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uniqueness of limit of sequence

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If a number sequence has a limit, then the limit is uniquely determined.

Proof. For an <http://planetmath.org/ReductioAdAbsurdumindirect> proof, suppose that a sequence

$$a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots$$

has two distinct limits a and b . Thus we must have both

$$|a_n - a| < \frac{|a - b|}{2} \quad \text{for all } n > \text{some } n_1$$

and

$$|a_n - b| < \frac{|a - b|}{2} \quad \text{for all } n > \text{some } n_2$$

But when n exceeds the greater of n_1 and n_2 , we can write

$$|a - b| = |a - a_n + a_n - b| \leq |a - a_n| + |a_n - b| < \frac{|a - b|}{2} + \frac{|a - b|}{2} = |a - b|.$$

This inequality is an impossibility, whence the antithesis made in the begin is wrong and the assertion is .