

## §10.1 SEQUENCES

Def: A SEQUENCE IS A <sup>ORDERED</sup> LIST OF OBJECTS <sup>REAL NUMBERS.</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> object, 2<sup>nd</sup> object, ...

$a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots$   
 $\dots, a_{n-1}, a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots$

SUBSCRIPTS  
ARE CALLED  
INDEX

$(n-1)^{\text{th}}$  TERM       $n^{\text{th}}$  TERM

e.g. SEQUENCE : 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, ...

CONTINUES FOR EVER  
↓ (∞ LIST)

$$a_1 = 2 \quad a_2 = 4 \quad a_3 = 6$$

(RULE)  $a_n = 2n$        $f(n) = 2n$

FUNCTION!

A SEQUENCE IS A FUNCTION WITH DOMAIN

$$\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots\}$$

NOTATION:

ANY EXPRESSION OF  $n$

$$a_n = (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{n}$$

e.g.  
 TO FIND  $a_7$   
 PLUG IN  $n=7$

$f(x) = \dots$

DEFINING A SEQUENCE

$$\{a_n\} = \left\{ \frac{1}{a_1}, \frac{-\frac{1}{2}}{a_2}, \frac{\frac{1}{3}}{a_3}, \frac{-\frac{1}{4}}{a_4}, \frac{\frac{1}{5}}{a_5}, \dots \right\}$$

$$\{a_n\} = \left\{ (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{n} \right\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$$

e.g.

$$a_n = \frac{n+2}{n} \rightarrow \begin{matrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ 3 & 2 & \frac{5}{3} \\ n=1 & n=2 & \frac{6}{4} \dots \end{matrix}$$

e.g.

$$a_n = (-1)^n \frac{10^n}{n!}$$

"n-FACTORIAL"  
 $n! = n(n-1)(n-2)\dots 2 \cdot 1$

$$a_1 = (-1)^1 \frac{10^1}{1!} = -10$$

$$a_2 = (-1)^2 \frac{10^2}{2!} = +50$$

$$a_3 = (-1)^3 \frac{10^3}{3!} = \frac{-1000}{6}$$

3 · 2 · 1

Def: THE SEQUENCE  $a_n$  CONVERGES TO THE LIMIT  $L$

IF FOR ALL REAL NUMBERS  $\epsilon > 0$ , THERE EXISTS  
A POSITIVE INTEGER  $N$  SUCH THAT

$$|a_n - L| < \epsilon \quad \text{WHENEVER } n \geq N.$$

$n^{\text{th}}$  TERM  $a_n$  IS CLOSE  
TO LIMIT  $L$

$a_1, a_2, \dots, a_N, a_{N+1}, \dots$   
↑  
WHEN  $n$  IS BIG ENOUGH  
(GO OUT FAR ENOUGH INTO SEQUENCE)

WE WRITE  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$ , OR  $a_n \rightarrow L$  AS  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

IF NO LIMIT EXISTS, WE SAY THE SEQUENCE  $a_n$  DIVERGES.

e.g.  $a_n = \frac{1}{n} : 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \dots$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$$

FARTHER OUT YOU GO,  
CLOSER TO 0 THE  
TERMS BECOME.

THM. CALCULATING LIMITS OF SEQUENCES

Let  $a_n, b_n$  ARE TWO SEQUENCES OF REAL NUMBERS.

Let  $A, B \in \mathbb{R}$  SUCH THAT  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = A, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = B.$

Let  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ . "BELONGS TO THE SET OF REAL NUMBERS"

1.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n \pm b_n) = A \pm B$

( LIMIT OF SUM/DIFF = SUM/DIFF OF LIMITS. )

2.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c a_n = c A$

3.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n b_n = AB$

( LIMIT OF PRODUCT = PRODUCT OF LIMITS )

