

MAT1002 Lecture 1, Tuesday, Jan/9/2024

0930-1130 March 23

Outline

• Infinite Sequences (10.1)

↳ Definition

↳ Limits and convergence

↳ Properties of limits 10.1 + 10.2 + 10.3

↳ Connection with functions of real variables DW

↳ Sandwich/squeeze theorem

↳ Some common limits

↳ Recursively defined sequences

↳ Bounded sequences

Saturday.

Quiz 1 Week 3

## Infinite Sequences

Def: An infinite sequence, or simply sequence, is a list  
 $\{a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n, \dots\}.$

Formally, a sequence is a function  $f$  with domain being  
 $\mathbb{Z}_+ := \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ , with  $a_n$  denoting  $f(n)$ .

### Remarks

- The domain  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  of the sequence  $\{a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots\}$  is also called the index set of the sequence. 数列角标
- The index set sometimes can start with a number other than 1, e.g.,  $\{a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots\}$  and  $\{b_3, b_4, b_5, \dots\}$  are also considered sequences.
- We use  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  to denote  $\{a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots\}$ ; we may also simply write  $\{a_n\}$  if the index set is not important or is clear from the context.  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} \quad \{a_1, a_2, \dots\}$

### E.g.

$$\cdot \{(-1)^{n+1} n^2\}_{n=1}^{\infty} = \{1, -4, 9, -16, 25, -36, \dots\}$$

↑ 通项

- A sequence can be defined recursively: the rules  
递推公式.

$$F_0 := 0, F_1 := 1, F_i := F_{i-1} + F_{i-2} \text{ (for } i \geq 2\text{)}$$

define the sequence  $\{F_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty} = \{0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, \dots\}$

(called the Fibonacci sequence.)

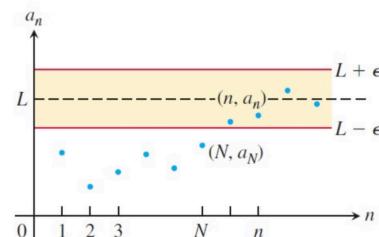
## Limits and Convergence 数列极限

Def: Let  $\{a_n\}$  be a sequence.

- If  $L \in \mathbb{R}$  satisfies the condition for which  $a_n$  is defined  
 $\forall \varepsilon > 0 \exists N := N_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $\forall n > N, |a_n - L| < \varepsilon$ ,
- then we say that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$ , and call  $L$  the limit of  $\{a_n\}$ .
- A sequence having a limit  $L \in \mathbb{R}$  is said to be convergent. cvgs
- A sequence is said to be divergent if it is not convergent. dvgs

### Remark

- The choice of  $N$  depends on  $\varepsilon$ , in general.  
(Bigger  $N$  may be required for smaller  $\varepsilon$ .)
- One may replace " $\forall n > N$ " with " $\forall n \geq N$ " in the definition above (it would be equivalent).



E.g.1 Using definition, show that  $\{\frac{1}{n}\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  converges to 0.

Sol. See example 10.1.1(a).

E.g.2 Show that  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  converges using definition, where

$$a_n := \frac{n}{2n+1}.$$

Guessed from the

Proof: It suffices to show that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{2n+1} = \frac{1}{2}$ .

- Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  be fixed. Let  $N := \lceil \frac{\frac{1}{\varepsilon} - 2}{4} \rceil$ , where  $\lceil x \rceil$  denotes the smallest integer  $m$  such that  $m \geq x$ . Note that  $N \geq 0$ .
- For all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , if  $n > N$ , then  $a_n$  is defined, and

$$n > \lceil \frac{\frac{1}{\varepsilon} - 2}{4} \rceil \geq \frac{\frac{1}{\varepsilon} - 2}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow 4n > \frac{1}{\varepsilon} - 2 \Rightarrow 4n + 2 > \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2(2n+1)} < \varepsilon \Rightarrow \left| \frac{n}{2n+1} - \frac{1}{2} \right| < \varepsilon.$$

- By definition,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{2n+1} = \frac{1}{2}$ .

