

Math265 Real Analysis Class Notes

Based on lectures by Prof. Huang

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1 Preliminaries

Still working on it...(missed 1st month due to late enrollment)

2 The Real Numbers

Still working on it...

3 Sequences and Series

3.1 Sequences and their limits

Definition (Sequence). A sequence of real numbers is a *function* from \mathbb{N} to \mathbb{R} .

We adopt the notation with a *sequence*:

$$a : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

where instead of writing $a(1), a(2), \dots$, we write it as a_1, a_2, \dots which we called them terms or elements of the sequence.

Notation.

$$(a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty} \text{ or } (a_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \text{ or } (a_n) \text{ or } (a_n | n \in \mathbb{N})$$

Definition (Converge to x). A sequence $(x_n) \in \mathbb{R}$ converges to $x \in \mathbb{R}$ if

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists N_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } n \geq N_\varepsilon \rightarrow |x_n - x| < \varepsilon$$

We write

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (x_n) = x.$$

Definition (Convergent & Divergent). A sequence is convergent if it has a limit in \mathbb{R} , and is divergent if it has no limit in \mathbb{R} .

Theorem (Uniqueness of Limit). A sequence in \mathbb{R} can have at most one limit. Or, the limit of a sequence is unique if the limit exists

Proof. Let (x_n) be a sequence of real numbers. Suppose x, x' are limits of (x_n) . We want to prove $x = x'$ by contradiction.

Assume $|x - x'| > 0$. If we consider $\varepsilon := \frac{1}{3}|x - x'| > 0$, then

The existence of $\lim_{x_n \rightarrow x}$ implies that $\exists N_1 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $|x_n - x| < \varepsilon$ if $n \geq N_1$.

Similarly, existence of $\lim_{x_n \rightarrow x'}$ implies that $\exists N_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $|x_n - x'| < \varepsilon$ if $n \geq N_2$.

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} |x - x'| &\leq |x - x_{N_1+N_2} + x_{N_1+N_2} - x'| \\ &\leq |x - x_{N_1+N_2}| + |x_{N_1+N_2} - x'| \text{ by triangle inequality} \\ &< \varepsilon + \varepsilon \\ &= \frac{2}{3}|x - x'| \end{aligned}$$

Then,

$$\frac{1}{3}|x - x'| < 0, \text{ which is a contradiction}$$

we thereby prove by contradiction that

$$|x - x'| = 0, \text{ which is equivalent to } x = x'$$

■

Example.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{n}\right) = 0$$

Goal: $\forall \varepsilon > 0$, want to find N_ε such that $\left|\frac{1}{n} - 0\right| < \varepsilon$ for $n > N$, so it suffices to show that

$$\frac{1}{n} < \varepsilon \Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{\varepsilon} < n$$

Proof. Let $\varepsilon > 0$. Apply Archimedean's property to $\frac{1}{\varepsilon}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} &\exists N \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } \frac{1}{\varepsilon} < N \\ \Rightarrow &\forall n \geq N, \left|\frac{1}{n} - 0\right| = \frac{1}{n} \leq \frac{1}{N} < \varepsilon. \\ \Rightarrow &\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

■

Theorem. Let (x_n) be a sequence of real numbers, and let $x \in \mathbb{R}$. The following are equivalent:

1. $x_n \rightarrow x$
2. $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $|x_n - x| < \varepsilon$, for $n \geq N$
3. $\dots x - \varepsilon < x_n < x + \varepsilon \dots$
4. $\forall \varepsilon$ -neighborhood $V_\varepsilon(x), \exists N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $x_n \in V_\varepsilon(x)$ for $n \geq N$

Sketch of proof:

$$(1) \Leftrightarrow (2) \Leftrightarrow (3) \Leftrightarrow (4)$$

Proposition.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (2\sqrt{2n+1} - \sqrt{2n}) = 0$$

Proof. Let $\varepsilon > 0$. Consider

$$N = \left\lceil \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2\varepsilon} \right)^2 \right\rceil \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$n > N \Rightarrow n > \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2\varepsilon} \right)^2 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2n}} < \varepsilon \Rightarrow \left| \sqrt{2n+1} - \sqrt{2n} \right| = \dots = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2n+1} + \sqrt{2n}} < \varepsilon$$

■

Remark.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (-1)^n \text{ does not exist.}$$

Definition (m-tail). If (x_n) is a sequence of real numbers and $m \in \mathbb{N}$, then the **m-tail** of (x_n) is the sequence

$$\{x_{n+m} : n \in \mathbb{N}\} = \{x_{m+1}, x_{m+2}, \dots\}$$

Theorem. Let (x_n) be a sequence and $m \in \mathbb{N}$. Then (x_n) is **convergent** iff (x_{n+m}) is **convergent**. Moreover,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}} (x_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}} (x_{n+m})$$

Proof. (\Rightarrow)

Suppose $x_n \rightarrow x$. Let

$$\varepsilon > 0, \exists N_\varepsilon > 0, \text{ such that } |x_n - x| < \varepsilon \text{ for } n \geq N_\varepsilon$$

Consider $N'_\varepsilon := N_\varepsilon + m$ then

$$n + m \geq N'_\varepsilon \Rightarrow n \geq N_\varepsilon \Rightarrow |x_{n+m} - x| < \varepsilon$$

It follows that

$$n \geq N_\varepsilon \Rightarrow n + m \geq N'_\varepsilon \Rightarrow |x_{n+m} - x| < \varepsilon$$

(\Leftarrow)

Suppose $x_{n+m} \rightarrow x$.

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists N_\varepsilon > 0 \text{ such that } |x_{n+m} - x| < \varepsilon, \forall n \geq N_\varepsilon$$

Consider $N := N_\varepsilon + m$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} n &\geq N = N_\varepsilon + m \\ \Rightarrow n - m &\geq N_\varepsilon \\ \Rightarrow |x_{(n-m)+m} - x| &< \varepsilon \\ \Rightarrow |x_n - x| &< \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

■

Remark. We say that a sequence (x_n) ***ultimately*** has a property if that property holds for some tail of (x_n)

Theorem. Let x_n be a sequence of real numbers. Let a_n be a sequence of positive real numbers such that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$. If $\exists c > 0, m \in \mathbb{N}, x \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$|x_n - x| \leq c \cdot a_n, \forall n \geq m$$

then

$$x_n \rightarrow x$$

Proof. We know that

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists N \geq 0 \text{ s.t. } |a_n| < \frac{\varepsilon}{c}, \forall n \geq N$$

Consider $N' = \max\{N, m\}, \forall n \geq N'$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} |x_n - x| &\leq C a_n = c |a_n| < c \cdot \frac{\varepsilon}{c} = \varepsilon \\ \Rightarrow x_n &\rightarrow x \end{aligned}$$

■

Proposition.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{17}{2 + 3n} = 0$$

Proof.

$$\left| \frac{17}{2 + 3n} - 0 \right| = \frac{17}{2 + 3n} \leq \frac{13}{3n} = \frac{17}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{n}$$

Apply the theorem above with

$$a_n = \frac{1}{n}, c = \frac{17}{3}, m = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{17}{2 + 3n} = 0, \text{ since } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0$$

■

Proposition.

$$\forall c > 0, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c^{\frac{1}{n}} = 1$$

Proof. **Case 1: $c = 1$**

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c^{\frac{1}{n}} = 1$$

Case 2: $c > 1$

Let $d_n = c^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1$. Then $\forall n, d_n > 0$. It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} (d_n + 1) &= c^{\frac{1}{n}} \Rightarrow c = (1 + d_n)^n \geq 1 + n \cdot d_n \text{ by Bernoulli's inequality} \\ \Rightarrow d_n &\leq (c - 1) \cdot \frac{1}{n} \\ \Rightarrow \left| c^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1 \right| &= d_n \leq (c - 1) \cdot \frac{1}{n} \end{aligned}$$

Apply the theorem with

$$C = c - 1, a_n = \frac{1}{n}, m = 1, x = 1$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c^{\frac{1}{n}} = 1$$

Case 3: $c < 1$ (Note that we cannot use Bernoulli inequality here)

Define e_n to be a sequence that satisfies

$$c^{\frac{1}{n}} = \frac{1}{1 + e_n}$$

Then $e_n > 0 \forall n$.

$$\begin{aligned} c &= \frac{1}{(1 + e_n)^n} \leq \frac{1}{1 + n \cdot e_n} < \frac{1}{n \cdot e_n} \\ \Rightarrow e_n &< \frac{1}{c} \cdot \frac{1}{n} \\ 1 - c^{\frac{1}{n}} &= 1 - \frac{1}{1 + e_n} = \frac{e_n}{1 + e_n} < e_n < \frac{1}{c} \cdot \frac{1}{n} \end{aligned}$$

Apply the theorem with

$$a_n = \frac{1}{n}, m = 1, C = \frac{1}{c}, x = 1$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c^{\frac{1}{n}} = 1$$

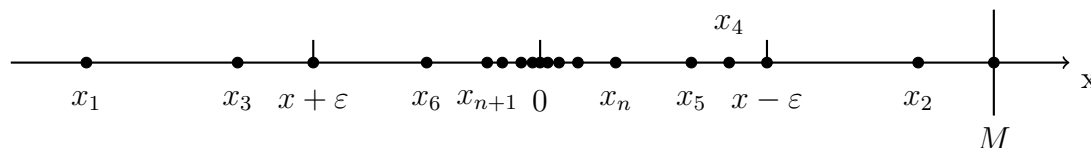
■

3.2 Limit Theorems

Definition (Bounded sequence). A sequence $(x_n) \in \mathbb{R}$ is **bounded** if

$$\exists M > 0 \text{ s.t. } \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, |x_n| \leq M$$

Theorem. A convergent sequence $(x_n) \in \mathbb{R}$ is bounded.



Proof. By definition of convergent sequence, let $\varepsilon = 1$:

$$\exists N > 0 \text{ s.t. } \forall n \geq N, |x_n - x| < 1$$

Thus we have

$$\begin{aligned} & -1 < x_n - x < 1 \\ \Rightarrow & -1 + x < x_n < x + 1, \forall n \geq N \end{aligned}$$

Then define

$$M := \max \{|x_1|, |x_2|, |x_3|, \dots, |-1 + x|, |x + 1|\}$$

$$|x_n| \leq M$$

■

Remark. By contrapositive, an unbounded sequence is divergent.

Definition. Given sequence $(x_n), (y_n) \in \mathbb{R}$, we define following operations of sequence:

- **Sum** $(x_n + y_n)$
- **Difference** $(x_n - y_n)$
- **Product** $(x_n \cdot y_n)$
- **Quotient** $(\frac{x_n}{y_n})$ if $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, y_n \neq 0$
- **Multiple** $(c \cdot x_n)$

Theorem (Limit Laws). Let $(x_n), (y_n) \in \mathbb{R}$ be sequences of real numbers with $x_n \rightarrow x, y_n \rightarrow y$, and let $c \in \mathbb{R}$. Then

- $x_n + y_n \rightarrow x + y$
- $x_n - y_n \rightarrow x - y$
- $x_n \cdot y_n \rightarrow x \cdot y$
- $c \cdot x_n \rightarrow c \cdot x$
- If $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, y_n \neq 0$ and $y \neq 0$, then $\frac{x_n}{y_n} \rightarrow \frac{x}{y}$

Proof of Sum. :

$\forall \varepsilon > 0,$

$$\exists N_1 \in \mathbb{N} \text{ s.t. } \forall n \geq N_1, |x_n - x| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$$

$$\exists N_2 \in \mathbb{N} \text{ s.t. } \forall n \geq N_2, |y_n - y| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$$

Consider

$$N := \max \{N_1, N_2\}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \forall n \geq N, & |(x_n + y_n) - (x + y)| \\ &= |x_n - x + y_n - y| \\ &\leq |x_n - x| + |y_n - y| \\ &= \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \\ &= \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

■

Proof of Difference. :

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} \forall n \geq N, & |(x_n - y_n) - (x - y)| \\ &\leq |x_n - x| + |y_n - y| \end{aligned}$$

■

Proof of Product. : Since (x_n) is convergent, it is also bounded. Thus,

$$\exists M \in \mathbb{N} \text{ s.t. } \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, |x_n| \leq M$$

By definition of convergence, $\forall \varepsilon > 0$:

$$\exists N_1 > 0 \text{ s.t. } \forall n \geq N, |x_n - x| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2|y|}$$

$$\exists N_2 > 0 \text{ s.t. } \forall n \geq N, |y_n - y| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2M}$$

Then, $\exists N = \max \{N_1, N_2\}$ s.t. $\forall n \geq N,$

$$\begin{aligned} |x_n y_n - xy| &= |x_n y_n - x_n y + x_n y - xy| \\ &= |x_n(y_n - y) - y(x_n - x)| \\ &\leq |x_n| |y_n - y| + |y| |x_n - x| \\ &\leq M \cdot |y_n - y| + |y| |x_n - x| \\ &< M \cdot \frac{\varepsilon}{2M} + |y| \cdot \frac{\varepsilon}{2|y|} = \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

■

Proof of Multiply. :

Exercise

■

Proof of Quotient.

