# Mathematics I - Sequences

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# II. Limit of a sequence

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#### Definition

Suppose that to each natural number  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  we assign a real number  $a_n$ . Then we say that  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is a sequence of real numbers.

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A sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  is equal to a sequence  $\{b_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  if  $a_n = b_n$  holds for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

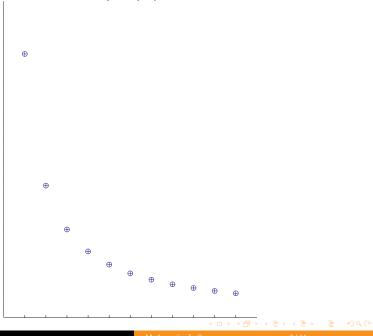
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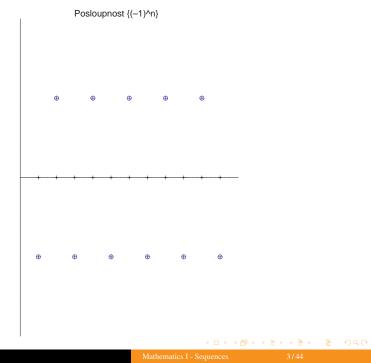
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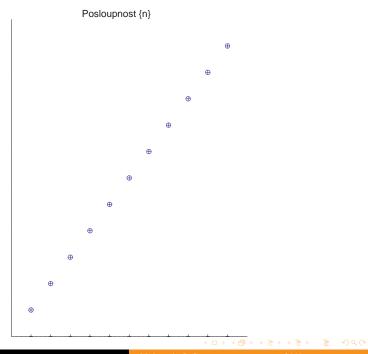
By the set of all members of the sequence  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  we understand the set

$$\{x \in \mathbb{R}; \exists n \in \mathbb{N} \colon a_n = x\}.$$

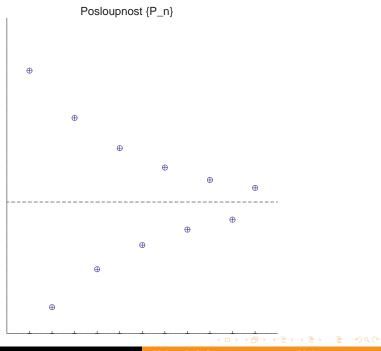
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Mathematics I - Sequences

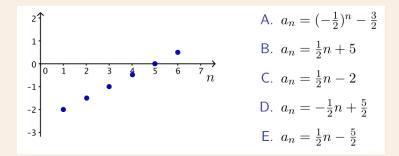


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#### Exercise

# Find the formula for $a_n$ .



#### Figure:

https://www.cpp.edu/conceptests/question-library/mat116.shtml

#### Exercise

# Find the first 4 terms of a sequences

$$A a_n = \frac{(-1)^n}{n}$$
$$B a_n = \frac{n+1}{n}$$

#### Exercise

# Find the formula for the following sequence

A 
$$1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{8}, \frac{1}{16}, \dots$$
  
B  $-1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{-1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{-1}{5} \dots$ 

We say that a sequence  $\{a_n\}$  is

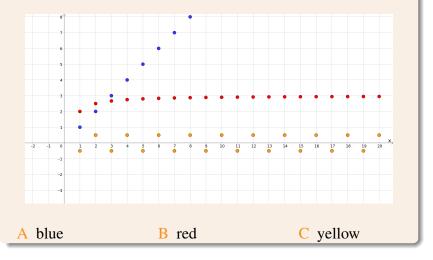
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#### Exercise

# Which of these sequences are bounded?



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Mathematics I - Sequence:

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#### Exercise

Find non-decreasing sequences.

A 
$$a_n = \ln n$$
  
B  $a_n = e^{-n}$   
C  $a_n = -4$   
D  $a_n = \frac{(-1)^n}{3^n}$   
E  $a_n = (-2)^n$ 

#### Exercise

Check, if the sequence is monotone:

1. 
$$a_n = \frac{n}{4+n^2}$$
  
2. 
$$a_n = \frac{n}{n+1}$$

Let  $\{a_n\}$  and  $\{b_n\}$  be sequences of real numbers.

• By the sum of sequences  $\{a_n\}$  and  $\{b_n\}$  we understand a sequence  $\{a_n + b_n\}$ .

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# Let $\{a_n\}$ and $\{b_n\}$ be sequences of real numbers.

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#### Exercise

Let 
$$a_n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots, b_n = (-1)^n$$
. Find

**B**  $a_n/b_n$ 

A  $a_n + b_n$ 

C  $3a_n$ 

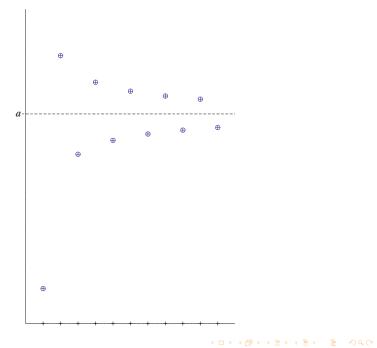
We say that a sequence  $\{a_n\}$  has a limit which equals to a number  $A \in \mathbb{R}$  if to every positive real number  $\varepsilon$  there exists a natural number  $n_0$  such that for every index  $n \ge n_0$  we have  $|a_n - A| < \varepsilon$ , i.e.

$$\forall \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}, \varepsilon > 0 \; \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N} \; \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \ge n_0 \colon |a_n - A| < \varepsilon.$$

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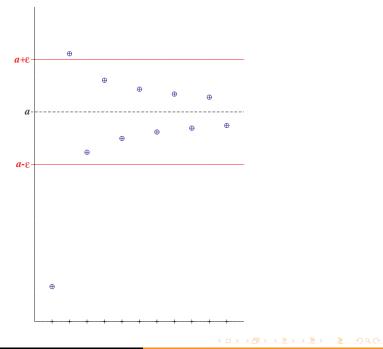
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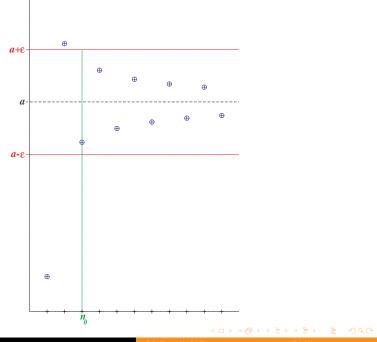
We say that a sequence  $\{a_n\}$  is convergent if there exists  $A \in \mathbb{R}$  which is a limit of  $\{a_n\}$ . https://www.geogebra.org/m/GAcTpGCh



