Analysis

Jonathan Gai

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Limits and Convergence 1

Review from Numbers and Sets

Notation. We denote sequences by a_n or $(a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$, with $a_n \in \mathbb{R}$.

Definition 1.1. We say that $a_n \to a$ as $n \to \infty$ if given $\epsilon > 0$, there exists N such that $|a_n - a| < \epsilon$ for all $n \ge N$.

Note. $N = N(\epsilon)$ which is dependent on ϵ . That is, if you want to go closer to a, sometimes you need to go higher in N.

Definition 1.2 (limit of a sequence). We say that a sequence is a

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} increasing \ sequence \ if \ a_n \leq a_{n+1}, \\ decreasing \ sequence \ if \ a_n \geq a_{n+1}, \end{array} \right\} monotone \ sequence \\ strictly \ increasing \ sequence \ if \ a_n \leq a_{n+1}, \\ strictly \ decreasing \ sequence \ if \ a_n \geq a_{n+1}. \end{array} \right\} strictly \ monotone \ sequence$$

We also have

Theorem 1.1 (Fundamental Axiom of the Real Numbers). If $a_n \in \mathbb{R}$ and a_n is increasing and bounded above by $A \in \mathbb{R}$, then there exists $a \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $a_n \to n$ as $n \to \infty$.

That is, an increasing sequence of real numbers bounded above converges.

Remark. It is equivalent to the following,

- A decreasing sequence of real numbers bounded below converges.
- Every non-empty set of real numbers bounded above has a *supremum* (Least Upper Bound Axiom).

Definition 1.3 (supremum). For $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}, S \neq \emptyset$. We say that $\sup S = k$ if

- 1. $x \le k$, $\forall x \in S$,
- 2. given $\epsilon > 0$, there exists $x \in S$ such that $x > k \epsilon$.

Note. Supremum is unique, and there is a similar notion of infimum.

Lemma 1.1 (Properties of Limits).

- 1. The limit is unique. That is, if $a_n \to a$, and $a_n \to b$, then a = b.
- 2. If $a_n \to a$ as $n \to \infty$ and $n_1 < n_2 < n_3 \dots$, then $a_{n_j} \to a$ as $j \to \infty$ (subsequences converge to the same limit).
- 3. If $a_n = c$ for all n then $a_n \to c$ as $n \to \infty$.
- 4. If $a_n \to a$ and $b_n \to b$, then $a_n + b_n \to a + b$.
- 5. If $a_n \to a$ and $b_n \to b$, then $a_n b_n \to ab$.
- 6. If $a_n \to a$, then $\frac{1}{a_n} \to \frac{1}{a}$.
- 7. If $a_n < A$ for all n and $a_n \to a$, then $a \le A$.

Proof.

1. Given $\epsilon > 0$, there exists N_1 such that $|a_n - a| < \epsilon, \forall n \geq N_1$, and there exists N_2 such that $|a_n - b| < \epsilon, \forall n \geq N_2$.

Take $N = \max\{n_1, n_2\}$, then if $n \ge N$,

$$|a-b| \le |a_n - a| + |a_n - b| < 2\epsilon.$$

If $a \neq b$, take $\epsilon = \frac{|a-b|}{3}$, we have

$$|a-b| < \frac{2}{3}|a-b|.$$

2. Given $\epsilon > 0$, there exists N such that $|a_n - a| < \epsilon, \forall n \geq N$, Since $n_j \geq j$, we know

$$|a_{n_j} - a| < \epsilon, \forall j \ge N.$$

That is, $a_{n_j} \to a$ as $j \to \infty$.

5. We have

$$|a_n b_n - ab| \le |a_n b_n - a_n b| + |a_n b - ab|$$

= $|a_n||b_n - b| + |b||a_n - a|$.

Given $\epsilon > 0$, there exists N_1 such that $|a_n - a| < \epsilon, \forall n \geq N_1$, and there exists N_2 such that $|b_n - b| < \epsilon, \forall n \geq N_2$.

If
$$n \ge N_1(1)$$
, $|a_n - a| < 1$, so $|a_n| \le |a| + 1$.

