



limits of a sequence



converges

diverges

# limits of a sequence

A sequence  $\{a_n\}$  has limit  $L$  if we can make the terms  $a_n$  as close as we like to  $L$  by taking  $n$  sufficiently large. We denote this by

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$$

or

$$a_n \rightarrow L \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

- If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$  exists (is finite), then the series **converges**, otherwise it **diverges**
- Graphically:  
If  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$  the graph of the sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  has a unique horizontal asymptote  $y = L$

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