Mathematics I - Sequences

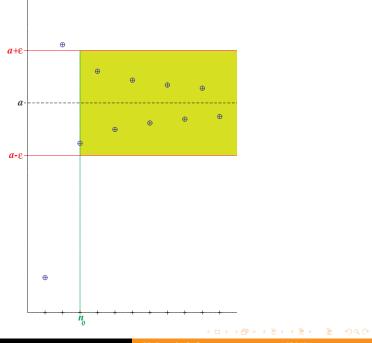
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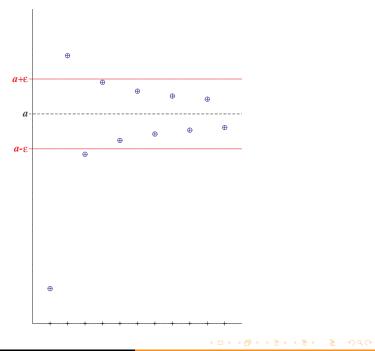


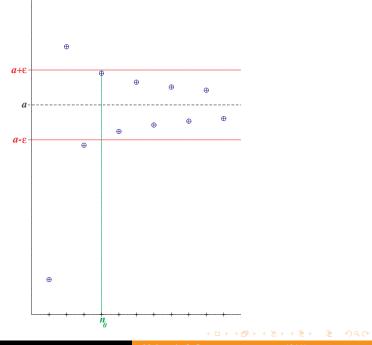


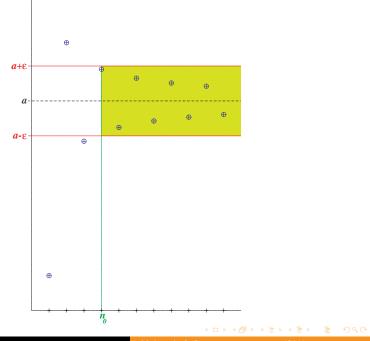
Mathematics I - Sequences

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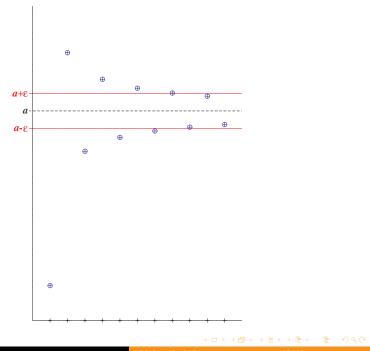




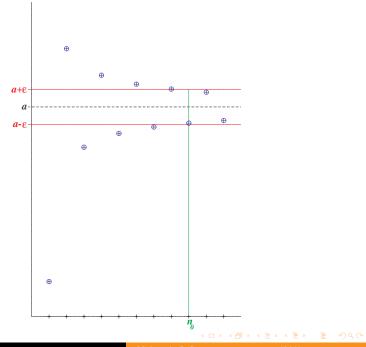


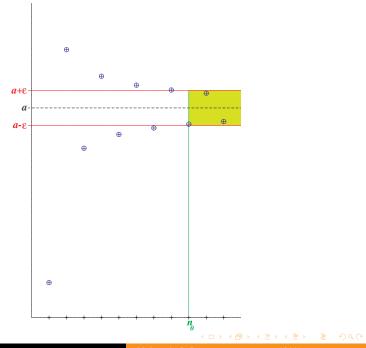


Mathematics I - Sequences



Mathematics I - Sequences





Mathematics I - Sequence:

# Theorem 1 (uniqueness of a limit)

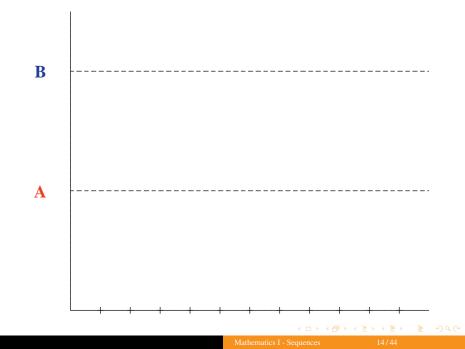
Every sequence has at most one limit.

# Theorem 1 (uniqueness of a limit)

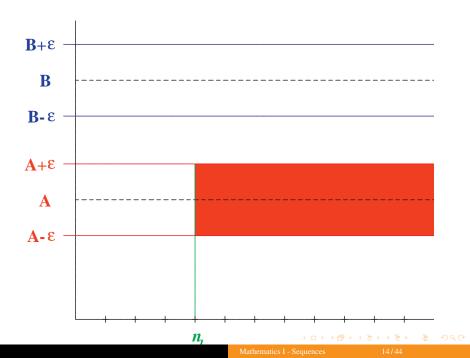
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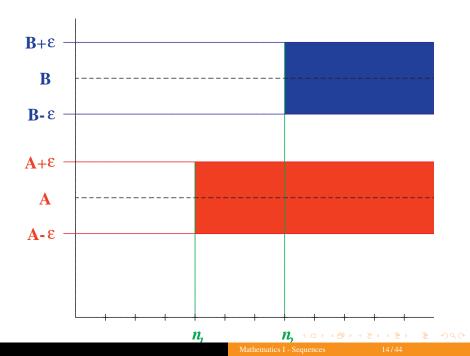
We use the notation  $\lim_{n\to\infty} a_n = A$  or simply  $\lim a_n = A$ .

Mathematics I - Sequences



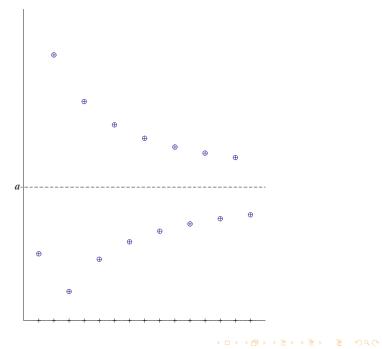


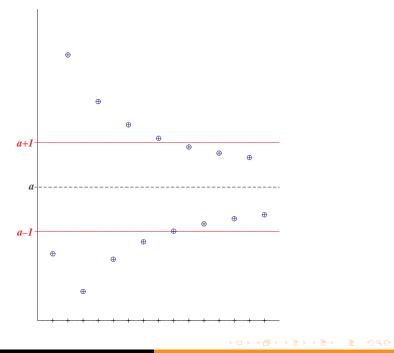


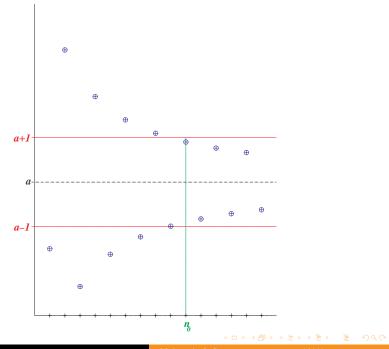


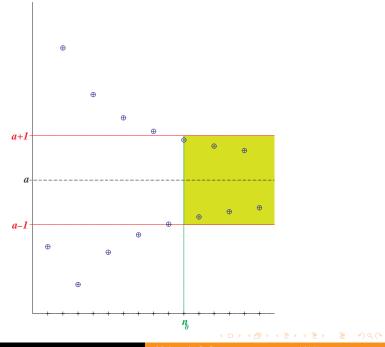
# Theorem 2

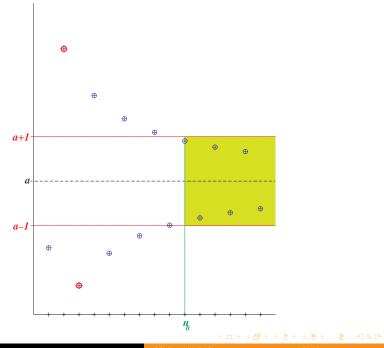
Every convergent sequence is bounded.