We have

$$|a_n b_n - ab| \le \epsilon(|a| + 1 + |b|), \forall n \ge N_3(\epsilon) = \max\{N_1(1), N_1(\epsilon), N_2(\epsilon)\}.$$

Lemma 1.2.

$$\frac{1}{n} \to 0 \text{ as } n \to \infty.$$

Proof. $\frac{1}{n}$ is a decreasing sequence that is bounded below. By the Fundamental Axiom, it has a limit a.

We claim that a = 0. We have

$$\frac{1}{2n} = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{n} \rightarrow \frac{a}{2}$$
 by Lemma (1.1).

But $\frac{1}{2n}$ is a subsequence, so by Lemma (1.1) $\frac{1}{2n} \to a$. By uniqueness of limits proved again in Lemma (1.1), we have $a = \frac{a}{2} \implies a = 0$.

Remark. The definition of limit of a sequence makes perfect sense for $a_n \in \mathbb{C}$ by replacing the absolute value with modulus.

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Definition 1.4. We say that $a_n \to a$ as $n \to \infty$ if given $\epsilon > 0$, there exists N such that $|a_n - a| < \epsilon$ for all $n \ge N$.

And the first six parts of Lemma (1.1) are the same over \mathbb{C} . The last one does not make sense over \mathbb{C} since it uses the order of \mathbb{R} .

Lecture 2: Bolzano-Weierstrass theorem

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Theorem 1.2 (Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem). If $x_n \in R$ and there exists K such that $|x_n| \leq K$ for all n, then we can find $n_1 < n_2 < n_3 < \dots$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $x_{n_j} \to x$ as $j \to \infty$. In other words, every bounded sequence has a convergent subsequence.

Remark. We say nothing about the uniqueness of the limit x.

For example, $x_n = (-1)^n$ has two subsequences tending to -1 and 1 respectively.

Proof. Set $[a_1, b_1] = [-K, K]$. Let c be the mid-point of a_1, b_1 , consider the following alternatives,

- 1. $x_n \in [a_1, c]$ for infinitely many n.
- 2. $x_n \in [c, a_2]$ for infinitely many n.

Note that (1) and (2) can hold at the same time. But if (1) holds, we set $a_2 = a_1$ and $b_2 = c$. If (1) fails, we have that (2) must hold, and we set $a_2 = c$ and $b_2 = b_1$.

We proceed as above to construct sequences a_n, b_n such that $x_m \in [a_n, b_n]$ for infinitely many values of m. They also satisfy

$$a_{n-1} \le a_n \le b_n \le b_{n-1}, \quad b_n - a_n = \frac{b_{n-1} - a_{n-1}}{2}.$$

 a_n is an increasing sequence and bounded, and b_n is a decreasing sequence and bounded. By Fundamental Axiom, $a_n \to a \in [a_1, b_1], b_n \to b \in [a_1, b_1]$. Using Lemma (1.1), $b - a = \frac{b-a}{2} \implies a = b$.

Since $x_m \in [a_n, b_n]$ for infinitely many values of m, having chosen n_j such that $x_{n_j} \in [a_j, b_j]$, that is $n_{j+1} > n_j$ such that $x_{n_{j+1}} \in [a_{j+1}, b_{j+1}]$. In other words, there is unlimited supply.

Hence,
$$a_j \leq x_{n_j} \leq b_j$$
, so $x_{n_j} \to a$.

1.2 Cauchy Sequences

Definition 1.5 (Cauchy Sequence). $a_n \in \mathbb{R}$ is called a *Cauchy sequence* if given $\epsilon > 0 \exists N > 0$ such that $|a_n - a_m| < \epsilon \ \forall n, m > N$.

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Note. N is dependent on ϵ .

A function is Cauchy if after you wait long enough, any two elements in the sequence would be close enough.

Lemma 1.3. A convergent sequence is a Cauchy sequence.

