Monotone Convergence Theorem

Definitions

(1) A sequence $(x_n)_n$ is <u>monotone</u> if it is either increasing, decreasing, strictly increasing, or strictly decreasing.

Theorems/Propositions/Lemmas

(1) A convergent sequence is bounded.

Proof. Suppose $(x_n)_n \to x$. Since $(x_n)_n$ is convergent, we know:

$$(\forall \epsilon > 0)(\exists N \in \mathbf{N}) \ni n \geqslant N \implies |x_n - x| < \epsilon.$$

Pick $\epsilon = 1$. Then there exists $N_1 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $n \ge N_1$ implies $x_n \in V_1(x)$. Define:

$$c = \max\{|x_1|, |x_2|, ..., |x_N|, |x-1|, |x+1|\}.$$

If $n \leq N$, then $|x_n| \leq c$. If $n \geq N_1$, then $|x_n| \leq c$.

(2) (Monotone Convergence Theorem) Let $(x_n)_n$ be a monotone sequence. $(x_n)_n$ is convergent if and only if $(x_n)_n$ is bounded. Moreover, If $(x_n)_n$ is increasing and bounded above, then $\lim x_n = \sup\{x_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ or if $(x_n)_n$ is decreasing and bounded below, then $\lim x_n = \inf\{x_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$

Proof. (\Rightarrow) This direction was showed in (1). (\Leftarrow) Suppose $(x_n)_n$ is bounded above and increasing. Let $u = \sup\{x_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$. Supremum property says given $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $N \in \mathbb{N}$ with $u - \epsilon < x_N$.



But for $n \geqslant N$:

$$u - \epsilon < x_N \leqslant x_n \leqslant u < u + \epsilon$$
.

Hence $|x_n - u| < \epsilon$, establishing that $(x_n)_n \to u$. Now let $y_n = -x_n$. Then y_n is increasing and bounded above. We get:

$$\lim y_n = \sup\{y_n \mid n \in \mathbf{N}\} \implies -\lim x_n = \sup\{-x_n \mid n \in \mathbf{N}\}$$
$$\implies -\lim x_n = -\inf\{x_n \mid n \in \mathbf{N}\}$$
$$\implies \lim x_n = \inf\{x_n \mid n \in \mathbf{N}\}.$$

(3) If $(x_n)_n$ is increasing and unbounded, then $(x_n)_n$ diverges properly to $+\infty$.

Proof. Pick M large. Since $(x_n)_n$ is unbounded, there exists $N \in \mathbb{N}$ with $x_N > M$. Hence if $n \ge N$, then $x_n \ge x_N > M$, establishing $(x_n)_n \to +\infty$.

Examples

(1) Let $x_1 = 8$ and inductively set $x_{n+1} = \frac{1}{2}x_n + 2$. Show that $(x_n)_n$ converges and find its limit. Solution. Note that $(x_n)_n = (8, 6, 5, \frac{9}{2}, ...)$. We will show this sequence is bounded below by 4 and decreasing. Clearly $x_1 = 8 \ge 4$. Now assume $x_n \ge 4$. Then:

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{1}{2}x_n + 2$$

$$\geqslant \frac{1}{2}(4) + 2$$

$$= 4.$$

Moreover,

$$x_{n+1} \leqslant x_n \iff rac{1}{2}x_n + 2 \leqslant x_n \ \iff 4 \leqslant x_n.$$

Thus $(x_n)_n$ is bounded below by 4 and decreasing. By MCT $(x_n)_n \to L$. Observe that:

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{1}{2}x_n + 2 \iff L = \frac{1}{2}L + 2$$
$$\iff L = 4.$$

(2) Let $x_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k^2}$. Show that $(x_n)_n$ converges.

