

CONVERGENCE OF SEQUENCES

Definition: Let $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ be an arbitrary sequence and L a real number. We say $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ *converges* to L provided if for every real number $\varepsilon > 0$, there is a real number N such that $|a_n - L| < \varepsilon$ for all natural numbers n such that $n > N$.

- (1) Let c be a real number. Prove that the constant sequence $\{c\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converges to c .
- (2) Prove that¹ the sequence $\left\{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}\right\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converges to 0.
- (3) Let $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ be a sequence. Suppose we know that $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converges to 1. Prove that there is a natural number $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $a_n > 0$.
- (4) Prove or disprove: The sequence $\left\{1 + \frac{1}{n}\right\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converges to 0.

- (5) Prove or disprove: The sequence² $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ where

$$a_n = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 10^m \text{ for some } m \in \mathbb{N} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

converges to 0.

Definition: A sequence $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ is *convergent* if there is a real number L such that $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converges to L . Otherwise, it is said to be *divergent*.

- (6) In this problem, we will prove that the sequence $\{(-1)^n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ is divergent.
- Proceed by contradiction and suppose it converges to L .
 - Apply the definition of “converges to L ” with $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2}$, so we get some N .
 - Take an odd integer n bigger than N : what does this say about L ?
 - Take an even integer n bigger than N : what does this say about L ?
 - Conclude the proof.

¹By \sqrt{n} , we mean the positive number whose square is n . Such a number exists by a proof similar to the one that $\sqrt{2}$ exists.

[illegible]