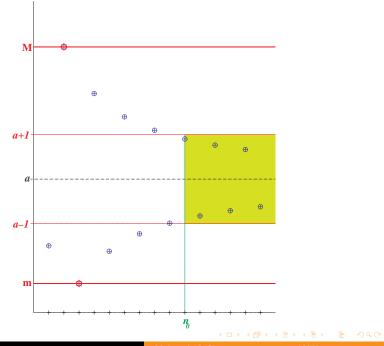












### Exercise

Find a sequence, which is

- 1. bounded and convergent
- 2. bounded and divergent
- 3. unbounded and convergent
- 4. unbounded and divergent

## Definition

Let  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  be a sequence of real numbers. We say that a sequence  $\{b_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  is a subsequence of  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  if there is an increasing sequence  $\{n_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  of natural numbers such that  $b_k = a_{n_k}$  for every  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

https:

//www.geogebra.org/calculator/q7vv3gjp

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https:

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### Exercise

Let 
$$a_n = 3, 7, 4, 1/2, \pi, -1$$
. Find  $b_n = a_{2n}$ :

A 6, 14, 8...C 7, 1/2, -1...B 5, 9, 6...D  $4, 1/2, \pi...$ 

By:https://www.cpp.edu/conceptests/ question-library/mat116.shtm

## Theorem 3 (limit of a subsequence)

Let  $\{b_k\}_{k=1}^{\infty}$  be a subsequence of  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ . If  $\lim_{n\to\infty} a_n = A \in \mathbb{R}$ , then also  $\lim_{k\to\infty} b_k = A$ .

# Remark

Let  $\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  be a sequence of real numbers,  $A \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $K \in \mathbb{R}$ , K > 0. If

 $\forall \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}, \varepsilon > 0 \ \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N} \ \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \ge n_0 \colon |a_n - A| < K\varepsilon,$ 

then  $\lim a_n = A$ .

# Theorem 4 (arithmetics of limits)

# Suppose that $\lim a_n = A \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\lim b_n = B \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then

(i) 
$$\lim_{n\to\infty}(a_n+b_n)=A+B$$
,

### Remark

Consider cases

1. 
$$a_n = (-1)^n, b_n = (-1)^n$$
  
2.  $a_n = n, b_n = \frac{1}{n}$   
3.  $a_n = n^2, b_n = \frac{1}{n}$ 

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$$\lim_{n\to\infty}(a_n\cdot b_n)=A\cdot B$$
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$$\lim_{n\to\infty}(a_n\cdot b_n)=A\cdot B_n$$

(iii) if 
$$B \neq 0$$
 and  $b_n \neq 0$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} (a_n/b_n) = A/B.$$

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## Theorem 5 (arithmetics of limits)

Suppose that  $\lim a_n = A \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\lim b_n = B \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then

(i) 
$$\lim_{n\to\infty}(a_n+b_n)=A+B$$
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(ii) 
$$\lim_{n\to\infty}(a_n\cdot b_n)=A\cdot B$$
,

(iii) if 
$$B \neq 0$$
 and  $b_n \neq 0$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} (a_n/b_n) = A/B.$$

## Idea of the proof

Proof for + follows from definition.

Proof for  $\cdot$  is harder and is based on important trick of "adding and subtracting":

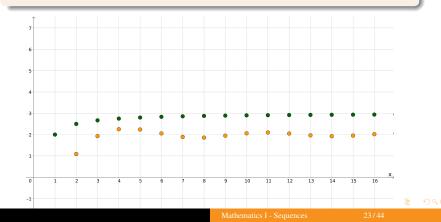
$$A \cdot B - a_n \cdot b_n = A \cdot B - A \cdot b_n + A \cdot b_n - a_n \cdot b_n$$

$$=\underbrace{A}_{|\cdot|\leq C}\cdot\underbrace{(B-b_n)}_{|\cdot|\leq\varepsilon}+\underbrace{(A-a_n)}_{|\cdot|\leq\varepsilon}\cdot\underbrace{b_n}_{|\cdot|\leq C}$$

## Theorem 6 (limits and ordering)

*Let*  $\lim a_n = A \in \mathbb{R}$  *and*  $\lim b_n = B \in \mathbb{R}$ *.* 

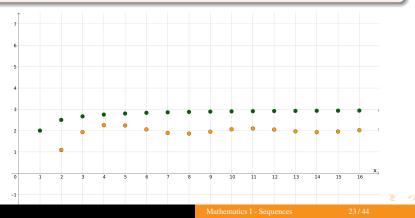
(i) Suppose that there is  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a_n \ge b_n$  for every  $n \ge n_0$ . Then  $A \ge B$ .

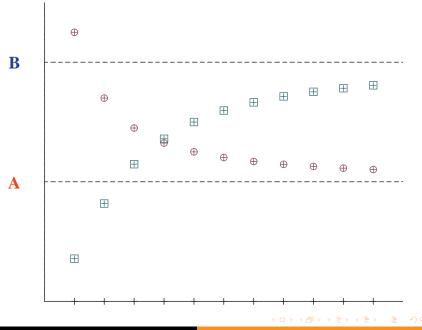


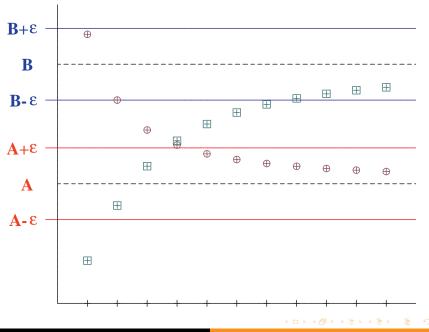
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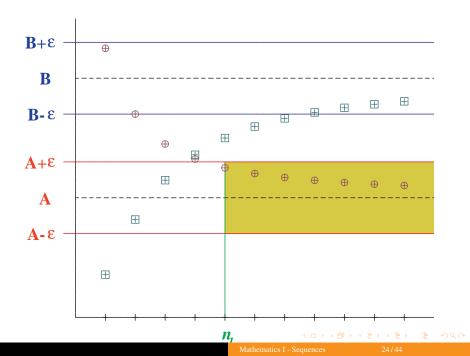
*Let*  $\lim a_n = A \in \mathbb{R}$  *and*  $\lim b_n = B \in \mathbb{R}$ *.* 

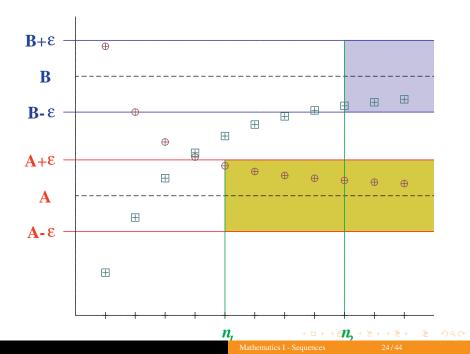
- (i) Suppose that there is  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a_n \ge b_n$  for every  $n \ge n_0$ . Then  $A \ge B$ .
- (ii) Suppose that A < B. Then there is  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a_n < b_n$  for every  $n \ge n_0$ .

