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### Midterm Exam Question 3.

Determine whether each of the following series converges or diverges:

a.  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (\sqrt{n^2+n} - n)$

b.  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (\sqrt{n^2+n} - n)^n$

Show all your work!

Explain your reasoning fully and in detail using correct mathematical notation and terminology, and in well-formed mathematical and English sentences!

(a)  $a_n = \sqrt{n^2+n} - n \Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\sqrt{n^2+n} - n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2+n-n^2}{\sqrt{n^2+n}+n}$

$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\frac{1}{n}}+1} = \frac{1}{2} \neq 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (\sqrt{n^2+n} - n)$  diverges by nTT.

(b)  $a_n = (\sqrt{n^2+n} - n)^n$

$L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |a_n|^{1/n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |(\sqrt{n^2+n} - n)|^{n/n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\sqrt{n^2+n} - n) = \frac{1}{2}$

Since  $L = \frac{1}{2} < 1$ ,  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (\sqrt{n^2+n} - n)^n$  converges by nRT.