Solution. Clearly $x_n \leqslant x_{n+1}$. We have:

$$x_{n} = \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{1}{k^{2}}$$

$$= 1 + \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{1}{k^{2}}$$

$$\leq 1 + \sum_{k=2}^{n} \frac{1}{k(k-1)} \quad \text{Since } k^{2} \geq k(k-1)$$

$$= 1 + \sum_{k=2}^{n} \left(\frac{1}{k-1} - \frac{1}{k}\right) \quad \text{Partial fractions}$$

$$= 1 + \left[\left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3}\right) + \dots + \left(\frac{1}{n-1} - \frac{1}{n}\right)\right]$$

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

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

$$\leq 2.$$

Since $(x_n)_n$ is increasing and bounded above, by MCT $(x_n)_n \to L$.

(3) Given a > 0, construct a sequence $(x_n)_n$ which converges to \sqrt{a} .

Solution. Let $x_1 = 1$ and inductively set $x_{n+1} = \frac{1}{2} \left(x_n + \frac{a}{x_n} \right)$. Observe that:

$$2x_{n+1} = x_n + \frac{a}{x_n} \implies 2x_{n+1}x_n = x_n^2 + a$$

 $\implies x_n^2 - 2x_{n+1}x_n + a = 0.$

By assumption $(x_n)_n$ converges, hence this polynomial has a real root. So:

$$\Delta \geqslant 0 \implies 4x_{n+1}^2 - 4a \geqslant 0$$
$$\implies x_{n+1}^2 \geqslant a.$$

Whence $(x_n)_n$ bounded below. It remains to show that $(x_n)_n$ is decreasing. Observe that:

$$x_n \geqslant x_{n+1} \iff x_n \geqslant rac{1}{2} \left(x_n + rac{a}{x_n}
ight)$$
 $\iff 2x_n \geqslant x_n + rac{a}{x_n}$
 $\iff x_n \geqslant rac{a}{x_n} \quad ext{Since } x_n + x_n \geqslant x_n + rac{a}{x_n}$
 $\iff x_n^2 \geqslant a$
 $\iff x_{n+1}^2 \geqslant a. \quad ext{Since } a ext{ is a lowerbound}$

Hence by MCT, $(x_n)_n \to L$. This gives:

$$x_{n+1} = \frac{1}{2} \left(x_n + \frac{a}{x_n} \right) \stackrel{n \to \infty}{\Longrightarrow} L = \frac{1}{2} \left(L + \frac{a}{L} \right)$$
$$\implies L^2 = a$$
$$\implies L = \sqrt{a}.$$

(4) Let $h_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k}$. Show that $(h_n)_n \to +\infty$.

Solution. Clearly $(h_n)_n$ is increasing. Observe that:

$$egin{aligned} h_2 &= 1 + rac{1}{2} \geqslant 1 + rac{1}{2} \ h_{2^2} &= 1 + rac{1}{2} + rac{1}{3} + rac{1}{4} \geqslant 1 + rac{1}{2} + rac{1}{4} + rac{1}{4} = 1 + 2\left(rac{1}{2}
ight) \ h_{2^3} &= \ldots = 1 + 3\left(rac{1}{2}
ight) \end{aligned}$$

Inductively, $h_{2^n} \geqslant 1 + \frac{n}{2}$. Since $(1 + \frac{1}{n})_n \to +\infty$, $(h_n)_n \to +\infty$.

Subsequences

Definitions

- (1) A natural sequence is a strictly increasing sequence of natural numbers $(n_k)_k$ with $n_k \in \mathbb{N}$.
- (2) Let $(x_n)_n$ be a sequence. A <u>subsequence</u> of $(x_n)_n$ is a sequence $(x_{n_k})_k$ where $(n_k)_k$ is a natural sequence. Formally, a subsequence is a composition of maps $\mathbf{N} \xrightarrow{k \mapsto n_k} \mathbf{N} \xrightarrow{n_k \mapsto x_{n_k}} X$
- (3) If $(x_n)_n$ is a sequence of real numbers, a <u>peak</u> of a sequence is a term x_m with $x_m \ge x_n$ for all $n \ge m$.

Theorems/Propositions/Lemmas

(1) Given a natural sequence $(n_k)_k$, $n_k \ge k$ for all k.

