

1. Show that $n^{1/n} \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.¹

By Problem Sheet 5, Question 1, $1 + \sqrt{n} = 1 + n \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \leq \left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}\right)^n$. So

$$1 \leq 1^{1/n} \leq (\sqrt{n})^{1/n} \leq (1 + \sqrt{n})^{1/n} \leq \left(\left(1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}\right)^n \right)^{1/n} = 1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

Since $1 \rightarrow 1$ and $1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \rightarrow 1$, so does $n^{1/n} \rightarrow \infty$.

2. Let $PL(a_n)$ be the set of all limits of convergent subsequences of (a_n) , i.e.,

$$PL(a_n) = \{ L \in \mathbb{R} \mid \text{there is some subsequence } (a_{n_k}) \text{ such that } a_{n_k} \rightarrow L \text{ as } k \rightarrow \infty \}.$$

Elements of $PL(a_n)$ are also called partial limits of (a_n) .

- (a) For each one of the following items, give an example, without proof, of a sequence (a_n) such that $PL(a_n) = S$.

i. $S = \{ 1, \dots, m \}.$

ii. $S = \mathbb{N}.$

- (b) Is there a sequence (a_n) such that $PL(a_n) = \{ \frac{1}{n} \mid n \in \mathbb{N} \}$? You are not required to justify your answer, just come up with an answer – yes or no. You will prove the correct answer in a further question.

(a) i. $1, \dots, m, 1, \dots, m, 1, \dots, m, \dots$

ii. $1, 1, 2, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots$

- (b) No, because of Question 4.

3. Let (a_n) be a sequence, $L \in \mathbb{R}$. Prove that $L \in PL(a_n)$ if and only if for every $\epsilon > 0$, the set $\{ n \in \mathbb{N} \mid L - \epsilon < a_n < L + \epsilon \}$ is infinite.

\Rightarrow **If $L \in PL(a_n)$, then there is a subsequence (a_{n_k}) such that $a_{n_k} \rightarrow L$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. So for every $\epsilon > 0$, there is some $N \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $\forall k > N \mid a_{n_k} - L \mid < \epsilon$. So n_{N+1}, n_{N+2}, \dots is infinite and contained in $\{ n \in \mathbb{N} \mid L - \epsilon < a_n < L + \epsilon \}$.**

\Leftarrow **If $\{ n \in \mathbb{N} \mid L - \epsilon < a_n < L + \epsilon \}$ is infinite for every $\epsilon > 0$, then we can choose $n_1 \in \{ n \in \mathbb{N} \mid L - 1 < a_n < L + 1 \}$. Assume we defined $n_1 < \dots < n_k$. There are infinitely many elements in $\{ n \in \mathbb{N} \mid L - \frac{1}{k+1} < a_n < L + \frac{1}{k+1} \}$. In particular, there is some $n_k < n_{k+1} \in \{ n \in \mathbb{N} \mid L - \frac{1}{k+1} < a_n < L + \frac{1}{k+1} \}$. Now, for every $\epsilon > 0$, let $N > 1/\epsilon$. So for all $k > N$,**

$$\mid a_{n_k} - L \mid < 1/k < 1/N < \epsilon.$$

¹Hint: Problem Sheet 5, Question 1

4. Prove that if (a_n) is a sequence and there is a sequence L_n of partial limits of $PL(a_n)$ such that $L_n \rightarrow L$, then L is also a partial limit of (a_n) .

Let (L_m) be a sequence of partial limits such that $L_m \rightarrow L$ as $m \rightarrow \infty$. By Question 1, it suffices to show that for every $\epsilon > 0$, the set $\{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid L - \epsilon < a_n < L + \epsilon\}$ is infinite. Let $\epsilon > 0$. Since $L_m \rightarrow L$, there is some $m \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $|L_m - L| < \epsilon/2$. In particular,

$$\{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid L - \epsilon < a_n < L + \epsilon\} \supseteq \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid L_m - \epsilon/2 < a_n < L_m + \epsilon/2\}.$$

So, as the right hand side is infinite, so is the left hand side.

5. In this question we give yet another definition of \limsup :
Let (a_n) be a sequence. Show that

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left(\sup_{n \geq m} a_n \right) = \sup(PL(a_n))$$

in the sense that if one exists, so does the other and they are equal.

- **Assume $L := \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} (\sup_{n \geq m} a_n)$ exists. Let $L' \in PL(a_n)$, so there is a subsequence (a_{n_k}) such that $a_{n_k} \rightarrow L'$. Since $n_k \geq k$, it follows that $\sup_{n \geq k} a_n \geq a_{n_k}$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$. So $L \geq L'$. As $L' \in PL(a_n)$ was arbitrary, $PL(a_n)$ is bounded above by L . In particular,**

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left(\sup_{n \geq m} a_n \right) = L \geq \sup(PL(a_n)).$$

- **Assume $S = \sup(PL(a_n))$ exists. Then by Question 4, $S \in PL(a_n)$. Let (a_{n_k}) be a subsequence such that $a_{n_k} \rightarrow S$. Then $\{a_{n_k} \mid k \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is bounded. Since $n_k \geq k$, it follows that $\sup_{n \geq k} a_n \geq a_{n_k}$ for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$. So $\{\sup_{n \geq m} a_n \mid m \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is bounded below, and it is also descending, so it converges.**
- **It is left to show that if both sides of the equation exist, then**

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left(\sup_{n \geq m} a_n \right) \leq \sup(PL(a_n)).$$

For that it suffices to find some subsequence a_{n_k} such that $a_{n_k} \rightarrow \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} (\sup_{n \geq m} a_n)$.

- **Let $n_1 \geq 1$ be such that $|a_{n_1} - \sup_{n \geq 1} a_n| < 1$.**
- **Let $n_2 \geq n_1 + 1$ be such that $|a_{n_2} - \sup_{n \geq (n_1+1)} a_n| < 1/2$**
- **\vdots**
- **Assume $n_1 < n_2 < \dots < n_k$.**
Let $n_{k+1} \geq n_k + 1$ be such that $|a_{n_{k+1}} - \sup_{n \geq (n_k+1)} a_n| < 1/k$.

To prove $a_{n_k} \rightarrow \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} (\sup_{n \geq m} a_n)$, let $\epsilon > 0$ and let $N_1 \in \mathbb{N}$ be such that $\forall m > N, |\sup_{n \geq m} a_n - \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} (\sup_{n \geq m} a_n)| < \epsilon/2$. Let $N_2 := 2/\epsilon$. So for every $k > N_2$,

$$\left| a_{n_k} - \sup_{n \geq (n_k+1)} a_n \right| < 1/k < 1/N_1 = \epsilon/2.$$

Let $N := \max(N_1, N_2)$. So, if $k > N$, clearly also $n_k \geq k > N$ and, by the triangle inequality,

$$\left| a_{n_k} - \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left(\sup_{n \geq m} a_n \right) \right| \leq \left| a_{n_k} - \sup_{n \geq (n_k+1)} a_n \right| + \left| \sup_{n \geq (n_k+1)} a_n - \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left(\sup_{n \geq m} a_n \right) \right| < \epsilon/2 + \epsilon/2.$$