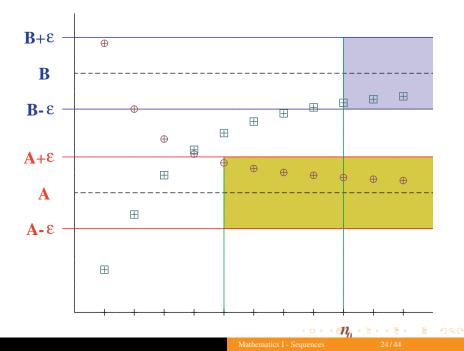


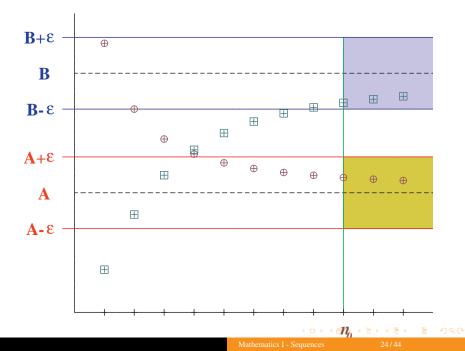












#### Theorem 7 (limits and ordering)

*Let*  $\lim a_n = A \in \mathbb{R}$  *and*  $\lim b_n = B \in \mathbb{R}$ *.* 

- 1. Suppose that there is  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a_n \ge b_n$  for every  $n \ge n_0$ . Then  $A \ge B$ .
- 2. Suppose that A < B. Then there is  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $a_n < b_n$  for every  $n \ge n_0$ .

#### Exercise (True or false)

Let  $\lim a_n = A \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\lim b_n = B \in \mathbb{R}$ . If  $a_n < b_n$ , then A < B.

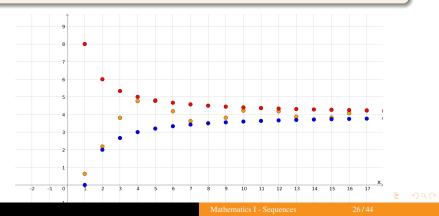
# Theorem 8 (two policemen (sandwich theorem))

Let  $\{a_n\}$ ,  $\{b_n\}$  be convergent sequences and let  $\{c_n\}$  be a sequence such that

(i) 
$$\exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N} \ \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \ge n_0 \colon a_n \le c_n \le b_n$$
,

(ii)  $\lim a_n = \lim b_n$ .

Then  $\lim c_n$  exists and  $\lim c_n = \lim a_n$ .



### Theorem 9 (two policemen)

Let  $\{a_n\}$ ,  $\{b_n\}$  be convergent sequences and let  $\{c_n\}$  be a sequence such that

(i) 
$$\exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N} \ \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \ge n_0 \colon a_n \le c_n \le b_n$$
,

(ii)  $\lim a_n = \lim b_n$ .

Then  $\lim c_n$  exists and  $\lim c_n = \lim a_n$ .

#### Exercise

Find the cops for the sequence  $a_n = \frac{\cos n}{n}$ 

### Theorem 9 (two policemen)

Let  $\{a_n\}$ ,  $\{b_n\}$  be convergent sequences and let  $\{c_n\}$  be a sequence such that

(i) 
$$\exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N} \ \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \ge n_0 \colon a_n \le c_n \le b_n$$
,

(ii)  $\lim a_n = \lim b_n$ .

Then  $\lim c_n$  exists and  $\lim c_n = \lim a_n$ .

#### Exercise

Find the cops for the sequence  $a_n = \frac{\cos n}{n}$ 

# Corollary 10

Suppose that  $\lim a_n = 0$  and the sequence  $\{b_n\}$  is bounded. Then  $\lim a_n b_n = 0$ .

# We say that a sequence $\{a_n\}$ has a limit $+\infty$ (plus infinity) if

 $\forall L \in \mathbb{R} \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N} \ \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \ge n_0 \colon a_n > L.$ 

We say that a sequence  $\{a_n\}$  has a limit  $+\infty$  (plus infinity) if

$$\forall L \in \mathbb{R} \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N} \ \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \ge n_0 \colon a_n > L.$$

We say that a sequence  $\{a_n\}$  has a limit  $-\infty$  (minus infinity) if

 $\forall K \in \mathbb{R} \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N} \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \ge n_0 \colon a_n < K.$ 

We say that a sequence  $\{a_n\}$  has a limit  $+\infty$  (plus infinity) if

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Theorem 1 on the uniqueness of a limit holds also for the limits  $+\infty$  and  $-\infty$ . If  $\lim a_n = +\infty$ , then we say that the sequence  $\{a_n\}$  diverges to  $+\infty$ , similarly for  $-\infty$ .

We say that a sequence  $\{a_n\}$  has a limit  $+\infty$  (plus infinity) if

 $\forall L \in \mathbb{R} \; \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N} \; \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \ge n_0 \colon a_n > L.$ 

We say that a sequence  $\{a_n\}$  has a limit  $-\infty$  (minus infinity) if

 $\forall K \in \mathbb{R} \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N} \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \ge n_0 \colon a_n < K.$ 

Theorem 1 on the uniqueness of a limit holds also for the limits  $+\infty$  and  $-\infty$ . If  $\lim a_n = +\infty$ , then we say that the sequence  $\{a_n\}$  diverges to  $+\infty$ , similarly for  $-\infty$ . If  $\lim a_n \in \mathbb{R}$ , then we say that the limit is finite, if  $\lim a_n = +\infty$  or  $\lim a_n = -\infty$ , then we say that the limit is infinite.

