

**True or False? Give a proof or a counterexample.**

1. If  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  is non-empty and bounded and  $\inf A = \sup A$  then  $A$  has exactly one element.

True.

Proof: We argue by contradiction. Suppose that  $\inf A = \sup A$  but  $A$  has more than one elements. Take two of them, call them  $a$  and  $b$  and assume (without loss of generality) that  $a < b$ . Then  $\inf A \leq a$  (because  $\inf A$  is a lower bound of  $A$ ) and  $b \leq \sup A$  (because  $\sup A$  is an upper bound of  $A$ ). Therefore  $\inf A < \sup A$ ; contradiction

2. If  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  has ten elements then  $\sup A \in A$ .

True.

Proof: If  $A$  has ten elements then  $A$  has a maximum element, call it  $a_0$ . Then  $\sup A$  is equal to  $a_0$  therefore  $\sup A \in A$ .

3. If  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  is non-empty and bounded and every element of  $A$  is an integer then  $\sup A \in A$ .

True.

Proof: If  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  is non-empty and bounded and every element of  $A$  is an integer then  $A$  is a finite set. Working as in the last question we can show that  $\sup A \in A$ .

4. If  $a_n^2 \rightarrow a^2$  then  $a_n \rightarrow a$ .

False.

Counterexample:  $a_n = (-1)^n$ ,  $a = 1$ .

5. If  $a_n^3 \rightarrow a^3$  then  $a_n \rightarrow a$ .

True.

Proof: (Now that we have developed all the theory we have more tools available than when this question was first asked several months ago)

Assume  $a_n^3 \rightarrow a^3$ . The function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  given by  $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$  is continuous, therefore  $f(a_n^3) \rightarrow f(a^3)$ , i.e.  $a_n \rightarrow a$ .

6. If  $a_n \rightarrow a$  then  $|a_n| \rightarrow |a|$ .

True. This is a well known property of limits.

7. If  $|a_n| \rightarrow |a|$  then  $a_n \rightarrow a$ .

False. Counterexample:  $a_n = (-1)^n$ ,  $a = 1$ .

8. If  $a_n \rightarrow a$  then for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  the interval  $(a - \varepsilon, a + \varepsilon)$  contains infinitely many terms of  $(a_n)$ .

True.

Proof: If  $a_n \rightarrow a$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  then there is an index  $N$  such that for all  $n \geq N$  we have  $a_n \in (a - \varepsilon, a + \varepsilon)$ , therefore the interval  $(a - \varepsilon, a + \varepsilon)$  contains infinitely many terms of the sequence.

9. If for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  the interval  $(a - \varepsilon, a + \varepsilon)$  contains infinitely many terms of  $(a_n)$ , then  $a_n \rightarrow a$ .

False.

Counterexample:  $a_n = (-1)^n$ ,  $a = 1$ . For every  $\varepsilon > 0$  the interval  $(1 - \varepsilon, 1 + \varepsilon)$  contains infinitely many terms of the sequence, namely  $a_2, a_4, a_6, \dots$ , but  $a_n \not\rightarrow 1$ .

10. Let  $(a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be the sequence defined by

$$a_n = \frac{1}{n+1} + \frac{1}{n+2} + \frac{1}{n+3} + \cdots + \frac{1}{2n}. \quad (1)$$

Is the following proof that  $a_n \rightarrow 0$  correct?

Proof: Since the limit of a sum is equal to the sum of the limits we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{1}{n+1} + \frac{1}{n+2} + \frac{1}{n+3} + \cdots + \frac{1}{2n} \right) \quad (2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n+1} + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n+2} + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n+3} + \cdots + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2n} \\ &= 0 + 0 + 0 + \cdots + 0 \\ &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Answer: The proof is wrong. The Theorem that says that the limit of a sum is equal to the sum of the limits talks about sums with a fixed number of terms. Here the number of terms varies with  $n$ .

11. If  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous and  $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is discontinuous then  $f + g$  is discontinuous.

True.

Proof: If  $f + g$  were continuous then  $g = (f + g) - f$  would be continuous as the difference of two continuous function.

12. If  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous and  $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is discontinuous then  $fg$  is discontinuous.

False.

Counterexample: Take  $f = 0$  and  $g$  any discontinuous functions. Then  $fg = 0$  is continuous.