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# Math 104

## Real Analysis

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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>The Real Number Systems</b>	<b>3</b>
1	Natural Numbers $\mathbb{N}$ . . . . .	3
2	Rational Numbers $\mathbb{Q}$ . . . . .	3
3	Real Numbers $\mathbb{R}$ . . . . .	5
4	$+\infty$ and $-\infty$ . . . . .	6
5	Reading (Rudin's) . . . . .	7
<b>2</b>	<b>Sequences</b>	<b>8</b>
6	Limits of Sequences . . . . .	8
7	Proofs of Limits . . . . .	8
8	Limit Theorems for Sequences . . . . .	9
9	Monotone Sequences and Cauchy Sequences . . . . .	12
10	$\limsup$ 's and $\liminf$ 's . . . . .	15
11	Metric Spaces and Topology . . . . .	16
12	Compact Sets (Rudin) . . . . .	18
13	Series . . . . .	18
14	Alternating Series . . . . .	20

# LECTURE 1

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## THE REAL NUMBER SYSTEMS

### 1 Natural Numbers $\mathbb{N}$

**Definition 1.1** (Peano Axioms (Peano Postulates)). The properties of the set of natural numbers, denoted  $\mathbb{N}$ , are as follows:

- (i) 1 belongs to  $\mathbb{N}$ .
- (ii) If  $n$  belongs to  $\mathbb{N}$ , then its successor  $n + 1$  belongs to  $\mathbb{N}$ .
- (iii) 1 is not the successor of any element in  $\mathbb{N}$ .
- (iv) If  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$  have the same successor, then  $n = m$ .
- (v) A subset of  $\mathbb{N}$  which contains 1, and which contains  $n + 1$  whenever it contains  $n$ , must equal to  $\mathbb{N}$ .

**Remark.** The last axiom is the basis of mathematical induction. Let  $P_1, P_2, P_3, \dots$  be a list of propositions that may or may not be true. The principle of mathematical induction asserts all the statements  $P_1, P_2, \dots$  are true provided

- $P_1$  is true. (Basis for induction)
- $P_n \implies P_{n+1}$ . (Induction step)

### 2 Rational Numbers $\mathbb{Q}$

**Definition 2.1** (Rational Numbers). The set of **rational numbers**, denoted  $\mathbb{Q}$ , is defined by

$$\mathbb{Q} = \left\{ \frac{m}{n} \mid n, m \in \mathbb{Z}, n \neq 0 \right\},$$

which supports addition, multiplication, subtraction, and division.

**Remark.**  $\mathbb{Q}$  is a very nice algebraic system. However, there is no rational solution to equations like  $x^2 = 2$ .

**Definition 2.2** (Algebraic Number). A number is called an **algebraic number** if it satisfies a polynomial equation

$$c_n x^n + c_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + c_1 x + c_0 = 0$$

where  $c_0, \dots, c_n$  are integers,  $c_n \neq 0$  and  $n \geq 1$ .

**Remark.** Rational numbers are always algebraic numbers.

**Theorem 2.3** (Rational Zeros Theorem). Suppose  $c_0, c_1, \dots, c_n$  are integers and  $r$  is a rational number satisfying the polynomial equations

$$c_n x^n + c_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + c_1 x + c_0 = 0$$

where  $n \geq 1, c_n, c_0 \neq 0$ . Let  $r = \frac{c}{d}$  where  $\gcd(c, d) = 1$ . Then  $c \mid c_0$  and  $d \mid c_n$ . In simpler terms, the only rational candidates for solutions to the equation have the form  $\frac{c}{d}$  where  $c$  is a factor of  $c_0$  and  $d$  is a factor of  $c_n$ .

*Proof.* Plug in  $r = \frac{c}{d}$  to the equation, we get

$$c_n \left(\frac{c}{d}\right)^n + c_{n-1} \left(\frac{c}{d}\right)^{n-1} + \cdots + c_1 \left(\frac{c}{d}\right) + c_0 = 0.$$

Then we multiply by  $d^n$  on both sides and get

$$c_n c^n + c_{n-1} c^{n-1} d + \cdots + c_1 c d^{n-1} + c_0 d^n = 0.$$

Solving for  $c_0 d^n$ , we obtain

$$c_0 d^n = -c \left( c_n c^n + c_{n-1} c^{n-1} d + \cdots + c_2 c d^{n-2} + c_1 d^{n-1} \right).$$

Then it follows that  $c \mid c_0 d^n$ . Since  $\gcd(c, d) = 1$ ,  $c$  can only divide  $c_0$ .

Now let's instead solve for  $c_n c^n$ , then we have

$$c_n c^n = -d \left( c_{n-1} c^{n-1} + c_{n-2} c^{n-2} d + \cdots + c_1 c d^{n-2} + c_0 d^{n-1} \right).$$

Thus  $d \mid c_n c^n$ , which implies  $d \mid c_n$  because  $\gcd(c, d) = 1$ . □

**Corollary 2.4.** Consider

$$x^n + c_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + c_1 x + c_0 = 0,$$

where  $c_0, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1}$  are integers and  $c_0 \neq 0$ . Any rational solution of this equation must be an integer that divides  $c_0$ .

*Proof.* Since the Rational Zeros Theorem states that  $d$  must divide  $c_n$ , which is 1 in this case,  $r$  is an integer and it divides  $c_0$ . □

**Example 2.5.**  $\sqrt{2}$  is not a rational number.

*Proof.* Using Corollary 5, if  $r = \sqrt{2}$  is rational, then  $\sqrt{2}$  must be an integer, which is a contradiction. □

### 3 Real Numbers $\mathbb{R}$

#### 3.1 The Completeness Axiom

**Definition 3.1** (Maximum/minimum). Let  $S$  be a nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{R}$ .

- (i) If  $S$  contains a largest element  $s_0$  (i.e.,  $s_0 \in S$ ,  $s \leq s_0 \forall s \in S$ ), then  $s_0$  is the **maximum** of  $S$ , denoted  $s_0 = \max S$ .
- (i) If  $S$  contains a smallest element, then it is called the **minimum** of  $S$ , denoted as  $\min S$ .