4.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \frac{A}{B}$

( LIMIT OF QUOTIENTS = QUOTIENT OF LIMITS )

e.g. FIND LIMIT OF SEQUENCE

$$a_n = \frac{1 - 5n^4}{n^4 + 8n^3}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1 - 5n^4}{n^4 + 8n^3} \cdot \frac{\frac{1}{n^4}}{\frac{1}{n^4}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{n^4} - 5}{1 + \frac{8}{n}}$$

$$(4) = \frac{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1}{n^4} - 5 \right)}{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( 1 + \frac{8}{n} \right)} = \frac{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1}{n^4} \right) - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (5)}{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1) + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{8}{n} \right)}$$

$$= \frac{0 - 5}{1 + 0} = \boxed{-5}$$

e.g.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{n+1}{2n} \right) \left( \frac{1 - 5n^4}{n^4 + 8n^3} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{n+1}{2n} \right) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1 - 5n^4}{n^4 + 8n^3} \right)$$

$$= \left( \frac{1}{2} \right) (-5) = \boxed{-\frac{5}{2}}$$

## THM (SANDWICH THM)

Let  $a_n, b_n, c_n$  be sequences of real numbers.

IF  $a_n \leq b_n \leq c_n$  hold for all  $n \geq N$

BEYOND A CERTAIN INDEX.

"EVENTUALLY"

AND IF  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c_n = L$ .

THEN :  $a_n \leq b_n \leq c_n$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c_n$$

↓

$$L \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n \leq L$$

||

L

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = L$$

ex.

$$a_n = \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{2^n}$$

← = 1, -1, 1, -1, ... ALTERNATING

FIND  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$

$$\frac{-1}{2^n} \leq a_n \leq \frac{1}{2^n}$$

$$0 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-1}{2^n} \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2^n} = 0$$

∴ BY SANDWICH THM,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$ .

ex.

$$a_n = \frac{\cos(n)}{n^2}$$

$$-1 \leq \cos(n) \leq 1$$

$$\frac{-1}{n^2} \leq a_n \leq \frac{1}{n^2}$$

$$0 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-1}{n^2} \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = 0$$

↳ ALSO 0 BY SANDWICH THM.

# THM CONTINUOUS FUNC. THM. FOR SEQUENCES

Let  $a_n$  be a sequence of real numbers.

IF  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$  AND IF  $f$  IS CONTINUOUS

AT  $L$  THEN

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(a_n) = f\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n\right) \\ = f(L).$$

e.g.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{\frac{3n^2 + 1}{2n^2 - 1}} = \sqrt{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3n^2 + 1}{2n^2 - 1}} \\ = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}$$

THM: Suppose  $f(x)$  is a function defined for all  $x \geq N$ , where  $N$  is some positive integer.

Suppose  $a_n = f(n)$  for  $n \geq N$ .

THEN  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = L$  (ASSUMING THIS LIMIT  $L$  EXISTS)



ex.  $a_n = \left( \frac{n+1}{n-1} \right)^n$  . FIND  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$  .

$1^\infty$  + INDETERMINATE FORM

Note: DEFINE  $f(x) = \left( \frac{x+1}{x-1} \right)^x$  A FUNCTION OF A REAL VARIABLE  
 DOMAIN  $(f) = \mathbb{R}$

IF  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = L$  , THEN  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$  .

$f(n) = a_n$  THIS IS THE RELATION BETWEEN FUNC.  $f(x)$  & SEQ.  $a_n$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{x+1}{x-1} \right)^x$  ( $1^\infty$ )  $\frac{0}{0}$  IND. FORM.

$= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^{x \ln \left[ \left( \frac{x+1}{x-1} \right)^x \right]}$   $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{\ln \left( \frac{x+1}{x-1} \right)}{\frac{1}{x}} \right)$

L'Hôpital's Rule:  $e \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{\frac{1}{x+1} - \frac{1}{x-1}}{-\frac{1}{x^2}} \right) = e \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{((x-1) - (x+1))(-x^2)}{(x+1)(x-1)}$   
 $= e \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{2x^2}{x^2-1} \right) = e \sqrt{2}$