Proof. Clearly
$$n_1 \ge 1$$
. Now assume $n_k \ge k$. Then $n_{k+1} \ge n_k + 1 \ge k + 1$.

(2) Suppose $(x_n)_n \to x$. For any subsequence $(x_{n_k})_k$, we have $(x_{n_k})_k \to x$.

Proof. Since
$$(x_n)_n \to x$$
, $(\forall \epsilon > 0)(\exists N \in \mathbb{N}) \ni n \geqslant N \implies |x_n - x| < \epsilon$. Consider $K = N$. Then $k \geqslant K$ implies $k \geqslant N$. But by (1) $n_k \geqslant k \geqslant N$. Hence $|x_{n_k} - x| < \epsilon$, establishing $(x_{n_k})_k \to x$. \square

(3) Let $(x_n)_n$ be a sequence. Then $(x_n)_n \not\to x$ if and only if there exists $\epsilon_0 > 0$ and a subsequence $(x_{n_k})_k$ such that $d(x_{n_k}, x) \ge \epsilon_0$.

Proof. (\Leftarrow) If $(x_n)_n \to x$, then any subsequence $(x_{n_k})_k$ converges to x. (\Rightarrow) Since $(x_n)_n \not\to x$:

$$(\exists \epsilon_0 > 0) (\forall N \in \mathbf{N}) \ni (\exists n \in \mathbf{N}) (n \geqslant N \land d(x_n - x) \geqslant \epsilon_0).$$

Note that:

$$N = 1 \implies (\exists n_1 \in \mathbf{N})(n_1 \geqslant 1 \land d(x_{n_1}, x) \geqslant \epsilon_0)$$

$$N = n_1 + 1 \implies (\exists n_2 \in \mathbf{N})(n_2 > n_1 \land d(x_{n_2}, x) \geqslant \epsilon_0)$$

$$N = n_2 + 1 \implies (\exists n_3 \in \mathbf{N})(n_3 > n_2 \land d(x_{n_3}, x) \geqslant \epsilon_0)$$

$$\vdots$$

$$N = n_k + 1 \implies (\exists n_{k+1} \in \mathbf{N})(n_{k+1} > n_k \land d(x_{n_{k+1}}, x) \geqslant \epsilon_0)$$

Hence $(x_{n_k})_k$ is a subsequence satisfying $d(x_{n_k}, x) \ge \epsilon_0$.

(4) Let $(x_n)_n$ be a real sequence. There is a subsequence that is monotone.

Proof. We proceed with cases. Case 1: there are infinitely many peaks. Let $(x_{n_1}, x_{n_2}, x_{n_3}, ...)$ be an enumeration of peaks. Then $(x_{n_k})_k$ is decreasing by definition. Case 2: there are finitely many peaks. Let $x_{m_1}, x_{m_2}, ..., x_{m_r}$ be the peaks of our sequence. Then $m_1 < m_2 < ... < m_r$ by definition. Let $n_1 = m_r + 1$. Since x_{n_1} is not a peak, there exists $n_2 > n_1$ such that $x_{n_3} > x_{n_2}$. Inductively, we obtain a sequence $(x_{n_k})_k$ with $x_{n_k} < x_{n_{k+1}}$.

(5) (Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem) If $(x_n)_n$ is a real sequence that is bounded, it admits a convergent subsequence.

Proof. Since $(x_n)_n$ is a bounded real sequence it admits a monotone subsequence $(x_{n_k})_k$ which is bounded. By the monotone convergence theorem $(x_{n_k})_k$ converges.

(6) If $(x_n)_n$ is an unbounded sequence of real numbers, show that there is a subsequence $(x_{n_k})_k$ such that $\left(\frac{1}{x_{n_k}}\right)_k \xrightarrow{k \to \infty} 0$.