**Remark.**

- If  $s_1, s_2$  are both maximum of  $S$ , then  $s_1 \geq s_2, s_2 \geq s_1$ , which implies that  $s_1 = s_2$ . Thus the maximum is **unique** if it exists.
- However, the maximum may not exist (e.g.  $S = \mathbb{R}$ ).
- If  $S \subset \mathbb{R}$  is a finite subset, then  $\max S$  exists.

**Definition 3.2** (Upper/Lower bound). Let  $S$  be a nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{R}$ .

- (i) If a real number  $M$  satisfies  $s \leq M$  for all  $s \in S$ , then  $M$  is an **upper bound** of  $S$  and  $S$  is said to be *bounded above*.
- (i) If a real number  $m$  satisfies  $m \leq s$  for all  $s \in S$ , then  $m$  is a **lower bound** of  $S$  and  $S$  is said to be *bounded below*.
- (i)  $S$  is said to be *bounded* if it is bounded above and bounded below. Thus  $S$  is bounded if there exist real numbers  $m$  and  $M$  such that  $S \subset [m, M]$ .

**Definition 3.3** (Supremum/Infimum). Let  $S$  be a nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{R}$ .

- If  $S$  is bounded above and  $S$  has a least upper bound, then it is called the **supremum** of  $S$ , denoted by  $\sup S$ .
- If  $S$  is bounded below and  $S$  has a greatest lower bound, then it is called the **infimum** of  $S$ , denoted by  $\inf S$ .

**Remark.** If  $S$  has a maximum, then  $\max S = \sup S$ . Similarly, if  $S$  has a minimum, then  $\min S = \inf S$ . Also note that  $\sup S$  and  $\inf S$  need not belong to  $S$ .

**Example 3.4.** Suppose we have  $S = \{1 - \frac{1}{n} \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . Then  $\max S$  does not exist and  $\sup S = 1$ .

*Proof.* Suppose for contradiction that it exists. Then it must be of the form  $1 - \frac{1}{n_0}$  for some  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ . However,

$$1 - \frac{1}{n_0 + 1} > 1 - \frac{1}{n_0},$$

and  $1 - \frac{1}{n_0 + 1} \in S$ . Hence a contradiction. □

**Theorem 3.5** (Completeness Axiom). Every nonempty subset  $S \subset \mathbb{R}$  that is bounded above has a least upper bound. In other words,  $\sup S$  exists and is a real number.

**Corollary 3.6.** Every nonempty subset  $S \subset \mathbb{R}$  that is bounded below has a greatest lower bound  $\inf S$ .

*Proof.* Consider the set  $-S = \{-s \mid s \in S\}$ . Since  $S$  is bounded below there exists an  $m \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $m \leq s$  for all  $s \in S$ . This implies  $-m \geq -s$  for all  $s \in S$ , so  $-m \geq u$  for all  $u \in -S$ . Thus,  $-S$  is bounded above by  $-m$ . The Completeness Axiom applies to  $-S$ , so  $\sup -S$  exists. Now we show that  $\inf S = -\sup -S$ . Let  $s_0 = \sup -S$ , we need to prove

$$-s_0 \leq s \quad \text{for all } s \in S,$$

and if  $t \leq s$  for all  $s \in S$ , then  $t \leq -s_0$ . The first inequality will show that  $-s_0$  is a lower bound while the second inequality will show that  $-s_0$  is the greatest lower bound, i.e.,  $-s_0 = \inf S$ . The proofs of the two claims are left as an exercise.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.7** (Archimedean Property). If  $a, b > 0$ , then  $na > b$  for some positive integer  $n$ .

*Proof.* Suppose the property fails for some pair of  $a, b > 0$ . That is, for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have  $na \leq b$ , meaning that  $b$  is an upper bound for the set  $S = \{na \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . Using the Completeness Axiom, we can let  $s_0 = \sup S$ . Since  $a > 0$ , we have  $s_0 - a < s_0$ , so  $s_0 - a$  cannot be an upper bound for  $S$ . It follows that  $s_0 - a < n_0 a$  for some  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ , which then implies that  $s_0 < (n_0 + 1)a$ . Since  $(n_0 + 1)a$  is in  $S$ ,  $s_0$  is not an upper bound for  $S$ , which is a contradiction.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.8** (Denseness of  $\mathbb{Q}$ ). If  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $a < b$ , then there is a rational  $r \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that  $a < r < b$ .

*Proof.* We need to show that  $a < \frac{m}{n} < b$  for some integers  $m$  and  $n$  where  $n \neq 0$ . Equivalently, we want

$$an < m < bn.$$

Since  $b - a > 0$ , the Archimedean property shows that there exists an  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$n(b - a) > 1 \implies bn - an > 1.$$

Now we need to show that there is an integer  $m$  between  $an$  and  $bn$ .  $\square$

## 4 $+\infty$ and $-\infty$

We adjoin  $+\infty$  and  $-\infty$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  and extend our ordering to the set  $\mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty, +\infty\}$ . Explicitly, we have  $-\infty \leq a \leq +\infty$  for all  $a \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty, +\infty\}$ .

**Remark.**  $+\infty$  and  $-\infty$  are not real numbers. Theorems that apply to real numbers would not work.

We define

$$\sup S = +\infty \quad \text{if } S \text{ is not bounded above}$$

and

$$\inf S = -\infty \quad \text{if } S \text{ is not bounded below.}$$

## 5 Reading (Rudin's)

### 5.1 Ordered Sets

**Definition 5.1** (Order). Let  $S$  be a set. An **order** on  $S$  is a relation, denoted by  $<$ , with the following two properties:

- If  $x \in S$  and  $y \in S$ , then one and only one of the statements

$$x < y, \quad x = y, \quad y < x$$

is true.

- If  $x, y, z \in S$ , if  $x < y$  and  $y < z$ , then  $x < z$ .

**Definition 5.2** (Ordered Set). An **ordered set** is a set  $S$  in which an order is defined.

For example,  $\mathbb{Q}$  is an ordered set if  $r < s$  is defined to mean that  $s - r$  is a positive rational number.

### 5.2 Fields

**Definition 5.3** (Field). A **field** is a set  $F$  with two operations: *addition* and *multiplication*, which satisfy the following **field axioms**:

(A) **Axioms for addition**

(A1) If  $x, y \in F$ , then  $x + y \in F$ .

(A2) (Commutativity)  $\forall x, y \in F, x + y = y + x$ .

