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SOME OPEN PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE CONVERGENCE OF POSITIVE SERIES*

Constantin P. Niculescu[†] Gabriel T. Prăjitură[‡]

Abstract

We discuss some old results due to Abel and Olivier concerning the convergence of positive series and prove a set of necessary conditions involving convergence in density.

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1 Introduction

Understanding the nature of a series is usually a difficult task. The following two striking examples can be found in Hardy's book (17), Orders of infinity: the series

$$\sum_{n \ge 3} \frac{1}{n \ln n \left(\ln \ln n\right)^2}$$

converges to 38.43..., but does it so slow that one needs to sum up its first $10^{3.14 \times 10^{86}}$ terms to get the first two exact decimals of the sum. In the same time, the series

$$\sum_{n\geq 3} \frac{1}{n\ln n \,(\ln\ln n)}$$

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 $^{^{\}dagger}$ University of Craiova, Department of Mathematics, Craiova RO-200585, Romania, cniculescu470yahoo.com

[‡]Department of Mathematics, The College at Brockport, State University of New York, 350 New Campus Drive, Brockport, New York 14420-2931, USA, gprajitu@brockport.edu