# Chapter 11 Notes - MC

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# 11 Infinite Sequences and Series

#### 11.1 Sequences

• sequence - a list of numbers written in a definite order:

$$a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, \cdots, a_n, \cdots$$

- $\bullet \ a_1$  first term;  $a_2$  second term;  $a_n$  nth term
- For infinite series, every term  $a_n$  has a successor  $a_{n+1}$
- Notation the sequence  $\{a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots\}$  can also be written as

$$\{a_n\}$$
 or  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ 

• Definition 1: limits of sequences:

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} a_n = L$$

- This means: as n becomes very large, the terms of the sequence  $\{a_n\}$  approach L.
- can also be written as

$$a_n \to L \text{ as } n \to \infty$$

• If the limit at infinity exists, the sequence is convergent/converges. Otherwise, it is divergent/diverges.

• Definition 2: A more precise definition of the limit of a sequence:

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} a_n = L$$

if for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is a corresponding integer N such that

if 
$$n > N$$
 then  $|a_n - L| < \varepsilon$ 

- Theorem 3: If  $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = L$  and  $f(n) = a_n$  when n is an integer, then  $\lim_{n\to\infty} a_n = L$ .
- Equation 4:

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{n^r} = 0 \text{ if } r > 0$$

• Definition 5:  $\lim_{n\to\infty} a_n = \infty$  means that for every positive number M there is an integer N such that

if 
$$n > N$$
 then  $a_n > M$ 

• Limit laws for sequences: If  $\{a_n\}$  and  $\{b_n\}$  are convergent sequences and c is a constant, then:

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} (a_n + b_n) = \lim_{n \to \infty} a_n + \lim_{n \to \infty} b_n$$

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} (a_n - b_n) = \lim_{n \to \infty} a_n - \lim_{n \to \infty} b_n$$

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} ca_n = c \lim_{n \to \infty} a_n \lim_{n \to \infty} c = c$$

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} (a_n b_n) = \lim_{n \to \infty} a_n \cdot \lim_{n \to \infty} b_n$$

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \frac{\lim_{n \to \infty} a_n}{\lim_{n \to \infty} b_n} \text{ if } \lim_{n \to \infty} b_n \neq 0$$

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} a_n^p = \left[\lim_{n \to \infty} a_n\right]^p \text{ if } p > 0 \text{ and } a_n > 0$$

• Squeeze Theorem can be adapted for sequences:

If 
$$a_n \leq b_n \leq c_n$$
 for  $n \geq n_0$  and  $\lim_{n \to \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \to \infty} c_n = L$ , then  $\lim_{n \to \infty} b_n = L$ 

- Theorem 6: If  $\lim_{n\to\infty} |a_n| = 0$ , then  $\lim_{n\to\infty} a_n = 0$
- Theorem 7: If  $\lim_{n\to\infty} a_n = L$  and the function f is continuous at L, then

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} f(a_n) = f(L)$$

• Equation 8 (example 10):

$$a_n = \frac{n!}{n^n} = \frac{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot n}{n \cdot n \cdot n \cdot \dots \cdot n}$$

(ex. 10)

• Equation 9 (example 11): The sequence  $\{r^n\}$  is convergent if  $-1 < r \le 1$  and divergent for all other values of r.

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} r^n = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } -1 < r < 1\\ 1 & \text{if } r = 1 \end{cases}$$

• Definition 10: A sequence  $\{a_n\}$  is called **increasing** if  $a_n < a_{n+1}$  for all  $n \ge 1$ , that is,  $a_1 < a_2 < a_3 < \cdots$ . It is called **decreasing** if  $a_n > a_{n+1}$  for all  $n \ge 1$ . A sequence is **monotonic** if it is either increasing or decreasing.

• Definition 11: A sequence  $\{a_n\}$  is **bounded above** if there is a number M such that

$$a_n \leq M$$
 for all  $n \geq 1$ 

It is bounded below if there is a number m such that

$$m \leq a_n$$
 for all  $n \geq 1$ 

If it is bounded above and below, then  $\{a_n\}$  is a **bounded sequence** 

- Theorem 12: Monotonic Sequence Theorem: Every bounded, monotonic sequence is convergent.
- Proof of theorem 12: Suppose  $\{a_n\}$  is an increasing sequence. Since  $\{a_n\}$  is bounded, the set  $S = \{a_n | n \ge 1\}$  has an upper bound. By the Completeness Axiom it has a least upper bound L. Given  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $L \varepsilon$  is not an upper bound for S (since L is the least upper bound). Therefore

$$a_N > L - \varepsilon$$

For some integer N. But the sequence is increasing so  $a_n \ge a_N$  for every n > N. Thus if n > N, we have

$$a_n > L - \varepsilon$$

so

$$0 \le L - a_n < \varepsilon$$

since  $a_n \leq L$ . Thus,

$$|L - a_n| < \varepsilon$$
 whenever  $n > N$ 

so  $\lim_{n\to\infty} a_n = L$ . A similar proof can be applied if  $\{a_n\}$  is decreasing.

