

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:

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

- 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

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

- Definition 1: limits of sequences:

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

– This means: as n becomes very large, the terms of the sequence $\{a_n\}$ approach L .

- can also be written as

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

- 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:

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

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

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

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

- Equation 4:

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

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

$$\text{if } n > N \text{ then } a_n > M$$

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

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

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

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} ca_n = c \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c = c$$

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

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

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

- Squeeze Theorem can be adapted for sequences:

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

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

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

- Equation 8 (example 10):

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

(ex. 10)

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

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

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

$$a_n \leq M \text{ for all } n \geq 1$$

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

$$m \leq a_n \text{ for all } n \geq 1$$

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 $S = \{a_n | n \geq 1\}$ 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 $a_n \geq a_N$ for every $n > N$. Thus if $n > N$, we have

$$a_n > L - \varepsilon$$

so

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

since $a_n \leq L$. Thus,

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

so $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$. 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:

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

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 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = s$ exists as a real number, then the series $\sum a_n$ is called convergent and we write

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

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

- Geometric series:

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

- Equation 3: sum of a geometric series

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

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

– Note: The converse of this theorem is not always true!

- Equation 7: Nth term test: If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$ does not exist or if $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \neq 0$, then the series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ is divergent.

- Theorem 8: If $\sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ are convergent series, then so are the series $\sum ca_n$ (where c is a constant), $\sum (a_n + b_n)$, and $\sum (a_n - b_n)$, and

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} ca_n &= c \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \\ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n + b_n) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \\ \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n - b_n) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \end{aligned}$$

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