(A3) (Associativity)  $\forall x, y, z \in F, (x + y) + z = x + (y + z)$ .

(A4) (Identity)  $\forall x \in F, 0 + x = x$ .

(A5) (Inverse)  $\forall x \in F$ , there exists a corresponding  $-x \in F$  such that

$$x + (-x) = 0.$$

(M) **Axioms for multiplication**

(M1) If  $x, y \in F$ , then  $xy \in F$ .

(M2) (Commutativity)  $\forall x, y \in F, xy = yx$ .

(M3) (Associativity)  $\forall x, y, z \in F, (xy)z = x(yz)$ .

(M4) (Identity)  $\forall x \in F, 1x = x$ .

(M5) (Inverse)  $\forall x \in F$ , there exists a corresponding  $\frac{1}{x} \in F$  such that

$$x \left( \frac{1}{x} \right) = 1.$$

(D) **The distributive law**

$$\forall x, y, z \in F, x(y + z) = xy + xz.$$

**Definition 5.4** (Ordered Field). An **ordered field** is a field  $F$  which is also an *ordered set*, such that

(i) if  $y < z$  and  $x, y, z \in F, x + y < x + z$ ,

(i) if  $x, y > 0$  and  $x, y \in F, xy > 0$ .

# LECTURE 2

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## SEQUENCES

### 6 Limits of Sequences

**Definition 6.1** (Sequence). A **sequence** is a function whose domain is a set of the form  $\{n \in \mathbb{Z} \mid n \geq m\}$  where  $m$  is usually 1 or 0.

One may wonder why do we care about sequence, and the answer is that sequences are useful for *approximation*.

**Definition 6.2.** A sequence  $\{s_n\}$  of real numbers is said to **converge** to the real number  $s$  if  $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists N > 0$  such that for all positive integers  $n > N$ , we have

$$|s_n - s| < \epsilon.$$

If  $\{s_n\}$  converges to  $s$ , we write  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = s$ , or simply  $s_n \rightarrow s$ , where  $s$  is called the **limit** of the sequence. A sequence that does not converge to some real number is said to **diverge**.

### 7 Proofs of Limits

**Example 7.1.** Prove  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = 0$ .

*Scratch.* For any  $\epsilon > 0$ , we want

$$\left| \frac{1}{n^2} - 0 \right| < \epsilon \iff \frac{1}{n^2} < \epsilon \iff \frac{1}{\epsilon} < n^2 \iff \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon}} < n.$$

Thus, we can just take  $N = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon}}$ . □

*Proof.* Let  $\epsilon > 0$  and  $N = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon}}$ . Then  $n > N$  implies  $n > \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon}}$  which implies  $n^2 > \frac{1}{\epsilon}$  and hence  $\epsilon > \frac{1}{n^2}$ . Thus  $n > N$  implies  $\left| \frac{1}{n^2} - 0 \right| < \epsilon$ . This proves our claim. □

**Example 7.2.** Prove  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3n+1}{7n-4} = \frac{3}{7}$ .



*Scratch.*  $\forall \epsilon > 0$ , we need  $\left| \frac{3n+1}{7n-4} - \frac{3}{7} \right| < \epsilon$ , which implies that

$$\left| \frac{21n+7-21n+12}{7(4n-4)} \right| < \epsilon \implies \left| \frac{19}{7(7n-4)} \right| < \epsilon.$$

Since  $7n-4 > 0$ , we can remove the absolute value sign and have

$$\frac{19}{7\epsilon} < 7n-4 \implies \frac{19}{49\epsilon} + \frac{4}{7} < n.$$

Thus, we have  $N = \frac{19}{49\epsilon} + \frac{4}{7}$ . □

*Proof.* Let  $\epsilon > 0$  and let  $N = \frac{19}{49\epsilon} + \frac{4}{7}$ . Then  $n > N$  implies  $n > \frac{19}{49\epsilon} + \frac{4}{7}$ , hence  $7n > \frac{19}{7\epsilon} + 4$ , which gives us  $\frac{19}{7(7n-4)} < \epsilon$ , and thus  $\left| \frac{3n+1}{7n-4} - \frac{3}{7} \right| < \epsilon$ . Then we are done. □

**Example 7.3.** Prove  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 1 + \frac{1}{n}(-1)^n = 1$ .

*Scratch.*  $\forall \epsilon > 0$ , we want  $n$  large enough, such that

$$|a_n - 1| < \epsilon \iff \left| 1 + \frac{1}{n}(-1)^n - 1 \right| < \epsilon \iff \left| \frac{1}{n}(-1)^n \right| < \epsilon \iff \frac{1}{n} < \epsilon \iff n > \frac{1}{\epsilon}.$$

Just take  $\alpha = \frac{1}{\epsilon}$ , then  $n > N \rightarrow |a_n - 1| < \epsilon$  □

## 8 Limit Theorems for Sequences

**Definition 8.1** (Bounded). A sequence  $\{s_n\}$  of real numbers is said to be **bounded** if the set  $\{s_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is a bounded set, i.e., if there exists a constant  $M$  such that  $|s_n| \leq M$  for all  $n$ .

**Theorem 8.2.** Convergent sequences are bounded.

*Proof.* Let  $\{s_n\}$  be a convergent sequence and let  $s = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n$ . Let  $\epsilon > 0$  be fixed. Then by convergence of the sequence, there exists an number  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$n > N \implies |s_n - s| < \epsilon.$$

By the triangle inequality we see that  $n > N$  implies  $|s_n| < |s| + \epsilon$ . Define  $M = \max\{|s| + \epsilon, |s_1|, \dots, |s_N|\}$ . Then  $|s_n| \leq M$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , so  $\{s_n\}$  is a bounded sequence. □

**Theorem 8.3.** Let  $\{s_n\}$  and  $\{t_n\}$  be sequences in  $\mathbb{R}$  such that  $s_n \rightarrow s$  and  $t_n \rightarrow t$ . Let  $k \in \mathbb{R}$  be a constant. Then

- (i)  $ks_n \rightarrow ks$ .
- (ii)  $(s_n + t_n) \rightarrow s + t$ .
- (iii)  $s_nt_n \rightarrow st$ .
- (iv) If  $s_n \neq 0$  for all  $n$ , and if  $s \neq 0$ , then  $\frac{1}{s_n} \rightarrow \frac{1}{s}$ .
- (v) If  $s_n \neq 0$  and  $s \neq 0$  for all  $n$ , then  $\frac{t_n}{s_n} \rightarrow \frac{t}{s}$ .