#### 11.2 Series

• Equation 1: infinite series/series can be written as:

$$a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \cdots + a_n + \cdots$$

• Partial sums:

$$s_n = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \dots + a_n = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i$$

e.g.

$$s_1 = a_1$$
  
 $s_2 = a_1 + a_2$   
 $s_3 = a_1 + a_2 + a_3$   
 $s_4 = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4$ 

- Def 2: given a series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n = a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + \cdots$ , its *n*th partial sum is denoted as above.
  - If the sequence  $\{s_n\}$  is convergent and  $\lim_{n\to\infty} s_n = s$  exists as a real number, then the series  $\sum a_n$  is called convergent and we write

$$a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n + \dots = s \text{ or } \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n = s$$

- The number s is called the sum of the series. If the sequence  $\{s_n\}$  is divergent, then the series is divergent.

• Geometric series:

$$a + ar + ar^{2} + ar^{3} + \dots + ar^{n-1} + \dots = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ar^{n-1}$$
 where  $a \neq 0$ 

• Equation 3: sum of a geometric series

$$s_n = \frac{a\left(1 - r^n\right)}{1 - r}$$

• Equation 4 (example 2): The geometric series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ar^{n-1} = a + ar + ar^2 + \cdots$$

is convergent if |r| < 1 and its sum is

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ar^{n-1} = \frac{a}{1-r} \text{ where } |r| < 1$$

If  $|r| \geq 1$ , the geometric series is divergent.

• Equation 5 (example 7):

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = \frac{1}{1-x}$$

- Theorem 6: If the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  is convergent, then  $\lim_{n\to\infty} a_n = 0$ 
  - Note: The converse of this theorem is not always true!
- Equation 7: Nth term test: If  $\lim_{n\to\infty} a_n$  does not exist or if  $\lim_{n\to\infty} a_n \neq 0$ , then the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  is divergent.
- Theorem 8: If  $\Sigma a_n$  and  $\Sigma b_n$  are convergent series, then so are the series  $\Sigma ca_n$  (where c is a constant),  $\Sigma (a_n + b_n)$ , and  $\Sigma (a_n b_n)$ , and

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ca_n = c \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n + b_n) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n - b_n) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$$

#### 11.3 The Integral Test and Estimates of Sums

- The Integral Test: Suppose f is a continuous, positive, decreasing function on  $[1, \infty)$  and let  $a_n = f(n)$ . Then the series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  is convergent IFF the proper integral  $\int_1^{\infty} f(x)dx$  is convergent.
  - CONDITIONS: continuous, positive, decreasing function
  - The integral from 1 to  $\infty$  of the function must be convergent for the series to be convergent.
- Equation 1: P-series test: The p-series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p}$  is convergent if p > 1 and divergent if  $p \le 1$
- Equation 2: Remainder Estimate for the Integral Test: Suppose  $f(k) = a_k$ , where f is a continuous, positive, decreasing function for  $x \ge n$  and  $\Sigma a_n$  is convergent. If  $R_n = s s_n$ , then

$$\int_{n+1}^{\infty} f(x)dx \le R_n \le \int_{n}^{\infty} f(x)dx$$

• Equation 3 (example 5):

$$s_n + \int_{n+1}^{\infty} f(x)dx \le s \le s_n + \int_{n}^{\infty} f(x)dx$$

• Equation 4:

$$a_2 + a_3 + \dots + a_n \le \int_1^n f(x) dx$$

• Equation 5:

$$\int_{1}^{n} f(x)dx \le a_{1} + a_{2} + \dots + a_{n-1}$$

- Both eqns 4 and 5 depend on the fact that f is decreasing and positive.

#### 11.4 The Comparison Tests

- The comparison test: Suppose that  $\Sigma a_n$  and  $\Sigma b_n$  are series with positive terms.
  - If  $\Sigma b_n$  is convergent and  $a_n \leq b_n$  for all n, then  $\Sigma a_n$  is also convergent.
  - If  $\Sigma b_n$  is divergent and  $a_n \geq b_n$  for all n, then  $\Sigma a_n$  is also divergent.
- The Limit comparison test: Suppose that  $\Sigma a_n$  and  $\Sigma b_n$  are series with positive terms. If

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = c$$

where c is a finite number and c > 0, then either both series converge or both series diverge.

#### 11.5 Alternating Series

• The alternating series test: If the alternating series

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{n-1} b_n = b_1 - b_2 + b_3 - b_4 + b_5 - b_6 + \cdots \text{ where } b_n > 0$$

satisfies

(i) 
$$b_{n+1} < b_n$$
 for all  $n$ 

(ii) 
$$\lim_{n\to\infty} = 0$$

then the series is convergent.

• Alternating series Estimation Theorem: If  $s = \Sigma(-1)^{n-1}b_n$ , where  $b_n > 0$ , is the sum of an alternating series that satisfies

$$b_{n+1} \le b_n$$
 and  $\lim_{n \to \infty} = 0$ 

then

$$|R_n| = |s - s_n| \le b_{n+1}$$

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