

M210T - Emerging Scholars Seminar
Worksheet 3
January 27, 2010

1. Do the following sequences converge or diverge? If they converge, what do they converge to?

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= \sqrt{n} \sin(\pi/\sqrt{n}), & b_n &= \frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdots (2n-1)}{(2n)^n}, \\ \left\{ \sqrt{2}, \sqrt{\sqrt{2}}, \sqrt{\sqrt{\sqrt{2}}} \right\}, & d_n &= \left(1 + \frac{a}{n}\right)^n, \\ e_n &= \frac{\cos(n)}{n}, & f(n) &= \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = 2^k \text{ for some integer } k \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}. \end{aligned}$$

2. Write down a definition (without using words like “close” or “approaches”) for $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$. Use this definition to prove that $a_n = \frac{3+n}{2n}$ converges to $\frac{1}{2}$ and $b_n = (-1)^n$ diverges.
3. Define the sequence $\{a_n\}$ by $a_1 = 1$ and $a_{n+1} = 1 + \frac{1}{a_n}$ for $n \geq 1$. Go ahead and assume that a_n converges. What does it converge to?
4. The Fibonacci Sequence is defined recursively by

$$F_1 = F_2 = 1, \quad F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2} \quad \text{for } n \geq 3.$$

Consider the sequence defined by $a_n = \frac{F_{n+1}}{F_n}$. Assume that a_n converges, and figure out what it converges to.

5. Prove that $a_n = \frac{(2n-1)!}{n^{2n-1}}$ converges.
6. Prove that $a_n = \cos(n)$ diverges.
7. * You have nine marbles of the same diameter. Eight of them have the same weight, and one is heavier than the others. You also have a balance. Can you determine which marble is the heavy one using the balance only twice? If you have n marbles, with one heavier than the others, what is the minimum number of weighings that would guarantee that you can find the heavy one?
8. * Show that there must be two people in this class who know the same number of people from this class (note that knowing someone is reflexive; i.e. you know me if and only if I know you).