*Proof of (i).* Since the case where  $k = 0$  is trivial, we assume  $k \neq 0$ . Let  $\epsilon > 0$  and we want to show that  $|ks_n - ks| < \epsilon$  for large  $n$ . Since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = s$ , there exists  $N$  such that

$$n > N \implies |s_n - s| < \frac{\epsilon}{|k|}.$$

Then

$$n > N \implies |ks_n - ks| < \epsilon.$$

□

*Proof of (ii).* Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . We need to show

$$|s_n + t_n - (s + t)| < \epsilon \quad \text{for large } n.$$

Using triangle inequality, we have  $|s_n + t_n - (s + t)| \leq |s_n - s| + |t_n - t|$ . Since  $s_n \rightarrow s$ , there exists  $N_1$  such that

$$n > N_1 \implies |s_n - s| < \frac{\epsilon}{2}.$$

Similarly, there exists  $N_2$  such that

$$n > N_2 \implies |t_n - t| < \frac{\epsilon}{2}.$$

Let  $N = \max\{N_1, N_2\}$ . Then clearly

$$n > N \implies |s_n + t_n - (s + t)| \leq |s_n - s| + |t_n - t| < \frac{\epsilon}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{2} = \epsilon.$$

□

*Proof of (iii).* We use the identity

$$s_n t_n - st = (s_n - s)(t_n - t) + s(t_n - t) + t(s_n - s).$$

Given  $\epsilon > 0$ , there are integers  $N_1, N_2$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} n > N_1 &\implies |s_n - s| < \sqrt{\epsilon} \\ n > N_2 &\implies |t_n - t| < \sqrt{\epsilon} \end{aligned}$$

If we take  $N = \max\{N_1, N_2\}$ ,  $n \geq N$  implies

$$|(s_n - s)(t_n - t)| < \epsilon$$

which implies that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (s_n - s)(t_n - t) = 0.$$

Applying (i) and (ii), we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (s_n t_n - st) = 0.$$

□

*Proof of (iv).* Choosing  $m$  such that  $|s_n - s| < \frac{1}{2}|s|$  if  $n \geq m$ , we see that

$$|s_n| > \frac{1}{2}|s| \quad (n \geq m).$$

Given  $\epsilon > 0$ , there is an integer  $N > m$  such that  $n > N$  implies

$$|s_n - s| < \frac{1}{2}|s|^2\epsilon.$$

Hence, for  $n \geq N$

$$\left| \frac{1}{s_n} - \frac{1}{s} \right| = \left| \frac{s_n - s}{s_n s} \right| < \frac{2}{|s|^2} |s_n - s| < \epsilon.$$

□

*Proof of (v).* Using (iv), we have  $\frac{1}{s_n} \rightarrow \frac{1}{s}$ , and by (iii), we get

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{t_n}{s_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{s_n} \cdot t_n = \frac{1}{s} \cdot t = \frac{t}{s}.$$

□

#### Theorem 8.4.

(i)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^p} = 0$  for  $p > 0$ .

(ii)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a^n = 0$  if  $|a| < 1$ .

(iii)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{\frac{1}{n}} = 1$ .

(iv)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a^{\frac{1}{n}} = 1$  for  $a > 0$ .

*Proof of (i).* Let  $\epsilon > 0$  and let  $N = \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$ . Then  $n > N$  implies  $n^p > \frac{1}{\epsilon}$  and thus  $\epsilon > \frac{1}{n^p}$ . Since  $\frac{1}{n^p} > 0$ , this shows  $n > N$  implies  $\left|\frac{1}{n^p} - 0\right| < \epsilon$ . □

*Proof of (ii).* The case for  $a = 0$  is trivial. Suppose that  $a \neq 0$ . Since  $|a| < 1$ , we can write  $|a| = \frac{1}{1+b}$  where  $b > 0$ . By the binomial theorem, we have  $(1+b)^n \geq 1 + nb > nb$ , then

$$|a^n - 0| = |a^n| = \frac{1}{(1+b)^n} < \frac{1}{nb}.$$

Consider  $\epsilon > 0$  and let  $N = \frac{1}{\epsilon b}$ . Then  $n > N$  implies  $n > \frac{1}{\epsilon b}$  and thus  $|a^n - 0| < \frac{1}{nb} < \epsilon$ . □

*Proof of (iii).* Let  $s_n = n^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1$ . Then  $s_n \geq 0$  and by the binomial theorem,

$$n = (1 + s_n)^n \geq \frac{n(n-1)}{2} s_n^2.$$

Hence,

$$0 \leq s_n \leq \sqrt{\frac{2}{n-1}} \implies s_n \rightarrow 0.$$

□

*Proof of (iv).* Suppose  $a > 1$ . Let  $s_n = a^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1$ . Then  $s_n > 0$ , and by the binomial theorem,

$$1 + ns_n \leq (1 + s_n)^n = a,$$

so that

$$0 < s_n \leq \frac{a - 1}{n}.$$

Hence,  $s_n \rightarrow 0$ . The case for  $a = 1$  is trivial, and if  $0 < p < 1$ , the result is obtained by taking reciprocals.  $\square$

## 8.1 Upper and lower limits

**Definition 8.5.** Let  $\{s_n\}$  be a sequence of real numbers with the property that for every real  $M$  there is an integer  $N$  such that  $n \geq N$  implies  $s_n \geq M$ . We then write

$$s_n \rightarrow +\infty.$$

Similarly, if for every real  $M$  there is an integer  $N$  such that  $n \geq N$  implies  $s_n \leq M$ , we write

$$s_n \rightarrow -\infty.$$

## 9 Monotone Sequences and Cauchy Sequences

**Definition 9.1** (Monotone sequence). A sequence  $\{s_n\}$  of real numbers is called an *increasing sequence* if  $s_n \leq s_{n+1}$  for all  $n$ , and  $\{s_n\}$  is called a *decreasing sequence* if  $s_n \geq s_{n+1}$  for all  $n$ . If  $\{s_n\}$  is increasing, then  $s_n \leq s_m$  whenever  $n < m$ . A sequence that is increasing or decreasing will be called a **monotone sequence** or a **monotonic sequence**.

