

Math 441 - Sequences Workshop

1. We have used the following fact in class: *A sequence s_n converges to s if and only if every neighborhood of s contains all but finitely many s_n .* In this workshop you will prove the statement.

- (a) Translate the phrase, *contains all but finitely many s_n* , into a precise mathematical statement using a variable M .

It took us a while to figure out what this question was asking. Basically, we have to restate the definition above into one using symbols. So for example, the phrase every neighborhood of s becomes: $\forall N(s; \epsilon)$. In order to translate the phrase, “contains all but finitely many s_n ”, it may be helpful to switch to the equivalent phrase “contains an entire tail of the sequence”.

What is a tail of a sequence? It is a set that includes every s_n past a certain point. Here are three different ways that you came up with to describe such a set:

- $\{s_n : n \geq M\}$ for some $M \in \mathbb{N}$ (\leftarrow Janko wrote the tail this way.)
- $\{s_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\} \setminus \{s_1, s_2, \dots, s_M\}$ for some $M \in \mathbb{N}$ (\leftarrow Matt suggested this way.)
- $\{s_{n+M} : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ for some $M \in \mathbb{N}$ (\leftarrow Chris came up with this notation.)

Each of these definitions of a tail are correct. Let's pick one, say the first one, to finish the translation:

$$\begin{aligned} & \dots \text{contains all but finitely many } s_n \\ & \quad \parallel \\ & \dots \text{contains a tail of the sequence } s_n \\ & \quad \parallel \\ & \text{there exists a tail such that the tail is contained...} \\ & \quad \parallel \\ & \exists M \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } \{s_n : n \geq M\} \subseteq \dots \end{aligned}$$

- (b) Now prove that the ϵ -definition of a limit is equivalent to the one stated above.

The new definition says in words that $s \rightarrow s_n$ iff every neighborhood of s contains all but finitely many s_n . Using the translation above, we can re-write this as:

$$s \rightarrow s_n \Leftrightarrow \forall N(s; \epsilon), \exists M \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } \{s_n : n \geq M\} \subseteq N(s; \epsilon)$$

Can you show that this is equivalent to the ϵ -definition below:

$$s \rightarrow s_n \Leftrightarrow \forall \epsilon > 0, \exists M \in \mathbb{N} \text{ such that } |s - s_n| < \epsilon \forall n > M$$