

Q:  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k(\ln k)^2 + 3}$  Convergent or not?

"is much bigger than"

A: As  $k \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $k(\ln k)^2 \rightarrow \infty$  also. So,  $k(\ln k)^2 \gg 3$  as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

So, we might guess that  $\sum \frac{1}{k(\ln k)^2 + 3}$  behaves like  $\sum \frac{1}{k(\ln k)^2}$

i.e. use Limit-Comparison Test:

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_k}{b_k} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{k(\ln k)^2}{k(\ln k)^2 + 3} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{3}{k(\ln k)^2}} = 1$$

And  $\sum b_k$  is easier: can use Integral Test (NB:  $\frac{1}{x(\ln x)^2}$  is decreasing function)

$$\begin{aligned} \int_1^{\infty} \frac{dx}{x(\ln x)^2} &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^t \frac{dx}{x(\ln x)^2} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_1^{\ln t} \frac{du}{u^2} & u = \ln x \\ & & du = \frac{dx}{x} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left. \frac{1}{u} \right|_1^{\ln t} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1}{\ln t} - 1 \right) \end{aligned}$$

Which exists, so the  $\int$  converges

so the  $\sum$  also converges

Remark: The same kind of idea works for many similar series:

For  $\frac{1}{k^3 \ln k + 3}$  use limit-comparison to  $\frac{1}{k^2 \ln k}$  (conv, by Integral Test)

For  $\frac{3k}{6 \ln k + 5}$  use limit-comparison to  $\frac{3k}{6 \ln k}$  (diverges, by Divergence Test)

For  $\frac{8n}{2n^2 \ln n + 7}$  use limit-comparison to  $\frac{8n}{2n^2 \ln n} = \frac{4}{n \ln n}$  (div, by Int Test)