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{x_n}{y_n} - \frac{x}{y} \right| &= \left| \frac{x_n y - y_n x}{y_n y} \right| \\ &= \left| \frac{x_n y - x_n y_n + x_n y_n - y_n x}{y_n y} \right| \\ &\leq \left| \frac{1}{y_n y} (|x_n| |y_n - y| + |y_n| |x_n - x|) \right| \end{aligned}$$

Since $y_n \rightarrow y$

$$\exists N_1 \in \mathbb{N} \text{ s.t. } \forall n \geq N, ||y_n| - |y|| \leq |y_n - y| < \frac{|y|}{2}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow & -\frac{|y|}{2} < |y| - |y_n| < \frac{|y|}{2} \\ \Rightarrow & \frac{|y|}{2} < |y_n| \\ \Rightarrow & \frac{1}{|y_n|} < \frac{2}{|y|} \\ \Rightarrow & \frac{1}{|y_n y|} < \frac{2}{|y^2|} \end{aligned}$$

Define $F := \frac{2}{|y^2|}$.

Since (x_n) and (y_n) are bounded,

$\exists G \in \mathbb{N} \text{ s.t. } \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$|x_n| \leq G, |y_n| \leq G$$

Thus $\forall n > 0$

$$\exists N_2 > 0 \text{ s.t. } \forall n \geq N_2, |x_n - x| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2GF}$$

$$\exists N_3 > 0 \text{ s.t. } \forall n \geq N_3, |y_n - y| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2GF}$$

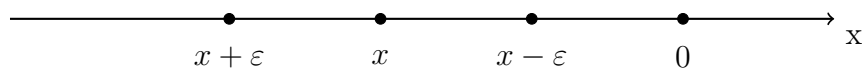
Define $N := \max \{N_1, N_2, N_3\}$, then $\exists N \in \mathbb{N} \text{ s.t. } \forall n > N$,

$$\left| \frac{x_n}{y_n} - \frac{x}{y} \right| < F(G \cdot \frac{\varepsilon}{2GF} + G \cdot \frac{\varepsilon}{2GF}) = \varepsilon$$

■

Theorem. If (x_n) is a convergent sequence in \mathbb{R} of non-negative terms with $(x_n) \rightarrow x$, then $x \geq 0$.

Sketch. : Assume $x < 0$, choose $\varepsilon \leq |x|$, then $\forall n > N, x_n < 0$, which is a contradiction.



■

Theorem. If $x_n \rightarrow x, y_n \rightarrow y$ are sequences in \mathbb{R} such that $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, x_n \leq y_n$, then $x \leq y$.

Proof. Consider $z_n := y_n - x_n$. Then $z_n \geq 0$ and $z_n \rightarrow y - x$ by the limit law.

$$\Rightarrow y - x \geq 0$$

$$y \geq x$$

■

Theorem. If $x_n \rightarrow x$ is a sequence in \mathbb{R} , and let $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, a \leq x_n \leq b$, then $a \leq x \leq b$.

Proof. Consider constant sequence $a_n = a$ and $b_n = b$. Then this is true by the last theorem. ■

Theorem (Squeeze Theorem). Suppose $(x_n), (y_n), (z_n)$ are sequences of real numbers such that $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, x_n \leq y_n \leq z_n$. If $\lim(x_n) = \lim(z_n)$, then (y_n) is convergent and

$$\lim(x_n) = \lim(y_n) = \lim(z_n)$$

Proof. Let $\forall \varepsilon > 0$.

Write $L = \lim(x_n)$. Then by definition of limit,

$\exists N_1 \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\forall n \geq N$,

$$|x_n - L| < \varepsilon, |z_n - L| < \varepsilon$$

$$\Rightarrow -\varepsilon < x_n - L \leq y_n - L \leq z_n - L < \varepsilon$$

$$\Rightarrow |y_n - L| < \varepsilon$$

Thus (y_n) converges to L by definition of limit. ■

Proposition. $\ln(n)$ is divergent.

Proof. Since $\ln(n)$ is unbounded, it is divergent. ■

Exercise. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3n^2 + 2n + 1}{5n^2 - 4} = \frac{3}{5}$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3n^2 + 2n + 1}{5n^2 - 4} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3 + 2\frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{n^2}}{5 - 4\frac{1}{n^2}}$$

Notice that each term of $\frac{1}{n}$ and $\frac{1}{n^2}$ converges to 0. Thus by limit law,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3 + 2\frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{n^2}}{5 - 4\frac{1}{n^2}} = \frac{\lim\{3 + 2 \cdot 0 + 0\}}{\lim\{5 - 4 \cdot 0\}} = \frac{3}{5}$$

Proposition. $(-1)^n$ is divergent.

Proof: Exercise. ■

Theorem. If $x_n \rightarrow x$, then $|x_n| \rightarrow |x|$

Sketch of the proof. :

$$||x_n| - |x|| \leq |x_n - x|$$

■

Theorem. Suppose (x_n) is a sequence of non-negative real numbers, satisfying $x_n \rightarrow x$. Then $\sqrt{x_n} \rightarrow \sqrt{x}$.

Proof. Let $\forall \varepsilon > 0$

Case1: $x = 0$

$\exists N \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\forall n \geq N$,

$$\begin{aligned} |x_n - 0| &< \varepsilon^2 \\ \Rightarrow |\sqrt{x_n} - 0| &< \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

Case2: $x > 0$

$\exists N$ s.t. $\forall n > N$,

$$|x_n - x| < \sqrt{x} \cdot \varepsilon$$

Notice that

$$\begin{aligned} |\sqrt{x_n} - \sqrt{x}| &= \left| \frac{x_n - x}{\sqrt{x_n} + \sqrt{x}} \right| \\ &\leq \frac{|x_n - x|}{\sqrt{x}} < \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

■

Theorem. Let (x_n) be a sequence of positive real numbers such that $L = \lim(\frac{x_{n+1}}{x_n})$ exists. If $L < 1$, then (x_n) converges to 0.

Proof. $\exists N_1 \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\forall n > N_1$

$$\left| \frac{x_{n+1}}{x_n} - L \right| \leq \left| \frac{x_{n+1}}{x_n} - L \right| < \frac{1-L}{2}$$

Thus

$$\left| \frac{x_{n+1}}{x_n} \right| < \frac{1+L}{2}$$

Note that $\frac{1+L}{2} < 1$, write $r = \frac{1+L}{2}$. Then $\forall m \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$x_{N_1+m} < x_{N_1+(m-1)}r < x_{N_1+(m-2)}r^2 < \cdots < x_{N_1}r^m$$

Consider $(y_m) = (x_{N_1+m})$, $(z_m) = (x_{N_1}r^m)$. Then

$$0 \leq y_m \leq z_m$$

Since $z_m \rightarrow 0$

$(y_m) \rightarrow 0$ by squeeze theorem

Thus we conclude that $(x_n) \rightarrow 0$ by m-th tail theorem.

■

3.3 Monotone sequence

Definition. Let (x_n) be a sequence of real. We say (x_n) is ...

- **increasing** if $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, x_{n+1} \geq x_n$.
- **strictly increasing** if $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, x_{n+1} > x_n$.
- **decreasing** if $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, x_{n+1} \leq x_n$.
- **strictly decreasing** if $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, x_{n+1} < x_n$.

Theorem (Monotone Convergence Theorem). A monotone sequence of real numbers is **convergent** iff it is bounded. Moreover, if (x_n) is increasing, then

$$\lim(x_n) = \sup \{x_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

If (x_n) is decreasing, then

$$\lim(x_n) = \inf \{x_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$$

Proof. (\Rightarrow)

A convergent sequence is always bounded.

(\Leftarrow)

Suppose (x_n) is a monotone and bounded sequence.

Case 1: (x_n) is increasing.

Write $x = \sup \{x_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$.

Let $\varepsilon > 0$. Since $x = \sup(x_n)$:

$$x - \varepsilon \text{ is NOT an upper bound of } (x_n)$$

Then

$$\exists N \in \mathbb{N} \text{ s.t. } x_N > x - \varepsilon$$

Since (x_n) is increasing,

$$\forall n \geq N, x_n > x - \varepsilon$$

On the other hand, $x + \varepsilon$ is an upper bound since x is an upper bound. Thus,

$$x_n < x + \varepsilon$$

$$\Rightarrow \forall n \geq N, x - \varepsilon < x_n < x + \varepsilon$$

$$\Rightarrow |x_n - x| < \varepsilon \Rightarrow (x_n) \rightarrow x$$

Case 2: (x_n) is decreasing.

Write $y = \inf(x_n)$. Let $\varepsilon > 0$

Since $y = \inf(x_n)$,

$$y + \varepsilon \text{ is NOT an upper bound of } (x_n)$$

Thus

$$\exists N \in \mathbb{N} \text{ s.t. } x_n < y + \varepsilon$$

Since (x_n) is decreasing,

$$\forall n > N, x_n < y + \varepsilon$$

On the other hand, $y - \varepsilon$ is a lower bound since y is a lower bound. Hence,

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, y - \varepsilon < x_n$$

$$\begin{aligned} \forall n \geq N, y - \varepsilon < x_n < y + \varepsilon &\Rightarrow |x_n - y| < \varepsilon \\ &\Rightarrow (x_n) \rightarrow y \end{aligned}$$

Remark. One can prove case 2 by following:

$(-x_n)$ is increasing and converges to $\sup(-x_n)$ by case 1. Also note that

$$(x_n) = (-(-x_n)) \rightarrow -\sup(-x_n)$$

by limit law. So it is easy to prove that

$$-\sup(-x_n) = \inf(x_n)$$

■

Example. Consider the sequence (x_n) is given by

$$\begin{cases} x_0 = \frac{1}{2} \\ x_{n+1} = \frac{3}{2}x_n(1 - x_n) \end{cases}$$

(x_n) is decreasing and bounded.

Thoughts: Assume (x_n) converges, then by limit law,

$$x = \frac{3}{2}x(1 - x) \text{ where } x = \lim(x_n) \Rightarrow x = 0 \text{ or } \frac{2}{3}$$

then, by proof of contradiction, it is not convergent.

Proof. **Claim:** $\frac{1}{3} < x_{n+1} < x_n \leq \frac{1}{2}, \forall n \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$

Proof of the claim by induction:

When $n = 0$:

$$\begin{aligned} x_0 &= \frac{1}{2}, x_1 = \frac{3}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{3}{8} \\ \frac{1}{3} &< \frac{3}{8} < \frac{1}{2} \leq \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Suppose this is true for $n=k$:

$$\frac{1}{3} < x_{k+1} < x_k \leq \frac{1}{2}$$

Goal:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{3} &< x_{k+2} < x_{k+1} \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ x_{k+1} &= \frac{3}{2}x_k(1-x_k) \\ \frac{1}{3} < x_k \leq \frac{1}{2} &\Rightarrow \frac{2}{3} > 1-x_k \geq \frac{1}{2} \\ x_{k+1} &< \frac{3}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{2}{3} = \frac{1}{2}\end{aligned}$$

Complete the square:

$$\begin{aligned}x_{k+1} - \frac{1}{3} &= \frac{3}{2}x_k(1-x_k) - \frac{1}{3} \\ &= -\frac{3}{2}\left[\left(x_k - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{36}\right]\end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{3} < x_k \leq \frac{1}{2} &\Rightarrow \left|x_k - \frac{1}{2}\right| < \frac{1}{6} \\ &\Rightarrow \left(x_k - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 < \frac{1}{36} \\ &\Rightarrow x_{k+1} - \frac{1}{3} > 0 \\ &\Rightarrow \frac{1}{3} < x_{k+1} \leq \frac{1}{2}\end{aligned}$$

With the similar process, we can derive that

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{3} &< x_{k+2} \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ x_{k+2} &= \frac{3}{2}x_{k+1}(1-x_{k+1}) < \frac{3}{2}x_{k+1} \cdot \frac{3}{2} = x_{k+1}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, this claim is also true for $n=k+1$:

$$\frac{1}{3} < x_{k+2} < x_{k+1} \leq \frac{1}{2}$$

We thereby prove the theorem by induction:

$$\frac{1}{3} < x_{n+1} < x_n \leq \frac{1}{2}$$

■

Exercise: Textbook p.75: A sequence that converges to \sqrt{a} for $a > 0$.

