Theorem: Limit of the n^{th} Term of a Convergent Series

If $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges, then $\lim_{n\to\infty} a_n = 0$.

Proof:

Assume that

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n = \lim_{n\to\infty} S_n = L$$

Then, because

$$S_n = S_{n-1} + a_n$$

and

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} S_n = \lim_{n\to\infty} S_{n-1} = L$$

it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \lim_{n\to\infty} S_n \\ &= \lim_{n\to\infty} (S_{n-1} + a_n) \\ &= \lim_{n\to\infty} S_{n-1} + \lim_{n\to\infty} a_n \\ &= L + \lim_{n\to\infty} a_n \end{aligned}$$

which implies that (a_n) converges to 0.