

# Facts about limits.

**Definition 1** (Formal). We say  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$  if

for all  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  
there exists  $K \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  
so that if  $n \geq K$ ,  
then  $|a_n - L| < \epsilon$ .

**Definition 2** (Intuitive). We say  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$  if

however close we want to be,  
there's a place we can go,  
so that beyond that place,  
we are that close.

**Proposition 3** (Limits are unique). If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = M$ , then  $L = M$ .

**Proposition 4.** If the sequence  $a_n$  converges, then  $a_n$  is bounded.

**Corollary 5.** If the sequence  $a_n$  is not bounded, then  $a_n$  diverges.

**Proposition 6.** If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$ , and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c \cdot a_n = c \cdot L$ .

**Proposition 7.** If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = M$ , then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n + b_n = L + M$ .

**Proposition 8.** If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = M$ , then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \cdot b_n = L \cdot M$ .

**Proposition 9.** If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = M$ , and  $b_n \neq 0$  and  $M \neq 0$ , then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n/b_n = L/M$ .

**Proposition 10.** If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$  and  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_{n+m} = L$ .

**Proposition 11.** If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$ , and  $b_n$  is a sequence differing from  $a_n$  in finitely many terms, then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = L$ .

**Theorem 12.** If  $a_n$  is a nondecreasing bounded above sequence, then  $a_n$  converges.

**Theorem 13.** If  $a_n$  is a nonincreasing bounded below sequence, then  $a_n$  converges.

**Theorem 14** (Squeezing theorem). If  $a_n$ ,  $b_n$ , and  $c_n$  are sequences of real numbers, and for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have  $a_n \leq b_n \leq c_n$ , and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c_n = L$ , then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = L$ .

**Theorem 15** (Sequences and continuity). If a function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous at  $L$ , and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$ , then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(a_n) = f(L)$ .

**Example 16.** For a real number  $x > 0$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^{1/n} = 1.$$

**Example 17.** For a real number  $x$  with  $-1 < x < 1$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^n = 0.$$

**Example 18.** For a real number  $x > 0$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^x} = 0.$$

**Example 19.** For  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = 0.$$

**Example 20.**  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log n}{n} = 0$ .

**Example 21.**  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^{1/n} = 1$ .

**Example 22.** For  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n = e^x.$$