

# MATH 301

## Homework 8 Answer Key

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### Section 3.4

9. Suppose that every subsequence of  $X = (x_n)$  has a subsequence that converges to 0. Show that  $\lim X = 0$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $x_n$  does not converge to 0, then there is some  $\varepsilon_0$  and a subsequence  $x_{n_k}$  such that  $|x_{n_k}| \geq \varepsilon_0 > 0$  for all  $k$ . This subsequence cannot have a subsequence that converges to 0 by construction. ■

11. Suppose that  $x_n \geq 0$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and that  $\lim((-1)^n x_n)$  exists. Show that  $(x_n)$  converges.

*Proof.* Note that  $x_n = |(-1)^n x_n|$  and thus  $\lim(x_n) = |\lim((-1)^n x_n)|$ . Further, since  $(-1)^n x_n$  has strictly positive and strictly negative sequences we have  $\liminf((-1)^n x_n) \leq 0 \leq \limsup((-1)^n x_n)$ . Because  $(-1)^n x_n$  converges we have that  $\liminf$  and  $\limsup$  must coincide the limit of both  $(-1)^n x_n$  and  $x_n$  must be zero. ■

17. Alternate the terms of the sequences  $(1 + 1/n)$  and  $(-1/n)$  to obtain the sequence  $(x_n)$  given by

$$(2, -1, 3/2, -1/2, 4/3, -1/3, 5/4, -1/4, \dots).$$

Determine the value of  $\limsup(x_n)$  and  $\liminf(x_n)$ . Also find  $\sup\{x_n\}$  and  $\inf\{x_n\}$ .

*Proof.* Note that  $1 + 1/n > -1/m$  for any  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$  and further  $\lim(1 + 1/n) = 1$  and  $\lim(-1/n) = 0$ . Let  $x_{n_k}$  be an arbitrary subsequence. By construction  $x_{n_k}$  must take values exclusively from  $(1 + 1/n)$  and  $(-1/n)$ . Thus if  $x_{n_k}$  does not have a tail in one of these sequences it must have a subsequence in both and thus must diverge. Consequently the set of subsequential limits is  $\{1, 0\}$  and theorem 3.4.11 tells us that  $\liminf(x_n) = 0$  and  $\limsup(x_n) = 1$ . Also since  $(1 + 1/n)$  is decreasing and  $(-1/n)$  is increasing we also have that  $\sup\{x_n\} = 2$  and  $\inf\{x_n\} = -1$ . ■

19. Show that if  $(x_n)$  and  $(y_n)$  are bounded sequences, then

$$\limsup(x_n + y_n) \leq \limsup(x_n) + \limsup(y_n).$$

Give an example in which the two sides are not equal.

*Proof.* Let  $v > \limsup(x_n)$  and  $u > \limsup(y_n)$ , then there are finitely many  $n$  such that  $v > x_n$  and  $u > y_n$  and consequently  $u + v > x_n + y_n$ . Thus  $u + v \geq \limsup(x_n + y_n)$  implying  $\limsup(x_n) + \limsup(y_n) \leq \limsup(x_n + y_n)$ .

A counterexample to equality is the sequences  $(-1)^n$  and  $(-1)^{n+1}$ . ■