



جامعة الفراهيدي
الكلية التقنية الهندسية
هندسة تقنيات الاتصالات

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م.م رواد لؤي
الكورس الاول

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Sequences

Definition

A sequence is a list of numbers $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n$ in a given order.

Each of a_1, a_2, a_3 and so on represents a number. These are the terms of the sequence.

For example, the sequence $2, 4, 6, 8, \dots, 2n$ has first term $a_1 = 2$, second term $a_2 = 4$ and n th term $a_n = 2n$. The integer n is called the index of a_n .

Note

Order is important. The sequence $2, 4, 6, 8, \dots$ is not the same as the sequence $4, 2, 6, 8, \dots$

Infinite sequence

Definition

The infinite sequence of numbers is

a function whose domain is the set of positive integers. The general behavior of the following sequence are

$$\textcircled{1} a_n = 2n = 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, \dots$$

$$\textcircled{2} a_n = \frac{1}{n} = 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{6}, \dots$$

$$\textcircled{3} a_n = \frac{n+1}{n} = 2, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{4}{3}, \frac{5}{4}, \frac{6}{5}, \dots$$

So, $\frac{n+1}{n}$ is also called the general term of the sequence.

Example

write the five terms of the following sequence

$$\textcircled{1} \{n-10\} = \{-9, -8, -7, -6, -5\}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{2^n} \right\} = \left\{ \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{8}, \frac{1}{16}, \frac{1}{32} \right\}$$

$$\textcircled{3} \left\{ \frac{2n-1}{3n+2} \right\} = \left\{ \frac{1}{5}, \frac{3}{8}, \frac{5}{11}, \frac{7}{14}, \frac{9}{17} \right\}$$

$$\textcircled{4} \{2(-1)^n\} = \{-2, 2, -2, 2, -2\}$$

$$\textcircled{5} \left\{ \frac{1+(-1)^n}{n} \right\} = \left\{ 0, 1, 0, \frac{1}{2}, 0 \right\}$$

* The limit of infinite sequences

Convergence and Divergence

Sometimes the numbers in a sequence approach a single value as the index n increases

$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L \rightarrow$ convergence (تقارب)

For example $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \pm \infty \rightarrow$ Divergence (تفرق)

$$\textcircled{1} \left\{ 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{5}, \dots, \frac{1}{n}, \dots \right\}$$

the terms approach zero as n gets large.

$$\textcircled{2} \left\{ 0, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{5}, \dots, 1 - \frac{1}{n}, \dots \right\}$$

the terms approach 1

In this case, it can be said that the sequence converges to this specific number

Definition

If the sequence $\{a_n\}$ converges to the number L , we write $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$, or

Simply $a_n \xrightarrow{\text{converge to}} L$ and call L the

limit of the sequence. On the other

hand, if the sequence never converging

to a single value or whose terms get larger than any number as n increases, then it can be said that the sequence diverges to infinity or negative infinity.

and write

$$\textcircled{1} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \infty \text{ or } a_n \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{diverges to infinity}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = -\infty \text{ or } a_n \rightarrow -\infty \quad \text{diverges to negative infinity}$$

For example

$$\textcircled{1} \{1, -1, 1, -1, 1, \dots, (-1)^{n+1}, \dots\}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \{\sqrt{1}, \sqrt{2}, \sqrt{3}, \sqrt{4}, \sqrt{5}, \dots, \sqrt{n}, \dots\}$$

Calculating limits of sequences

Theorem $\textcircled{1}$

Let $\{a_n\}$ and $\{b_n\}$ be sequences of real numbers, and let A and B be real numbers. The following rules hold if $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = A$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = B$

- ① Sum Rule: $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n + b_n) = A + B$
- ② Difference Rule: $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n - b_n) = A - B$
- ③ Constant Multiple Rule: $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (K \cdot b_n) = K \cdot B$
(K is any number)
- ④ Product Rule: $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (a_n \cdot b_n) = AB$
- ⑤ Quotient Rule: $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_n}{b_n} = \frac{A}{B}$ if $B \neq 0$

Notes

① $\frac{\infty}{\infty} = 0$ ② $\frac{\infty}{\infty} = \infty$

Examples

Find the value of limit

① $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(-\frac{1}{n}\right) = -1 \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = -1 \cdot \frac{1}{\infty} = -1 \cdot 0 = 0$ (constant multiple rule)

② $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{n-1}{n}\right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{n}{n} - \frac{1}{n}\right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)$
 $= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 1 - \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 1 - 0 = 1$ (difference rule)

③ $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5}{n^2} = 5 \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = 5 \cdot \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 5 \cdot 0 = 0$ (product rule)

④ $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4 - 7n^6}{n^6 + 3} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\left(\frac{4}{n^6}\right) - 7}{1 + \left(\frac{3}{n^6}\right)} = \frac{0 - 7}{1 + 0} = -7$
 $\frac{\frac{4}{n^6} - \frac{7n^6}{n^6}}{\frac{n^6}{n^6} + \frac{3}{n^6}} = \frac{0 - 7}{1 + 0} = -7$
 (Sum and Difference Rule)

Theorem 2

The following six sequences converge ^{قوانین} to the limits listed below

$$\textcircled{1} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln n}{n} = 0$$

$$\textcircled{2} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{n} = 1$$

$$\textcircled{3} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^{\frac{1}{n}} = 1 \quad (x > 0)$$

$$\textcircled{4} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^n = \begin{cases} 0 & (|x| < 1) \\ \infty & (|x| > 1) \end{cases}$$

$$\textcircled{5} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n = e^x \quad (\text{any } x)$$

$$\textcircled{6} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = 0 \quad (\text{any } x)$$

Note

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(n)}{g(n)} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f'(n)}{g'(n)} \quad (\text{L'Hopital's Rule})$$

Examples:

Find the value of limit and determine converges or diverges

$$\textcircled{1} \frac{\ln(n^2)}{n}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(n^2)}{n} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2 \ln(n)}{n} = 2 \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(n)}{n} = 2 \cdot 0 = 0$$

formula 1 (converges)

Note

إذا كانت n كسرية
① إذا كانت درجة البسط = درجة المقام فإن
 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \frac{\text{معامل أكبر أس البسط}}{\text{معامل أكبر أس المقام}}$

② إذا كانت درجة البسط أكبر من درجة المقام فإن
 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \infty$

③ إذا كانت درجة البسط أقل من درجة المقام فإن
 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$

حيث يتم إيجاد قيمة $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$ إما بطريقة القسمة على أكبر أس أو
بتقاسم (L'Hopital's Rule)

Examples

Find the limit of each sequence,
which of the sequences converges,
and which diverges

$$\textcircled{1} \frac{3n^2 - 5n}{5n^2 + 2n - 6}$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3n^2 - 5n}{5n^2 + 2n - 6} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3 - \frac{5}{n}}{5 + \frac{2}{n} - \frac{6}{n^2}} = \frac{3 - 0}{5 + 0 - 0} = \frac{3}{5}$$

(converges)

or (by using L'Hopital's Rule)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3n^2 - 5n}{5n^2 + 2n - 6} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6n - 5}{10n + 2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6}{10} = \frac{3}{5}$$

(converges)