

Remember that for the alternating series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n a_n$  to converge by AST, we must have  $a_n \geq a_{n+1}$  for all  $n$  past some point.

Here's an example where  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$ , but the alternating series diverges.

$$\text{Let } a_n = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{n/2} & \text{if } n \text{ even} \\ \frac{1}{(\frac{n+1}{2})^2} & \text{if } n \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Then } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n a_n = -\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{1} - \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3^2} + \frac{1}{3} - \dots$$

Let's look at the even partial sums,  $S_{2N}$ .

$$S_{2N} = \sum_{k=1}^N \left( -\frac{1}{k^2} + \frac{1}{k} \right) = \sum_{k=1}^N \left( \frac{k-1}{k^2} \right)$$

One can use the limit comparison test to show that  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} S_{2N}$  diverges.

Since the even partial sums do not converge, the limit  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} S_N$  must diverge also, and so our alternating series diverges.