Definition (Euler's Number).

$$e = \lim(1 + (\frac{1}{n})^n)$$

Goal: (x_n) is convergent where $x_n = (1 + \frac{1}{n})^n$

$$\begin{aligned} x_n &= (1 + \frac{1}{n})^n = 1 + nC1 \cdot \frac{1}{n} + nC2 \cdot \frac{1}{n^2} + \cdots + nCn \frac{1}{n^n} \\ &= 1 + \frac{n}{1} \cdot \frac{1}{n} + \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{n^2} + \cdots + \frac{n(n-1) \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}{n!} \cdot \frac{1}{n^2} \\ &= 1 + 1 + \frac{1}{2}(1 - \frac{1}{n}) + \frac{1}{6}(1 - n)(1 - \frac{2}{n}) + \cdots + \frac{1}{n!}(1 - \frac{1}{n})(1 - \frac{2}{n}) \cdots \frac{2}{n} \cdot \frac{1}{n} \end{aligned}$$

Write x_{n+1} in a similar way, we observe that

$$x_n < x_{n+1}$$

Facts $2^{m-1} \leq m!$ for $m \in \mathbb{N} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{m!} \leq \frac{1}{2^{m-1}}$

$$x_n < 1 + 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \cdots + \frac{1}{2^{n-1}} = 1 + \frac{1(1 - (\frac{1}{2})^n)}{1 - \frac{1}{2}} < 3$$

$\Rightarrow (x_n)$ is increasing and bounded

3.4 Subsequence and the Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem

Example.

$$\begin{aligned}(x_n) &= ((-1)^n) \\ x_{2n} &= (-1)^{2n} \\ x_{2n+1} &= (-1)^{2n-1}\end{aligned}$$

So $a_n = x_{2n}$ is a sequence, while $b_n = x_{2n+1}$ is a subsequence of x_n .

Definition (Subsequences). Let (x_n) be a real sequence and consider a strictly increasing sequence of natural numbers $n_1 < n_2 < n_3 < \dots$. The sequence

$$(x_{n_k} : k \in \mathbb{N})$$

is called a **subsequence** of (x_n)

Example. Any tails of a sequence is a subsequence: (x_n) n -th tail: (x_{m+k}) , where $n = m + k, k \in \mathbb{N}$, is a subsequence.

Theorem. Suppose (x_n) converges to x . Then $x_{n_k} \rightarrow x$ for any subsequence of (x_n) .

Proof. Let $\varepsilon > 0$, then

$$\exists N_\varepsilon > 0 \text{ s.t. } |x_n - x| < \varepsilon \text{ for } n > N_\varepsilon.$$

Note that

$$n_k \geq k, \forall k \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Exercise. By induction, $n_1 \geq 1, n_2 \geq n_1 \geq 1 \Rightarrow n_2 \geq 2$

When $k > N_\varepsilon$, $n_k > N_\varepsilon$, thus

$$|x_{n_k} - x| < \varepsilon$$

Therefore

$$(x_{n_k}) \rightarrow x$$

■

Theorem. Let (x_n) be a sequence of real numbers, and let $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Then the following are equivalent:

1. (x_n) does not converge to x .
2. $\exists \varepsilon_0 > 0$, s.t. $\forall k \in \mathbb{N}, \exists n_k \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t.

$$n_k \geq k \text{ \& } |x_{n_k} - x| > \varepsilon_0$$

3. $\exists \varepsilon_0 > 0$ and a subsequence (x_{n_k}) s.t.

$$|x_{n_k} - x| > \varepsilon_0, \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$$

Example.

$$x_n = (-1)^n \Rightarrow (x_n) \text{ does not converge to } 1$$

Proof.

$3 \rightarrow 1$: by the contrapositive statement of definition

$3 \rightarrow 2$: 3 is a stronger statement of 2

$1 \rightarrow 2$: left as exercise

■

Theorem. If (x_n) satisfies either of the following property, then it is **divergent**:

1. There exists two subsequence (x_{n_k}) & (x_{m_k}) whose limits are NOT equal.
2. (x_n) is unbounded.

Example.

1. $(-1)^n$
2. (n)
3. (x_n) such that

$$\begin{aligned} x_{2k} &= k \\ x_{2k+1} &= (-1)^k \end{aligned}$$

Proof. exercise

■

Theorem (Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem). A bounded sequence of real numbers has a **convergent subsequence**.

Example.

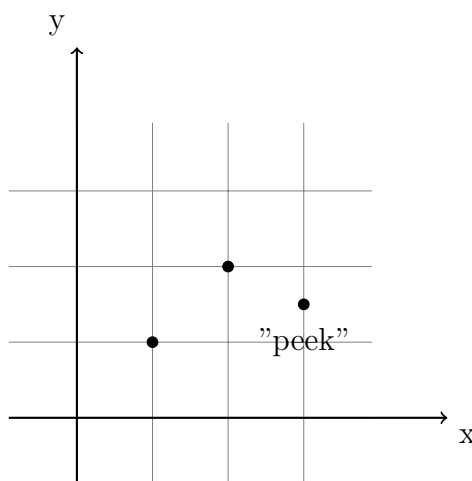
$$x_n = (-1)^n$$

Proof.

Lemma. If (x_n) is a sequence of real numbers, there exists a subsequence of (x_n) which is monotone.

proof of lemma:

Call the m -th term x_m a "*peek*" if x_m is at least as large as any term after it in the sequence.



Case 1: (x_n) has infinitely many peaks

List the peaks of (x_n) in order of increasing index

$$x_{n_1}, x_{n_2}, \dots$$

$\Rightarrow (x_{n_i})$ is a decreasing sequence.

Case 2: (x_n) has a finite number of peaks

Let s_1 be the first index after the last peak of (x_n) . Then for every $n \geq s_1$, $\exists m \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $x_m > x_n$.

Choose

$$s_2 \geq s_1 \text{ such that } x_{s_2} > x_{s_1}, s_2 \geq s_1 \text{ such that } x_{s_2} > x_{s_1}, \dots$$

$$\Rightarrow (x_{s_i}) \text{ is an increasing sequence.}$$

Remark. Lemma + monotone convergent theorem implies Bolzano-Weierstrass theorem.

Second proof

Suppose (x_n) is a bounded sequence.

$$\Rightarrow \exists I_1 = [a_1, b_1] \text{ such that } (x_n) \in I_1$$

Consider

$$I'_2 = [a_1, \frac{a_1 + b_1}{2}], I''_2 = [\frac{a_1 + b_1}{2}, b_1]$$

Let $I_2 = [a_2, b_2]$ be one of I'_2, I''_2 such that I_2 contains infinitely many terms of (x_n) .

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, define $I_n = [a_n, b_n]$ in a similar way.

For $i \in \mathbb{N}$, choose a term x_{n_i} such that $x_{n_i} \in I_i$ and $n_i > n_{i-1}$

Then

$$\begin{array}{ll} i = 1, & n_i = 1 \\ i = 2, & \text{choose } n_2 \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } n_2 > n_1 \text{ \& } x_{n_2} \in I_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots \end{array}$$

- $\forall i \in \mathbb{N}, a_i \leq x_{n_i} \leq b_i$
- (a_i) increases, bounded above by $b_1 \Rightarrow (a_i) \rightarrow \sup(a_i)$
- (b_i) decreases, bounded below by $a_1 \Rightarrow (b_i) \rightarrow \inf(b_i)$
- $\inf |a_i - b_i| = \inf \frac{b_1 - a_1}{2^n} = 0 \Rightarrow \sup(a_i) = \inf(b_i)$

Thus (x_{n_i}) is convergent by squeeze theorem. ■

Theorem. Let (x_n) be a bounded sequence, and $x \in \mathbb{R}$ has the property that every convergent subsequence of (x_n) converges to x . Then x_n converges to x

Proof. Let $\forall \varepsilon > 0$

By Bolzano-Weierstrass theorem, \exists a convergent subsequence (x_{n_i}) such that

$$\exists N_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{N} \text{ s.t. for } i > N_\varepsilon, |x_{n_i} - x| < \varepsilon$$

Assume (x_n) does not converge to x . Then by previous theorem of subsequence,

$$\exists \varepsilon_0 > 0 \text{ and a subsequence } (x_{n_k}) \text{ s.t. } |x_{n_k} - x| > \varepsilon_0, \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$$

Since (x_n) is bounded, (x_{n_k}) is also bounded. Thus there exists a convergent subsequence of (x_{n_k}) as $(x_{n_{k_i}})$.

Note that $(x_{n_{k_i}})$ is a convergent subsequence of (x_n) , thus

$$(x_{n_{k_i}}) \rightarrow x \text{ which is contradiction to previous assumption}$$

■

Definition. Let (x_n) be a sequence of real numbers. A point is called a **subsequential limit** of (x_n) if it is the limit of a subsequence of (x_n) .

$$S = \{\alpha \in \mathbb{R} : \alpha \text{ is a subsequential limit}\} \text{ NOTE: may be infinite set}$$

Definition. Let (x_n) be a sequence of real numbers.

- The **limit superior** of (x_n) is the infimum of the set of $v \in \mathbb{R}$ s.t. $v < x_n$ for at most a finite number of $n \in \mathbb{N}$. We write it as

$$\limsup(x_n) \text{ or } \limsup x_n \text{ or } \overline{\lim} x_n$$

- The **limit inferior** of (x_n) is the supremum of the set of $v \in \mathbb{R}$ s.t. $w > x_n$ for at most a finite number of $n \in \mathbb{N}$. We write it as

$$\liminf(x_n) \text{ or } \liminf x_n \text{ or } \underline{\lim} x_n$$

Intuition

- Suppose $v < x_n$ for at most finitely many $n \in \mathbb{N}$, then

Theorem. Let (x_n) be a bounded sequence, and $x \in \mathbb{R}$ has the property that every convergent subsequence of (x_n) converges to x . Then x_n converges to x

Proof. Let $\forall \varepsilon > 0$

By Bolzano-Weierstrass theorem, \exists a convergent subsequence (x_{n_i}) such that

$$\exists N_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{N} \text{ s.t. for } i > N_\varepsilon, |x_{n_i} - x| < \varepsilon$$

Assume (x_n) does not converge to x . Then by previous theorem of subsequence,

$$\exists \varepsilon_0 > 0 \text{ and a subsequence } (x_{n_k}) \text{ s.t. } |x_{n_k} - x| > \varepsilon_0, \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$$

Since (x_n) is bounded, (x_{n_k}) is also bounded. Thus there exists a convergent subsequence of (x_{n_k}) as $(x_{n_{k_i}})$.

Note that $(x_{n_{k_i}})$ is a convergent subsequence of (x_n) , thus

$$(x_{n_{k_i}}) \rightarrow x \text{ which is contradiction to previous assumption}$$

■

Definition. Let (x_n) be a sequence of real numbers. A point is called a **subsequential limit** of (x_n) if it is the limit of a subsequence of (x_n) .

$$S = \{\alpha \in \mathbb{R} : \alpha \text{ is a subsequential limit}\} \text{ (NOTE: may be infinite set)}$$

Example. Consider $(x_n) = \{(-1)^n | n \in \mathbb{N}\}$. Then

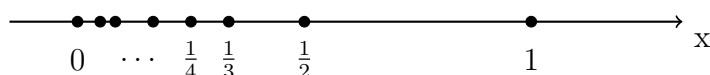
$$S \supseteq \{1, -1\}$$

Definition (lim sup and lim inf). Let (x_n) be a sequence of real numbers.

- The **limit superior** of (x_n) is the infimum of the set of $v \in \mathbb{R}$ s.t. $v < x_n$ for at most a finite number of $n \in \mathbb{N}$. We write it as

$$\limsup(x_n) = \limsup x_n = \overline{\lim} x_n = \inf \{v \in \mathbb{R} | v < x_n \text{ for at most a finite number of } n\}$$

Example. Consider $(x_n) = \frac{1}{n}$



Let

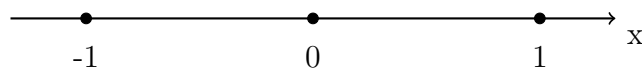
$$X = \{v \in \mathbb{R} | v < x_n \text{ for at most a finite number of } n\}$$

- $-1 \notin X$ because there are infinitely many x_n such that $v < x_n$.
- $\frac{1}{2} \in X$ because there are finitely many x_n such that $v < x_n$.
- $2 \in X$ because there is no x_n such that $v < x_n$, which is smaller than finite and thereby satisfies the definition.

We thus conclude that

$$(0, \infty) \subset X \text{ and } \limsup x_n = \inf X$$

Example. Consider $(x_n) = (-1)^n$:



- $1 \in X$ because there is no x_n such that $v < x_n$.
- $2 \in X$ because there is no x_n such that $v < x_n$.
- $0, -1 \notin X$ because there are infinitely many x_n such that $v < x_n$.

