



§ 4 单调数列的极限及其应用



单调有界定理

定义4.1 (单调数列定义) 若数列 $\{a_n\}$ 满足:

$$a_n \leq a_{n+1} (a_n \geq a_{n+1}), n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

则称 $\{a_n\}$ 单调递增(递减).

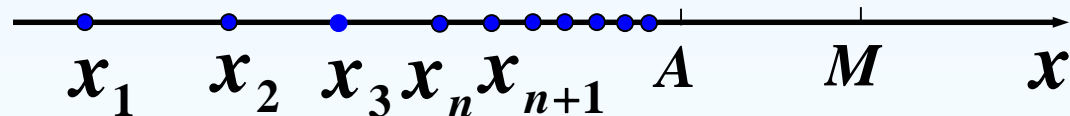
若数列 $\{a_n\}$ 满足:

$$a_n < a_{n+1} (a_n > a_{n+1}), n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

则称 $\{a_n\}$ 严格单调递增(严格单调递减).

定理4.1 单调有界数列必有极限.

几何解释:





证 设 a_n 单调递增有上界,

则由确界原理, $\{a_n\}$ 必存在上确界, 记 $\beta = \sup\{a_n\}$.

由上确界定义, $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists N, a_N > \beta - \varepsilon$,

当 $n > N$ 时, 由单调性知,

$$a_n \geq a_N > \beta - \varepsilon,$$

又 $a_n \leq \beta < \beta + \varepsilon$, 因此 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \beta$.

单调递减有下界同样可证, 结论成立!



例1 证明数列 $x_n = \sqrt{3 + \sqrt{3 + \sqrt{\cdots + \sqrt{3}}}}$ (n 重根式) 的极限存在.

证 显然 $x_{n+1} > x_n$, $\therefore \{x_n\}$ 是单调递增的;

又 $\because x_1 = \sqrt{3} < 3$, 假定 $x_k < 3$, $x_{k+1} = \sqrt{3 + x_k} < \sqrt{3 + 3} < 3$,

$\therefore \{x_n\}$ 是有界的; $\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n$ 存在.

$$\because x_{n+1} = \sqrt{3 + x_n}, \quad x_{n+1}^2 = 3 + x_n, \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_{n+1}^2 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (3 + x_n),$$

$$A^2 = 3 + A, \quad \text{解得 } A = \frac{1 + \sqrt{13}}{2}, \quad A = \frac{1 - \sqrt{13}}{2} \text{ (舍去)}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \frac{1 + \sqrt{13}}{2}.$$



例2 求数列 $\left\{\frac{a^n}{n!}\right\}$ 的极限, a 为任意给定的实数.

解 令 $x_n = \frac{|a|^n}{n!}$, $n \in N^*$. 则当 $n \geq |a|$ 时,

$$x_{n+1} = x_n \frac{|a|}{n+1} \leq x_n.$$

因此 $\{x_n\}$ 是从某一项开始递减的数列, 且有下界 0.

所以极限 $x = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n$ 存在.

在 $x_{n+1} = x_n \frac{|a|}{n+1}$ 两边令 $n \rightarrow \infty$, 得到 $x = x \cdot 0 = 0$.

所以 $\{x_n\}$ 为无穷小, 从而 $\left\{\frac{a^n}{n!}\right\}$ 也是无穷小.

注: 数列前面有限项的变化不会影响它的收敛性, 所以我们可以将“从某一项开始为单调的数列”看作单调数列.



例3 设 $x_1 \in (0,1)$, $x_{n+1} = x_n(1-x_n)$, $n=1,2,\cdots$, 求 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} nx_n$.

解 由数学归纳法易证, $x_n \in (0,1)$, $\forall n \in N^*$. 且有

$$x_{n+1} = x_n(1-x_n) < x_n$$

因此 $\{x_n\}$ 单调递减有下界, 从而收敛.