We say that a sequence  $\{a_n\}$  has a limit  $+\infty$  (plus infinity) if

 $\forall L \in \mathbb{R} \exists n_0 \in \mathbb{N} \ \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, n \ge n_0 \colon a_n > L.$ 

Mathematics I - Sequences

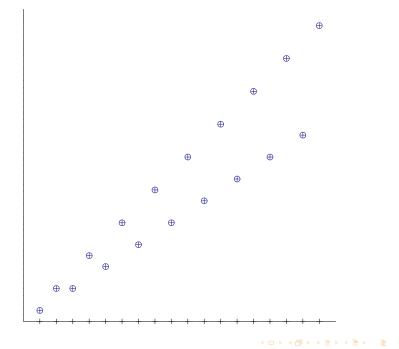
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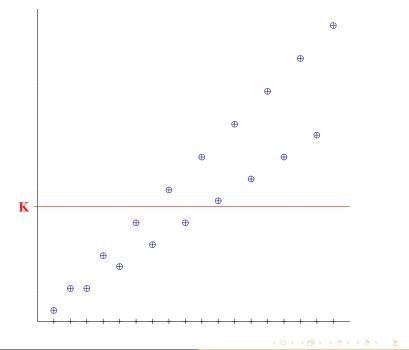
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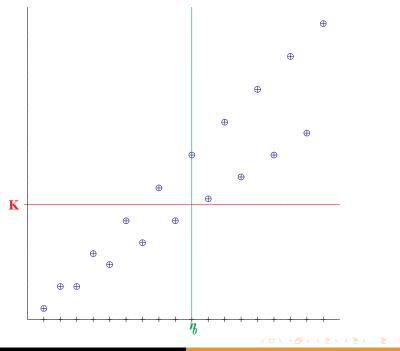
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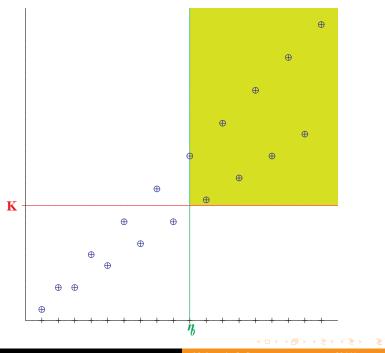
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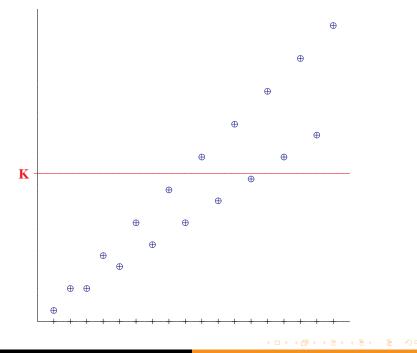
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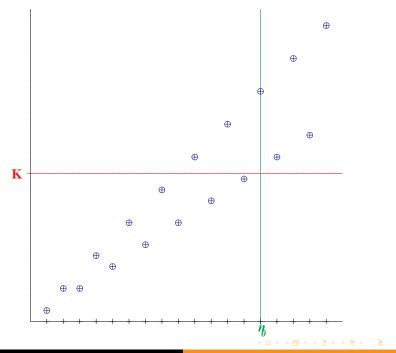


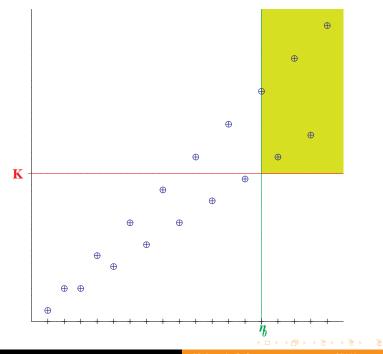


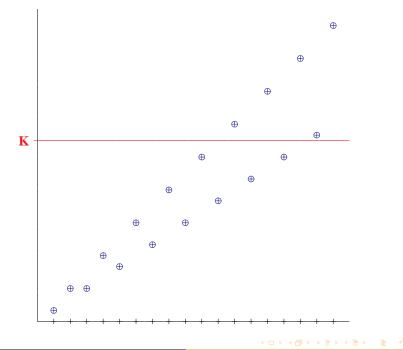


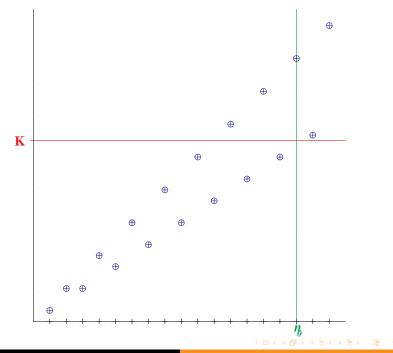


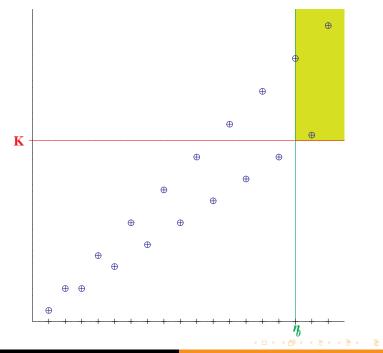


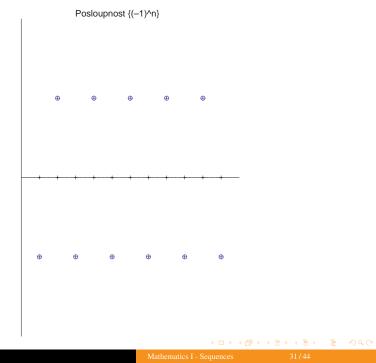


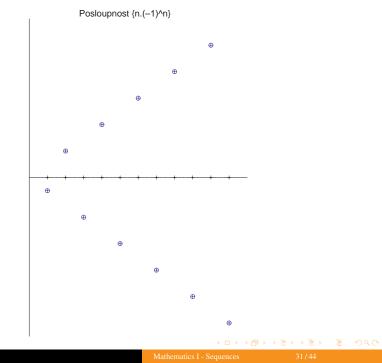


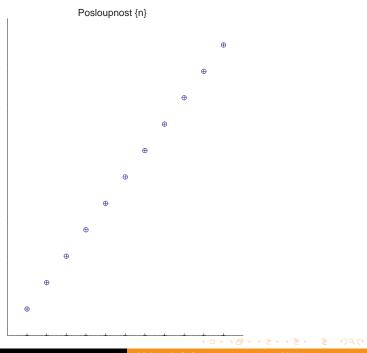


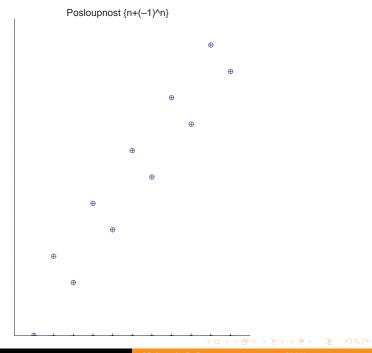


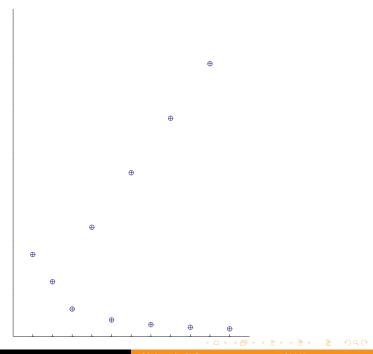












#### Theorem 2 does not hold for infinite limits. But:

# Theorem 2'

- Suppose that lim a<sub>n</sub> = +∞. Then the sequence {a<sub>n</sub>} is not bounded from above, but is bounded from below.
- Suppose that lim a<sub>n</sub> = −∞. Then the sequence {a<sub>n</sub>} is not bounded from below, but is bounded from above.

