

迭代数列的极限

例 1 设数列 $\{x_n\}$ 满足 $x_1 = \sqrt{a}$, ($a > 0$), $x_n = \sqrt{x_{n-1} + a}$, ($n > 1$), 证明数列收敛并求其极限.

解 先证明数列收敛.

i) 验证数列单调增加. 事实上 $x_1 = \sqrt{a} < x_2 = \sqrt{a + \sqrt{a}}$, 假设 $x_{k-1} < x_k$ ($k > 1$), 则

$$x_k = \sqrt{x_{k-1} + a} < \sqrt{x_k + a} = x_{k+1},$$

或

$$x_{k+1} - x_k = \sqrt{x_k + a} - \sqrt{x_{k-1} + a} = \frac{x_k - x_{k-1}}{\sqrt{x_k + a} + \sqrt{x_{k-1} + a}} > 0,$$

由归纳法知数列 $\{x_n\}$ 是单调增加的.

ii) 验证数列有上界. 由 $x_n^2 = x_{n-1} + a$, 且数列为正值单增的, 有

$$x_n = \frac{x_{n-1}}{x_n} + \frac{a}{x_n} < 1 + \frac{a}{x_1} = 1 + \sqrt{a},$$

也可归纳证明: 由 $x_1 = \sqrt{a} < 1 + \sqrt{a}$, 假设 $x_{k-1} < 1 + \sqrt{a}$ ($k > 1$), 则

$$x_k = \sqrt{a + x_{k-1}} < \sqrt{a + \sqrt{a} + 1} < \sqrt{a + 2\sqrt{a} + 1} = 1 + \sqrt{a}.$$

综上由单调有界准则知数列收敛.

设 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = l$, (由极限的比较性质知 $l \geq \sqrt{a}$). 对迭代式两边求极限有

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{x_{n-1} + a}, \text{ 即 } l = \sqrt{a + l}$$

解得 $l = \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 + 4a}}{2}.$

另法 已知常数 $l = \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 + 4a}}{2}$ (> 1) 满足等式 $l = \sqrt{a + l}$, 下证 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = l$.

$$|x_n - l| = \left| \sqrt{x_{n-1} + a} - \sqrt{l + a} \right| = \frac{|x_{n-1} - l|}{\sqrt{x_{n-1} + a} + \sqrt{l + a}} \quad (\text{有理化})$$

$$< \frac{|x_{n-1} - l|}{\sqrt{l + a}} = \frac{1}{l} |x_{n-1} - l|,$$

因此

$$|x_{n-1}-l| < \frac{1}{l}|x_{n-2}-l|, \quad |x_{n-2}-l| < \frac{1}{l}|x_{n-3}-l|, \quad \dots \quad |x_2-l| < \frac{1}{l}|x_1-l| = \frac{1}{l}|\sqrt{a}-l|.$$

从而

$$|x_n-l| \leq \frac{1}{l^{n-1}}|\sqrt{a}-l|,$$

因 $l > 1$, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{l^{n-1}}|\sqrt{a}-l| = 0$, 故 $\forall \varepsilon > 0$, n 充分大时, $\frac{1}{l^{n-1}}|\sqrt{a}-l| < \varepsilon$, 进而

$$|x_n-l| < \frac{1}{l^{n-1}}|x_1-l| < \varepsilon.$$

即 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = l$.

例 2 设数列 $\{x_n\}$ 满足 $x_1 = 3, x_n = 1 + \frac{1}{x_{n-1}}, (n > 1)$, 求其极限.

解 已知常数 $l = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} (> 1)$ 满足等式 $l = 1 + \frac{1}{l}$, 下证 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = l$.

因

$$\begin{aligned} |x_n-l| &= \left| 1 + \frac{1}{x_{n-1}} - \left(1 + \frac{1}{l} \right) \right| = \frac{|x_{n-1}-l|}{x_{n-1}l} && (\text{显然 } x_n > 1) \\ &< \frac{1}{l}|x_{n-1}-l| && (\text{接下来递推}) \\ &< \frac{1}{l^2}|x_{n-2}-l| \cdots < \frac{1}{l^{n-1}}|x_1-l| \end{aligned}$$

由 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{l^{n-1}} = 0$, 知 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |x_n-l| = 0$, 进而 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = l = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$.

注 $x_1 = 3, x_2 = \frac{4}{3}, x_3 = \frac{7}{4}, x_4 = \frac{11}{7}$, 因 $x_{n+1} = 1 + \frac{1}{x_n}$, 也可以归纳证明此题中数列

的奇子列为单调减, 偶子列为单调增, 因 $1 < x_n \leq 3$, 故两子列都收敛. 记极限分别为 a, b ,

则由 $x_{2k+1} = 1 + \frac{1}{x_{2k}}, x_{2k} = 1 + \frac{1}{x_{2k-1}}$ 两边求极限有

$$a = 1 + \frac{1}{b}, b = 1 + \frac{1}{a}$$

解得 $a = b = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$. 即数列的奇子列与偶子列收敛到相同值 $\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}$, 所以

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}.$$

例 3 设 $x_0 = a$, $x_1 = b > a$, $x_{n+2} = \frac{x_{n+1} + x_n}{2}$, 求 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n$.