Proof. Since $(x_n)_n$ is an unbounded real sequence:

$$(\exists \epsilon_0 > 0) (\forall N \in \mathbf{N}) \ni (\exists n \in \mathbf{N}) (n \geqslant N \land |x_n - 0| \geqslant \epsilon_0).$$

We can construct a subsequence as follows:

$$N=1 \implies (\exists n_1 \in \mathbf{N})(n_1 \geqslant 1 \land |x_{n_1}| \geqslant \epsilon_0)$$
 $N=n_1=1 \implies (\exists n_2 \in \mathbf{N})(n_2 \geqslant n_1 \land |x_{n_2}| \geqslant \epsilon_0)$
 \vdots

Inductively, we obtain a sequence $(x_{n_k})_k$ which properly diverges to $+\infty$. Given $\epsilon > 0$, let K be arbitrarily big so that $\epsilon > \frac{1}{n_K}$. Then for $k \ge K$, we have $\left|\frac{1}{n_k}\right| < \epsilon$.

(7) Suppose that every subsequence of a sequence $(x_n)_n$ has a subsequence that converges to 0. Show that $(x_n)_n \to 0$.

Proof. Suppose towards contradiction that $(x_n)_n \not\to 0$. Then there exists a subsequence $(x_{n_k})_k \not\to 0$. By definition:

$$(\exists \epsilon_0 > 0) (\forall K \in \mathbf{N}) \ni (\exists k \in \mathbf{N}) (k \geqslant K \land d(x_{n_k}, 0) \geqslant \epsilon_0).$$

We will construct a subsequence of $(x_{n_k})_k$ as follows:

$$K = 1 \implies (\exists k_1 \in \mathbf{N})(k_1 \geqslant 1 \land d(x_{n_{k_1}}, 0) \geqslant \epsilon_0)$$

$$K = k_1 + 1 \implies (\exists k_2 \in \mathbf{N})(k_2 \geqslant k_1 \land d(x_{n_{k_2}}, 0) \geqslant \epsilon_0)$$

$$\vdots$$

Inductively, we obtain a sequence $(x_{n_{k_j}})_j \not\to 0$. But this contradicts our claim that every subsequence has a subsequence which converges to 0. Hence it must be that $(x_n)_n \to 0$.

Examples

Limit Inferior & Limit Superior

Definitions

- (1) Let $X = (x_n)_n$ be a fixed bounded sequence who's limit may not exist. Then $\overline{X} = \{t \in \mathbf{R} \mid t = \lim_{k \to \infty} x_{n_k}, x_{n_k} \text{ some subsequence}\}$ is the set containing all <u>subsequential limits</u> (or <u>limit points</u>) of X.
- (2) Let $(x_n)_n$ be a bounded sequence.
 - (i) $l = \lim_{m \to \infty} l_m = \lim_{m \to \infty} (\inf_{n \ge m} x_n) := \liminf_{n \ge m} x_n$
 - (ii) $u = \lim_{m \to \infty} u_m = \lim_{m \to \infty} (\sup_{n \ge m} x_n) := \lim \sup_{n \to \infty} x_n$.

Theorems/Propositions/Lemmas

(1) Let $X = (x_n)_n$ be a bounded sequence with $l = \liminf x_n$ and $u = \limsup x_n$. If $x \in X$, then $x \in [l, u]$.

Proof. Note that:

$$egin{aligned} \inf_{n\geqslant n_k} x_n \leqslant x_{n_k} &\Longrightarrow \lim_{k o \infty} (\inf_{n\geqslant n_k} x_n) \leqslant \lim_{k o \infty} x_{n_k} \ &\Longrightarrow l \leqslant x. \end{aligned}$$
 $\sup_{n\geqslant n_k} x_n \geqslant x_{n_k} &\Longrightarrow \lim_{k o \infty} (\sup_{n\geqslant n_k} x_n) \geqslant \lim_{k o \infty} x_{n_k} \ &\Longrightarrow u \geqslant x.$

(2) Let $(x_n)_n = X$ be a bounded sequence. Let $l = \liminf x_n$ and $u = \limsup x_n$. Then $l, u \in \overline{X}$.

