

# 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.

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