



planetmath.org

Math for the people, by the people.

limit of sequence as sum of series

Canonical name	LimitOfSequenceAsSumOfSeries
Date of creation	2013-03-22 17:28:21
Last modified on	2013-03-22 17:28:21
Owner	pahio (2872)
Last modified by	pahio (2872)
Numerical id	4
Author	pahio (2872)
Entry type	Theorem
Classification	msc 40-00
Related topic	SumOfSeries

If U is the limit of a sequence

$$u_1, u_2, u_3, \dots$$

of real or complex numbers, then U can be expressed as the series sum

$$U = u_1 + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (u_{i+1} - u_i).$$

Proof. Let $s_n := u_1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} (u_{i+1} - u_i)$. We see that

$$s_n = u_1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} u_{i+1} - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} u_i = u_1 + \sum_{j=2}^n u_j - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} u_i = u_n$$

for all $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$. Thus

$$u_1 + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (u_{i+1} - u_i) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n = U,$$

Q.E.D.