

## 35. THE HARMONIC SERIES.

**Proposition.** If

$$\sum_{n=h}^{\infty} x_n$$

converges, then  $\lim x_n = 0$ .

**Proof.** A convergent series is a Cauchy series, so

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists M \in \mathbb{N}. \forall M < k, |x_k| = \left| \sum_{n=h}^k x_n - \sum_{n=h}^{k-1} x_n \right| < \varepsilon. \quad \square$$

The converse is false:

**The Harmonic Series.** This is

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}.$$

Although its summands  $1/n$  tend to zero, the series diverges by the Comparison Test:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} &= 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \left( \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} \right) + \left( \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{8} \right) + \dots \\ &\geq 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \left( \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} \right) + \left( \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} \right) + \dots \\ &= 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \left( \frac{2}{4} \right) + \left( \frac{4}{8} \right) + \dots \\ &= 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \dots, \end{aligned}$$

which is unbounded, and thus divergent.