We thus conclude that

$$[1, \infty) \subset X \text{ (in fact they are equal)}$$

- The **limit inferior** of (x_n) is the supremum of the set of $w \in \mathbb{R}$ s.t. $w > x_n$ for at most a finite number of $n \in \mathbb{N}$. We write it as

$$\liminf(x_n) \text{ or } \liminf x_n \text{ or } \overline{\lim} x_n = \sup \{w \in \mathbb{R} | w > x_n \text{ for at most a finite number of } n\}$$

Intuition

- Suppose $v < x_n$ for at most finitely many $n \in \mathbb{N}$, then for all large n , $v \geq x_n$.
 \Rightarrow No subsequential limit of (x_n) can possibly exceed v .
- Similar observation for $\underline{\lim} x_n$

Theorem. Let (x_n) be a bounded sequence of real numbers, and let $x^* \in \mathbb{R}$. Then TFAE:

1. $x^* = \limsup(x_n)$
2. If $\varepsilon > 0$, there are at most a finite number of $n \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $x^* + \varepsilon < x_n$, but infinitely many n for which $x^* - \varepsilon < x_n$
3. If $u_m = \sup \{x_n | n \geq m\}$ (sup of $(m-1)$ -th tail), then $x^* = \inf \{u_m | m \in \mathbb{N}\} = \lim u_m$
4. If S is the set of subsequential limits of x_n , then $x^* = \sup S$.

Remark. .

- u_m is decreasing.
- There is a similar such list of equivalent properties for \liminf .

Corollary. A bounded sequence (x_n) is convergent iff $\overline{\lim} x_n = \lim x_n$

Proof. A direct result of the theorem:

$$\overline{\lim} x_n = \sup S \text{ and } \underline{\lim} x_n = \inf S$$

■

Proof of thm. (a) \Rightarrow (b). Let $\varepsilon > 0$. Then

$$x^* + \varepsilon > x^* = X = \inf \{v \in \mathbb{R} | v < x_n \text{ for at most a finite number of } n.\}$$

$$\Rightarrow \exists v \in \mathbb{R} \text{ s.t. } x^* \leq v < x^* + \varepsilon$$

and there are only finitely many n with $v < x_n$.

For any n for which $x^* + \varepsilon < x_n$, $v < x_n$. Thus there are only finitely many such n .

If $x^* - \varepsilon \notin X$, then there are infinitely many n such that $x^* - \varepsilon < x_n$

■

Proof of thm. (b) \Rightarrow (c). Fix $\varepsilon > 0$.

By (b), there are only finitely many n with $x^* + \varepsilon < x_n$.

Take $N \in \mathbb{N}$ large enough such that

$$\begin{aligned} & x^* + \varepsilon \geq x_n && \forall n \geq N \\ \Rightarrow & x^* + \varepsilon \geq u_N \\ \Rightarrow & x^* + \varepsilon \geq \lim u_n \\ \Rightarrow & x^* \geq \lim u_n && \forall n \geq N \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, there are infinitely many n with $x^* - \varepsilon < x_n \leq u_n$.

Thus, there exists a subsequence of u_n , say u_{n_k} , satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} & x^* - \varepsilon \leq u_{n_k} \\ \Rightarrow & x^* - \varepsilon \leq \lim u_{n_k} = \lim (u_n) \\ \Rightarrow & x^* \leq \lim (u_n) \end{aligned}$$

■

Proof of thm. (c) \Rightarrow (d). **Goal:**

$$\begin{aligned} & x^* = \lim (u_m), u_m = \sup x_n | n \geq m \\ \Rightarrow & x^* = \sup S \text{ where } S \text{ is the set of subsequential limits.} \end{aligned}$$

Let (x_{n_k}) be a convergent subsequence of (x_n) . Notice that $\lim (x_{n_k}) \in S$.

$$\begin{aligned} & n \geq k \\ \Rightarrow & x_{n_k} \leq \sup \{x_n | n \geq k\} = u_k \\ \Rightarrow & \lim (x_{n_k}) \leq \lim (u_k) = x^* \\ \Rightarrow & x^* \text{ is an upper bound of } S. \end{aligned}$$

For 1, $\exists n_1 \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t.

$$u_1 - 1 \leq x_{n_1} \leq u_1$$

For $\frac{1}{2}$, $\exists n_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} u_2 - \frac{1}{2} & \leq x_{n_2} \leq u_2 \\ & \dots \end{aligned}$$

For $\frac{1}{k}$, $\exists n_k \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t.

$$u_k - \frac{1}{k} \leq x_{n_k} \leq u_k$$

When $k \rightarrow \infty$,

$$x^* - 0 \leq \lim (x_{n_k}) \leq x^*$$

By squeeze theorem,

$$\lim (x_{n_k}) = x^*$$

■

*Proof of thm. (d) \Rightarrow (a). **Goal:***

$$x^* = \sup S$$

$$\Rightarrow x^* = \limsup x_n = \inf \{v \in \mathbb{R} | v < x_n \text{ for at most finite many of } n\}$$

Fix $\varepsilon > 0$

There is no subsequence of x_n which has a limit exceeding $x^* + \varepsilon$.

\Rightarrow There is only finitely many n with $x_n > x^* + \varepsilon$.

\Rightarrow

$$x^* + \varepsilon \in X$$

\Rightarrow

$$\inf X \leq x^* + \varepsilon$$

\Rightarrow

$$\limsup x_n \leq x^* + \varepsilon$$

\Rightarrow

$$\limsup x_n \leq x^*$$

Next, consider $x^* - \varepsilon$

Then, there exists a subsequential limit of x_n which is greater or equal to $x^* - \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon$.

There exists a convergent subsequence of (x_n) , say (x_{n_k}) , such that

$$\lim (x_{n_k}) \geq x^* - \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon$$

\Rightarrow There are infinitely many n with $x_n > x^* - \varepsilon$.

\Rightarrow

$$\forall a \in X, x^* - \varepsilon \leq a$$

\Rightarrow

$$x^* - \varepsilon \leq \inf X$$

\Rightarrow

$$\limsup x_n \geq x^* - \varepsilon$$

\Rightarrow

$$\limsup x_n \geq x^*$$

In conclusion,

$$\limsup x_n = x^*$$

■

3.5 Cauchy Criterion

Definition (Cauchy Sequence). A sequence (x_n) is Cauchy sequence if

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists H \in \mathbb{N} \text{ s.t. } \forall n, m \in \mathbb{N}, n > 0, m > 0,$$

$$|x_n - x_m| < \varepsilon$$

Example. $(\frac{1}{n})$ is a Cauchy sequence.

Proof. Observe that $\forall n, m \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq m$,

$$\left| \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{m} \right| = \left| \frac{m - n}{mn} \right| = \frac{n - m}{mn} \leq \frac{n}{mn} < \frac{1}{m}$$

Choose $H = \lceil \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \rceil + 1$, Then

$$\forall n, m \geq H,$$

$$\left| \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{m} \right| \leq \frac{1}{m} < \varepsilon$$

■

Example. $(-1)^n$ is not a Cauchy sequence.

Proof. Choose $\varepsilon_0 = \frac{1}{2}$, $\forall H \in \mathbb{N}$, choose $n, m \geq H$ s.t. n is even, m is odd. Then

$$|(-1)^n - (-1)^m| = |1 - (-1)| = 2 > \frac{1}{2}$$

Thus $(-1)^n$ does not satisfies the definition of Cauchy sequence.

■

Theorem. If (x_n) is convergent, then it is Cauchy sequence.

Proof. Let $\lim (x_n) = x$.

Goal:

$$|x_n - x| < \varepsilon \Rightarrow |x_n - x_m| < \varepsilon$$

$$\forall n, m \geq N_\varepsilon,$$

$$\begin{aligned} |x_n - x_m| &= |(x_n - x) + (x - x_m)| \\ &\leq |x_n - x| + |x - x_m| \text{ by triangle inequality} \\ &< \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon + \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon = \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

■

Lemma. If (x_n) is Cauchy, then it is bounded.

Proof. Choose $\varepsilon = 1, \exists H \geq 0$ s.t. $\forall n, m \geq H$,

$$|x_n - x_m| < 1$$

Since the choice of m satisfies $m \geq H$, we may choose $m = H$ s.t.

$$|x_n - x_H| < 1$$

It follows that

$$|x_n| - |x_H| \leq |x_n - x_H| < 1$$

$$|x_n| < |x_H| + 1, \forall n \geq H$$

Let

$$M := \max \{|x_1|, |x_2|, |x_3|, \dots, |x_{H-1}|, |x_H| + 1\}$$

Thus $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, |x_n| \leq M$ ■

Theorem (Cauchy Convergence Theorem). A sequence of real numbers is convergent if and only if it is Cauchy sequence.

(\Rightarrow). Done in the previous theorem. ■

(\Leftarrow). Suppose (x_n) is Cauchy. By lemma, it is bounded.

By Bolzano-Weierstrass theorem, there exists a convergent subsequence (x_{n_k}) .

Let $\lim(x_{n_k}) = x$.

Goal: $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists N \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\forall n \geq N$

$$|x_n - x| < \varepsilon$$

We will use the trick of insert subsequence:

By definition of convergence, $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists N_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\forall k \geq N_\varepsilon$

$$|x_{n_k} - x| < \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon$$

By definition of Cauchy sequence, $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists H \in \mathbb{N}, H \geq 0$ s.t. $\forall n, m \geq H$

$$|x_n - x_m| < \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon$$

Thus $\forall k \geq \max\{H, N_\varepsilon\}$,

$$\begin{aligned} |x_k - x| &= |(x_k - x_{n_k}) + (x_{n_k} - x)| \\ &\leq |x_k - x_{n_k}| + |x_{n_k} - x| \quad \text{since } n_k \geq k \geq \max\{H, N_\varepsilon\} \\ &< \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon + \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon = \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

■

Example. Let (h_n) be the sequence of harmonic series such that

$$h_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i}, \text{ and } \lim(h_n) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$$

Claim: (h_n) is divergent

Goal: show that it is NOT Cauchy.

Proof. $\forall m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, WLOG suppose $m \geq n, h_m > h_n$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |h_m - h_n| &= \frac{1}{n+1} + \frac{1}{n+2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{m-1} + \frac{1}{m} \\ &\geq \frac{m-n}{n} \end{aligned}$$

since there are $(m-n)$'s terms on the right side of the equation.

So we choose $\varepsilon_0 = \frac{1}{2}, \forall H \geq 0$, choose $n = H, m = 2H$, then

$$|h_m - h_n| \geq \frac{m-n}{m} = \frac{1}{2}$$

Thus, (h_n) is NOT Cauchy. ■

3.6 Property of Divergent Sequence

Example (divergent sequence). :

- $(n) \rightarrow \infty$
- $(-n) \rightarrow -\infty$
- $(-1)^n \cdot n$ is divergent and unbounded.
- $(-1)^n$ is divergent and bounded.

Definition (Properly Divergent). Let (x_n) be a sequence of real numbers. We say that

1. (x_n) **tends to** ∞ , or $\lim(x_n) = \infty$ if $\forall a \in \mathbb{R}, \exists N \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\forall n \geq N$,

$$x_n > a$$

2. Similarly, (x_n) **tends to** $-\infty$, or $\lim(x_n) = -\infty$ if $\forall a \in \mathbb{R}, \exists N \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\forall n \geq N$,

$$x_n < a$$

In either case, we say that (x_n) is **properly divergent**.

Example. Let $C > 0$. (C^n) is properly divergent. We write $\lim(C^n) = \infty$.

Proof. Notice that

$$C^n = [1 + (C - 1)]^n \geq 1 + n(C - 1) \text{ by Bernoulli's inequality}$$

Goal: $\forall a \in \mathbb{R}, \exists N \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\forall n \geq N$,

$$1 + n(C - 1) > a_n \Leftrightarrow n > \frac{a_n - 1}{C - 1}$$

Then we choose $N = \lceil \frac{a-1}{C-1} \rceil + 1$. Thus $\forall n \geq N, C^n > a$. ■

Theorem. A monotone sequence is **divergent** if and only if it is **bounded**. ■

Proof. Exercise. ■

Theorem (Comparison Test). Let (x_n) and (y_n) be two sequences. Suppose $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, x_n \geq y_n$. Then,

1. If $(x_n) \rightarrow \infty$, then $(y_n) \rightarrow \infty$.
2. If $(y_n) \rightarrow -\infty$, then $(x_n) \rightarrow -\infty$.

Proof. Exercise. ■

Theorem (Limit Comparison Test). Let (x_n) and (y_n) be two sequences of positive real numbers. Suppose $\exists L \in \mathbb{R}, L > 0$ s.t.

$$\exists \lim\left(\frac{x_n}{y_n}\right) = L$$

then $\lim(x_n) = \infty$ if and only if $\lim(y_n) = \infty$

Proof. **Claim:** For N large enough,

$$\frac{1}{2}L \cdot y_n < x_n < 2L \cdot y_n$$

Goal: Claim+Comparison Theorem=Proof.

By definition of limit, $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists N \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\forall n > N$,

$$L - \varepsilon < \frac{x_n}{y_n} < L + \varepsilon$$

Choose $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2}L$, we have

$$\frac{1}{2}L \cdot y_n < x_n < \frac{3}{2}L < 2L \cdot y_n$$

since $L > 0$ and these are positive sequences.