Proof. Let $u_m = \sup_{n \ge m} x_n$. By the supremum property:

$$N = 1 \implies (\exists n_1 \in \mathbf{N})(n_1 \geqslant 1 \land u_1 - 1 < x_{n_1} \leqslant u_1)$$

$$N = n_1 + 1 \implies (\exists n_2 \in \mathbf{N})(n_2 > n_1 \land u_2 - \frac{1}{2} < x_{n_2} \leqslant u_2)$$

$$N = n_2 + 1 \implies (\exists n_3 \in \mathbf{N})(n_3 > n_2 \land u_3 - \frac{1}{3} < x_{n_3} \leqslant u_3)$$
:

Inductively:

$$u_k - \frac{1}{k} < x_{n_k} \leqslant u_k \implies \lim_{k \to \infty} u_k < \lim_{k \to \infty} x_{n_k} \leqslant \lim_{k \to \infty} u_k$$

 $\implies u < \lim_{k \to \infty} x_{n_k} \leqslant u.$

By the squeeze theorem, $(x_{n_k})_k \to u$. Now let $l_m = \inf_{n \ge m} x_n$. By the infimum property:

$$N = 1 \implies (\exists n_1 \in \mathbf{N})(n_1 \geqslant 1 \land l_1 \leqslant x_{n_1} < l_1 + 1)$$

$$N = n_1 + 1 \implies (\exists n_2 \in \mathbf{N})(n_2 > n_1 \land l_2 \leqslant x_{n_2} < l_2 + \frac{1}{2})$$

$$N = n_2 + 1 \implies (\exists n_3 \in \mathbf{N})(n_3 > n_2 \land l_3 \leqslant x_{n_3} < l_3 + \frac{1}{3})$$

$$\vdots$$

Inductively:

$$l_k \leqslant x_{n_k} < l_k + \frac{1}{k} \implies \lim_{k \to \infty} l_k \leqslant \lim_{k \to \infty} x_{n_k} < \lim_{k \to \infty} l_k + \frac{1}{k}$$
$$\implies l \leqslant \lim_{k \to \infty} x_{n_k} < l.$$

By the squeeze theorem, $(x_{n_k})_k \to l$. Hence $l, u \in \overline{X}$.

- (3) * Let $(x_n)_n$ be bounded.
 - (i) $\liminf x_n \leqslant \limsup x_n$.
 - (ii) $(x_n)_n \to x$ if and only if $\lim \inf x_n = \lim \sup x_n = x$.

Proof. (i) Note that $l_m \leqslant u_m$ for all $m \geqslant 1$. Taking the limit $m \to \infty$ gives $l \leqslant u$.

(ii) (\Rightarrow) If $(x_n)_n \to x$, then every subsequence $(x_{n_k})_k \to x$. But we showed in (2) that there exists subsequences which converge to l and u. Whence x = l = u. (\Leftarrow) If l = u = x, then $\overline{X} = [x, x] = \{x\}$. Hence every subsequence $(x_{n_k})_k \to x$. Thus $(x_n)_n \to x$.

Example

Series

Definitions

- (1) Let $(x_k)_k$ be a sequence of real numbers.
 - (i) The <u>sequence of partial sums</u> $(s_n)_n$ is $s_n := \sum_{k=1}^n x_k$.
 - (ii) If $(s_n)_n \to s$ in **R**, we say the <u>infinite series</u> $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k$ converges and we write $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k = s$ or $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k < \infty$.
 - (iii) If $(s_n)_n$ diverges we say that the infinite series $\sum_{k=1}^n x_k$ diverges. If $(s_n)_n$ properly diverges to $\pm \infty$, we may write $\sum_{k=1}^\infty x_k = \pm \infty$.
- (2) A series $\sum x_k$ converges <u>absolutely</u> if $\sum |x_k| < \infty$.
- (3) An <u>alternating series</u> is an infinite series of the form $\sum_{k} (-1)^k b_k$, $b_k \geqslant 0$.

Theorems/Propositions/Lemmas

(1) Let $(x_k)_k$ be a sequence and let $k_0 \in \mathbf{N}$. Then $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k$ converges if and only if $\sum_{k>k_0}^{\infty} x_k$ converges. In the case of convergence, $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k = \sum_{k=1}^{k_0} x_k + \sum_{k>k_0} x_k$.

