

An application of the Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem

Theorem

Every bounded divergent sequence of real numbers contains at least two subsequences that converge to different limits.

Before giving the short proof of this Theorem we recall:

1. The Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem ensures that every bounded sequence contains at least one convergent subsequence.
2. If a sequence $\{x_n\}$ does not converge to x , then for some $\varepsilon > 0$ there must be infinitely many x_n 's lying outside $(x-\varepsilon, x+\varepsilon)$.

Proof of Theorem

Let $\{x_n\}$ be a divergent sequence for which $\exists M > 0$ such that $|x_n| \leq M$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Bolzano-Weierstrass $\Rightarrow \exists$ a subsequence of $\{x_n\}$ which converges to some limit x .

Since $\{x_n\}$ is divergent, we know that $x_n \not\rightarrow x$ & hence for some $\varepsilon > 0$ we have infinitely many x_n 's satisfying $x_n \in [-M, x-\varepsilon] \cup [x+\varepsilon, M]$

(making M larger if necessary).

Suppose there are infinitely many x_n 's in $[x+\varepsilon, M]$, then BW implies $\{x_n\}$ contains a subsequence in $[x+\varepsilon, M]$ that converges to a limit in $[x+\varepsilon, M]$ (by order limit laws).

other case handled similarly.

□