

Calculus II, Section 11.6, #22
Absolute Convergence and the Ratio and Root Tests

Use the Ratio Test to determine whether the series is convergent or divergent.¹

$$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{2 \cdot 5}{3 \cdot 5} + \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7} + \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8 \cdot 11}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 9} + \cdots$$

We can rewrite our series as

$$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{2 \cdot 5}{3 \cdot 5} + \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7} + \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8 \cdot 11}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 9} + \cdots = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8 \cdot 11 \cdots (3n-1)}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 9 \cdots (2n+1)}$$

and compute the limit

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{\frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8 \cdot 11 \cdots (3(n+1)-1)}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 9 \cdots (2(n+1)+1)}}{\frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8 \cdot 11 \cdots (3n-1)}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 9 \cdots (2n+1)}} \right| \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8 \cdot 11 \cdots (3n-1)(3n+2)}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 9 \cdots (2n+1)(2n+3)} \cdot \frac{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 9 \cdots (2n+1)}{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8 \cdot 11 \cdots (3n-1)} \right| \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{3n+2}{2n+3} \right| \\ &= \frac{3}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Since the limit exists and is greater than one, the series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{2 \cdot 5 \cdot 8 \cdot 11 \cdots (3n-1)}{3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 9 \cdots (2n+1)}$$

is divergent by the Ratio Test.

¹Stewart, *Calculus, Early Transcendentals*, p. 743, #22.