**Theorem 9.2.** All bounded monotone sequences converge.

*Proof.* Let  $\{s_n\}$  be a bounded increasing sequence. Let  $S = \{s_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  and let  $u = \sup S$ . Since  $S$  is bounded,  $u$  represents a real number. We show  $s_n \rightarrow u$ . Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Since  $u - \epsilon$  is not an upper bound for  $S$ , there exists  $N$  such that  $s_N > u - \epsilon$ . Since  $\{s_n\}$  is increasing,  $s_N \leq s_n$  for all  $n \geq N$ . Of course  $s_n \leq u$  for all  $n$ , so  $n > N$  implies  $u - \epsilon < s_n \leq u$ , which implies  $|s_n - u| < \epsilon$ . Hence  $s_n \rightarrow u$ . The proof for bounded decreasing sequences is left as an exercise.  $\square$

**Theorem 9.3.**

- (i) If  $\{s_n\}$  is an unbounded increasing sequence, then  $s_n \rightarrow +\infty$ .
- (ii) If  $\{s_n\}$  is an unbounded decreasing sequence, then  $s_n \rightarrow -\infty$ .

**Corollary 9.4.** If  $\{s_n\}$  is a monotone sequence, then the sequence either converges, diverges to  $+\infty$ , or  $-\infty$ . Thus  $\lim s_n$  is always meaningful for monotone sequences.

*Proof.* Simply apply the previous two theorems.  $\square$

**Definition 9.5.** Let  $\{s_n\}$  be a sequence in  $\mathbb{R}$ . We define

$$\limsup s_n = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sup \{s_n \mid n > N\}$$

and

$$\liminf s_n = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \inf \{s_n \mid n > N\}$$

**Theorem 9.6.** Let  $\{s_n\}$  be a sequence in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

(i) If  $\lim s_n$  is defined (real, or  $\pm\infty$ ), then

$$\liminf s_n = \lim s_n = \limsup s_n.$$

(ii) If  $\liminf s_n = \limsup s_n$ , then  $\lim s_n$  is defined and

$$\lim s_n = \liminf s_n = \limsup s_n.$$

**Definition 9.7** (Cauchy sequence). A sequence  $\{s_n\}$  of real numbers is called a **Cauchy sequence** if for each  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists a number  $N$  such that

$$m, n > N \implies |s_n - s_m| < \epsilon.$$

**Lemma 9.8.** Convergent sequences are Cauchy sequences.

*Proof.* Suppose  $\lim s_n = s$ . Since the terms  $s_n$  are close to  $s$  for large  $n$ , they must also be close to each other; indeed

$$|s_n - s_m| = |s_n - s + s - s_m| \leq |s_n - s| + |s - s_m|.$$

Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Then there exists  $N$  such that

$$n > N \implies |s_n - s| < \frac{\epsilon}{2}.$$

Clearly we can also write

$$m > N \implies |s_m - s| < \frac{\epsilon}{2},$$

so

$$m, n > N \implies |s_n - s_m| \leq |s_n - s| + |s - s_m| < \frac{\epsilon}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{2} = \epsilon.$$

Thus  $\{s_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence. □

**Lemma 9.9.** Cauchy sequences are bounded.

*Proof.* Let  $\epsilon = 1$ . By definition, we have  $N$  in  $\mathbb{N}$  such that

$$m, n > N \implies |s_n - s_m| < 1.$$

In particular,  $|s_n - s_{N+1}| < 1$  for  $n > N$ , so  $|s_n| < |s_{N+1}| + 1$  for  $n > N$ . If  $M = \max\{|s_{N+1}| + 1, |s_1|, |s_2|, \dots, |s_N|\}$ , then  $|s_n| \leq M$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . □

**Theorem 9.10.** A sequence is a convergent sequence if and only if it is a Cauchy sequence.

*Proof.* Earlier we have shown one direction in a lemma. We now only need to show that Cauchy sequences are convergent sequences. Consider a Cauchy sequence  $\{s_n\}$  and it is bounded by previous lemma. We now need to show that

$$\liminf s_n = \limsup s_n.$$

Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Since  $\{s_n\}$  is a Cauchy sequence, there exists  $N$  so that

$$m, n > N \implies |s_n - s_m| < \epsilon.$$

In particular,  $s_n < s_m + \epsilon$  for all  $m, n > N$ . This shows  $s_m + \epsilon$  is an upper bound for  $\{s_n \mid n > N\}$ , so  $v_N = \sup\{s_n \mid n > N\} \leq s_m + \epsilon$  for  $m > N$ . This, in turn, shows  $v_N - \epsilon$  is a lower bound for  $\{s_m \mid m > N\}$ , so  $v_N - \epsilon \leq \inf\{s_m \mid m > N\} = u_N$ . Thus

$$\limsup s_n \leq v_N \leq u_N + \epsilon \leq \liminf s_n + \epsilon.$$

Since this holds for all  $\epsilon > 0$ , we have  $\limsup s_n \leq \liminf s_n$ . Since  $\limsup s_n \geq \liminf s_n$  always holds, we are done. □

## 9.1 Subsequences

**Definition 9.11** (Subsequence). Suppose  $\{s_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is a sequence. A **subsequence** of this sequence is a sequence of the form  $\{t_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$

**Theorem 9.12.** Every sequence  $\{s_n\}$  has a monotonic subsequence.

*Proof.* We say that the  $n$ -th term is *dominant* if  $s_m < s_n$  for all  $m > n$ . There are two cases:

*Case 1:* Suppose there are infinitely many dominant terms, and let  $\{s_{n_k}\}$  be any subsequence consisting solely of dominant terms. Then  $s_{n_{k+1}} < s_{n_k}$  for all  $k$ , so  $\{s_{n_k}\}$  is a decreasing sequence.

*Case 2:* Suppose there are only finitely many dominant terms. Select  $n_1$  so that  $s_{n_1}$  is beyond all the dominant terms of the sequence. Then given  $N \geq n_1$ , there exists  $m > N$  such that  $s_m \geq s_N$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 9.13** (Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem). Every bounded sequence has a convergent subsequence.

