

Convergence of sequences

1 For each of the following a_n and for arbitrary $\varepsilon > 0$, find N such that $|a_n| < \varepsilon$ whenever $n \geq N$.

(i) $\frac{1}{n^2}$ (ii) $\frac{1}{n(n-\pi)}$ (iii) $e^{-n} \sin(n^2)$ (iv) $\frac{1}{\log(\log(n+2))}$ (v) $\sin \frac{1}{n}$.

[You may in this question (and others like it) use the “standard” properties of the functions \cos , \sin , \log , \exp ; these properties will be proved during the year—without using these special examples.]

2 Let $a_n = 1 + \frac{e^{n/1000} - 1}{n^2}$. Evaluate (by calculator) $a_1, a_2, a_5, a_{10}, a_{101}, a_{1000}$. Does (a_n) converge? Repeat with $a_n = \frac{n^2 \cos n}{e^{n/1000} - 1}$.

3 (a) Use the Binomial Theorem to show that $(1 + \frac{2}{\sqrt{n}})^n \geq n$ for all $n \geq 2$. Deduce that $n^{1/n} \rightarrow 1$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

(b) Show that $\frac{n!}{r!} \geq r^{n-r}$ if $n > r > 0$. Hence or otherwise, show that $(n!)^{1/n} \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

(c)(i) Show that $\frac{n!}{(n-k)!} \geq (\frac{n}{2})^k$ if $n \geq 2k$.

(ii) Let a be a real number with $a > 1$, and k be a positive integer. Prove that there exist an integer M and a positive real number c (both independent of n) such that $a^n \geq cn^{k+1}$ whenever $n > M$.

[Write $a = 1 + b$ and use the Binomial Theorem..]

(iii) Deduce that $n^k/a^n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

(iv) Deduce that $n^\alpha/a^n \rightarrow 0$ for every real number α .

4 (a) Let $\tau := \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}$. Verify that $\tau > 1$ and that $\tau = 1 + \frac{1}{\tau}$.

(b) Let $a_1 = 1$, and suppose that for $n \geq 1$, $a_n > 0$ and $a_{n+1} = 1 + \frac{1}{a_n}$. Prove that $|a_{k+1} - \tau| = |a_k - \tau|/|a_k|\tau$, and (by induction on k) that $|a_{k+1} - \tau| \leq (\frac{1}{\tau})^k$.

(c) Prove (from the definition) that $a_n \rightarrow \tau$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

The following question is **optional**. It uses what we have proved about sequences to show that positive real numbers have decimal expressions; and points to one of the drawbacks of working with these expressions.

5 Let $x > 0$.

- (a) For each natural number $n \geq 1$, prove that there is a largest member of $\{k : k \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}, k < 10^n x\}$. Denote this number by $D_n(x)$, and let $d_n(x) := D_n(x)/10^n$, which we will call the n -th decimal truncation of x .
- (b) Find $d_n(1)$, $d_n(\frac{1}{9})$ and $d_n(\frac{5}{37})$. (Justify your answers).
- (c) Prove that for all n , $x_n := 10^{n+1}(d_{n+1}(x) - d_n(x)) \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9\}$. We call this the n -th decimal digit of x .
- (d) Prove that for every n there exists an $N > n$ such that $d_n(x) < d_N(x)$.
- (e) Prove that $d_n(x) \leq d_{n+1}(x) < x$, and deduce that $d_n(x) \rightarrow x$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.
- (f) (i) Show by an example that $d_n(x+y) = d_n(x) + d_n(y)$ is not always true.
 (ii) Suppose that $N \geq n$. Find (rational) numbers $x_1 = x_2, y_1, y_2$ such that $d_N(x_1) = d_N(x_2), d_N(y_1) = d_N(y_2)$, but $d_n(x_1 + y_1) \neq d_n(x_2 + y_2)$.
- (iii) Deduce that there cannot exist functions $\alpha : \mathbb{Q} \times \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ and $\beta : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ such that, for all positive x and y , $d_n(x+y) = \alpha(d_{\beta(n)}(x), d_{\beta(n)}(y))$.