

Exercise 4 (live tutorial): sequences and convergence

Exercise 10

Compute

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2n}{n+1}$$

by only using the definition of a convergent sequence.

Solution for exercise 10

We guess that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2n}{n+1} = 2$$

by the asymptotic behaviour.

For any given $\varepsilon > 0$, we have to demonstrate there exists a $N(\varepsilon) \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t.

$$\left| \frac{2n}{n+1} - 2 \right| < \varepsilon$$

for all $n > N(\varepsilon)$.

We rewrite

$$\frac{2n}{2n+1} - 2 = -\frac{2}{n+1}.$$

Thus from the inequality

$$\frac{2}{n+1} < \varepsilon \iff \frac{2}{\varepsilon} - 1 < n.$$

Thus there exists a natural number $N(\varepsilon) > 2/\varepsilon - 1$ s.t.:

For any given $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\left| \frac{2n}{n+1} - 2 \right| = \frac{2}{n+1} < \frac{2}{N(\varepsilon)+1} < \varepsilon \quad \text{for all } n > N(\varepsilon),$$

what justifies the computed limit.

Exercise 11

Prove for a zero sequence $\{a_n\}_{n \geq n_0}$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0 \implies \frac{1}{|a_n|} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \infty.$$

Solution for exercise 11

$\{a_n\}_{n \geq n_0}$ is a zero sequence, thus for any $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists a $N(\varepsilon)$ with $|a_n - 0| < \varepsilon$ for all $n \geq N(\varepsilon)$.

Hence for any $k := 1/\varepsilon > 0$ and there exists a $N(1/k)$ with $|a_n - 0| < 1/K$ for all $n \geq N(1/k)$ or:

For any $k > 0$ there exists a $\tilde{N}(k) := N(1/k)$ s.t.
 $|1/a_n| > k$ for all $n \geq \tilde{N}(k)$.

Thus $\{\frac{1}{a_n}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is definitely divergent to $+\infty$.

Exercise 12

Compute at least the first 5 elements of the following sequences $\{a_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and compute the limit mathematically.

a) $a_n = \frac{1-n^2}{n^3-3}$

b) $a_n = \frac{(3+\sqrt{n})^2}{n+1}$

c) $a_n = \sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n}$

d) $a_n = \frac{(-0.8)^n}{2n-5}$

Solution for exercise 12

a) $a_1 = 0, a_2 = -\frac{3}{5}, a_3 = -\frac{8}{24}, a_4 = -\frac{15}{61}, a_5 = -\frac{12}{61}$

$$a_n = \frac{1-n^2}{n^3-3} = \frac{\frac{1}{n^3} - \frac{1}{n}}{1 - \frac{3}{n^3}} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{0-0}{1-0} = 0$$

b) $a_1 = 8, a_2 = \frac{11+6\sqrt{2}}{3}, a_3 = \frac{12+6\sqrt{3}}{4} = 3 \cdot \left(1 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right), a_4 = \frac{25}{5} = 5, a_5 = \frac{7}{3} + \sqrt{5}$

$$a_n = \frac{(3+\sqrt{n})^2}{n+1} = \frac{n+6\sqrt{n}+9}{n+1} = \frac{1+\frac{6}{\sqrt{n}}+\frac{9}{n}}{1+\frac{1}{n}} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 1$$

c) $a_1 = \sqrt{2} - 1, a_2 = \sqrt{3} - \sqrt{2}, a_3 = 2 - \sqrt{3}, a_4 = \sqrt{5} - 2, a_5 = \sqrt{6} - \sqrt{5}$

$$a_n = \sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n} = \frac{n+1-n}{\sqrt{n+1}+\sqrt{n}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n+1}+\sqrt{n}} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$$

d) $a_1 = \frac{-4/5}{-3} = \frac{4}{15}, a_2 = -\frac{16}{25}, a_3 = -\frac{64}{125}, a_4 = \frac{256}{625 \cdot 3}, a_5 = -\frac{1024}{15625}$

$$a_n = \frac{\left(-\frac{4}{5}\right)^n}{2n-5} = (-1)^n \left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^n \cdot \frac{1}{2n-5} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0 \cdot 0 = 0$$

Exercise 13

Prove that every real sequence that converges is a Cauchy sequence (opposite direction of the theorem “Cauchy criterion for the convergence of sequences” from the lecture).

Solution for exercise 13

We consider a convergent sequence $\{a_n\}_{n \geq n_0}$ with the limit a .

For all $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists a $N(\varepsilon)$ s.t.

$$|a_n - a| < \varepsilon \quad \text{for all } n \geq N(\varepsilon).$$

Since

$$|a_n - a_m| = |a_n - a + a - a_m| \leq |a_n - a| + |a_m - a| < 2\varepsilon$$

we have

for all $\tilde{\varepsilon} = 2\varepsilon > 0$ there exists a $\tilde{N}(\tilde{\varepsilon})$ s.t.

$$|a_n - a_m| < \tilde{\varepsilon} \quad \text{for all } m, n \geq \tilde{N}(\tilde{\varepsilon}).$$

Thus the convergent sequence $\{a_n\}_{n \geq n_0}$ is a Cauchy sequence.

Exercise 14

Give all subsets of the set $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$.

Please check that the number of subsets with k elements is $\binom{4}{k}$.

Solution for exercise 14

The order of the elements within the subsets is not important here:

$$\begin{aligned} &\{\emptyset, \\ &\{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{4\}, \\ &\{1, 2\}, \{1, 3\}, \{1, 4\}, \{2, 3\}, \{2, 4\}, \{3, 4\}, \\ &\{1, 2, 3\}, \{1, 2, 4\}, \{1, 3, 4\}, \{2, 3, 4\}, \\ &\{1, 2, 3, 4\}\} \end{aligned}$$

The result corresponds to the binomial coefficients: 1, 4, 6, 4, 1.