

Real Analysis

Thomas R. Cameron

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1 Daily Quiz

Let $S = \{\frac{1}{n} : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$. What is the only accumulation point of S ? Is S compact?

2 Key Topics

Having laid the foundation of the real numbers, we now begin the study of sequences. For further reading, see [1, Section 2.1].

2.1 Sequences

Definition 2.1. A *sequence* is a function $s: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. We often denote the n th element of the sequence by $s(n) = s_n$. We may also denote the sequence by

$$(s_n)_{n=1}^{\infty} = (s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots).$$

Example 2.2. a. Let $s: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined by $s(n) = 1 + (-1)^n$. Then,

$$(s_n)_{n=1}^{\infty} = (0, 2, 0, \dots).$$

b. Let $s: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined by $s(n) = \frac{1}{n}$. Then,

$$(s_n)_{n=1}^{\infty} = \left(1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \dots\right).$$

c. Let $s: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined by $s(n) = 2n$. Then,

$$(s_n)_{n=1}^{\infty} = (2, 4, 6, \dots).$$

2.2 Convergence

Definition 2.3. A sequence $s: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ *converges* to $L \in \mathbb{R}$ if

$$\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists N \in \mathbb{R} \ni n > N \Rightarrow |s_n - L| < \epsilon.$$

If s converges to L , then we write

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

If the sequence does not converge to a real number, then it is said to *diverge*.

Example 2.4. Let $s: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined by $s(n) = \frac{1}{n}$. Then, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = 0$. Indeed, let $\epsilon > 0$ and define $N = \frac{1}{\epsilon}$. Then, $n > N$ gives us

$$n > \frac{1}{\epsilon} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{n} < \epsilon \Rightarrow \left| \frac{1}{n} - 0 \right| < \epsilon.$$

The following theorem is helpful for analyzing the convergence of more complicated sequences.

Theorem 2.5. Let $s: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $a: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that for some $L, M, k \in \mathbb{R}$, where $k > 0$,

$$|s_n - L| \leq k |a_n|,$$

for all $n > M$. If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$, then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = L$.

Proof. Let $\epsilon > 0$. Since $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$, there exists a $N_1 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$n > \hat{N} \Rightarrow |a_n| < \frac{\epsilon}{k}.$$

Let $N = \max\{M, N_1\}$. Then, $n > N$ implies that

$$|s_n - L| \leq k |a_n| < k \frac{\epsilon}{k} = \epsilon.$$

□

Example 2.6. We will use Theorem 2.5 to prove that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4n^2 - 3}{5n^2 - 2n} = \frac{4}{5}.$$

Note that

$$\frac{4n^2 - 3}{5n^2 - 2n} - \frac{4}{5} = \frac{8n - 15}{25n^2 - 10n}$$

Moreover,

$$8n - 15 \leq 8n,$$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, and

$$25n^2 - 10n \geq 15n^2,$$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Let $s_n = \frac{4n^2 - 3}{5n^2 - 2n}$ and $a_n = \frac{1}{n}$. Then,

$$\left| s_n - \frac{4}{5} \right| \leq \frac{8}{15} \frac{1}{n} = \frac{8}{15} a_n,$$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Since $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = 0$, it follows that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = \frac{4}{5}$.

Theorem 2.7. Every convergent sequence has a bounded range.

Theorem 2.8. If a sequence converges, then its limit is unique.

3 Exercises

- I. Prove Theorem 2.5
- II. Prove Theorem 2.7
- III. Prove Theorem 2.8

References

- [1] J. LEBL, *Basic Analysis: Introduction to Real Analysis*, Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike, 6th ed., 2023.