*Proof.* Using previous theorem, we have a monotonic subsequence. Since monotonic bounded sequence are convergent, we are done.  $\square$

*Alternative proof.* Suppose that  $\{s_n\}$  is bounded. Then there exists  $M > 0$  such that  $|s_n| < M$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $A_1 = \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid s_n \in [0, M]\}$ ,  $B_1 = \{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid s_n \in [-M, 0]\}$ . Since  $A_1 \cup B_1 = \mathbb{N}$  is an infinite set, hence at least one of  $A_1, B_1$  is infinite. WLOG assume that  $A_1$  is infinite. We then cut  $[0, M]$  into two halves, and repeat the same procedure, then at least one of  $[0, M/2]$  and  $[M/2, M]$  contains infinitely many points of the sequence. Then, we get a nested sequence of closed intervals,

$$I_1 \supset I_2 \supset \cdots, \quad |I_{n+1}| = \frac{1}{2}|I_n|.$$

One can pick subsequence  $\{s_{n_k}\}$  such that for all  $k$ ,  $s_{n_k}$  is in  $I_k$ , and  $n_{k+1} > n_k$ . Then this subsequence is Cauchy, hence is convergent.  $\square$

**Definition 9.14** (Subsequential limit). A **subsequential limit** is any real number or symbol  $\pm\infty$  that is the limit of some subsequence of  $\{s_n\}$ .

**Example 9.15.** Consider  $\{s_n\}$  where  $s_n = n^2(-1)^n$ . The subsequence of even terms diverges to  $+\infty$  where as that of odd terms diverges to  $-\infty$ . Hence, the set  $\{-\infty, +\infty\}$  is the set of subsequential limits of  $\{s_n\}$ .

**Example 9.16.** Consider  $\{r_n\}$ , a list of all rational numbers. Every real number is a subsequential limit of  $\{r_n\}$  as well as  $\pm\infty$ . Thus,  $\mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty, +\infty\}$  is the set of subsequential limits of  $\{r_n\}$ .

**Theorem 9.17.** Let  $\{s_n\}$  be any sequence. There exists a monotonic subsequence whose limit is  $\limsup s_n$  and there exists a monotonic subsequence whose limit is  $\liminf s_n$ .

*Proof.* If  $\{s_n\}$  is not bounded above, then a monotonic subsequence of  $\{s_n\}$  has limit  $\limsup s_n = +\infty$ . Similarly, if  $\{s_n\}$  is not bounded below, a monotonic subsequence has limit  $\liminf s_n$ .

Consider the case that it is bounded above. Let  $t = \limsup s_n$ , and consider  $\epsilon > 0$ . There exists  $N_0$  so that for  $N \geq N_0$ ,

$$\sup \{s_n \mid n > N\} < t + \epsilon.$$

In particular,  $s_n < t + \epsilon$  for all  $n > N_0$ . We now claim

$$\{n \in \mathbb{N} \mid |s_n - t| < \epsilon\} \text{ is infinite.}$$

Otherwise, there exists  $N_1 > N_0$   $\square$

**Theorem 9.18.** Let  $\{s_n\}$  be any sequence in  $\mathbb{R}$ , and let  $S$  denote the set of subsequential limits of  $\{s_n\}$ .

- (i)  $S$  is non-empty.
- (ii)  $\sup S = \limsup s_n$  and  $\inf S = \liminf s_n$ .
- (iii)  $\lim s_n$  exists if and only if  $S$  has exactly one element, namely  $\lim s_n$ .

*Proof.* (i) is an immediate consequence of the previous theorem.

To prove (ii), consider any limit  $t$  of a subsequence  $\{s_{n_k}\}$  of  $\{s_n\}$ . By the □

## 10 $\limsup$ 's and $\liminf$ 's

Let  $\{s_n\}$  be any sequence of real numbers, and let  $S$  be the set of subsequential limits of  $\{s_n\}$ . Recall the following definition:

$$\limsup s_n = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sup \{s_n \mid n > N\} = \sup S$$

and

$$\liminf s_n = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \inf \{s_n \mid n > N\} = \inf S.$$

**Claim.**

$$\liminf s_n \leq \limsup s_n.$$

*Proof.* We know that

$$\sup_{n > N} s_n \geq \inf_{n > N} s_n.$$

Then take limit  $N \rightarrow \infty$ . □

**Claim.** If  $\{s_{n_k}\}$  is a subsequence, then

$$\limsup s_{n_k} \leq \limsup s_n.$$

**Theorem 10.1.** If  $\{s_n\} \rightarrow s > 0$  and  $\{t_n\}$  is any sequence, then

$$\limsup s_n t_n = s \cdot \limsup t_n.$$

Here we allow the conventions  $s \cdot (\pm\infty) = \pm\infty$  for  $s > 0$ .

*Proof.* □

**Question.** If  $\{s_{n_k} \cdot t_{n_k}\}$  converges, does that imply  $\{t_{n_k}\}$  converges?

**Answer.** Yes. (Why?)

**Theorem 10.2.** Let  $\{s_n\}$  be any sequence of nonzero real numbers. Then we have

$$\liminf \left| \frac{s_{n+1}}{s_n} \right| \leq \liminf |s_n|^{1/n} \leq \limsup |s_n|^{1/n} \leq \limsup \left| \frac{s_{n+1}}{s_n} \right|.$$

**Question.** If  $\{s_n\}$  is a bounded positive sequence, is  $\frac{s_{n+1}}{s_n}$  a bounded sequence?

**Answer.** No. Consider  $0 < a, b < 1$ , and take  $a = \frac{1}{2}$  and  $b = \frac{1}{n}$ , then  $\frac{a}{b} = \frac{n}{2}$ .

