

MA 109 : Calculus-I D1 T4, Tutorial 1

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Questions to be Discussed

- Sheet 1
 - 2 (iv) - Sandwich Theorem for finding limits
 - 3 (ii) - Checking convergence of a sequence
 - 5 (iii) - Monotonic Bounded sequences are convergent
 - 7 - Proof using $\epsilon - n_0$ definition
 - 9 - Relation between product and convergence
 - 11 - Conditions for exchanging product and limits
 - 13 (iii) - Checking continuity of a function

2. (iv) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (n)^{1/n}.$

Define $h_n := n^{1/n} - 1.$

Then, $h_n \geq 0 \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}.$ (Why?)

Observe the following for $n > 2$:

$$n = (1 + h_n)^n > 1 + nh_n + \binom{n}{2} h_n^2 > \binom{n}{2} h_n^2 = \frac{n(n-1)}{2} h_n^2.$$

$$\text{Thus, } h_n < \sqrt{\frac{2}{n-1}} \quad \forall n > 2.$$

Using Sandwich Theorem, we get that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h_n = 0$ which gives us that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{1/n} = 1.$

Where did we use that $h_n \geq 0$?

Tutorial Sheet 1

3. (ii) To show: $\left\{ (-1)^n \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{n} \right) \right\}_{n \geq 1}$ is *not* convergent.

We will use the following two results: (a) Sum of convergent sequences is convergent.

(b) The sequence $\{(-1)^n\}_{n \geq 1}$ is not convergent.

We now proceed as follows:

$$a_n := (-1)^n \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{n} \right) = \frac{(-1)^n}{2} - \frac{(-1)^n}{n}.$$

It is easy to show that $b_n := \frac{(-1)^n}{n}$ is convergent. (Its absolute value will behave the same way as $1/n$.)

Now, for the sake of contradiction, let us assume that (a_n) converges. Then, by (a), we have it that $c_n := a_n + b_n = \frac{(-1)^n}{2}$ must be convergent.

However, (c_n) converging is equivalent to $\{(-1)^n\}_{n \geq 1}$ converging. (Why?)

However, by (b), we know that the above is false. Thus, we have arrived at a contradiction.

5. (iii) $a_1 = 2, a_{n+1} = 3 + \frac{a_n}{2} \quad \forall n \geq 1.$

Claim 1. $a_n < 6 \quad n \in \mathbb{N}.$

Proof. We shall prove this via induction. The base case $n = 1$ is immediate as $2 < 6$.

Assume that it holds for $n = k$.

$$a_{k+1} = 3 + \frac{a_k}{2} < 3 + \frac{6}{2} = 6.$$

By principle of mathematical induction, we have proven the claim. ■

Claim 2. $a_n < a_{n+1} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}.$

Proof. $a_{n+1} - a_n = 3 - \frac{a_n}{2} = \frac{6 - a_n}{2} > 0 \implies a_{n+1} > a_n.$ ■

Thus, (a_n) is a monotonically increasing sequence that is bounded above. Therefore, it must converge. Using the same method as earlier gives this limit to be 6.

7. If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L \neq 0$, show that there exists $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$|a_n| \geq \frac{|L|}{2} \quad \text{for all } n \geq n_0.$$

Let us choose $\epsilon = \frac{|L|}{2}$. (Why is this a valid choice of ϵ ?)

By hypothesis, there exists $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $|a_n - L| < \epsilon$ whenever $n \geq n_0$.

$$\begin{aligned} |a_n - L| &< \epsilon & \forall n \geq n_0 \\ \implies ||a_n| - |L|| &< \epsilon & \forall n \geq n_0 \\ \implies -\epsilon < |a_n| - |L| &< \epsilon & \forall n \geq n_0 \\ \implies |L| - \epsilon &< |a_n| & \forall n \geq n_0 \\ \implies \frac{|L|}{2} &< |a_n| & \forall n \geq n_0 \end{aligned}$$

9. (i) $\{a_n b_n\}_{n \geq 1}$ is convergent, if $\{a_n\}_{n \geq 1}$ is convergent.
(ii) $\{a_n b_n\}_{n \geq 1}$ is convergent, if $\{a_n\}_{n \geq 1}$ is convergent and $\{b_n\}_{n \geq 1}$ is bounded.

