

An example of a non-alternating series with  $a_n \rightarrow 0$ ,  ~~$a_{n+1} \leq a_n$~~  for all  $n$ :

Consider the series  $1 + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{6} + \dots$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n, \text{ where } a_n = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{n} & \text{if } n \text{ is not a multiple of 3} \\ -\frac{1}{n} & \text{if } n \text{ is a multiple of 3.} \end{cases}$$

We will look at the partial sums  $S_{3N}$  and show these diverge, hence the entire sequence of partial sums diverges.

$$S_{3N} = \sum_{k=1}^{3N} a_k = \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{6}\right) + \dots + \left(\frac{1}{3N-2} + \frac{1}{3N-1} - \frac{1}{3N}\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{What is } \frac{1}{3k-2} + \frac{1}{3k-1} - \frac{1}{3k} &= \frac{3k(3k-1) + 3k(3k-2) - (3k-1)(3k-2)}{3k(3k-1)(3k-2)} \\ &= \frac{9k^2 - 3k + 9k^2 - 6k - 9k^2 + 9k + 2}{3k(9k^2 - 9k + 2)} \\ &= \frac{9k^2 - 2}{27k^3 - 27k^2 + 6k} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So, } S_{3N} &= \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3}\right) + \dots + \left(\frac{1}{3N-2} + \frac{1}{3N-1} - \frac{1}{3N}\right) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^N \frac{9k^2 - 2}{27k^3 - 27k^2 + 6k} \end{aligned}$$

But the series  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{9k^2 - 2}{27k^3 - 27k^2 + 6k}$  diverges by Limit Comparison with  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{k}$ .

So the sequence of partial sums  $\{S_{3N}\}$  diverges to  $\infty$ , hence the series

$1 + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{6} + \dots$  diverges.