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#### Exercise

Give an example of  $a_n \to \infty$  and find its lower bound.

## Theorem 2 does not hold for infinite limits. But:

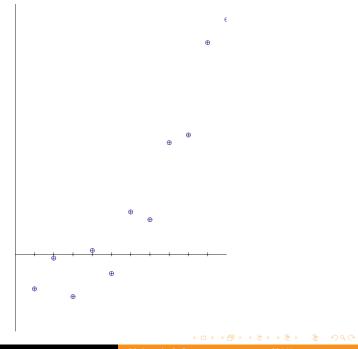
# Theorem 2'

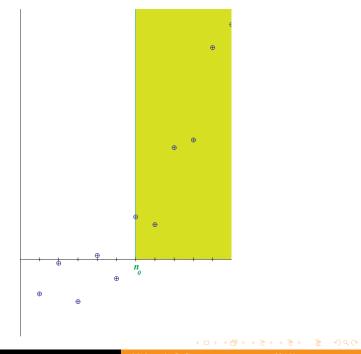
- Suppose that lim a<sub>n</sub> = +∞. Then the sequence {a<sub>n</sub>} is not bounded from above, but is bounded from below.
- Suppose that lim a<sub>n</sub> = −∞. Then the sequence {a<sub>n</sub>} is not bounded from below, but is bounded from above.

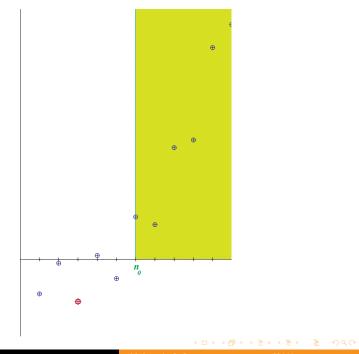
#### Exercise

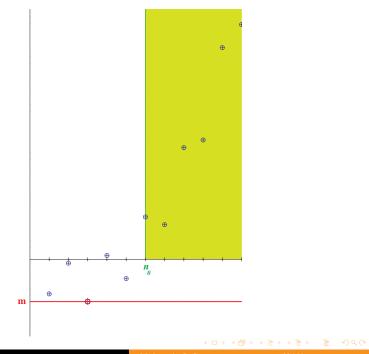
Give an example of  $a_n \rightarrow \infty$  and find its lower bound.

Theorem 3 (limit of a subsequence) holds also for infinite limits.









We define the extended real line by setting  $\mathbb{R}^* = \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty, -\infty\}$  with the following extension of operations and ordering from  $\mathbb{R}$ :

We define the extended real line by setting  $\mathbb{R}^* = \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty, -\infty\}$  with the following extension of operations and ordering from  $\mathbb{R}$ :

#### Exercise

1.  $2 + \infty$ 2.  $-\infty + 3$ 3.  $\pi \infty$ 

4. 
$$-4(-\infty)$$
  
5.  $-7\infty$   
6.  $\frac{\infty}{-3}$ 

7. 
$$\frac{5}{\infty}$$

Mathematics I - Sequences

The following operations are not defined:

• 
$$(-\infty) + (+\infty), (+\infty) + (-\infty), (+\infty) - (+\infty), (-\infty) - (-\infty),$$

• 
$$(+\infty) \cdot 0, 0 \cdot (+\infty), (-\infty) \cdot 0, 0 \cdot (-\infty),$$

• 
$$\frac{+\infty}{+\infty}$$
,  $\frac{+\infty}{-\infty}$ ,  $\frac{-\infty}{-\infty}$ ,  $\frac{-\infty}{+\infty}$ ,  $\frac{a}{0}$  for  $a \in \mathbb{R}^*$ .

Suppose that  $\lim a_n = A \in \mathbb{R}^*$  and  $\lim b_n = B \in \mathbb{R}^*$ . Then (i)  $\lim(a_n \pm b_n) = A \pm B$  if the right-hand side is defined,

Suppose that  $\lim a_n = A \in \mathbb{R}^*$  and  $\lim b_n = B \in \mathbb{R}^*$ . Then (i)  $\lim(a_n \pm b_n) = A \pm B$  if the right-hand side is defined, (ii)  $\lim(a_n \cdot b_n) = A \cdot B$  if the right-hand side is defined,

Suppose that  $\lim a_n = A \in \mathbb{R}^*$  and  $\lim b_n = B \in \mathbb{R}^*$ . Then

(i) 
$$\lim(a_n \pm b_n) = A \pm B$$
 if the right-hand side is defined,

(ii)  $\lim(a_n \cdot b_n) = A \cdot B$  if the right-hand side is defined,

(iii)  $\lim a_n/b_n = A/B$  if the right-hand side is defined.

Suppose that lim a<sub>n</sub> = A ∈ ℝ\* and lim b<sub>n</sub> = B ∈ ℝ\*. Then
(i) lim(a<sub>n</sub> ± b<sub>n</sub>) = A ± B if the right-hand side is defined,
(ii) lim(a<sub>n</sub> ⋅ b<sub>n</sub>) = A ⋅ B if the right-hand side is defined,
(iii) lim a<sub>n</sub>/b<sub>n</sub> = A/B if the right-hand side is defined.

#### Theorem 11

Suppose that  $\lim a_n = A \in \mathbb{R}^*$ , A > 0,  $\lim b_n = 0$  and there is  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that we have  $b_n > 0$  for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \ge n_0$ . Then  $\lim a_n/b_n = +\infty$ .

https:

//www.geogebra.org/calculator/cpuzsnnh

Theorem 7 (limits and ordering) and Theorem 9 (two cops theorem) hold also for infinite limits. Even the following modification holds:

## Theorem 9' (one policeman)

Let  $\{a_n\}$  and  $\{b_n\}$  be two sequences.

- If  $\lim a_n = +\infty$  and there is  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $b_n \ge a_n$  for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \ge n_0$ , then  $\lim b_n = +\infty$ .
- If  $\lim a_n = -\infty$  and there is  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $b_n \leq a_n$  for every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \geq n_0$ , then  $\lim b_n = -\infty$ .

# Definition

Let  $A \subset \mathbb{R}$  be non-empty. If A is not bounded from above, then we define  $\sup A = +\infty$ . If A is not bounded from below, then we define  $\inf A = -\infty$ .

# Definition

Let  $A \subset \mathbb{R}$  be non-empty. If *A* is not bounded from above, then we define  $\sup A = +\infty$ . If *A* is not bounded from below, then we define  $\inf A = -\infty$ .

