

Ch 11. Infinite sequence and series

Def. An sequence is an infinite list of numbers written in a definite order.

Notation: $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, \dots\}$, $\{a_n\}$ or $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$.

Examples $\{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots\}$
 $\{7, 1, 8, 2, 8, \dots\}$

Some sequences can be defined by giving a formula for the n -th term a_n

Examples 1. $a_n = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$ $\{a_n\} = \left\{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \dots\right\}$

2. $a_n = (-1)^n$ $\{a_n\} = \{-1, 1, -1, 1, \dots\}$

3. $a_n = \frac{n}{n+1}$ $\{a_n\} = \left\{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}, \dots\right\}$

Some sequences may not have a simple / explicit defining equation

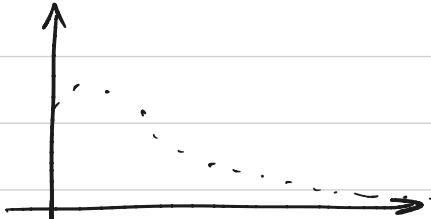
Examples 1. a_n = the digit in the n -th decimal place of π

2. The Fibonacci sequence

$$a_1 = 1, a_2 = 1, a_n = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}$$
$$\{1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, \dots\}$$

A sequence "is" a function f that only takes values on natural numbers. So we will study properties such as graph and convergency.

Example



$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$$

$$L < \infty$$

Def. A sequence has limit L if for any ε there is an N s.t. if $n > N$ then $|a_n - L| < \varepsilon$

We say $\{a_n\}$ converges to L .

Intuition



Def. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \infty$ means that for every positive number M there is an integer N s.t. if $n > N$ then $a_n > M$.

Examples

$$1. \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n}{n+1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{n}} = 1$$

$$2. \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^r} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } r > 0 \\ \infty & \text{if } r < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$3. \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r^n = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } -1 < r < 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } r = 1 \\ \infty & \text{if } r > 1 \\ \text{DNE} & \text{if } r < 1 \end{cases}$$

Limit law for sequences

if $\{a_n\}, \{b_n\}$ are convergent sequences then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n \pm b_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \pm \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} c a_n = c \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \quad c \text{ const.}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n b_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \cdot \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \frac{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n}{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n^p = \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \right)^p \quad p > 0 \quad a_n > 0$$

Squeeze Theorem

$$b_n \leq a_n \leq c_n \Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$$

\downarrow \downarrow

L L

Thm If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |a_n| = 0$ then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$

If f is continuous

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L \Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(a_n) = f(L)$$

Example 1.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{n}\right) &= \sin\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi}{n}\right) \\ &= \sin 0 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Example 2. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(n+2)}{\ln(1+4n)}$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(x+2)}{\ln(1+4x)} &\stackrel{\text{L'Hopital}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{x+2}}{\frac{1}{1+4x} \cdot 4} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4x+1}{4(x+2)} = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Example 3.

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

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

$$= e$$

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

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{n}} = 1$$

Last time: sequence

This time: series

Def. We call $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$ or $\sum a_n$ a series and

$$s_N = \sum_{n=1}^N a_n = a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_N \text{ the } \underline{\text{partial sums.}}$$

Note that $\{s_N\}$ is itself a sequence. So it makes sense to talk about if $\{s_N\}$ converges or not.

Def. The series $\sum a_n$ is called convergent if its partial sum is convergent. Otherwise $\sum a_n$ is called divergent.

Example 1. (geometric series)

Consider $a_n = r^n$ r : common ratio.

$$a_0 = r^0 = 1$$

$$s_0 = a_0 = 1$$

$$a_1 = r^1 = r$$

$$s_1 = a_0 + a_1 = 1 + r$$

$$a_2 = r^2 = r^2$$

$$s_2 = a_0 + a_1 + a_2 = 1 + r + r^2$$

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$$s_N = \underbrace{1 + r + r^2 + \dots + r^N}$$

we are interested in this sum.

$$\text{Let } R_N = \sum_{n=0}^N r^n = 1 + r + r^2 + \cdots + r^N$$



$$rR_N = r + r^2 + \cdots + r^N + r^{N+1}$$

$$\Rightarrow R_N - rR_N = 1 - r^{N+1}$$

$$\Rightarrow R_N = \frac{1 - r^{N+1}}{1 - r}$$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r^n = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} R_N$$

! $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}$

$$= \begin{cases} \frac{1}{1-r} & \text{if } -1 < r < 1 \quad \text{conv.} \\ \infty & \text{if } r \geq 1 \\ \text{DNE} & \text{if } r \leq -1 \end{cases}$$

\leftarrow conv.
 \leftarrow diver.

Example 2. Compute $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2^{2n} 3^{1-n}$ using the above

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2^{2n} 6^{1-n} &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (2^2)^n \cdot 6 \cdot 6^{-n} \\ &= 6 \cdot \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \underbrace{\left(\frac{4}{6}\right)^n}_{H} = 6 \cdot \frac{\frac{2}{3}}{1 - \frac{2}{3}} \\ &= 6 \cdot 2 = 12 \end{aligned}$$

Example 3. (harmonic series)

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \dots$$

$$S_2 = 1 + \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} S_4 &= 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} > 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} \\ &= 1 + \frac{2}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} S_8 &= 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{7} + \frac{1}{8}} \\ &> 1 + \frac{1}{2} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8}} \\ &= 1 + \frac{3}{2} \quad \frac{1}{2} \quad \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

⋮
⋮
⋮

$$S_{2^n} = 1 + \frac{n}{2} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \infty$$

Hence $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n}$ diverges

Example 4. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(n+1)} = 1.$

$$\text{Note that } \frac{1}{n(n+1)} = \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1}$$

$$S_n = \left(1 - \cancel{\frac{1}{2}}\right) + \left(\cancel{\frac{1}{2}} - \cancel{\frac{1}{3}}\right) + \left(\cancel{\frac{1}{3}} - \cancel{\frac{1}{4}}\right) + \dots + \left(\cancel{\frac{1}{n}} - \cancel{\frac{1}{n+1}}\right)$$

$$= 1 - \frac{1}{n+1} \rightarrow 1$$