Thus by Comparison Theorem,

$$\lim\left(\frac{1}{2}L \cdot y_n\right) = \infty \Rightarrow \lim(x_n) = \infty$$

■

3.7 Introduction to Infinite Series

Definition (Infinite Series). If (x_n) is a sequence of real numbers, then the **infinite series** generated by (x_n) is the sequence (s_k) defined by

$$s_k = \sum_{i=1}^k x_i$$

Terms s_k are called **partial sums**.

Notation. $\sum x_i$ to mean this series or its limit at infinity $\lim(x_k)$.

Theorem (Cauchy Criterion for Series). The series $\sum x_i$ **converges** if and only if $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists M \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\forall n, m \in \mathbb{N}, n > m \geq M$,

$$|x_{m+1} + x_{m+2} + \cdots + x_{n-1} + x_n| < \varepsilon$$

Or we write it as

$$|s_k - s_m| < \varepsilon$$

Proof: Exercise. ■

Theorem (Montone Convergence for Series). Let (x_n) be a sequence of non-negative real numbers. Then the series $\sum x_n$ **converges** if and only if (s_k) is bounded.

Proof. Exercise. ■

Example. $\sum \frac{1}{n^2}$ is convergent.

Proof. Goal: find convergent subsequence (s_{k_j}) .

Consider subsequence (s_{k_j}) where $k_j = 2^j - 1$.

Observe that:

$$\begin{aligned} s_{k_1} &= 1 \\ s_{k_2} &= 1 + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} \\ &< s_{k_1} + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2^2} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} \\ s_{k_3} &= 1 + \left(\frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{4^2} + \frac{1}{5^2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{9^2}\right) \\ &< s_{k_1} + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2^2} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

By induction(details are left as exercise), one can show that

$$s_{k_j} < \sum_{n=0}^{j-1} \frac{1}{2^n} < \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n} = 2 \text{ (by limit of geometric series.)}$$

Thus (s_{k_j}) is bounded.

By theorem proved in homework, an increasing sequence with bounded(and thus convergent) subsequence implies that the sequence is convergent. ■

4 Limits

4.1 Limits of Functions

Let $f : A \rightarrow B$ be a function where $A, B \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. Let $a \in A, L \in B$.

Goal: Define

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = ?$$

Intuition: Define *closeness* on real line.

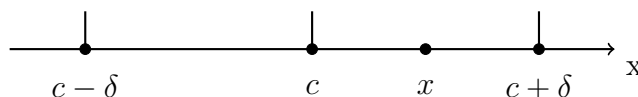
Definition (Cluster Point). Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. A point $c \in \mathbb{R}$ is a **cluster point** of A if

$\forall \delta > 0, \exists x \in A, x \neq c$ such that

$$|x - c| < \delta$$

Or

$$V_\delta(c) \cap (A \setminus \{c\}) \neq \emptyset$$



Theorem. $c \in \mathbb{R}$ is a cluster point if and only if

there exists a sequence $(a_n) \in A$ such that

$$\lim(a_n) = c \text{ and } \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, a_n \neq c$$

Sketch of Proof. (\Rightarrow)

$$\delta = 1, \exists a_1 \in A \setminus \{c\} \text{ s.t. } |a_1 - c| < 1$$

$$\delta = \frac{1}{2}, \exists a_2 \in A \setminus \{c\} \text{ s.t. } |a_2 - c| < \frac{1}{2}$$

... observe that:

$$\forall \delta > 0, \exists a_n \in A \setminus \{c\} \text{ s.t. } |a_n - c| < \frac{1}{n} < \delta$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim(a_n) = c \text{ by squeeze theorem.}$$

(\Leftarrow)

$\forall \delta > 0, \exists N_\varepsilon > 0$ s.t.

$$|a_{N_\varepsilon} - c| < \delta$$

Note that $a_{N_\varepsilon} \in A \setminus \{c\}$ where c is a cluster point of A . ■

Example. Let X be the set of cluster points of A .

- $A = (1, 2) \cup (3, 4) \Rightarrow X = [1, 2] \cup [3, 4]$. *Proof: Exercise.*
- $A = \{0\} \cup (1, 2) \Rightarrow X = \phi$.

Sketch of (2). :

1. Let $x \in [1, 2]$. Prove that $x \in X$. Thus $[1, 2] \in X$.
2. Prove that $0 \notin X$.
3. Prove that $x \in X$ if $x \notin \{0\} \cup [1, 2]$.

■

Remark. A may not be a subset of the set of cluster points of A .

Example. :

- $A = \mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow X = \phi$.
- $A = \{\frac{1}{n} | n \in \mathbb{N}\} \Rightarrow X = \{0\}$ *Proof: Exercise.*

Definition (Delta-Epsilon Definition of Limit). Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, c is a cluster point of A , $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. A real number L is the **limit of f at c** if

$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$ s.t. $\forall x \in A$,

$$0 < |x - c| < \delta \rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$$

Theorem (Uniqueness of Limit). If $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and c is a cluster point of A , then f has at most 1 limit at c .

Proof. We will prove this by contradiction.

Let L_1 and L_2 be limits of f at c . Assume $L_1 \neq L_2$. Choose $\varepsilon = \frac{|L_1 - L_2|}{2} > 0$. Then,

$$\exists \delta_1 \text{ s.t. } 0 < |x - c| < \delta_1 \Rightarrow |f(x) - L_1| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$$

$$\exists \delta_2 \text{ s.t. } 0 < |x - c| < \delta_2 \Rightarrow |f(x) - L_2| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$$

Consider $\delta := \min\{\delta_1, \delta_2\}$.

Since c is a cluster point, $\exists x_0 \in A$ s.t.

$$0 < |x_0 - c| < \delta$$

Since

$$|f(x_0) - L_1| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}, |f(x_0) - L_2| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} |L_1 - L_2| &\leq |L_1 - f(x_0)| + |f(x_0) - L_2| \\ &< \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} = \varepsilon \\ &= \frac{|L_1 - L_2|}{2} \end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction.

■

Notation.

$$L = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) \text{ or } L = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f$$

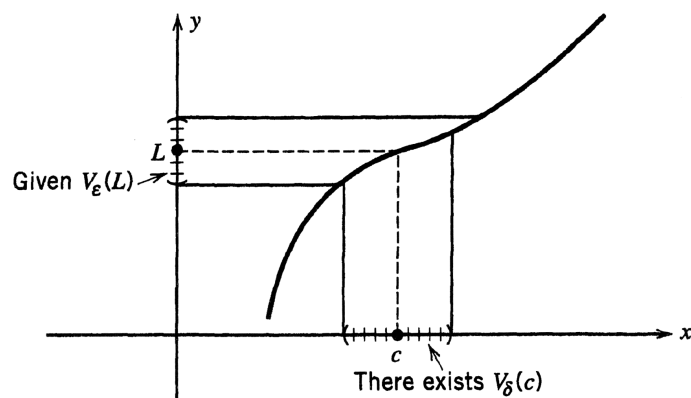
And we say that $f(x)$ approaches to L as x approaches to c .

Remark (Divergence of function). If the limit of $f(x)$ at c does not exist, we say that f diverges at c .

Theorem. Let $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and c be a cluster point of f . The following are equivalent:

1. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$
2. $\forall V_\varepsilon(L)$ ε -neighborhood of L , $\exists V_\delta(c)$ δ -neighborhood of c s.t.

$$x \in V_\delta(c) \cap (A \setminus \{c\}) \Rightarrow f(x) \in V_\varepsilon(L)$$



Example. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = a$.

Proof. $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta = 1$ s.t.

$$x \in V_\delta(c) \cap (\mathbb{R} \setminus \{c\}) \Rightarrow f(x) = a \in V_\varepsilon(L)$$

■

Example. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = c$.

Proof. $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta = \varepsilon$ s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} & x \in V_\delta(c) \cap (A \setminus \{c\}) \\ \Rightarrow & f(x) = x \in V_\delta(c) \cap (A \setminus \{c\}) \\ \Rightarrow & f(x) \in V_\varepsilon(c) \cap (A \setminus \{c\}) \subseteq V_\varepsilon(c) \end{aligned}$$

■

Example.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} x^2 = c^2$$

Proof. **Goal:** $\forall \varepsilon > 0$, find a $\delta(c, \varepsilon) > 0$ s.t.

$$\text{if } 0 < |x - c| < \delta, \text{ then } |x^2 - c^2| < \varepsilon$$

which is equivalent to show

$$|x + c| |x - c| < \varepsilon$$

Since the choice of δ is dependent on ε and c only, $|x - c|$ can be easily confined with some constant. Let's assume that

$$|x - c| < 1$$

Now, the only task left is to find a way to confine $|x + c|$ with a constant by manipulating $|x - c| < 1$.

Here we will apply a common trick that estimates addition $|x + c|$ with subtraction $|x - c|$:

$$|x| - |c| \leq |x - c| < 1 \text{ by triangle inequality.}$$

Rearranging the inequality, we have:

$$|x| < |c| + 1$$

Adding the second $|c|$ to both side of inequality, then, we apply triangle inequality again:

$$|x + c| \leq |x| + |c| < 2|c| + 1$$

$$|x + c| < 2|c| + 1$$

Notice that this is equivalent to show

$$|x + c| |x - c| < (2|c| + \delta) |x - c| < \varepsilon$$

Rearrange the constant factor

$$|x - c| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2|c| + 1}$$

Thus, our choice of δ must satisfies two conditions at the same time:

$$\begin{cases} |x - c| < 1 \\ |x - c| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2|c|+1} \end{cases}$$

We achieve this by simply choosing

$$\delta = \min \left\{ \frac{\varepsilon}{2|c| + 1}, 1 \right\}$$

■

Remark (*The Toolbox of Proofs*). The readers should develop their "toolbox" of proof techniques. That is, the ***estimation against a constant*** + manipulation of ***triangle inequality*** + choice of δ that satisfies ***multiple conditions***.

Example (Harder).

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{1}{x} = \frac{1}{c}$$

Proof. Observe that

$$\left| \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{c} \right| = \frac{|x - c|}{|cx|}$$

Here, we cannot choose $|x - c|$ smaller than some constant (why? try it on your own). Instead, we choose

$$|x - c| < \frac{|c|}{2}$$

By triangle inequality,

$$\frac{|c|}{2} < |x| < \frac{3|c|}{2}$$

Multiply $|c|$ to each term of the inequality,

$$\frac{c^2}{2} < |cx| < \frac{3c^2}{2}$$

Thus

$$\frac{1}{|cx|} < \frac{2}{c^2}$$

It follows that

$$\frac{|x - c|}{|cx|} < \frac{2}{c^2} |x - c|$$

In order to make the left term of the inequality less than ε , it suffices to confine

$$\frac{2}{c^2} |x - c| < \varepsilon$$

$$|x - c| < \frac{c^2}{2} \varepsilon$$

Thus, our choice of δ must satisfy two conditions at the same time:

$$\begin{cases} |x - c| < \frac{|c|}{2} \\ |x - c| < \frac{c^2}{2} \varepsilon \end{cases}$$

We achieve this by simply choosing

$$\delta = \min \left\{ \frac{|c|}{2}, \frac{c^2}{2} \varepsilon \right\}$$

■

Remark (*Factoring* $|x - c|$). Since we have the premise of $|x - c| < \delta$ for free, it would be much easier for us to confine $|f(x) - L|$ if we factor $|x - c|$ from the difference.

Example (Much Harder).

$$\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \lim_{x \rightarrow c} x^n = c^n$$

Proof. By difference of n -th powers factorization

$$|x^n - c^n| = |x - c| \left| \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} x^i c^{n-1-i} \right| \leq |x - c| \cdot \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} |x|^i |c|^{n-1-i}$$

If

$$|x - c| < 1$$

then by triangle inequality,

$$|x| < |c| + 1$$

It follows that

$$|x^n - c^n| < |x - c| \cdot \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (|c| + 1)^i |c|^{n-1-i}$$

Similar to the previous example, it suffices to confine

$$|x - c| \cdot \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (|c| + 1)^i |c|^{n-1-i} < \varepsilon$$

$$|x - c| < \frac{\varepsilon}{\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (|c| + 1)^i |c|^{n-1-i}}$$

Thus, choose

$$\delta = \min\left\{1, \frac{\varepsilon}{\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (|c| + 1)^i |c|^{n-1-i}}\right\}$$

■

Remark (*Estimate x against c*). This is another trick by triangle inequality:

If $\exists k \in \mathbb{R}, k > 0$ s.t. $|x - c| < k$, then $|x| < |c| + k$

Remark (*difference of n -th powers factorization*).

$$(x^n - c^n) = (x - c)(x^{n-1} + cx^{n-2} + \cdots + c^{n-2}x + c^{n-1}) = (x - c) \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} x^i c^{n-1-i}$$

Example (*Some Tedious Factorization*).