解 因 $x_{n+2} - x_{n+1} = -\frac{x_{n+1} - x_n}{2} = (-\frac{1}{2})^2(x_n - x_{n-1}) = \cdots = (-\frac{1}{2})^{n+1}(x_1 - x_0)$

$$x_n - x_1 = \sum_{k=0}^{n-2} (x_{k+2} - x_{k+1}) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-2} (-\frac{1}{2})^{k+1}(b-a) = \frac{-\frac{1}{2} - (-\frac{1}{2})^n}{1 - (-\frac{1}{2})}(b-a)$$

$$\rightarrow -\frac{1}{3}(b-a)$$

所以 $x_n \rightarrow \frac{a+2b}{3}.$

另法 因

$$x_{n+2} + \frac{x_{n+1}}{2} = x_{n+1} + \frac{x_n}{2} = x_n + \frac{x_{n-1}}{2} = \cdots = x_1 + \frac{x_0}{2}$$

即 $x_n + \frac{1}{2}x_{n-1} = c$, $c = \frac{1}{2}a + b$.

记 $l = \frac{a+2b}{3}$, ($l + \frac{1}{2}l = c$) 下证 $x_n \rightarrow \frac{a+2b}{3}$.

$$\text{因 } |x_n - l| = \frac{1}{2}|x_{n-1} - l| = \frac{1}{2^2}|x_{n-2} - l| \cdots = \frac{1}{2^n}|x_0 - l| \rightarrow 0$$

易得 $x_n \rightarrow \frac{a+2b}{3}.$

例 4 设正数列 $\{x_n\}$ 满足 $x_n \leq x_{n-1} + \frac{1}{n^2}$, ($n > 1$), 证明数列 $\{x_n\}$ 收敛.

证明 因 $x_n \leq x_{n-1} + \frac{1}{n^2} < x_{n-1} + \frac{1}{(n-1)n} = x_{n-1} + \frac{1}{n-1} - \frac{1}{n}$,

即 $x_n + \frac{1}{n} < x_{n-1} + \frac{1}{n-1} \quad (n > 1)$

表明数列 $\left\{x_n + \frac{1}{n}\right\}$ 是单减的且下有界 0, 故 $\left\{x_n + \frac{1}{n}\right\}$ 收敛, 又 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0$, 从而 $\{x_n\}$ 收敛.

例 5 设 $x_1 = \sqrt{7}, x_2 = \sqrt{7 - \sqrt{7}}, x_3 = \sqrt{7 - \sqrt{7 + \sqrt{7}}}, x_4 = \sqrt{7 - \sqrt{7 + \sqrt{7 - \sqrt{7}}}}, \cdots$, 求

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n.$$

解 数列 $\{x_n\}$ 满足如下迭代关系: $n \geq 1$ 时

$$x_{2n+1} = \sqrt{7 - \sqrt{7 + x_{2n-1}}}, x_1 = \sqrt{7}; \quad x_{2n+2} = \sqrt{7 - \sqrt{7 + x_{2n}}}, x_2 = \sqrt{7 - \sqrt{7}}.$$

显然 $\{x_n\}$ 为有界数列 (可以归纳出: $\sqrt{7 - \sqrt{7 + \sqrt{7}}} \leq x_n \leq \sqrt{7}$), 考虑 $\{x_n\}$ 的奇偶子列的极限.

假如奇子列 $\{x_{2n-1}\}_1^\infty$ 收敛于 l (利用极限性质应有 $l \in [\sqrt{7 - \sqrt{7 + \sqrt{7}}}, \sqrt{7}]$), 对 $x_{2n+1} = \sqrt{7 - \sqrt{7 + x_{2n-1}}}$ 两边求极限有 $l = \sqrt{7 - \sqrt{7 + l}}$, 解得 $l = 2$.

(事实上, 上式两边平方有 $l^2 = 7 - \sqrt{7 + l}$, 记 $7 - l^2 = t$, 则 $\sqrt{7 + l} = t (\geq 0)$,

从而 $7 + l = t^2$, $7 - l^2 = t$, 相减得 $l^2 + l = t^2 - t$ 即 $(l + t)(l - t + 1) = 0$, 故 $t = l + 1$,

进而 $l^2 + l - 6 = 0$, $l = 2$)

下证 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{2n+1} = 2$.

$$\begin{aligned} |x_{2n+1} - 2| &= |\sqrt{7 - \sqrt{7 + x_{2n-1}}} - 2| = \frac{|3 - \sqrt{7 + x_{2n-1}}|}{\sqrt{7 - \sqrt{7 + x_{2n-1}}} + 2} \\ &\leq \frac{|3 - \sqrt{7 + x_{2n-1}}|}{2} = \frac{|x_{2n-1} - 2|}{2(3 + \sqrt{7 + x_{2n-1}})} \leq \frac{1}{6} |x_{2n-1} - 2| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{6^2} |x_{2n-3} - 2| \leq \cdots \leq \frac{1}{6^n} |x_1 - 2|, \end{aligned}$$

因 $\frac{1}{6^n} |x_1 - 2| \rightarrow 0 (n \rightarrow \infty)$, 故 $x_{2n+1} \rightarrow 2 (n \rightarrow \infty)$.

同样可以证明 $x_{2n} \rightarrow 2 (n \rightarrow \infty)$.

综上 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = 2$.