**Claim.** If  $\{s_n\}$  is bounded and monotone, then the ratio  $\frac{s_{n+1}}{s_n}$  eventually converges to 1.

*Proof.* Since  $\{s_n\}$  is bounded and monotone, it must converge to some limit  $s$ . Then

$$\lim \frac{s_{n+1}}{s_n} = \frac{\lim s_{n+1}}{\lim s_n} = \frac{s}{s} = 1.$$

□

**Question.** Is it possible to have  $s_n$  to be bounded, but  $\frac{s_{n+1}}{s_n}$  unbounded?

**Answer.** Yes. Consider

$$s_n = \begin{cases} 1 & n \text{ is even;} \\ \frac{1}{n} & n \text{ is odd.} \end{cases}$$

**Question.** If  $\{s_n\}$  is positive and bounded, is it possible that  $\frac{s_{n+1}}{s_n} \rightarrow 0$ ?

**Answer.** Yes. Consider  $s_n = \frac{1}{n!}$ . Then

$$\lim \frac{s_{n+1}}{s_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n+1} = 0.$$

## 11 Metric Spaces and Topology

**Definition 11.1** (Metric Space). A **metric space**  $S$  is a set  $S$  with a metric on it. We denote it by  $(S, d)$  where  $d$  is a *distance function* or a *metric* on  $S$  defined for all pairs  $(x, y)$  of elements from  $S$  satisfying

$$(i) \quad \forall x \in S, d(x, x) = 0 \text{ and } \forall x, y \in S, x \neq y, d(x, y) > 0.$$

$$(ii) \quad \forall x, y \in S, d(x, y) = d(y, x).$$

$$(iii) \quad \forall x, y, z \in S, d(x, z) \leq d(x, y) + d(y, z).$$

**Definition 11.2** (Convergence of Metric Space). A sequence  $\{s_n\}$  in a metric space  $(S, d)$  **converges** to  $s \in S$  if  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} d(s_n, s) = 0$ . The sequence is a *Cauchy sequence* if for each  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists an  $N$  such that

$$m, n > N \implies d(s_m, s_n) < \epsilon.$$

**Lemma 11.3.** If  $\{s_n\}$  converges to  $s$ , then  $s_n$  is Cauchy.

*Proof.* For any  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $N > 0$  such that for all  $n > N$

$$d(s_n, s) < \frac{\epsilon}{2}.$$

Thus, for all  $n, m > N$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} d(s_n, s_m) &\leq d(s_n, s) + d(s_m, s) \\ &< \frac{\epsilon}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{2} = \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

□



**Definition 11.4** (Completeness). The metric space  $(S, d)$  is **complete** if every Cauchy sequence in  $S$  converges to some element in  $S$ .

**Example 11.5** (Non-complete Metric Spaces).

1.  $S = \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ .
2.  $S = \mathbb{Q}$ .

**Lemma 11.6.** A sequence  $\{\mathbf{x}^{(n)}\} \in \mathbb{R}^k$  converges iff for each  $j = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , the sequence  $(x_j^{(n)})$  converges in  $\mathbb{R}$ . A sequence  $\{\mathbf{x}^{(n)}\}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^k$  is a Cauchy sequence iff each sequence  $\{x_j^{(n)}\}$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $\mathbb{R}$ .

**Theorem 11.7.** Euclidean  $k$ -space  $\mathbb{R}^k$  is complete.

**Theorem 11.8** (Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem). Every bounded sequence in  $\mathbb{R}^k$  has a convergent subsequence.

**Definition 11.9** (Interior). Let  $(S, d)$  be a metric space. Let  $E \subseteq S$ . An element  $s_0 \in E$  is **interior** to  $E$  if for some  $r > 0$  we have

$$\{s \in S : d(s, s_0) < r\} \subseteq E.$$

We write  $E^\circ$  for the set of points in  $E$  that are interior to  $E$ .

**Definition 11.10** (Open). The set  $E$  is **open** in  $S$  if every point in  $E$  is interior to  $E$ , i.e., if  $E = E^\circ$ .

**Definition 11.11** (Closed). Let  $(S, d)$  be a metric space. A subset  $E \subseteq S$  is **closed** if its complement  $S \setminus E$  is an open set. In other words,  $E$  is closed if  $E = S \setminus U$  where  $U$  is an open set.

**Definition 11.12** (Neighborhood). A **neighborhood** of  $p$  is a set  $N_r(p)$  consisting of all  $q$  such that  $d(p, q) < r$ , for some  $r > 0$ , where  $r$  is the *radius* of  $N_r(p)$ .

**Definition 11.13** (Limit Point). A point  $p$  is a **limit point** of the set  $E$  if every neighborhood of  $p$  contains a point  $q \neq p$  such that  $q \in E$ .

**Definition 11.14** (Closure). The **closure**  $E^-$  of a set  $E$  is the intersection of all closed sets containing  $E$ . Equivalently, the closure is the union of  $E$  and its boundary, which is defined below.

**Definition 11.15** (Boundary Points). The **boundary** of  $E$  is the set  $E^- \setminus E^\circ$ ; points in this set are called **boundary points** of  $E$ .

**Proposition 11.16.** Let  $E$  be a subset of a metric space  $(S, d)$ .

- (i) The set  $E$  is closed iff  $E = E^-$ .
- (ii) The set  $E$  is closed iff it contains the limit of every convergent sequence of points in  $E$ .
- (iii) An element is in  $E^-$  iff it is the limit of some sequence of points in  $E$ .
- (iv) A point is in the boundary of  $E$  iff it belongs to the closure of both  $E$  and its complement.

**Theorem 11.17.** Let  $\{F_n\}$  be a decreasing sequence ( $F_1 \supseteq F_2 \supseteq \dots$ ) of closed bounded nonempty sets in  $\mathbb{R}^k$ . Then  $F = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} F_n$  is also closed, bounded and nonempty.

## 12 Compact Sets (Rudin)

**Definition 12.1** (Open Cover). Let  $E \subset S$ . An **open cover** of  $E$  is a collection  $\{G_\alpha\}$  of open subsets of  $S$  such that  $E \subset \bigcup_\alpha G_\alpha$ .