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{x^3 + 2x - 1}{6x^2 - 5} = \frac{11}{19}$$

Proof.

$$\left| \frac{x^3 + 2x - 1}{6x^2 - 5} - \frac{11}{19} \right| = \left| \frac{19x^3 - 66x^2 + 38x + 36}{19(6x^2 - 5)} \right|$$

By some tedious factorization,

$$\dots = |x - 2| \frac{|19x^3 - 28x - 18|}{19|6x^2 - 5|}$$

We estimate $|x - 2|$ with constant 1

$$|x - 2| < 1$$

$$1 < x < 3 \text{ or } |x| < 3$$

It follows that

$$1 < x^2 < 9$$

$$1 < 6x^2 - 5 < 49$$

$$1 > \frac{1}{6x^2 - 5} > \frac{1}{49}$$

So

$$\frac{1}{19|6x^2 - 5|} < \frac{1}{19}$$

Similarly,

$$|19x^3 - 66x^2 + 38x + 36| \leq 19|x|^2 + 28|x| + 18 < 19 \cdot 3^2 + 28 \cdot 3 + 18 = 273$$

Thus

$$\dots \leq |x - 2| \cdot \frac{273}{19} < \varepsilon$$

$$|x - 2| < \frac{19}{273} \varepsilon$$

We conclude that it suffices to choose

$$\delta = \min \left\{ 1, \frac{19}{273} \varepsilon \right\}$$

■

Theorem (Sequential Criterion of Limits). Let $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and let c be a cluster point of A . $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f = L$ if and only if for all sequence $(x_n) \in A$ that converge to c and $(x_n) \neq c, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$, $(f(x_n))$ converges to L .

Proof. (\Rightarrow) . By definition of convergent sequence, $\forall \delta > 0, \exists K \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \geq K$,

$$|x_n - c| < \delta$$

By definition of limit, $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$ s.t. $\forall x \in A$,

$$|x - c| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$$

Thus, choose δ given ε , and choose K given δ , we have:

$$|x_n - c| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x_n) - L| < \varepsilon$$

■

(\Leftarrow) . We will prove this by contrapositive.

Assume that there exists $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ and a $(x_n) \in A$ converges to c with $(x_n) \neq c$ such that for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$0 < |x_n - c| < \frac{1}{n} \Rightarrow |f(x_n) - L| \geq \varepsilon_0$$

Thus the function does not have a limit at c . We thereby conclude the converse of the statement.

■

Theorem (Sequential Criterion of Divergence). Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}, f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, c be a cluster point of A , $(x_n) \rightarrow c$ s.t. $(x_n) \neq c$, and $L \in \mathbb{R}^1$.

1. L is NOT the limit of f at $c \iff f(x_n)$ does NOT converge to L .
2. f diverges $\iff f(x_n)$ does NOT converge.

Proof. Exercise.

■

Example.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x} \text{ does NOT exist in } \mathbb{R}$$

Proof. Let $(x_n) = \frac{1}{n} \rightarrow 0$. Then

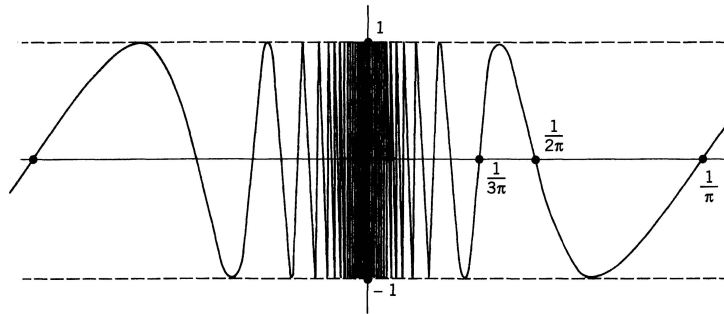
$$f(x_n) = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{n}} = n \rightarrow \infty$$

■

¹The following theorems are NOT equivalent!!

Example.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \text{ DNE in } \mathbb{R}$$



Proof. Let $(x_n) = \frac{1}{2n\pi} \rightarrow 0$ and $(y_n) = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}\pi + 2n\pi} \rightarrow 0$. Then

$$f(x_n) = \sin(2n\pi) = 0$$

$$f(y_n) = \sin\left(\frac{1}{2}\pi + 2n\pi\right) = 1$$

Thus limit of f at 0 does NOT exist in \mathbb{R} . ■

Example.

Definition (Signum Function). Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ and $\text{sgn}(x) : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ s.t.

$$\text{sgn}(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } x = 0 \\ -1 & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \text{sgn}(x) \text{ DNE in } \mathbb{R}$$

Proof. Let $(x_n) = \frac{1}{n} \rightarrow 0$ and $(y_n) = \frac{1}{-n} \rightarrow 0$. Then

$$f(x_n) = \text{sgn}(n) = 1$$

$$f(y_n) = \text{sgn}(-n) = -1$$

Thus limit of f at 0 does NOT exist in \mathbb{R} . ■

4.2 Limit Theorem

Definition (Bounded Neighborhood of c). Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, c be a cluster point of A . Then we say f is a **bounded Neighborhood of c** if there exists $\delta > 0$ and $\exists M > 0$ s.t. $\forall x \in A \cap V_\delta(c)$

$$|f(x)| \leq M$$

Theorem (Existence of Bounded Neighborhood at Limit). If f has a limit at c , then f is bounded on some neighborhood of c .

Proof. By definition of limit, $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$ s.t. $\forall x \in A \setminus \{c\}$

$$0 < |x - c| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - L| < \epsilon$$

By triangle inequality,

$$|f(x)| - |L| \leq |f(x) - L| < \epsilon$$

$$|f(x)| < |L| + \epsilon$$

If $f(c)$ is not defined on A , then let $M = |L| + \epsilon$. If $f(c)$ is defined on A , then let $M = \max\{f(c), |L| + \epsilon\}$. Since the choice of ϵ is arbitrary, we will choose $\epsilon = 1$. Thus,

$$f(x) \leq M$$

■

Definition. Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$; $f, g : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, c be a cluster point of A . Then $\forall x \in A$

- **Sum** of function: $(f + g)(x) = f(x) + g(x)$.
- **Difference**: $(f - g)(x) = f(x) - g(x)$.
- **Multiple**: $(bf)(x) = b \cdot f(x)$ for some $b \in \mathbb{R}$.
- **Product**: $(f \cdot g)(x) = f(x) \cdot g(x)$.
- **Quotient**: $(\frac{f}{g})(x) = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ if $g(x) \neq 0$.

Theorem (Limit Theorem). If $\exists L, M \in \mathbb{R}$ s.t. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = M$, then

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (f + g)(x) = L + M$.
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (f - g)(x) = L - M$.
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (bf)(x) = b \cdot L$.
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (f \cdot g)(x) = L \cdot M$.
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (\frac{f}{g})(x) = \frac{L}{M}$ if $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) \neq 0$.

Proof. Exercise.

■

Remark. Always check conditions before applying: this is true only if both f and g has a limit at c !

Example. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{(x-4)(x+3)}{4(x-4)(x-5)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x+3}{4(x-5)} = -\frac{7}{4}$

Corollary (Polynomial Function).

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} p(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \sum_{i=0}^n a_i \cdot x^i = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow c} x^i = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i \cdot c^i = p(c)$$

Corollary (Rational Function). For polynomial functions $p(x), q(x)$ s.t.
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} p(x) \rightarrow p(c), \lim_{x \rightarrow c} q(x) \rightarrow q(c) \neq 0,$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{p(x)}{q(x)} = \frac{p(c)}{q(c)}$$

Theorem. Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}; f, g : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, c$ be a cluster point of A .

If $\exists a, b \in \mathbb{R}, \forall x \in A, x \neq c$ satisfying

$$a \leq f(x) \leq b \text{ and } \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f = L$$

then

$$a \leq \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f \leq b$$

Proof. $\forall (x_n) \in A \setminus \{c\}, (x_n) \rightarrow c,$

$$a \leq f(x_n) \leq b \Rightarrow a \leq L \leq b$$

■

Theorem (Squeeze Theorem). Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}; f, g, h : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, c$ be a cluster point of A .

If $\forall x \in A, x \neq c,$

$$f(x) \leq g(x) \leq h(x) \text{ and } \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f = L = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} h$$

then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g = L$$

Proof. Exercise. Try squeeze theorem of sequence.

■

Example. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) = 0$

Proof. Notice that

$$-1 \leq \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \leq 1 \Rightarrow -x \leq x \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \leq x$$

Since

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (-x) = 0 = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (x)$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) = 0$$

■

Example. Let $b \in \mathbb{R}, b > 0$. Then $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x^b = 0$. Notice that when $x \in [0, 1]$

$$x^{\lceil b \rceil} \leq x^b < x^{\lfloor b \rfloor}$$

The rest is left as exercise.

Theorem. Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$; $f, g, h : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, c be a cluster point of A . If $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f > 0$, then $\exists \delta > 0$ s.t. $V_\delta(c)$ s.t. $\forall x \in A \cap V_\delta(c) \setminus \{c\}$,

$$f(x) > 0$$

Proof. Exercise.

■

5 Continuous Functions

5.1 Continuity

Definition (Counituuous). Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $c \in A$.

We say f is **countinuous at c** if

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0 \text{ s.t. } \forall x \in A$$

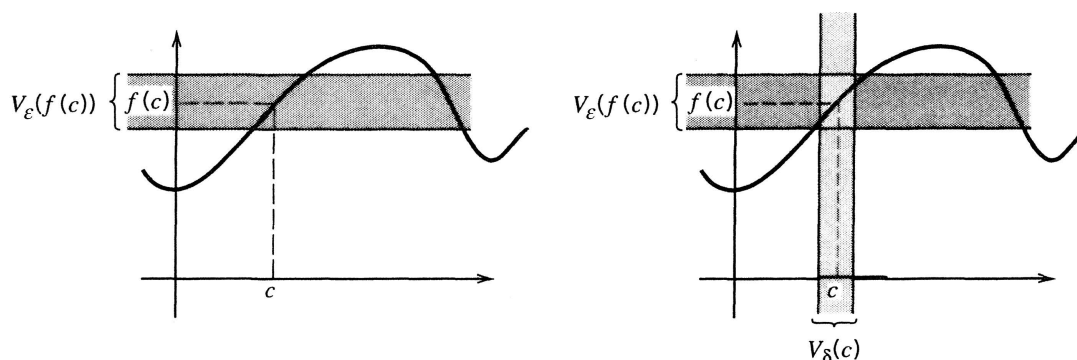
$$|x - c| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(c)| < \varepsilon$$

We say f is **discontinuous at c** if f is NOT continuous at c .

Definition (Using Neighborhood). Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $c \in A$. Then f is continuous at c if and only if

$\forall \varepsilon > 0$ and its ε -neighborhood at $f(c)$, $V_{f(c)}(\varepsilon)$, $\exists \delta > 0$ and its δ -neighborhood at c , $V_c(\delta)$, s.t.

$$f(V_\delta(c) \cap A) \subseteq V_\varepsilon(f(c))$$



Remark (Comparison with Limit Definition). Continuity has 3 good properties that will be useful in the future study of Real Analysis:

- If c is a **cluster point** of A , then f is **continuous** if and only if

1. $f(x)$ is defined at c .

Counter-example: Any function $f : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is *undefined* at $\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$ and thus *discontinuous* at $\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$.

2. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$ exists.

Counter-example: $\frac{1}{x}$ is *undefined* at 0 and thus *discontinuous* at 0.

3. $f(c) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$.

Counter-example: $f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x \neq 0 \\ 0, & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases}$ is discontinuous at 0 as

$$f(c) = 0 \neq 1 = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$$

- If c is **NOT a cluster point** of A , then c is an **isolated point**, and

$\exists V_\delta(c) \cap A = \{c\}$. Notice that an **isolated point** is **automatically continuous** as it *satisfies* the definition of continuity at c . This is because

$$|x - c| = |c - c| = 0 < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(c)| = |f(c) - f(c)| = 0 < \varepsilon$$

Theorem (Sequential Criterion for Continuity).

Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $c \in A$. Then f is continuous at c if and only if

$$\forall (x_n) \subseteq A \text{ s.t. } (x_n) \rightarrow c, f((x_n)) \rightarrow f(c).$$

Proof. (\Rightarrow). Continuity of f at c implies limit of f at c exists². Thus we simply apply sequential criterion of limit.

(\Leftarrow). This is exactly the statement of sequential criterion for limit at c . Thus,

$$\exists \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = f(c)$$

Notice that $c \in A$ implies that f is defined on c . Thus, we conclude that f is continuous on c by previous remark in p.43 ■

Corollary (Sequential Criterion for Discontinuity).

Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $c \in A$. Then f is discontinuous at c if and only if

$$\exists (x_n) \subseteq A \text{ s.t. } (x_n) \rightarrow c, f((x_n)) \not\rightarrow f(c).$$

Proof. Similar. Left to reader as exercise. ■

Example. We begin with polynomial and rational functions:

- Constant function $f(x) = b$ is continuous in \mathbb{R} .
- Linear function $f(x) = ax + b$ is continuous in \mathbb{R} .
- Quadratic function $f(x) = x^2$ is continuous in \mathbb{R} .
- $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$ is continuous in \mathbb{R} .
- Polynomial functions are continuous in \mathbb{R} (try to prove it!).
- Rational functions are continuous in \mathbb{R} (try to prove it!).
- $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ is NOT continuous at 0.
- $f(x) = \text{sgn}(x)$ is NOT continuous at 0.

