

# Alternating series

• series that has positive & negative terms

Ex.  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} \dots$

• Def:  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} u_n, u_n \geq 0$   
 $= u_1 - u_2 + u_3 - u_4 + \dots$

• Alternating series test

$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} u_n$  is converge if:-

- 1-  $u_n \geq 0$
- 2-  $u_{n+1} \leq u_n \quad \forall n \geq N$  non increasing
- 3-  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n = 0$

if not  $\rightarrow$  No info

Note:-

$\sum \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n}$  is an Alternating harmonic series that converges

• Alternating series Estimation Theorem

if  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} u_n$  converges then  $S_n = u_1 - u_2 + u_3 + \dots + (-1)^{n+1} u_n$

approximates  $L = \text{Sum}$  with error  $E = L - S_n$

$|E| < |u_{n+1}| \rightarrow \text{sign}(E) = \text{sign}(-1)^{n+2} u_{n+1}$

$\downarrow$   
 the first unused

Example: Estimate the sum of the first 8 terms of the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2n} (-1)^n$

$= 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} \dots$

The first 8 terms, so the first unused term is the 9th term

Alaa Etaiwi

• if  $\sum |a_n|$  converges and  $\sum a_n$  converges we say  $\sum a_n$  converges absolutely

• If  $\sum |a_n|$  diverges and  $\sum a_n$  converges we say  $\sum a_n$  converges conditionally

Alaa Etaiwi