Proof. (\Rightarrow) Suppose $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_n = s$. Then $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_n = \sum_{k=1}^{k_0} x_k + \sum_{k=k_0+1}^{\infty} x_k = s$. Rearranging gives $\sum_{k=k_0+1}^{\infty} x_k = s - \sum_{k=1}^{k_0} x_k$. Since $\sum_{k=1}^{k_0} < \infty$, it must be that $\sum_{k=k_0+1}^{\infty} x_n < \infty$. (\Leftarrow) Now suppose $\sum_{k=k_0+1}^{\infty} x_k = s$. Since $\sum_{k=1}^{k_0} x_k < \infty$, we have that $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k = s + \sum_{k=1}^{k_0} x_k$; i.e., the infinite series is convergent.

(2) (Divergence Test) If $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k$ converges then $(x_k)_k \to 0$.

Proof. Suppose $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x_k = s$. Then $(s_n)_n \to s$. We have $x_n = s_n - s_{n-1}$. Taking the limit on both sides gives $(x_n)_n \to 0$.

- (3) Let $(x_k)_k$ be a sequence. The following are equivalent:
 - (i) $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k$ converges.
 - (ii) $(\forall \epsilon > 0)(\exists N \in \mathbf{N}) \ni (\exists m, n \in \mathbf{N})(m > n \geqslant N \implies \left|\sum_{k=n+1}^{m}\right| < \epsilon).$
 - (iii) $(\forall \epsilon > 0)(\exists N \in \mathbf{N}) \ni |\sum_{k>N} x_k| < \epsilon$.
 - (iv) $\left(\sum_{k>n} x_k\right)_n \to 0$.

Proof. (1) \iff (2). Let $s_n = \sum_{k=1}^n x_k$. Note that $s_m - s_n = \sum_{k=n+1}^m x_k$. So $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty}$ converges if and only if $(s_n)_n$ converges if and only if $(s_n)_n$ is Cauchy. (3) \iff (4) This follows from definitions. (1) \implies (3) Suppose $(s_n)_n \to s$. Then:

$$(\forall \epsilon > 0)(\exists N \in \mathbf{N}) \ni (\forall n \in \mathbf{N})(n \geqslant N \implies |s_n - s| < \epsilon).$$

But $s = s_n + \sum_{k>N} x_k$. So $|s - s_n| < \epsilon$ is equivalent to $|\sum_{k>N} x_k| < \epsilon$. (3) \Longrightarrow (1) Since $|\sum_{k>N} x_k| < \epsilon$, it converges. This is a tail, hence $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k$ converges.

(4) Let $s_n = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k$ with $x_k \ge 0$ for all k. Then $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k$ converges if and only if $(s_n)_n$ is bounded.

Proof. (\Rightarrow) If $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k$ converges then $(s_n)_n$ converges, hence $(s_n)_n$ is bounded. (\Leftarrow) If $(s_n)_n$ is bounded and increasing, then by MCT $(s_n)_n$ converges, hence $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k$ converges.

- (5) (Comparison Test) Let $(x_k)_k$ and $(y_k)_k$ be sequences with $0 \le x_k \le y_k$.
 - (i) If $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} y_k < \infty$, then $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k < \infty$ with $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k \leqslant \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} y_k$.
 - (ii) If $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x_k = \infty$, then $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} = \infty$.

Proof. https://www.math.uci.edu/~ndonalds/math2b/notes/11-4.pdf □

- (6) * (Limit Comparison) Let $(x_k)_k$ and $(y_k)_k$ be sequences of positive terms.
 - (i) If $\sum y_k < \infty$ and $\limsup \frac{x_k}{y_k} < \infty$, then $\sum x_k < \infty$.
 - (ii) If $\sum y_k = \infty$ and $\liminf \frac{x_k}{y_k} > 0$, then $\sum x_k = \infty$.

Proof.