□

Subsequences 子數列

Informally, a subsequence of sequence  $\{a_n\}$  is a sequence lying inside  $\{a_n\}$  with the terms showing in the same order.

E.g. Given  $a_n = \frac{1}{n}$ ,  $\{a_{2k}\}_{k=1}^{\infty} = \left\{ \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{6}, \dots \right\}$  is a

Subsequence of  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ , and  $\{a_2, a_3, a_5, a_7, a_{11}, \dots\}$  is another subsequence (where the indices are given by all prime numbers in increasing order).

theorem of subsequential limits

Theorem If  $\{a_n\}$  contains two subsequences converge to two different limits, then  $\{a_n\}$  diverges.

The proof is omitted and not required for the course. (Big idea:  
Show that if  $\{a_n\}$  converges to  $L$ , then every subsequence of  $\{a_n\}$  must also converge to the same limit  $L$ .)

e.g.3 Show that  $\{(-1)^n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$  diverges.

Proof: Let  $a_n := (-1)^n$ . Then  $\{a_n\}$  contains two subsequences

$$\{b_k\} := \{a_{2k}\} = \{1, 1, 1, \dots\} \text{ and}$$

$$\{c_k\} := \{a_{2k+1}\} = \{-1, -1, -1, \dots\}$$

Since the first subsequence converges to 1 while the second converges to -1,  $\{a_n\}$  must diverge by theorem.



$$\text{Remark} \quad (-1)^n \frac{1}{n} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0 \quad \text{CVGS,}$$

Adding finitely many terms to a sequence does not change its convergence / divergence, e.g.,

- $\{7, 48, 56, -\pi, 4, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{6}, \dots\}$  Converges
- $\{46, 3, e^1, 12, -1, 1, -1, 1, -1, 1, \dots\}$  diverges.

"For convergence and limit, only the 'tail' matters".

## Divergence to Infinity

### Definition

Let  $\{a_n\}$  be a sequence of real numbers.

- We write  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \infty$ , or simply  $a_n \rightarrow \infty$  (as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ), if for every  $M \in \mathbb{R}$ , there exists  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a_n > M$  for all  $n$  satisfying  $n \geq N$ .
- We write  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = -\infty$ , or simply  $a_n \rightarrow -\infty$  (as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ), if for every  $M \in \mathbb{R}$ , there exists  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a_n < M$  for all  $n$  satisfying  $n \geq N$ .

If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \infty$ , then  $\{a_n\}$  is said to **diverge to  $\infty$** .

If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = -\infty$ , then  $\{a_n\}$  is said to **diverge to  $-\infty$** .

e.g. (without proofs)

- $\{\sqrt{n}\}$  diverges to  $\infty$ .
- $\{(-1)^n n\}$  diverges, but not to  $\pm\infty$ .

## Properties of Sequence Limits

The following are some properties of sequence limits similar to those of function limits.

10.1.1

**THEOREM 1** Let  $\{a_n\}$  and  $\{b_n\}$  be sequences of real numbers, and let  $A$  and  $B$  be real numbers. The following rules hold if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = A$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = B$ .

1. *Sum Rule:*  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n + b_n) = A + B$
2. *Difference Rule:*  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n - b_n) = A - B$
3. *Constant Multiple Rule:*  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (k \cdot b_n) = k \cdot B$  (any number  $k$ )
4. *Product Rule:*  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n \cdot b_n) = A \cdot B$
5. *Quotient Rule:*  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \frac{A}{B}$  if  $B \neq 0$

e.g. 4  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^2+1}{n^3+3} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{n^3}}{1 + \frac{3}{n^3}} = \frac{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^3}}{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 1 + \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3}{n^3}}$

$$= \frac{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} + (\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n})^3}{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 1 + 3(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n})^3} = \frac{0 + 0^3}{1 + 3 \cdot 0^3} = 0.$$

## Connection with Functions of Real Variables

Theorem 10.1.3 Suppose that:

- $f(x)$  is a real variable function that is continuous at  $L$ ;
- $\{a_n\}$  is a sequence with  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$ .

