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## Fekete's subadditive lemma

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Let  $(a_n)_n$  be a subadditive sequence in  $[-\infty, \infty)$ . Then, the following limit exists in  $[-\infty, \infty)$  and equals the infimum of the same sequence:

$$\lim_n \frac{a_n}{n} = \inf_n \frac{a_n}{n}$$

Although the lemma is usually stated for subadditive sequences, an analogue conclusion is valid for superadditive sequences. In that case, for  $(a_n)_n$  a subadditive sequence in  $(-\infty, \infty]$ , one has:

$$\lim_n \frac{a_n}{n} = \sup_n \frac{a_n}{n}$$

The proof of the superadditive case is obtained by taking the symmetric sequence  $(-a_n)_n$  and applying the subadditive version of the theorem.