

Name: _____

1. (20 marks) Study the convergence of the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}(\sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n})$.

Solution 1.

As

$$s_n \equiv \sum_{j=1}^n (\sqrt{j+1} - \sqrt{j}) = \sqrt{n+1} - 1 \rightarrow \infty, \quad \rightarrow \infty,$$

we conclude that this series diverges. Recall that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_n$ converges implies that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 0$.

Solution 2. We have

$$\begin{aligned} x_n &\equiv \sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1} + \sqrt{n}} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2\sqrt{n+1}} \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2(n+1)}. \end{aligned}$$

As $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2(n+1)} = \infty$, by Comparison Test, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_n$ is divergent.

Remark. Many of you tried Ratio Test, but it is of no use. In many cases, Comparison Test is better. Remember it.