设 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = a$, 则 $x_{n+1} = x_n(1-x_n)$ 两边取极限得 $a = a(1-a)$,

解得 $a = 0$. 从而 $\{\frac{1}{x_n}\}$ 单调递增趋于正无穷, 由Stolz定理得

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} nx_n &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{1/x_n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n - (n-1)}{1/x_n - 1/x_{n-1}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x_{n-1}x_n}{x_{n-1} - x_n} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x_{n-1}^2(1-x_{n-1})}{x_{n-1} - x_{n-1}(1-x_{n-1})} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x_{n-1}^2(1-x_{n-1})}{x_{n-1}^2} = 1. \end{aligned}$$



例4 研究下面两数列的极限

$$s_n = 1 + \frac{1}{1!} + \frac{1}{2!} + \frac{1}{3!} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n!}, \quad e_n = \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n$$

解 ① s_n 显然单调递增, 且

$$\begin{aligned} s_n &= 1 + \frac{1}{1} + \frac{1}{1 \cdot 2} + \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3} + \frac{1}{1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4} + \cdots + \frac{1}{1 \cdot 2 \cdots n} \\ &\leq 1 + 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{2^{n-1}} < 3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = s.$$



$$\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)^k C_n^k = \left(\frac{1}{n}\right)^k \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} = \frac{1}{k!} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) \cdots \left(1 - \frac{k-1}{n}\right)$$

(2) 观察 e_n 和 e_{n+1} 易知 $e_n < e_{n+1}$, 即数列 $\{e_n\}$ 递增.

$$\begin{aligned} e_n &= \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n C_n^k \left(\frac{1}{n}\right)^k \\ &= 1 + 1 + \frac{1}{2!} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) + \frac{1}{3!} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) \left(1 - \frac{2}{n}\right) + \cdots \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{n!} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) \left(1 - \frac{2}{n}\right) \cdots \left(1 - \frac{n-1}{n}\right) \\ &\leq 1 + 1 + \frac{1}{2!} + \frac{1}{3!} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n!} = s_n \leq s. \end{aligned}$$



$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} e_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 + \frac{1}{n})^n$ 存在, 设 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} e_n = e$, 则 $e \leq s$.

(3) 对 $\forall n \geq m$,

$$e_n \geq 1 + \frac{1}{1!} + \frac{1}{2!} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) + \cdots + \frac{1}{m!} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) \cdots \left(1 - \frac{m-1}{n}\right)$$

固定 m , 令 $n \rightarrow \infty$, 得

$$e \geq 1 + \frac{1}{1!} + \frac{1}{2!} + \cdots + \frac{1}{m!} = s_m$$

再令 $m \rightarrow \infty$ 得 $e \geq s$, $\therefore e = s$



(4) 误差分析

$$\begin{aligned} 0 < s_{n+m} - s_n &= \frac{1}{(n+1)!} + \frac{1}{(n+2)!} + \cdots + \frac{1}{(n+m)!} \\ &= \frac{1}{(n+1)!} \left[1 + \frac{1}{n+2} + \frac{1}{(n+2)(n+3)} + \cdots + \frac{1}{(n+2)\cdots(n+m)} \right] \\ &< \frac{1}{(n+1)!} \left[1 + \frac{1}{n+1} + \left(\frac{1}{n+1}\right)^2 + \cdots + \left(\frac{1}{n+1}\right)^{m-1} \right] \end{aligned}$$



$$< \frac{1}{(n+1)!} \frac{1}{1 - \frac{1}{n+1}} = \frac{1}{n!n}.$$

令 $m \rightarrow \infty$, $0 < e - s_n \leq \frac{1}{n!n}$. --- 误差估计式.

取 $n = 10$ 时, $\frac{1}{n!n} < 10^{-7}$.

$$s_{10} = 2.7182818, \quad e \approx 2.7182818.$$



(5) e 为无理数

证明： 设 $e = \frac{p}{q}$, $\because 2 < e < 3, \therefore q \geq 2$.

$$\because 0 < e - s_q \leq \frac{1}{q!q}, \quad \therefore 0 < q!(e - s_q) \leq \frac{1}{q} \leq \frac{1}{2}.$$

但是

$$\begin{aligned} q!(e - s_q) &= q!\left(\frac{p}{q} - s_q\right) = (q-1)!p - q!s_q \\ &= (q-1)!p - q!\left(1 + \frac{1}{1!} + \frac{1}{2!} + \cdots + \frac{1}{q!}\right) \text{ 为整数} \end{aligned}$$

矛盾!



总结

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{1!} + \frac{1}{2!} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n!} \right) = e ;$$

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

$e \approx 2.7182818$ ——自然对数之底.



例5 计算极限 (1) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 + \frac{1}{2n})^n$; (2) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\frac{1+n}{2+n})^n$.