Then the sequence  $\{f(a_n)\}$  converges to  $f(L)$  or in other words,

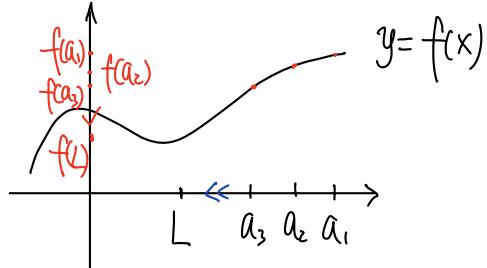
$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(a_n) = f(L) = f(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n)$$

The following proof is optional.

Proof: Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  be arbitrary.

- Since  $f$  is continuous at  $L$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that

if  $|x - L| < \delta$  then  $|f(x) - f(L)| < \varepsilon$ . ①  
"x close enough to L"      "f(x) close enough to f(L)"



- Since  $a_n \rightarrow L$ , there exists  $N$  such that for all  $n > N$ ,

$|a_n - L| < \delta$ . ② ← This is your "new  $\varepsilon$ "  
for sequence limits.

- Combining ① and ②, we have

$$\forall n > N, |f(a_n) - f(L)| < \varepsilon.$$

• By definition,  $f(a_n) \rightarrow f(L)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . □

e.g. 5 Find  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2^{\frac{1}{n}}$ .

Sol: The function  $f(x) = 2^x$  is continuous. By Thm 10.1.3,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 2^{\frac{1}{n}} = 2^{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n}} = 2^0 = 1.$$

#### 10.1.4

**THEOREM 4** Suppose that  $f(x)$  is a function defined for all  $x \geq n_0$  and that  $\{a_n\}$  is a sequence of real numbers such that  $a_n = f(n)$  for  $n \geq n_0$ . Then

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

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

*Seq. limit*                           *function limit.*

Proof: Suppose that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = L$ . Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Then

$\exists M \in \mathbb{R} \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}, \text{ if } x > M \text{ then } |f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$ .

In particular, for all integers  $n$  with  $n > N := \max\{n_0, M\}$ ,

$$|a_n - L| = |f(n) - L| < \varepsilon.$$

Hence  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$ . □

Theorem 10.1.4 allows one to use techniques for function limits to find sequence limits. (MAT1001!)

e.g.6 Find the limit of the sequence  $\left\{\frac{\ln n}{n}\right\}$ .

Sol.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln n}{n} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln x}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x}{1}$  (L'Hopital)  
 $= 0.$

### Sandwich Theorem

10.1.2

**THEOREM 2—The Sandwich Theorem for Sequences** Let  $\{a_n\}$ ,  $\{b_n\}$ , and  $\{c_n\}$  be sequences of real numbers. If  $a_n \leq b_n \leq c_n$  holds for all  $n$  beyond some index  $N$ , and if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c_n = L$ , then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = L$  also.

The proof of this is similar to the function limit version.  
See Chapter 2 of Thomas'.

e.g.7  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n!}{n^n} = 0$ , since

$$0 \leq \frac{n!}{n^n} \leq \frac{1}{n} \quad n \rightarrow \infty$$

By sandwich goes to 0

e.g.8 If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |a_n| = 0$ , then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$ , since

$$-|a_n| \leq a_n \leq |a_n|. \quad n \rightarrow \infty$$

By sandwich goes to 0

Some Common Limits

$$10.1.5 \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} e^{\frac{[f(x)+1](g(x))}{x/n \cdot n}} = e^x$$

**THEOREM 5** The following six sequences converge to the limits listed below:

1.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln n}{n} = 0$

2.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{n} = 1$

3.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^{1/n} = 1 \quad (x > 0)$

4.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^n = 0 \quad (|x| < 1)$

5.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n = e^x \quad (\text{any } x)$

6.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = 0 \quad (\text{any } x)$

In Formulas (3) through (6),  $x$  remains fixed as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

Proof: 1. ✓  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n = e^x, \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = 0$

2.  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{\frac{1}{n}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x^{\frac{1}{x}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^{\frac{1}{x} \ln x}$   
 $= e^{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln x}{x}} = e^0 = 1. \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{L'Hopital's Rule} \\ \frac{\ln x}{x} \rightarrow 0 \end{array}$

6.

$$0 \leq \frac{x^n}{n!} \leq k \cdot \frac{a}{n}$$

$$\frac{a^n}{n!} \cdot \frac{a}{n+1} \cdot \frac{a}{n+2} \cdots \frac{a}{n}$$

3, 4, 5: exercise.



