

Convergence of Monotonic Sequences

Theorem-1 Every monotonically increasing sequence which is bounded above converges to its least upper bound.

Pf.: Let $\{a_n\}$ be a monotonically increasing sequence which is bounded above. Let u be the l.u.b. of the sequence $\{a_n\}$.

We shall show that $\{a_n\}$ converges to u .

Let $\epsilon > 0$ be given.

Since $u - \epsilon < u$, therefore, $u - \epsilon$ is not an upper bound of $\{a_n\}$.

$\Rightarrow \exists$ a positive integer m such that $a_m > u - \epsilon$.

Since $\{a_n\}$ is monotonically increasing

$$\therefore a_n \geq a_m > u - \epsilon \quad \forall n \geq m.$$

$$\Rightarrow a_n > u - \epsilon \quad \forall n \geq m \rightarrow (1).$$

Also, u is the l.u.b. of $\{a_n\}$.

$$\Rightarrow a_n \leq u + \epsilon \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

$$\Rightarrow a_n < u + \epsilon \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N} \rightarrow (2).$$

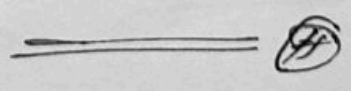
From (1) and (2).

$$u - \epsilon < a_n < u + \epsilon \quad \forall n \geq m.$$

$$\Rightarrow |a_n - u| < \epsilon \quad \forall n \geq m.$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = u.$$

$\Rightarrow \{a_n\}$ Converged to u .



Theorem-2: Every monotonically decreasing sequence which is bounded below converges to its greatest lower bound.

pf: Let $\{a_n\}$ be a monotonically decreasing sequence which is bounded below. Let l be the g.l.b. of sequence $\{a_n\}$.

We shall show that $\{a_n\}$ converges to l .
Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be given.

Since $l + \varepsilon > l$, therefore, $l + \varepsilon$ is not a lower bound of $\{a_n\}$.

$\Rightarrow \exists$ a positive integer m such that $a_m < l + \varepsilon$.
Since $\{a_n\}$ is monotonically decreasing

$$\therefore a_n \leq a_m < l + \varepsilon \quad \forall n \geq m.$$

$$\Rightarrow a_n < l + \varepsilon \quad \forall n \geq m \longrightarrow (1)$$

Also, l is the g.l.b. of $\{a_n\}$.

$$\Rightarrow a_n \geq l > l - \varepsilon \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

$$\Rightarrow a_n > l - \varepsilon \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N} \longrightarrow (2)$$

From (1) and (2),

$$l - \varepsilon < a_n < l + \varepsilon \quad \forall n \geq m.$$

$$\Rightarrow |a_n - l| < \varepsilon \quad \forall n \geq m.$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = l.$$

$$\Rightarrow \{a_n\} \text{ converges to } l.$$

□

Ans. Cauchy's principles of general convergence:
(Cauchy convergence criterion).

A sequence $\{a_n\}$ is convergent if given $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a positive integer m such that
 $|a_n - a_m| < \epsilon$ whenever $n \geq m$.

Pf: Let the sequence $\{a_n\}$ converges to 1.
 The given $\epsilon > 0$, there must exist a positive integer m such that

$$|a_n - 1| < \frac{\epsilon}{2} \text{ whenever } n \geq m.$$

As particular, $|a_m - 1| < \frac{\epsilon}{2}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore |a_n - a_m| &= |(a_n - 1) - (a_m - 1)| \\ &\leq |a_n - 1| + |a_m - 1| \\ &< \frac{\epsilon}{2} + \frac{\epsilon}{2} = \epsilon \text{ whenever } n \geq m. \end{aligned}$$

Note: The converse of the above Th^m is also true.

Examples

① If $u_n = \frac{1}{n+1} + \frac{1}{n+2} + \dots + \frac{1}{2^n}$, Prove that $\{u_n\}$ is monotonic increasing and bounded.

Solⁿ: We have

$$u_n = \frac{1}{n+1} + \frac{1}{n+2} + \dots + \frac{1}{2^n}$$

$$\therefore u_{n+1} = \frac{1}{n+2} + \frac{1}{n+3} + \dots + \frac{1}{2^n} + \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} + \frac{1}{2^{n+2}}$$

$$u_{n+1} - u_n = \frac{1}{n+2} + \frac{1}{n+3} + \dots + \frac{1}{2^n} + \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} + \frac{1}{2^{n+2}} - \frac{1}{n+1} - \frac{1}{n+2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} + \frac{1}{2^{n+2}} - \frac{1}{n+1}$$

$$= \frac{(2^{n+2})(n+1) + (2^{n+1})(n+1) - (2^{n+1})(2^{n+2})}{(2^{n+1})(2^{n+2})(n+1)}$$

$$= \frac{2^{n+2}n + 2^{n+2} + 2^{n+1}n + 2^{n+1} - 4^{n+1}}{(2^{n+1})(2^{n+2})(n+1)}$$

$$= \frac{(n+1)}{(2^{n+1})(2^{n+2})(n+1)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2(n+1)(2^{n+1})} > 0$$

$$\therefore u_{n+1} > u_n$$

$\therefore \{u_n\}$ is monotonic increasing.

We have,

$$n < 1$$

$$\Rightarrow n+m > 1+m$$

$$\Rightarrow 2^n > 1+n$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2^n} < \frac{1}{1+n}$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{1+n} > \frac{1}{2^n}$$

$$\text{Similarly, } \frac{1}{2+n} > \frac{1}{2^n}$$

$$\therefore u_n > \frac{1}{2^n} + \frac{1}{2^n} + \dots + \frac{1}{2^n}$$

$$\text{i.e. } u_n > \frac{n}{2^n}$$

$$\text{i.e. } u_n > \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\therefore \frac{1}{2} < u_n$$

Again,

$$n+2 > n+1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{n+2} < \frac{1}{n+1}$$

$$n+3 > n+1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{n+3} < \frac{1}{n+1}$$

$$\therefore u_n < \frac{1}{n+1} + \frac{1}{n+1} + \dots + \frac{1}{n+1}$$

$$\text{i.e. } u_n < \frac{n}{n+1}$$

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

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

$$< 1$$

$$u_n > \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\text{Hence } \frac{1}{2} < u_n < 1$$

$\therefore \{u_n\}$ is bounded.