解 (1) 设 $a_n = (1 + \frac{1}{n})^n$, 则 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 + \frac{1}{2n})^{2n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_{2n} = e$.

所以 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 + \frac{1}{2n})^n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{(1 + \frac{1}{2n})^{2n}} = \sqrt{e}$.

$$(2) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\frac{1+n}{2+n})^n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{(\frac{2+n}{1+n})^n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1 + \frac{1}{1+n}}{(1 + \frac{1}{1+n})^{n+1}} = \frac{1}{e}.$$



例6 设 $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$, 求证 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{k}{n}\right)^n = e^k$.

证 设 $a_n = \left(1 + \frac{k}{n}\right)^n$,

(1) $n = mk$ 时, $a_{mk} = \left(1 + \frac{1}{m}\right)^{mk}$.

考虑子列 $\{a_{mk}\}$, 可见

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} a_{mk} = \left[\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{m}\right)^m \right]^k = e^k. \quad \text{有子列} \rightarrow e^k.$$



$$(2) \quad a_n = 1 \cdot \left(1 + \frac{k}{n}\right) \cdots \left(1 + \frac{k}{n}\right) \leq \left[\frac{1 + n\left(1 + \frac{k}{n}\right)}{n+1} \right]^{n+1}$$

$$= \left(1 + \frac{k}{n+1}\right)^{n+1} = a_{n+1}, \quad \{a_n\} \text{ 是单增.}$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_{mk} = e^k.$$

——单调数列有子列收敛则收敛，
有子列发散则发散。



例7 设 k 为常数, 求 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 - \frac{k}{n})^n$.

证 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\frac{n-k}{n})^n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{(\frac{n}{n-k})^n} = \frac{1}{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 + \frac{k}{n-k})^n}$

令 $a_n = (1 + \frac{k}{n-k})^n$, $m = n - k$,

取子列 $\{a_m\}$, $a_m = (1 + \frac{k}{m})^{m+k}$,

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} a_m = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} (1 + \frac{k}{m})^{m+k} = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} (1 + \frac{k}{m})^k \cdot \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} (1 + \frac{k}{m})^m = e^k$$

$$\therefore \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 - \frac{k}{n})^n = e^{-k}.$$



$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{k}{n}\right)^n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[\left(1 + \frac{k}{n}\right)^{\frac{n}{k}} \right]^k = \left[\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{k}{n}\right)^{\frac{n}{k}} \right]^k = e^k;$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{k}{n}\right)^n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left[\left(1 - \frac{k}{n}\right)^{-\frac{n}{k}} \right]^{-k} = \left[\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{k}{n}\right)^{-\frac{n}{k}} \right]^{-k} = e^{-k}.$$

推广: $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\Delta}\right)^\Delta = e$, $\Delta \rightarrow \infty$ 视为整体.

凑



例8 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{2}{n^2}\right)^{n^2+5}$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{2}{n^2}\right)^5 \cdot \left[\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{2}{n^2}\right)^{\frac{n^2}{2}} \right]^2 = e^2.$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1+2n}{3+2n}\right)^n$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left(1 + \frac{1}{2n}\right)^n}{\left(1 + \frac{3}{2n}\right)^n} = \frac{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{2n}\right)^{2n \cdot \frac{1}{2}}}{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{3}{2n}\right)^{\frac{2n \cdot 3}{2}}} = e^{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{2}} = e^{-1}.$$



例9 利用不等式 $\frac{1}{n+1} < \ln(1 + \frac{1}{n}) < \frac{1}{n}$ 证明:

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n} - \ln n)$ 存在.

证 令 $a_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n} - \ln n,$

$$a_{n+1} - a_n = \frac{1}{n+1} - \ln \frac{n+1}{n} = \frac{1}{n+1} - \ln(1 + \frac{1}{n})$$

$$< \frac{1}{n+1} - \frac{1}{n+1} = 0, \quad \text{单调递减}$$



$$a_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n} - \ln n$$

$$> \ln \frac{2}{1} + \ln \frac{3}{2} + \cdots + \ln \frac{n+1}{n} - \ln n = \ln(n+1) - \ln n > 0$$

所以 $\{a_n\}$ 单调递减有下界，从而收敛。

注 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n} - \ln n\right) = \gamma.$