## Lemma 12

*Let*  $M \subset \mathbb{R}$  *be non-empty and*  $G \in \mathbb{R}^*$ *. Then the following statements are equivalent:* 

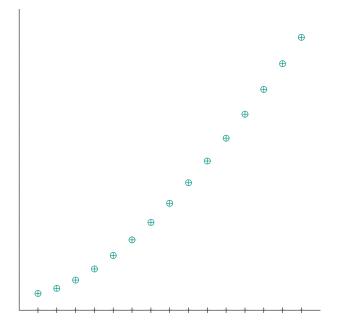
- (1)  $G = \sup M$ .
- (2) The number G is an upper bound of M and there exists a sequence  $\{x_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  of members of M such that  $\lim x_n = G$ .

#### Exercise

Find a sequence  $\{x_n\}$  for a set M = [2, 5).

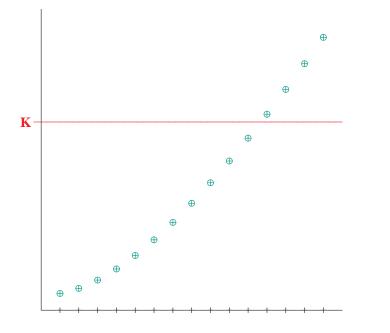
# Theorem 13 (limit of a monotone sequence)

Every monotone sequence has a limit. If  $\{a_n\}$  is non-decreasing, then  $\lim a_n = \sup\{a_n; n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ . If  $\{a_n\}$  is non-increasing, then  $\lim a_n = \inf\{a_n; n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ .



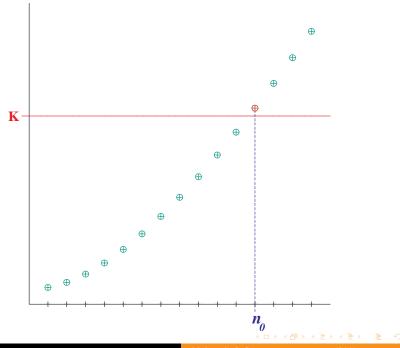
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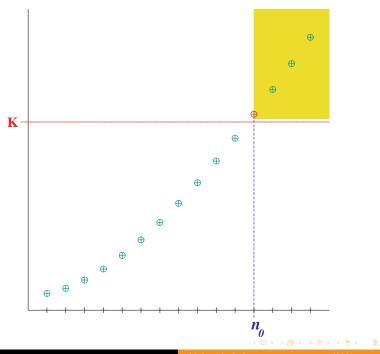
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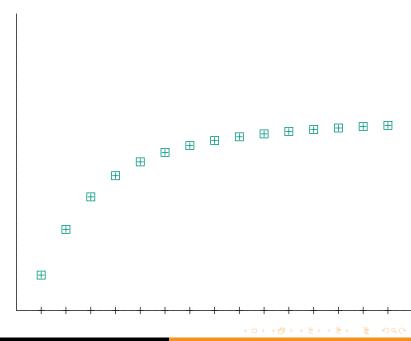


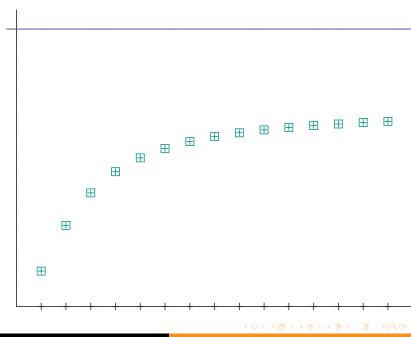
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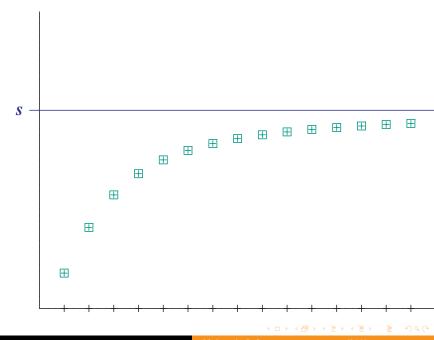
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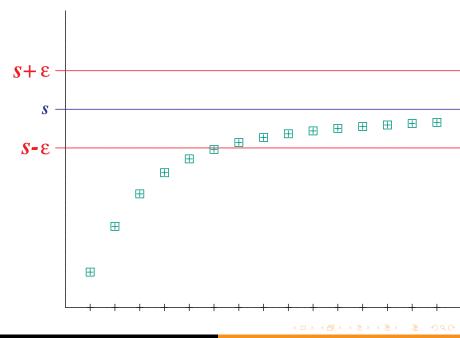


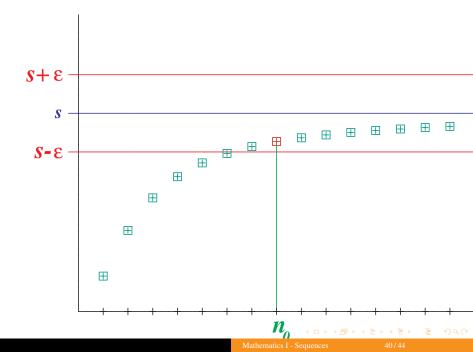


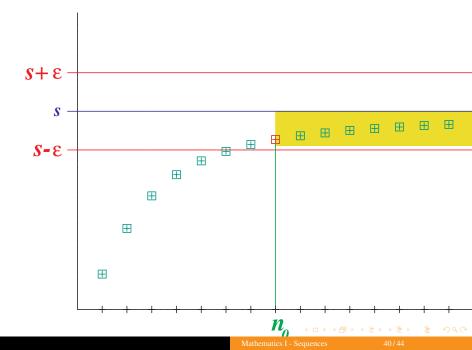












Theorem 14 (Cauchy criteria)

# $\exists \lim_{n\to\infty} a_n \in \mathbb{R} \iff \forall \varepsilon > 0 \ \exists N \in \mathbb{N} \ \forall n, m \ge N : \ |a_n - a_m| < \varepsilon.$

Mathematics I - Sequences

### Theorem 14 (Cauchy criteria)

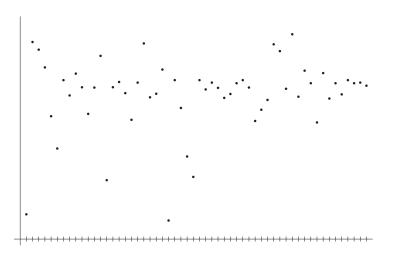
 $\exists \lim_{n\to\infty} a_n \in \mathbb{R} \iff \forall \varepsilon > 0 \ \exists N \in \mathbb{N} \ \forall n, m \ge N : \ |a_n - a_m| < \varepsilon.$ 