Both are **false**.

The sequences, $a_n := 1 \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $b_n := (-1)^n \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ act as a counterexample for both the statements.

11. (i) We shall show that the statement is false with the help of a counterexample.

Let $a = -1$, $b = 1$, $c = 0$. Define f and g as follows:

$$f(x) = x \text{ and } g(x) = \begin{cases} 1/x & ; x \neq 0 \\ 0 & ; x = 0 \end{cases}.$$

It can be seen that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = 0$ but $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} [f(x)g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} 1 = 1$.

(ii) We shall prove that the given statement is true.

We are given that g is bounded. Thus, $\exists M \in \mathbb{R}^+$ such that $|g(x)| \leq M \quad \forall x \in (a, b)$.

Let $\epsilon > 0$ be given. We want to show that there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$|f(x)g(x) - 0| < \epsilon$ whenever $0 < |x - c| < \delta$.

Let $\epsilon_1 = \epsilon/M$. As $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$0 < |x - c| < \delta \implies |f(x)| < \epsilon_1.$$

Thus, whenever $0 < |x - c| < \delta$, we have it that

$$|f(x)g(x) - 0| = |f(x)||g(x)| \leq |f(x)| \cdot M < \epsilon_1 \cdot M = \epsilon. \quad \blacksquare$$

(iii) We shall prove that the given statement is true.

Let $\epsilon > 0$ be given.

Let $l := \lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)$.

Let $\epsilon_1 = \epsilon / (|l| + \epsilon)$.

By hypothesis, there exists $\delta_1 > 0$ such that $0 < |x - c| < \delta_1 \implies |g(x) - l| < \epsilon$.

Also, there exists $\delta_2 > 0$ such that $0 < |x - c| < \delta_2 \implies |f(x)| < \epsilon_1$.

Let $\delta = \min\{\delta_1, \delta_2\}$. Then, whenever $0 < |x - c| < \delta$, we have that:

$$\begin{aligned} |f(x)g(x)| &= |f(x)g(x) - lf(x) + lf(x)| \leq |f(x)||g(x) - l| + |l||f(x)| < \\ &|f(x)|\epsilon + |l||f(x)| = |f(x)|(\epsilon + |l|) < \epsilon_1(\epsilon + |l|) = \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have it that $0 < |x - c| < \delta \implies |f(x)g(x) - 0| < \epsilon$. ■

13. (iii) The function can be rewritten as:
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } 1 \leq x < 2 \\ 1 & \text{if } x = 2 \\ \sqrt{6-x} & \text{if } 2 < x \leq 3 \end{cases}$$

We claim that the function is continuous on $[1, 2) \cup (2, 3]$ and discontinuous at 2.

Given $x \in [1, 2)$ and any sequence (x_n) in the domain such that $x_n \rightarrow x$, there must exist $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $x_n \in [1, 2) \quad \forall n \geq n_0$. Thus, $f(x_n) = x_n \quad \forall n \geq n_0$. It can now be easily shown that $f(x_n) \rightarrow x = f(x)$. (We have essentially used the continuity of the function $x \mapsto x$.) Thus, f is continuous on $[1, 2)$.

Similarly, we can argue that f is continuous on $(2, 3]$. Again, this will follow from the fact that the function $x \mapsto \sqrt{6-x}$ is continuous on its domain.

Now, we show that f is discontinuous at 2. Consider the sequence $x_n := 2 - 1/n$. It is clear that $x_n \rightarrow 2$.

Observe that $1 \leq x_n < 2$. Thus, $f(x_n) = 2 - 1/n$.

This gives us that $f(x_n) \rightarrow 2 \neq f(2)$. ■

Lecture Slides by Prof. Ravi Raghunathan for MA 109 (Autumn 2020)
Tutorial slides prepared by Aryaman Maithani for MA 105 (Autumn 2019)
Solutions to tutorial problems for MA 105 (Autumn 2019)