## Recursively Defined Sequences

e.g. 9 (10.1, ex 97) Given that the sequence  
 $\{2, 2 + \frac{1}{2}, 2 + \frac{1}{2 + \frac{1}{2}}, 2 + \frac{1}{2 + \frac{1}{2 + \frac{1}{2}}}, \dots\}$  ↪ Side: the limit is a "continued fraction", commonly appeared in number theory.)  
 Converges, find its limit.

Sol. The sequence is given by  $a_1 := 2$ ,  $a_{n+1} := 2 + \frac{1}{a_n}$  for  $n \geq 1$ .

- Let  $L := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$ . Then ~~先 Assume 趋近于 L~~  $L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_{n+1}$ .  $a_{n+1} = 2 + \frac{1}{a_n}$
- $a_{n+1} = 2 + \frac{1}{a_n} \Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_{n+1} = 2 + \frac{1}{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n} \Rightarrow L = 2 + \frac{1}{L}$
- $\Rightarrow L^2 = 2L + 1 \Rightarrow L^2 - 2L - 1 = 0$  实数 Q 说明 dvgs?
- $\Rightarrow L = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{4+4}}{2} = 1 \pm \sqrt{2}$ . 如果无解了
- Since  $a_n > 0$  for all  $n$ ,  $L \geq 0$ . So  $L = 1 + \sqrt{2}$ .

## Bounded Sequences 有界数列

**DEFINITIONS** A sequence  $\{a_n\}$  is **bounded from above** if there exists a number  $M$  such that  $a_n \leq M$  for all  $n$ . The number  $M$  is an **upper bound** for  $\{a_n\}$ . If  $M$  is an upper bound for  $\{a_n\}$  but no number less than  $M$  is an upper bound for  $\{a_n\}$ , then  $M$  is the **least upper bound** for  $\{a_n\}$ .

A sequence  $\{a_n\}$  is **bounded from below** if there exists a number  $m$  such that  $a_n \geq m$  for all  $n$ . The number  $m$  is a **lower bound** for  $\{a_n\}$ . If  $m$  is a lower bound for  $\{a_n\}$  but no number greater than  $m$  is a lower bound for  $\{a_n\}$ , then  $m$  is the **greatest lower bound** for  $\{a_n\}$ .

If  $\{a_n\}$  is bounded from above and below, then  $\{a_n\}$  is **bounded**. If  $\{a_n\}$  is not bounded, then we say that  $\{a_n\}$  is an **unbounded** sequence.

e.g.

- $\{\frac{1}{n}\}$  is bounded above by 2, bounded below by -48.

Its least upper bound is 1 and greatest lower bound is 0.

- $\{n\} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots\}$  is unbounded.

It follows that convergent sequences are all bounded.

$\text{cvg} \Rightarrow \text{bounded}$

Theorem If  $\{a_n\}$  is convergent, then  $\{a_n\}$  is bounded.  
 $\text{bounded} \not\Rightarrow \text{cvg.}$

Proof: Let  $L := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$ . e.g.  $a_n \begin{cases} 1 & n=2k+1 \\ 0 & n=2k \end{cases}$

Then  $\exists N$  s.t.  $|a_n - L| < 1$  for all  $n \geq N$ .  $R \in N$ .

Let  $K := \max \{|a_1 - L|, |a_2 - L|, \dots, |a_{R+1} - L|, 1\}$ .

Then  $|a_n - L| \leq K$  for all  $n \geq 1$ . This means that

$$L - K \leq a_n \leq L + K, \quad \forall n \geq 1,$$

So  $\{a_n\}$  is bounded. □

Note that the converse is false : bounded  $\not\Rightarrow$  Convergent ; e.g.,

Consider  $a_n := (-1)^n$ .