

SECTION 5.3: INTEGRAL TEST AND p -SERIES

1. The Integral Test:

Given series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$, if ① $a_n > 0$ and ② you can

find a continuous, decreasing function $f(x)$ so that

$$\forall n \geq N, f(n) = a_n,$$

then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ and $\int_N^{\infty} f(x) dx$ converge or diverge together.

why? \rightarrow

2. All questions below refer to the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3n}{10+n^2}$

(a) What does the Divergence Test tell us about this series?

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3n}{10+n^2} = 0 \quad \text{Divergence test tells us nothing.}$$

(b) Show that we can apply the Integral Test to the series.

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \frac{3n}{10+n^2} > 0 \text{ for all } n \geq 1$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad f(x) = \frac{3x}{10+x^2} \text{ continuous + decreasing}$$

$$\text{and } f(n) = a_n$$

(c) Use the Integral Test to determine whether or not the series converges.

$$\int_1^{\infty} \frac{3x}{10+x^2} dx = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} 3 \int_1^b \frac{x dx}{10+x^2} = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left. \frac{3}{2} \ln(10+x^2) \right|_1^b$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3}{2} (\ln(10+b^2) - \ln(11)) = \infty \text{ diverges}$$

$$\text{So } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{3n}{10+n^2} \text{ diverges}$$

3. A p -series has form $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$, where p is a real number.

Ex] harmonic series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$, is p -series for $p=1$.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{21}} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{1/4}} \quad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{-20}}$$

4. p -series and convergence

• If $p > 1$, then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$ converges

• If $p \leq 1$, then $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$ diverges.

Why? \rightarrow

5. Use what we know about p -series and convergence to determine whether the series below converge or diverge.

(a) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{1.56}}$

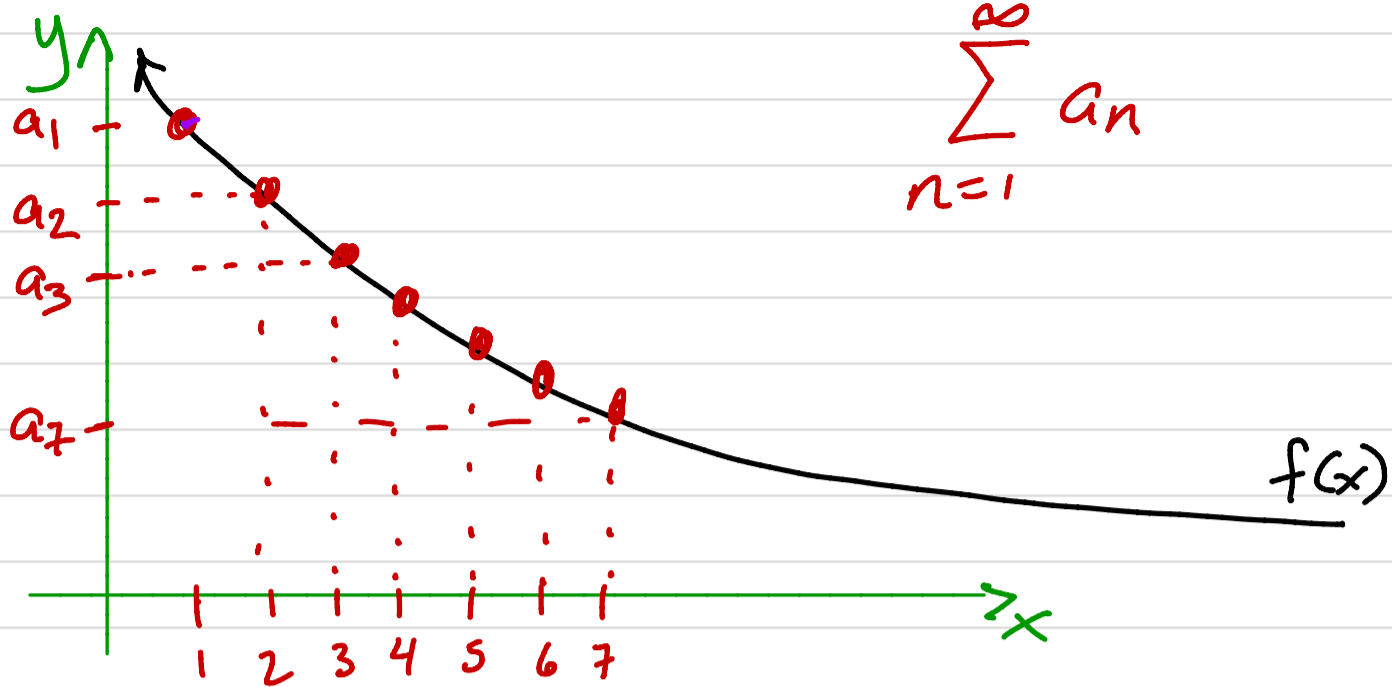
p -series w/ $p = 1.56 > 1$. So $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{1.56}}$ converges