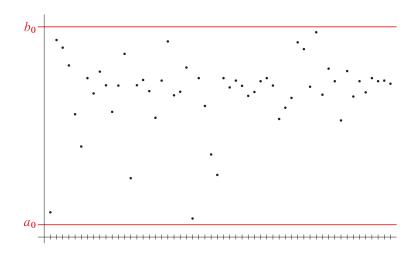
## Proof

" $\Rightarrow$ " Easy: if  $b = \lim_{n \to \infty} a_n$ , then  $\forall \varepsilon \exists N \in \mathbb{N} \ \forall n, m > N : |a_n - a_m| < |a_n - b| + |a_m - b| < 2\varepsilon.$ "⇐" Complicated: relies on the infimum axiom. Take a sequence of epsilons:  $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \ldots, \frac{1}{2^k}, \ldots$ For  $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2} \exists N_1 \in \mathbb{N} \ \forall n, m \geq N_1 : |a_n - a_m| < \frac{1}{2}$ . Put  $m = N_1$ , then for all  $n \ge N_1$ :  $a_n \in [A_1 := a_{N_1} - \frac{1}{2}, B_1 := a_{N_1} + \frac{1}{2}].$ For  $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{4} \exists \tilde{N}_2 \in \mathbb{N} \ \forall n, m \geq \tilde{N}_2 : |a_n - a_m| < \frac{1}{4}$ . Set  $m = N_2 := \max\{N_1, \tilde{N}_2\}$ , then for all  $n \ge \tilde{N}_2 : a_n \in [A_2, B_2]$ , where  $A_2 = \max \{A_1, a_{N_2} - \frac{1}{4}\}, B_2 = \min \{B_1, a_{N_2} + \frac{1}{4}\}$ . Continuing, we construct a sequence of nested contracting segments  $\{[A_p, B_p, ]\}, A_1 \le A_2 \le ... A_p \le B_p \le ... \le B_2 \le B_1$ .

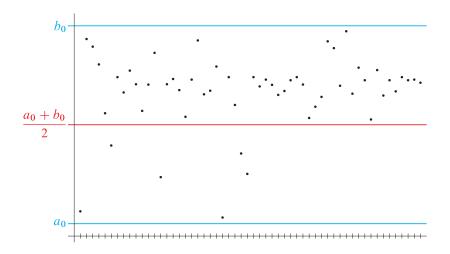
# Theorem 15 (Bolzano-Weierstraß)

Every bounded sequence contains a convergent subsequence.

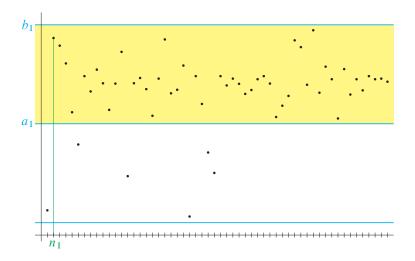


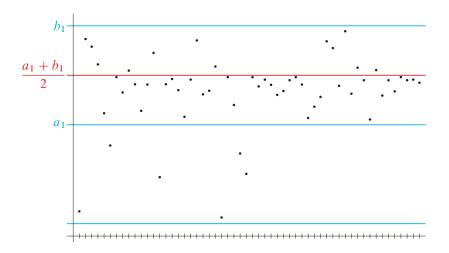


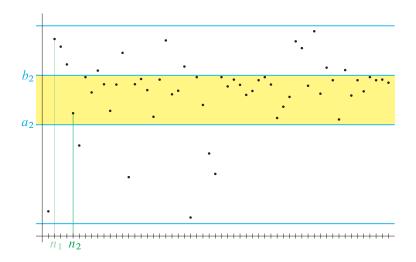
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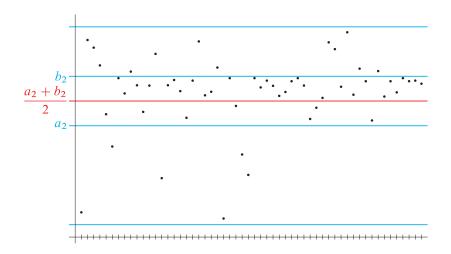
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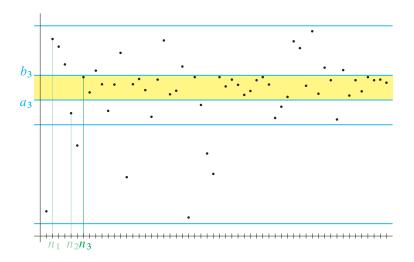


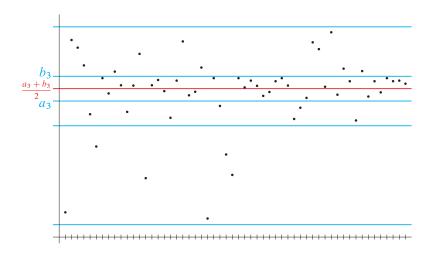


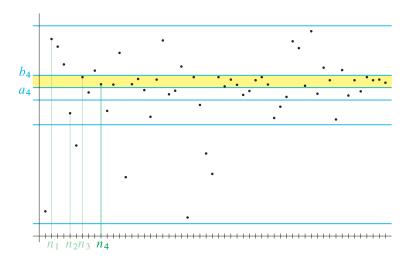


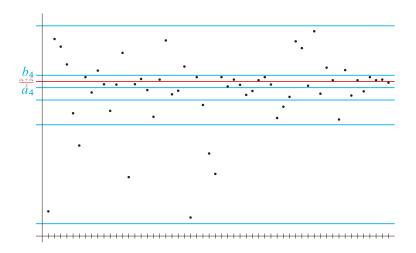
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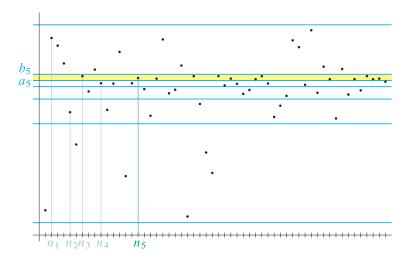


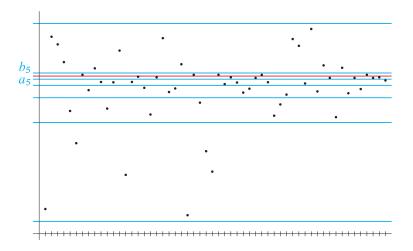


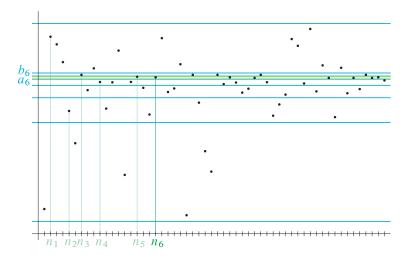




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# Theorem 16 (Bolzano-Weierstraß)

Every bounded sequence contains a convergent subsequence.

#### Exercise

Find a convergent subsequence:

A 
$$a_n = (-1)^n$$
  
B  $a_n = \{0, 2, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, \dots \}$