Theorem. If $a_1 \geq a_2 \geq a_3 \geq \dots$, i.e., $(a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is decreasing and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$, then $\sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} (-1)^{n+1} a_n$ converges. Moreover $S_n := \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^{k+1} a_k$ satisfy

$$|S_n - s| \leq a_n \text{ for all } n \in \mathbb{N}, \text{ where } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = s.$$

Pt. Note that the subsequence $(S_{2n})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is increasing:

$$S_{2n+2} - S_{2n} = -a_{2n+2} + a_{2n+1} \geq 0$$

and, similarly, the subsequence $(S_{2n+1})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is decreasing:

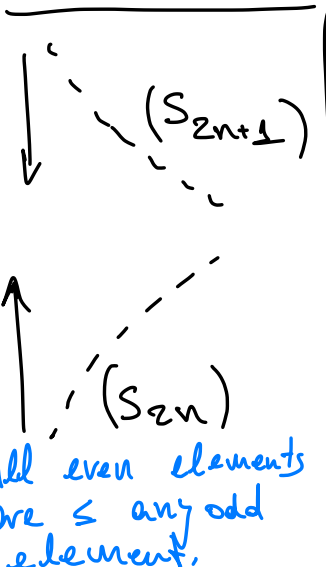
$$S_{2n+1} - S_{2n-1} = a_{2n+1} - a_{2n} \leq 0.$$

We claim that for all $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$S_{2m} \leq S_{2n+1}.$$

First, note $S_{2n} \leq S_{2n+1}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

because $S_{2n+1} - S_{2n} = a_{2n+1} \geq 0.$



All even elements are \leq any odd element.

If $m \leq n$, then $S_{2m} \leq S_{2n} \leq S_{2n+1}$.

If $m \geq n$, then $S_{2n+1} \geq S_{2m+1} \geq S_{2m}$.

So $(S_{2m})_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$ is increasing and bounded from above by S_{2n+1} for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, e.g., by S_3 . Therefore $(S_{2m})_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges.

Similarly $(S_{2n+1})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is decreasing and bounded from below by S_{2m} for any $m \in \mathbb{N}$, e.g., S_2 .

Thus, $(S_{2n+1})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges. Set

$$t = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{2n+1}, \quad s = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} S_{2m}.$$

Computing their difference, we find:

$$\begin{aligned} t - s &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{2n+1} - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_{2n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \underbrace{(S_{2n+1} - S_{2n})}_{a_{2n+1}} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_{2n+1} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $t = s$, and hence $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} S_n = s$.

To prove $|S_n - s| \leq a_n$, note that for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$S_{2k} \leq S \leq S_{2k+1}$$

So:

$$S_{2k+1} - S \leq S_{2k+1} - S_{2k} = a_{2k+1} \leq a_{2k}$$

$$S - S_{2k} \leq S_{2k+1} - S_{2k} = a_{2k+1} \leq a_{2k}$$

So: $|S - S_n| \leq a_n$ both if n is even or odd.

□

Examples: Justify (using a convergence test) whether each of the following converges or diverges:

• $\sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} < \infty$ by the Alternating Series Test

Alternating series w/ $a_n = \frac{1}{n}$

"Alternating Harmonic Series"

a_n decreasing, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$

• $\sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} \frac{5^n}{n!} = e^5$ Ratio test $a_n = \frac{5^n}{n!}$, $a_{n+1} = \frac{5^{n+1}}{(n+1)!}$

$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \frac{5^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \cdot \frac{n!}{5^n} = \frac{5}{n+1}$$

$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5}{n+1} = 0 < 1 \Rightarrow$ Series converges absolutely

$$\sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \left(\frac{2}{(-1)^n - 3} \right)^n \quad \underline{\text{diverges.}}$$

$$|a_n|^{\frac{1}{n}} = \frac{2}{|(-1)^n - 3|} = \begin{cases} \frac{2}{2} = 1 & n \text{ even} \\ \frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2} & n \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} |a_n|^{\frac{1}{n}} = 1 \quad \text{Root test } \underline{\text{does not apply}}$$

However, the above shows that $a_n = 1$ if n is even. So the sequence $(a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ does not converge to 0, so $\sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} a_n$ diverges by the "nth-term test".

$$\bullet \left(\frac{1}{2} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{3} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{2^2} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{3^2} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{2^3} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{3^3} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{2^4} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{3^4} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{2^5} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{3^5} \right) + \dots$$

Ratio test:

$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} = \begin{cases} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n+1}}{\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^n} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^n, & \text{if } n = 2m \text{ even} \\ \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^m, & \text{if } n = 2m - 1 \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

$m \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{3}{2} \right)^m = +\infty.$$

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{2}{3} \right)^m = 0.$$

does not apply.

Root test:

$$|a_n|^{\frac{1}{n}} = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{1}{2^m} \right)^{\frac{1}{2m}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ \left(\frac{1}{3^m} \right)^{\frac{1}{2m}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & \text{if } n \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} |a_n|^{\frac{1}{n}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} < 1.$$

Root test applies and implies that the series converges absolutely.