(b) $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{99/100}}$

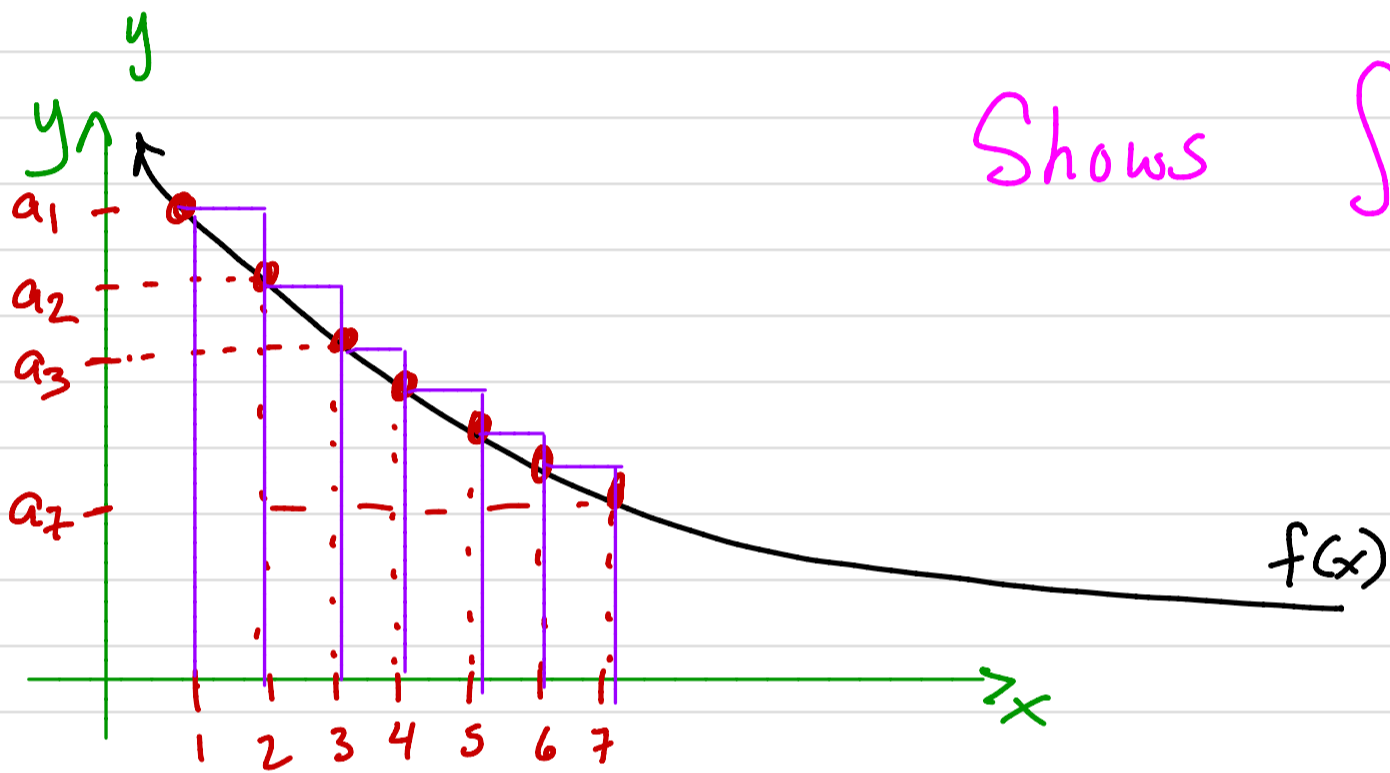
p -series w/ $p = \frac{99}{100} \leq 1$.

So $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{99/100}}$ diverges.