Proof. If $a_n \to a$, given $\epsilon > 0$, exists N such that for all $n \ge N$, $|a_n - a| < \epsilon$. Take $m, n \ge N$,

$$|a_n - a_m| \le |a_n - a| + |a_m - a| < 2\epsilon.$$

Lemma 1.4. Every Cauchy sequence is convergent.

Proof. First we note that if a_n is Cauchy, then it is bounded.

Take $\epsilon = 1$, N = N(1) in the Cauchy property, then

$$|a_n - a_m| < 1, \quad n, m \ge N(1).$$

We have

$$|a_m| \le |a_m - a_N| + |a_N| < 1 + |a_N| \quad \forall m \ge N.$$

Let
$$K = \max\{1 + |a_N|, |a_n| \ n = 1, 2 \dots, N - 1\}.$$

Then $|a_n| \leq K$ for all n. By the Bolzano–Weierstrass theorem, $a_{n_j} \to a$. We must have $a_n \to a$.

Given $\epsilon > 0$, there exists j_0 such that for all $j \geq j_0$, $|a_{n_j} - a| < \epsilon$.

Also, there exists $N(\epsilon)$ such that $|a_m - a_n| < \epsilon$ for all $m, n \ge N(\epsilon)$.

Take j such that $n_j \ge \max\{N(\epsilon), n_{j_0}\}$. Then if $n \ge N(\epsilon)$,

$$|a_n - a| \le |a_n - a_{n_j}| + |a_{n_j} - a| < 2\epsilon.$$

Thus, on \mathbb{R} , a sequence is convergent if and only if it is Cauchy.

The old fashion name of this is called the "general principle of convergence".

It is a useful property because we don't need what the limit actually is.

2 Series

Definition 2.1. If $a_n \in \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$ We say that $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} a_j$ converges to s if the sequence of partial sums

$$S_N = \sum_{i=1}^N a_i \to S$$

as $N \to \infty$. We write $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} a_j = s$. If S_N does not converge, we say that $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} a_j$ diverges.

Remark. Any problem on series is really a problem about the sequence of partial sums.

Lemma 2.1.

- 1. If $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} a_j$ and $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} a_j$ converges, then so does $\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \lambda a_j + \mu b_j$, when $\lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{C}$;
- 2. Suppose there exists N such that $a_i = b_i$ for all $i \ge N$. Then either $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i$ and $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} b_i$ both converge or they both diverge. (initial terms do not matter for convergence)

Proof. 1. Exercise.

2. If we have $n \geq N$,

$$S_n = \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} a_i + \sum_{i=N}^n a_i$$
$$d_n = \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} b_i + \sum_{i=N}^n b_i$$

So $S_n - d_n = \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} a_i - b_i$ which is a constant. So S_n converges if and only if d_n does.

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We have the following important example,

Example (Geometric Series). $x \in \mathbb{R}$, set $a_n = x^{n-1}$ with $n \geq 1$. So the

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partial sums are

$$S_n = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i = 1 + x + x^2 + \dots + x^{n-1}.$$

Then we have

$$S_n = \begin{cases} \frac{1 - x^n}{1 - x}, & \text{if } x \neq 1\\ n, & \text{if } x = 1 \end{cases}.$$

You can derive this by the equation

$$xS_n = x + x^2 + \dots + x^n = S_n - 1 + x^n,$$

and we have $S_n(1-x) = 1 - x^n$.

If
$$|x| < 1$$
, $x^n \to 0$ and $S_n \to \frac{1}{1-x}$

If x > 1, $x^n \to \infty$ and $S_n \to \infty$.

If x < -1, S_n does not converge (oscillates).

If
$$x = -1$$
, $S_n = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } n \text{ odd} \\ 0, & \text{if } n \text{ even} \end{cases}$.

Thus, the geometric series converges if and only if |x| < 1.

To see for example that $x^n \to 0$ if |x| < 1, consider first the case 0 < x < 1. Write $\frac{1}{x} = 1 + \delta, \delta > 0$, so $x^n = \frac{1}{(1+\delta)^n} \le \frac{1}{1+n\delta} \to 0$ because $(1+\delta)^n \ge 1 + n\delta$ from binomial expansion.