**Definition 12.2** (Compact). Let  $K \subset S$ .  $K$  is **compact** if every open cover of  $K$  contains a *finite* subcover. More explicitly, the requirement is that if  $\{G_\alpha\}$  is an open cover of  $K$ , then there are finitely many indices  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  such that

$$K \subset G_{\alpha_1} \cup \dots \cup G_{\alpha_n}.$$

**Remark.** Every finite set is compact.  $\mathbb{R}$  is not compact.

**Theorem 12.3** (Heine-Borel Theorem). A subset  $E$  of  $\mathbb{R}^k$  is compact iff it is closed and bounded.

*Proof.* Suppose  $E \subset S$  is compact. Then pick some point  $p \in S$  and consider  $\{B_n(p) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ , which covers  $S$  and thus covers  $E$  as well:

$$E \subset S = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} B_n(p).$$

Since  $E$  is compact, there is a finite subcover such that

$$E \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^M B_{n_i}(p).$$

We can order the indices such that  $n_1 < n_2 < \dots, n_M$  then

$$E \subset B_{n_M}(p),$$

which implies that  $E$  is bounded. In particular, for any points  $x, y \in E$ ,

$$d(x, y) \leq d(x, p) + d(y, p) \leq 2 \cdot n_M.$$

The remaining of the proof is left as an exercise. □

**Theorem 12.4.** Every  $k$ -cell  $F$  in  $\mathbb{R}^k$  is compact.

## 13 Series

In this section we are interested in convergence of series, thus we use  $\sum a_n$  to denote  $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} a_i$ .

**Definition 13.1** (Convergence/Divergence). The  $n$ -th partial sum of a sequence  $\{a_n\}$  is defined as  $s_n = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i$ . We say that  $\sum a_n$  **converges** iff the sequence of partial sums  $\{s_n\}$  converges to a real number. Otherwise, we say that the series **diverges**.

**Definition 13.2** (Absolute Convergence). The series  $\sum a_n$  **converges absolutely** if  $\sum |a_n|$  converges.

**Definition 13.3** (Geometric Series). A series of the form  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} ar^n$  for constants  $a$  and  $r$  is a **geometric series**. For  $r \neq 1$ ,

$$\sum_{k=0}^n ar^k = \frac{a(1 - r^{n+1})}{1 - r}.$$

For  $|r| < 1$ , since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r^{n+1} = 0$ , using the formula above gives

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} ar^k = \frac{a}{1 - r}.$$

If  $a \neq 0$  and  $|r| \geq 1$ , then the sequence  $\{ar^n\}$  does not converge to 0, so the series diverges.

**Definition 13.4** (Cauchy Criterion). A series  $\sum a_n$  satisfies the **Cauchy criterion** if its sequence  $\{s_n\}$  of partial sums is a Cauchy sequence, i.e., for each  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$n \geq m > N \implies \left| \sum_{i=m}^n a_i \right| < \epsilon.$$

**Theorem 13.5.** A series converges iff it satisfies the Cauchy criterion.

**Corollary 13.6.** If a series  $\sum a_n$  converges, then  $\lim a_n = 0$ .

*Proof.* By Cauchy criterion, take  $n = m$ . Then for  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $N$  such that  $n > N$  implies  $|a_n| < \epsilon$ . Thus,  $\lim a_n = 0$ .  $\square$

**Remark.** The converse is not true. Consider  $\sum \frac{1}{n} = +\infty$ .

**Theorem 13.7** (Comparison Test). Let  $\sum a_n$  be a series where  $a_n \geq 0$  for all  $n$ .

- (i) If  $\sum a_n$  converges and  $|b_n| \leq a_n$  for all  $n$ , then  $\sum b_n$  converges.
- (ii) If  $\sum a_n = +\infty$  and  $b_n \geq a_n$  for all  $n$ , then  $\sum b_n = +\infty$ .

*Proof of (i).* For  $n \geq m$ , by the triangle inequality, we have

$$\left| \sum_{k=m}^n b_k \right| \leq \sum_{k=m}^n |b_k| \leq \sum_{k=m}^n a_k.$$

Since  $\sum a_n$  converges, it satisfies the Cauchy criterion. It follows from the above that  $\sum b_n$  also satisfies the Cauchy criterion, and so  $\sum b_n$  converges.  $\square$

*Proof of (ii).* Let  $\{s_n\}$  and  $\{t_n\}$  be the sequences of partial sums for  $\sum a_n$  and  $\sum b_n$  respectively. Since  $b_n \geq a_n$  for all  $n$ , we have  $t_n \geq s_n$  for all  $n$ . Since  $\lim s_n = +\infty$ ,  $\lim t_n = +\infty$ , and so  $\sum b_n = +\infty$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 13.8** (Ratio Test). A series  $\sum a_n$  of nonzero terms

1. converges absolutely if  $\limsup \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| < 1$ ;
2. diverges if  $\liminf \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| > 1$ .
3. Otherwise  $\liminf \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right| \leq 1 \leq \limsup \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} \right|$  and the test gives no information.

**Theorem 13.9** (Root Test). Let  $\sum a_n$  be a series and let  $\alpha = \limsup |a_n|^{\frac{1}{n}}$ . The series  $\sum a_n$

- (i) converges absolutely if  $\alpha < 1$ ;
- (ii) diverges if  $\alpha > 1$ .
- (iii) Otherwise, the test gives no information if  $\alpha = 1$ .

## 14 Alternating Series

**Theorem 14.1.**  $\sum \frac{1}{n^p}$  converges iff  $p > 1$ .

*Proof.* If  $p > 1$ , then

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k^p} \leq 1 + \int_1^n \frac{1}{x^p} dx = 1 + \frac{1}{p-1} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{n^{p-1}} \right) < 1 + \frac{1}{p-1} = \frac{p}{p-1}.$$

Hence,

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^p} \leq \frac{p}{p-1} < +\infty.$$

If  $0 < p \leq 1$ , then  $\frac{1}{n} \leq \frac{1}{n^p}$  for all  $n$ . Since  $\sum \frac{1}{n}$  diverges,  $\sum \frac{1}{n^p}$  diverges as well by the Comparison Test.  $\square$

**Theorem 14.2** (Integral Tests).

**Theorem 14.3** (Alternating Series Theorem). If  $a_1 \geq a_2 \geq \cdots \geq a_n \geq \cdots \geq 0$  and  $\lim a_n = 0$ , then the alternating series  $\sum (-1)^{n+1} a_n$  converges. Moreover, the partial sums  $s_n = \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^{k+1} a_k$  satisfy  $|s - s_n| \leq a_n$  for all  $n$ .

*Proof.* Define  $s_n = \sum_{j=1}^n a_j$ . The subsequence  $\{s_{2n}\}$  is increasing because  $s_{2n+2} - s_{2n} = -a_{2n+2} + a_{2n+1} \geq 0$ . Similarly, the subsequence  $\{s_{2n-1}\}$  is decreasing.  $\square$