²proof by definition

Example (Dirichlet's “discontinuous function”).

Let $A = \mathbb{R}$ and define Dirichlet's “discontinuous function” by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in \mathbb{Q} \text{ (rational)} \\ 0 & \text{if } x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q} \text{ (irrational)} \end{cases}$$

Claim: this function is discontinuous on \mathbb{R} .

Proof. Let $c \in A$.

- If $c \in \mathbb{Q}$, then $\exists (x_n) \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$ s.t. $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$c < (x_n) < c + \frac{1}{n}$$

By squeeze theorem,

$$\lim c \leq \lim (x_n) \leq \lim (c + \frac{1}{n})$$

$$(x_n) \rightarrow c, (c + \frac{1}{n}) \rightarrow c$$

$$\lim f(x_n) = 1 \neq 0 = \lim f(c + \frac{1}{n})$$

Thus, by Sequential Criterion of Discontinuity, f is discontinuous for all $c \in \mathbb{Q}$.

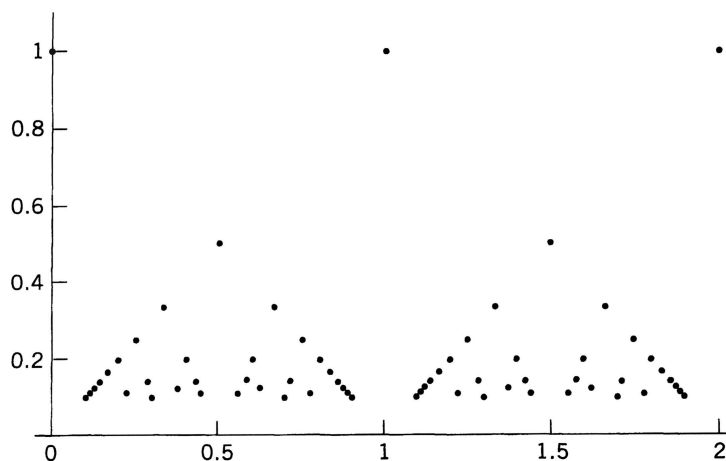
- If $c \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$, then we adopt similar strategy. The rest of proofs is left as exercise. ■

Example (Thomae's function). *Notice that this example is harder. We skip it on class.

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q} \text{ (irrational)} \\ \frac{1}{q} & \text{if } x = \frac{p}{q} \in \mathbb{Q} \text{ (rational)} \end{cases}$$

Claim: f is discontinuous on \mathbb{Q} and continuous on $\mathbb{R}^+ \setminus \mathbb{Q}$.



Proof.

- If c is rational, then $\exists (x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^+ \setminus \mathbb{Q}$ s.t. $(x_n) \rightarrow c$. Then we have

$$\lim f(x_n) \rightarrow 0 \neq \frac{1}{q} = f(c)$$

Since function value does not equal to limit value at c , f is discontinuous at $c \in \mathbb{Q}$

- If c is irrational, **Goal:** show that $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$ s.t. $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^+$,

$$|x - c| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(c)| = |f(x)| < \varepsilon$$

- If $x \in \mathbb{R}^+ \setminus \mathbb{Q}$, then $|f(x)| = 0 < \varepsilon$ for some arbitrary choice of δ .
- If $x \in \mathbb{Q}$, then by Archimedean Property, we could find a $\frac{1}{n_0} > \varepsilon$.

Notice that there are only finite number of $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $n < n_0$. Thus, there are only finite number of $\frac{p}{q} \in (c - 1, c + 1)$ with denominator $q < n_0$.

Hence we could choose δ so small that the $V_\delta(c)$ contains no rational numbers with denominator less than n_0 . It follows that

$$|x - c| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(c)| = |f(x)| \leq \frac{1}{n_0} < \varepsilon$$

Thus, f is continuous at $c \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$

■

5.2 Combinations of Continuous Functions

Theorem. Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, $f, g : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $c \in A$, $b \in \mathbb{R}$. Suppose f, g are continuous on c , then the following combination of functions are continuous:

- **Addition:** $f + g$
- **Subtraction:** $f - g$
- **Product:** $f \cdot g$
- **Multiplication:** $b \cdot f$
- **Quotient:** $\frac{f}{g}$ if $g(x) \neq 0$
- **Absolute:** $|f|(x)$
- **Square Root:** $\sqrt{f}(x)$

Proof.

- If c is not a cluster point of A , then the theorem is automatically correct.
- If c is a cluster point of A , then we only need to show that the function value at c is equal to the limit of function at c . Detailed proof are left as exercise. ■

Example.

- Polynomial functions are continuous on \mathbb{R} .
- Rational functions are continuous on \mathbb{R} .

Example.

- $\sin(x)$ is continuous on \mathbb{R} .

Proof. Notice that $\forall x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}$, we have 3 inequalities:

$$|\sin(z)| \leq |z|, \quad |\cos(z)| \leq 1, \quad \sin(x) - \sin(y) = 2 \sin\left[\frac{1}{2}(x - y)\right] \cdot \cos\left[\frac{1}{2}(x + y)\right]$$

Hence if $c \in \mathbb{R}$, we have

$$|\sin(x) - \sin(c)| \leq 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} |x - c| \cdot 1 = |x - c|$$

Thus $\sin(x)$ is continuous on \mathbb{R} . ■

- $\cos(x)$ is continuous on \mathbb{R}

Proof. Exercise. Similar techniques as above. ■

- $\tan(x)$, \cot , \sec , \csc are all continuous on *where they are defined*.

Proof. Combinations of continuous functions on their domain are continuous. ■

Theorem. Let $A, B \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $g : B \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $c \in A$ s.t. $f(A) \subseteq B$. Suppose f is continuous at $c \in A$, g is continuous on $b = f(c) \in B$, then the composition $g \circ f$ is continuous at c .

Proof. Since f is continuous at c , $\forall \varepsilon > 0$, $\exists \delta > 0$ s.t. $\forall x \in A$,

$$|x - c| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(c)| < \varepsilon$$

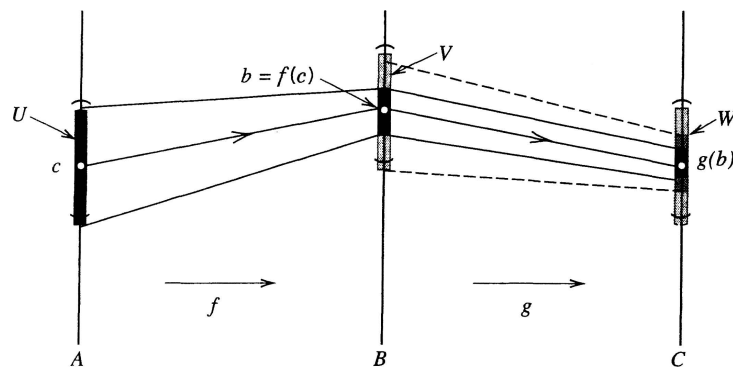
Since g is continuous at $b = f(c)$, $f(A) \subseteq B$, $\forall \zeta > 0$, $\exists \varepsilon > 0$ s.t. $\forall f(x) \in B$,

$$|f(x) - b| < \varepsilon \Rightarrow |g(f(x)) - g(b)| < \zeta$$

Thus,

$$|x - c| < \delta \Rightarrow |g(f(x)) - g(b)| = |g \circ f(x) - g \circ f(c)| < \zeta$$

■



Example. $\sqrt{x^2 + 1}$ is continuous on \mathbb{R} .

Proof. Exercise.

■

5.3 Continuous Function on Bounded Intervals

Continuous function on closed bounded interval has many good properties.

Definition (Bounded Function). A function $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is said to be bounded on A if $\exists M > 0$ s.t. $\forall x \in A$

$$|f(x)| \leq M$$

A function is unbounded if $\forall M > 0, \exists x_M \in A$ s.t.

$$|f(x)| > M$$

Example. $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ is unbounded on $A = (0, \infty)$.

Proof. By Archimedean Property, $\forall M > 0, \exists x_M = \frac{1}{M+1} \in A$ s.t.

$$\left| f\left(\frac{1}{M+1}\right) \right| = \left| \frac{1}{\frac{1}{M+1}} \right| = |M+1| > M$$

We thereby conclude that $\frac{1}{x}$ is unbounded on A . ■

Theorem (Boundness Theorem). Let $a, b \in \mathbb{R}, a < b, I = [a, b]$ a closed bounded interval. If $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous on I , then f is bounded on I .

Proof. Assume f is not bounded on I . Then, by definition, $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \exists x_n \in I$ s.t.

$$|f(x_n)| > n$$

Since I is bounded, the sequence $(x_n) \in I$ is bounded. Therefore, by the Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem, there exists a convergent subsequence $(x_{n_k}) \rightarrow x$ for some number $x \in I$. Since f is continuous on I ,

$$f(x_{n_k}) \rightarrow f(x)$$

We thereby conclude that $f(x_{n_k})$ is a bounded sequence, which is a contradiction to unboundedness of $f(x_{n_k})$

$$\forall k \in \mathbb{N}, n_k \in \mathbb{N}, |f(x_{n_k})| > n_k \geq k$$

■

Remark. We will give 3 counter-examples to show that all of three conditions are necessary for Boundedness Theorem to be true.

- Interval must be closed

Counter-example: $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ on $(0, 1]$ is continuous but unbounded.

- Interval must be bounded

Counter-example: $g(x) = x$ is continuous but unbounded on $[0, \infty)$.

- The function must be continuous

Counter-example: Define $h : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, h(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{x} & \text{if } x \in (0, 1] \\ 1 & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases}$ is discontinuous and unbounded.

Definition (Maximum and Minimum). Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

We say that f has an absolute maximum on A if $\exists x^* \in A$ s.t. $\forall x \in A$

$$f(x^*) \geq f(x)$$

We say that f has an absolute minimum on A if $\exists x_* \in A$ s.t. $\forall x \in A$

$$f(x_*) \leq f(x)$$

Remark. Continuous function on a bounded set A does not necessarily have an maximum or minimum on A . For example:

- $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ has NO absolute maximum or absolute minimum on $A = (0, \infty)$
- $g(x) = x^2$ has only absolute minimum $x_* = 0$ on \mathbb{R} .

Theorem (Maximum-Minimum Theorem). Let $I = [a, b] \in \mathbb{R}$ be a closed bounded interval, $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous on I . Then f has an absolute maximum and absolute minimum on I .

Proof. By previous theorem, f is bounded on I . Thus,

$$\exists s^* = \sup f(I), \beta = \inf f(I)$$

We will first proof that f has an absolute maximum. It suffices to show that

$$\exists x^* \in I \text{ s.t. } f(x^*) = \sup f(I)$$

Since $s^* = \sup f(I)$, then $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$, $s^* - \frac{1}{n}$ is not an upper bound of the set $f(I)$. Consequently, $\exists x_n \in I$ s.t. $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$s^* - \frac{1}{n} < f(x_n) \leq s^*$$

Since I is bounded, (x_n) is bounded, by the Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem, there exists a subsequence $(x_{n_k}) \in I$ s.t. $(x_{n_k}) \rightarrow x^*$.

Since f is continuous on I ,

$$\lim(f(x_{n_k})) = f(x^*)$$

By squeeze theorem,

$$\lim(s^* - \frac{1}{n_k}) \leq \lim f(x_{n_k}) \leq \lim s^*$$

$$s^* \leq f(x^*) \leq s^*$$

$$s^* = f(x^*)$$

Thus we conclude that x^* is the absolute maximum of f on I . The proof of absolute minimum is left as exercise using similar techniques. ■

³The reader should find out why the strict inequality become weak inequality when limit applies.

The proof of next theorem provides an algorithm, know as **Bisection Method**, to calculate root to certain level of accuracy.

Theorem (Location of Roots). Let $I = [a, b]$, $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous on I . If $f(a) < 0 < f(b)$ or $f(b) < 0 < f(a)$, then $\exists c \in (a, b)$ s.t. $f(c) = 0$.