Definition 2.2. $S_n \to \infty$ if given A, there exists an N such that $S_n > A$ for all n > N.

 $S_n \to -\infty$ if given A, there exists an N such that $S_n < -A$ for all n > N.

Lemma 2.2. If $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i$ converges, then $\lim_{i \to \infty} a_i = 0$.

Proof. Let $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i$, note that $a_n = S_n - s_{n-1}$. If $S_n \to a$, we have $a_n \to 0$ because $S_{n-1} \to a$ also.

Remark. The converse of the preceding lemma is false. One example is $\sum \frac{1}{n}$, the *harmonic series*. We can see that it diverges because

$$S_n = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty}$$

$$S_{2n} = S_n + \frac{1}{n+1} + \frac{1}{n+2} + \dots + \frac{1}{2n} > S_n + \frac{1}{2}$$

since $\frac{1}{n+k} \ge \frac{1}{2n}$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

So if $S_n \to a$, then $S_{2n} \to a$, also we have $a \ge a + \frac{1}{2}$. Contradiction.

2.1 Series of Non-negative Terms

We first consider sequences with positive terms, but it gives monotonicity of partial sums.

Theorem 2.1 (The Comparison Test). Suppose $0 \le b_n \le a_n$ for all n. Then if $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges, so does $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$.

Proof. Let $s_N = \sum_{n=1}^N a_n$, $d_N = \sum_{n=1}^N b_n$. Because $b_n \le a_n$, we know $d_N \le s_N$. But $s_N \to s$, then $d_n \le s_n \le 2$ for all n, and d_N is a increasing sequence bounded above. So d_N converges.

Example. We consider $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$. We have

$$\frac{1}{n^2} < \frac{1}{n(n-1)} = \frac{1}{n-1} - \frac{1}{n}.$$

So we have

$$\sum_{n=2}^{N} a_n = 1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{N-1} - \frac{1}{N} = 1 - \frac{1}{N}.$$

It is clear that $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges, so $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2}$ converges.

In fact, we get $\sum_{n=1}^{\frac{1}{n^2}} \le 1 + 1 = 2$.

For the rest of the lecture, we establish two more tests.

Theorem 2.2 (Root test/ Cauchy's Test for Convergence). Assume $a_n \geq 0$ and $a_n^{1/n} \to a$ as $n \to \infty$. Then if a < 1, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges; if a > 1, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ diverges.

Remark. Nothing can be said if a = 1.

. If a < 1, choose a < r < 1. By definition of limit and hypothesis, there exists N such that $\forall n \geq N$,

$$a_n^{1/n} < r \implies a_n < r^n$$
.

But since r < 1, the geometric series converges, and by comparison test, the series $\sum a_n$ converges as well.

To prove the second part of the theorem, if a > 1, for $n \ge N$,

$$a_n^{1/n} > 1 \implies a_n > 1.$$

Thus, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ diverges, since a_n does not tend to zero.

Theorem 2.3 (Ratio Test/ D'Alembert's Test). Suppose $a_n > 0$ and $\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \to \ell$. If $\ell < 1$, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ converges. If $\ell > 1$, $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ diverges.

Remark. As before, nothing can be said for $\ell = 1$.

Proof. Supposed $\ell < 1$ and choose r with $\ell < r < 1$. Then $\exists N$ such that $\forall n \geq N,$

$$\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} < r.$$

Therefore,

$$a_n = \frac{a_n}{a_{n-1}} \frac{a_{n-1}}{a_{n-2}} \cdots \frac{a_{N+1}}{a_N} a_N < a_N r^{n-N}, \ n > N.$$

So, $a_n < kr^n$ with k independent of n. Since $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} r^n$ converges, so does $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ by Comparison Test.

If $\ell > 1$, choose $1 < r < \ell$. Then $\frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} > r$ for all $n \ge N$, and as before

$$a_n = \frac{a_n}{a_{n-1}} \frac{a_{n-1}}{a_{n-2}} \cdots \frac{a_{N+1}}{a_N} a_N > a_N r^{n-N}, \ n > N.$$

So the series diverges.