$\gamma = 0.5772156649$ 称为欧拉常数



说明 $x_n = (1 + \frac{1}{n})^n \uparrow$, $y_n = (1 + \frac{1}{n})^{n+1} \downarrow$,

$$(1 + \frac{1}{n})^n < e < (1 + \frac{1}{n})^{n+1}$$

取对数即可得 $\frac{1}{n+1} < \ln(1 + \frac{1}{n}) < \frac{1}{n}$



定理4.2

- (1) 若单调数列的一个子列收敛, 则这个数列收敛;
- (2) 若单调数列的一个子列趋向 $\pm\infty$, 则此数列趋向于 $\pm\infty$;
- (3) 一个单调数列要么极限存在, 要么趋向 $\pm\infty$;
- (4) 单调数列收敛的充分必要条件是数列有界.



(1)若单调数列的一个子列收敛,则这个数列收敛 ;

证明 不妨设 a_n 单增, 且有 $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_{n_k} = a$,

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists K, \forall k > K, \text{有 } |a_{n_k} - a| < \varepsilon$$

取 $N = n_{K+1}$, 对 $\forall n > N$, 由单调性知, $\exists n_k$

$$a_{n_{K+1}} < a_n < a_{n_k}$$

$$\text{即 } -\varepsilon < a_{n_{K+1}} - a < a_n - a < a_{n_k} - a < \varepsilon$$

$$|a_n - a| < \varepsilon.$$



例10 (1) 设 $a_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n}$, $n \in N^*$, 求证 $\{a_n\}$ 发散.

(2) 设 $a_n = 1 + \frac{1}{2^\alpha} + \cdots + \frac{1}{n^\alpha}$, $n \in N^*$, $\alpha > 1$, 求证 $\{a_n\}$ 收敛.

证明 (1) 数列若有无界子列则发散.

事实上, 对 $k \in N^*$, 有

$$\begin{aligned} a_{2^k} &= 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{5} + \cdots + \frac{1}{8} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{9} + \cdots + \frac{1}{16} \right) \\ &\quad + \cdots + \left(\frac{1}{2^{k-1}+1} + \cdots + \frac{1}{2^k} \right) \\ &\geq 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{8} + \cdots + \frac{1}{8} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{16} + \cdots + \frac{1}{16} \right) \\ &\quad + \cdots + \left(\frac{1}{2^k} + \cdots + \frac{1}{2^k} \right) \end{aligned}$$



$$= 1 + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} + \cdots + \frac{1}{2}}_{k \text{ 个}} = 1 + \frac{k}{2}, \quad (k = 0, 1, \cdots)$$

可见 $\{a_n\}$ 无界, 进而得 $\{a_n\}$ 发散.

(2) $\{a_n\}$ 严格递增, 只须证有收敛子列即可由于

$$\begin{aligned} a_{2^k-1} &= 1 + \left(\frac{1}{2^\alpha} + \frac{1}{3^\alpha} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{4^\alpha} + \cdots + \frac{1}{7^\alpha} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{8^\alpha} + \cdots + \frac{1}{15^\alpha} \right) \\ &\quad + \cdots + \left(\frac{1}{(2^{k-1})^\alpha} + \cdots + \frac{1}{(2^k-1)^\alpha} \right) \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} &\leq 1 + \frac{2}{2^\alpha} + \frac{4}{4^\alpha} + \frac{8}{8^\alpha} + \cdots + \frac{2^{k-1}}{(2^{k-1})^\alpha} \\ &= 1 + \frac{1}{2^{\alpha-1}} + \frac{1}{4^{\alpha-1}} + \frac{1}{8^{\alpha-1}} + \cdots + \frac{1}{(2^{k-1})^{\alpha-1}} \\ &= 1 + \frac{1}{2^{\alpha-1}} + \left(\frac{1}{2^{\alpha-1}}\right)^2 + \cdots + \left(\frac{1}{2^{\alpha-1}}\right)^{k-1} \\ &= \frac{1 - \left(\frac{1}{2^{\alpha-1}}\right)^k}{1 - \frac{1}{2^{\alpha-1}}} < \frac{2^{\alpha-1}}{2^{\alpha-1} - 1}. \end{aligned}$$

表明 $\{a_n\}$ 的子列 $\{a_{2^k-1}\}$ 是有上界的而由 $\{a_n\}$ 递增,
可知 $\{a_{n_k}\}$ 也有上界从而.....



作业

习题 2.4

1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8(2)(3), 9(2), 10, 11