Proof. WLOG, let's assume that $f(a) < 0 < f(b)$. Define a sequence of closed bounded nested interval I_n and midpoint p_n s.t. $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$:

$$a_1 = a, b_1 = b, I_1 = [a_1, b_1], p_1 = \frac{1}{2}(a_1 + b_1)$$

Notice that if $f(p_n) = 0$, then $c = p_n$ and we are done. If not, then

$$I_n = \begin{cases} [a_{n-1}, p_{n-1}] & \text{if } f(p_{n-1}) > 0 \\ [p_{n-1}, a_{n-1}] & \text{if } f(p_{n-1}) < 0 \end{cases} \subset I_{n-1}$$

Observe that

- $\{I_n\}$ is a infinite sequence of **nested intervals** where $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, I_n \subset I_{n-1}$
- $\lim\{b_n - a_n\} = \lim\{\frac{b-a}{2^{n-1}}\} = 0 \Rightarrow \lim(a_n) = \lim(b_n)$

Then by Nested Interval Property,

$$\exists c \in [a, b] \text{ s.t. } \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, c \in I_n, \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n = \{c\}$$

Also notice that

$$a_n < c < b_n \Rightarrow \lim(a_n) \leq c \leq \lim(b_n)$$

By Squeeze Theorem

$$\lim(a_n) = c = \lim(b_n)$$

Notice that

$$\begin{cases} f(a_n) < 0 \Rightarrow \lim f(a_n) \leq 0 \\ 0 < f(b_n) \Rightarrow 0 \leq \lim f(b_n) \end{cases}$$

Thus

$$c = \lim(a_n) = \lim(b_n) = 0$$

■

Theorem (Bolzano's Intermediate Value Theorem). Let $I \in \mathbb{R}$ be an interval⁴, $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous on I . If $\exists a, b \in I, k \in \mathbb{R}$ s.t.

$$f(a) < k < f(b)$$

then $\exists c \in I$ s.t.

$$f(a) < f(c) = k < f(b)$$

.

Proof. WLOG, assume $a < b$ and define $g(x) = f(x) - k$. Then

$$g(a) < 0 < g(b)$$

By previous theorem, $\exists c, a < c < b$ s.t. $0 = g(c) = f(c) - k$. Thus

$$f(c) = k$$

The similar proof also applies for $b < a$. ■

Corollary. Let $I = [a, b]$, $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous on I . If $\exists k \in \mathbb{R}$ s.t.

$$\inf f(I) \leq k \leq \sup f(I)$$

then $\exists c \in I$ s.t.

$$f(c) = k$$

Proof. This is a direct result of previous theorem. ■

Corollary. Let $I = [a, b]$, $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous on I . Then

$$f(I) = [\inf f(I), \sup f(I)]$$

Proof. Let $m = \inf f(I)$, $M = \sup f(I)$. We know by the Maximum-Minimum Theorem that $m, M \in f(I)$. Thus

$$f(I) \subseteq [m, M]$$

Then by Bolzano's Intermediate Value Theorem, $\forall k \in [m, M], \exists c_k \in I$ s.t. $k = f(c_k)$. We thereby conclude that

$$[m, M] \subseteq f(I)$$

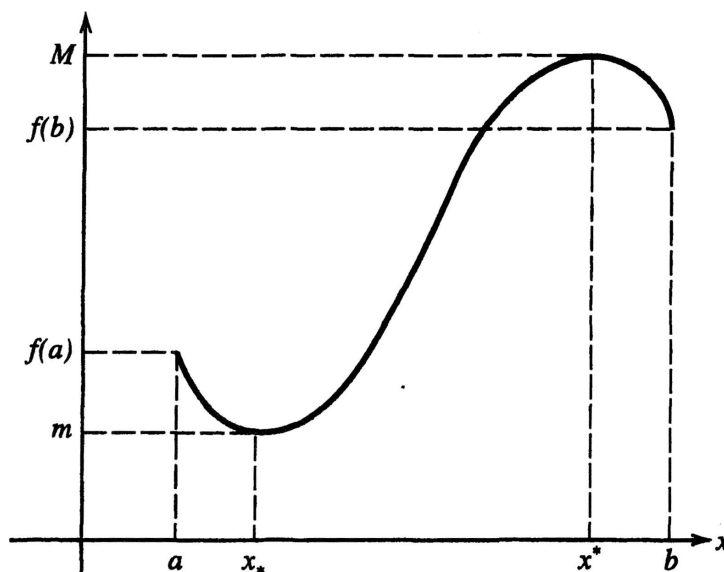
It follows that

$$f(I) = [m, M]$$

■

⁴Not necessarily closed or bounded. Thus this theorem is stronger

Remark. End points may not be extreme points. Counter example:



$$f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(I) \neq [f(a), f(b)]$$

Theorem (Preservation of Interval Theorem).

Let $I \in \mathbb{R}$ be an interval⁵, $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous on I . Then the set $f(I)$ is an interval.

Proof. Let $\alpha, \beta \in f(I)$ with $\alpha < \beta$. Then $\exists a, b \in I$ s.t.

$$\alpha = f(a), \beta = f(b)$$

By Bolzano's Intermediate Value Theorem, $\forall k \in (\alpha, \beta)$, $\exists c_k \in I$ s.t. $f(c_k) = k \in f(I)$. Thus

$$[\alpha, \beta] \subseteq f(I)$$

We conclude that $f(I)$ is an interval ■

⁵Not necessarily closed or bounded. Thus this theorem is stronger

5.4 Uniform Continuity

Recall the definition of continuity of f at $u \in A$:

Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta(\varepsilon, u)$ s.t. $\forall x \in A$

$$|x - u| < \delta(\varepsilon, u) \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(u)| < \varepsilon$$

Here we emphasize that the choice of *delta* depends on **both** ε **and** $u \in A$. This implies that the change of function value $f(u)$ depends on choice of u . Consider $f(x) = \sin(\frac{1}{x})$. As x approaches 0, the function value changes more rapidly.

Example. In this example, δ depends on ε only:

Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $f(x) = 2x$. Then

$$|f(x) - f(u)| = 2|x - u|$$

So it suffice to choose $\delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$.

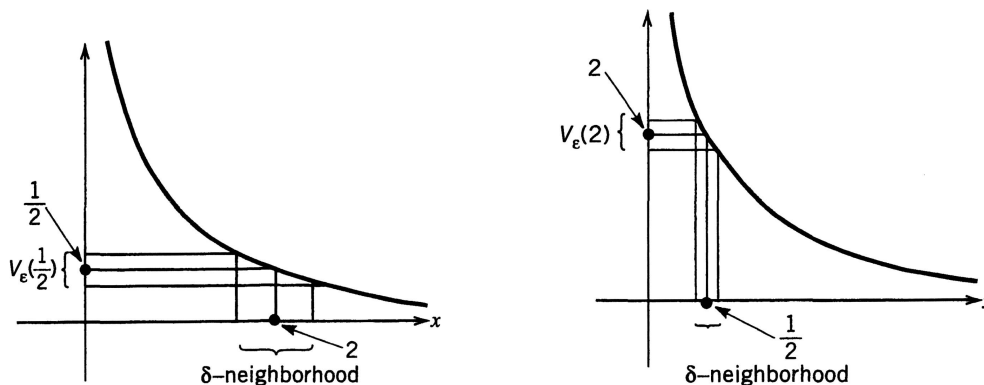
Example. However, in certain cases, δ depends on both ε and u .

Let $g : (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $g(x) = \frac{1}{x}$. Then

$$|f(x) - f(u)| = \left| \frac{u - x}{ux} \right|$$

It suffices to choose $\delta(\varepsilon, u) = \inf\{\frac{1}{2}u, \frac{1}{2}u^2\varepsilon\}$.

Notice that there is no way to choose a δ that will work for all $u > 0$. δ must depends on the position of u . As u tends to 0, the permissible value of δ tends to 0.



Definition (Uniform Continuity). Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. We say that f is uniformly continuous on A if

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta(\varepsilon) \text{ s.t. } \forall x, y \in A$$

$$|x - y| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(y)| < \varepsilon$$

Theorem (Non-uniform Continuity Criterion). Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. The following statements are equivalent:

- f is NOT uniformly continuous.
- $\exists \varepsilon_0 > 0$ s.t. $\forall \delta > 0, \exists x_\delta, u_\delta \in A$ s.t.

$$|x_\delta - u_\delta| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x_\delta) - f(u_\delta)| \geq \varepsilon_0$$

- $\exists \varepsilon_0 > 0, \exists (x_n), (u_n) \in A$ s.t. $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\lim(x_n - u_n) = 0 \text{ and } |f(x_n) - f(u_n)| \geq \varepsilon_0$$

Proof. Exercise. ■

Theorem (Uniform Continuity Theorem). Let I be a closed bounded interval and let $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous on I . Then f is uniformly continuous on I .

Proof. Assume f is not uniformly continuous on I . Then by precedence result, $\exists \varepsilon_0 > 0, \exists (x_n), (u_n) \in I$ s.t. $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\lim(x_n - y_n) = 0 \text{ and } |f(x_n) - f(u_n)| \geq \varepsilon_0$$

Since I is bounded, the sequence (x_n) is bounded. By Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem, there exists a convergent subsequence $(x_{n_k}), (u_{n_k})$ of $(x_n), (u_n)$ where

$$\lim(x_{n_k} - y_{n_k}) = 0 \text{ and } |f(x_{n_k}) - f(u_{n_k})| \geq \varepsilon_0$$

Since I is continuous on I

$$\lim f(x_{n_k}) = f(\lim(x_{n_k})), \lim f(u_{n_k}) = f(\lim(u_{n_k}))$$

Thus

$$\lim(f(x_{n_k})) = \lim(f(u_{n_k})) \Rightarrow \lim(f(x_{n_k}) - f(u_{n_k})) = 0$$

contradicts our assumption. We conclude that f must be uniformly continuous. ■

Note: The next property conveniently ensures uniform continuity without requiring A to be a closed and bounded interval.

Definition (Lipschitz Functions). Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. If there exists a constant $K > 0$ such that $\forall x, u \in A$

$$|f(x) - f(u)| \leq K |x - u|$$

then f is said to be a **Lipschitz function** (**Lipschitz continuous**, or just **Lipschitz**) on A .

Remark (Lipschitz Function and Gradient). Rewrite the condition, we have

$$\left| \frac{f(x) - f(u)}{x - u} \right| \leq K$$

It follows that the absolute value is the gradient of a line segment joining the points $(x, f(x))$, $(u, f(u))$. Thus, f is Lipschitz if and only if the gradient of all line segments joining two points on the graph of $y = f(x)$ over I are bounded by some K .

Theorem. Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. If f is **Lipschitz**, then it is **uniformly continuous** on A .

Proof. For all $\varepsilon > 0$, we simply choose $\delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{K}$. Then

$$|x - u| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(u)| < K \cdot \frac{\varepsilon}{K} = \varepsilon$$

Thus f is uniformly continuous on A ■

Remark. The **converse** may NOT true!

Counter-example: $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ on $[0, 1]$ is uniformly continuous but NOT Lipschitz.

Example. If $f(x) = x^2$ on $A = [0, b]$ where $b > 0$, then $\forall x, y \in [0, b]$

$$|f(x) - f(y)| = |x + y| |x - y| \leq 2b |x - y|$$

It follows that f is Lipschitz on A given $K = 2b$, and thus f is uniformly continuous.

Theorem. Let $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. If f is uniformly continuous on A , and $(x_n) \in A$ is a Cauchy sequence, then $(f(x_n))$ is a Cauchy sequence in \mathbb{R} .

Proof. $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$ s.t. $\forall x, y \in \delta$

$$|x - y| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(y)| < \varepsilon$$

Since (x_n) is Cauchy, for given $\delta > 0$, $\exists N_\delta \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t. $\forall n, m \in \mathbb{N}$, $n, m > N_\delta$

$$|x_n - x_m| < \delta \Rightarrow |f(x_n) - f(x_m)| < \varepsilon$$

We conclude that $(f(x_n))$ is Cauchy. ■

Theorem (*Continuous Extension Theorem*). A function f is uniformly continuous on open interval $I = (a, b)$ if and only if it can be defined at the endpoints a and b such that the extended function is continuous on $[a, b]$.

Proof. (\Leftarrow). This direction is trivial.

(\Rightarrow) Suppose $f : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is uniformly continuous.

Goal: Define f 's extended function $F : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ s.t.

$$F|_{(a,b)} = f, \quad F \text{ is continuous}$$

Notice that this is equivalent to show $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow b} f(x)$ exist and define

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) & \text{if } x \in (a, b) \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) & \text{if } x = a \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow b} f(x) & \text{if } x = b \end{cases}$$

Choose $(x_n) \in (a, b)$ s.t. $(x_n) \rightarrow a$. Thus, (x_n) is Cauchy, and by preceding theorem, $(f(x_n))$ is Cauchy. Let $L = \lim(f(x_n))$. Then $\forall (y_n) \in (a, b)$ s.t. $(y_n) \rightarrow a$,

$$\lim(x_n - y_n) = a - a = 0$$

By uniform continuity, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim(f(y_n)) &= \lim(f(y_n) - f(x_n)) + \lim(f(x_n)) \\ &= 0 + L = L \end{aligned}$$

Thus, for all sequence (u_n) converging to a , $(f(x_n)) \rightarrow L$. By sequential criterion of limit, $L = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$. If we define $f(a) = L$, then f is continuous at a .

The same argument applies to b . Thus, we conclude that f has a continuous extension to the interval $[a, b]$ ■