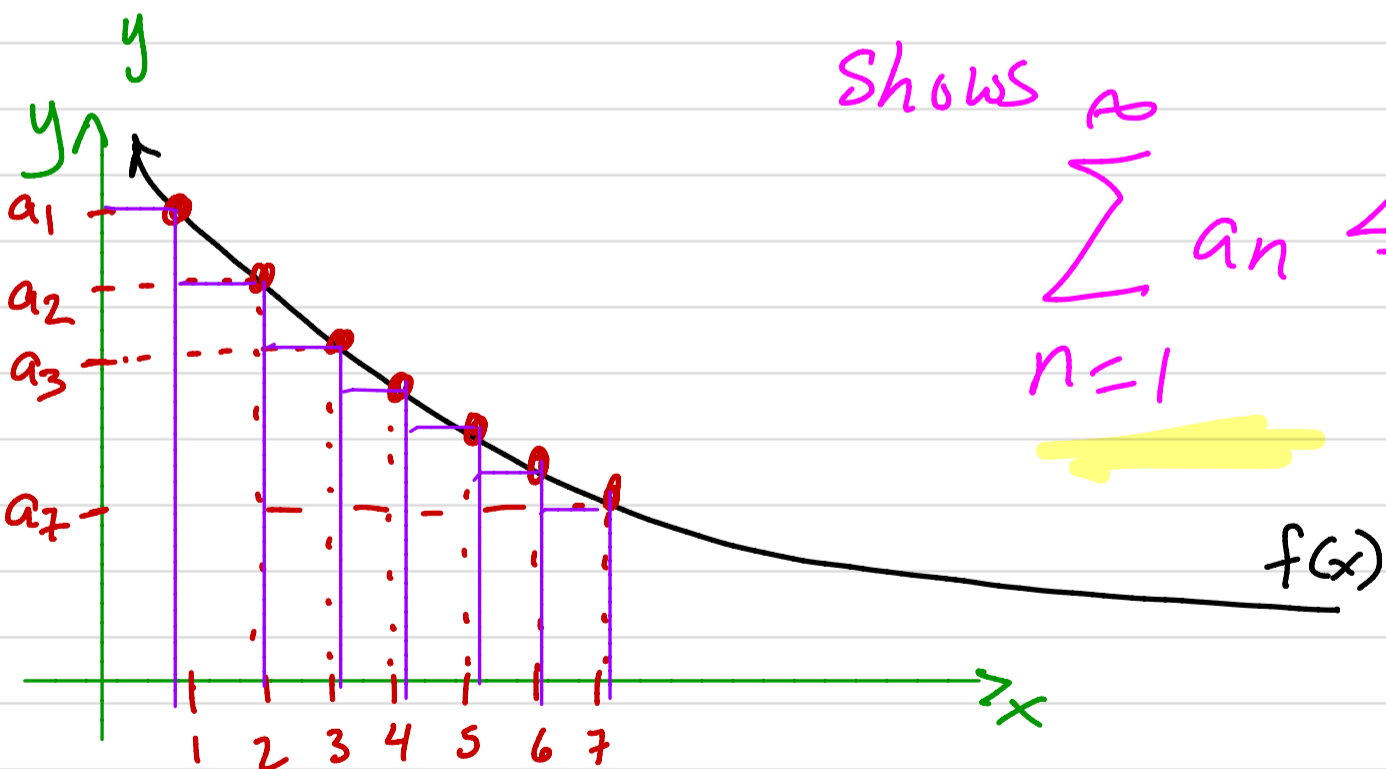
Why does the Integral Test work?



$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$$



Shows $\int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx < \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$



Shows $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \leq \int_1^{\infty} f(x) dx$

How do we know which p-series converge?

- Assume $p \neq 1$, since we already know it diverges.

Apply the Integral Test to $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$

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

$$\text{We need to calculate } \int \frac{1}{x^p} dx = \int x^{-p} dx = \frac{1}{-p+1} x^{-p+1}$$

$$\text{So } \int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^p} dx = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^b x^{-p} dx = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[\frac{1}{1-p} \cdot x^{1-p} \right]_1^b$$

$$= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left[\left(\frac{1}{1-p} \right) (b^{1-p} - 1) \right] = \begin{cases} \infty & \text{if } p < 1 \\ & \text{b/c } 1-p > 0 \\ \frac{1}{p-1} & \text{if } p > 1 \\ & \text{b/c } 1-p < 0 \end{cases}$$