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Monotone Convergence Theorems

(a) If a sequence $\langle x_n \rangle$ is monotonically increasing and bounded above, then it converges to its supremum.

(b) If a sequence $\langle x_n \rangle$ is monotonically decreasing and bounded below, then it converges to its infimum.

Proof - (a) Let $E = \{x_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is a non-empty bounded above subset of \mathbb{R} . Therefore, by the Completeness Property the supremum of E exists in \mathbb{R} .

(Therefore, \exists at least one term, say x_k in $\langle x_n \rangle$ such that \rightarrow)

Let $\sup E = L$, we have to show that $\langle x_n \rangle$ converges to L .

Let $\epsilon > 0$ be a small +ve number, then $L - \epsilon < L$ and L is the supremum of E .

$\Rightarrow L - \epsilon$ cannot be an upper bound of E .

$$x_k > L - \epsilon \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Further, since $\langle x_n \rangle$ is monotonic increasing for all $n \geq k$, we have \rightarrow

$$x_k \leq x_n \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

Also, since L is the supremum of E , we have \rightarrow

$$x_n \leq L \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N} \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

On combining eqⁿs ①, ② & ③ we get \rightarrow

$$L - \epsilon < x_k \leq x_n \leq L < L + \epsilon$$

$$\Rightarrow L - \epsilon < x_n < L + \epsilon$$

$$\Rightarrow |x_n - L| < \epsilon \quad \forall n \geq k$$

Hence, $\langle x_n \rangle$ converges to L .

————— Proved

⑥ Proof \rightarrow

Let $E = \{x_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is a non-empty bounded below subset of \mathbb{R} .

Let $\inf E = l$ we have to show that $x_n \rightarrow l$

$$\text{Let } \epsilon > 0, \quad l + \epsilon > l$$

Therefore, \exists at least one term, say x_k in $\langle x_n \rangle$ such that —

$$x_k < l + \epsilon \quad \text{————— ①}$$

Further, since $\langle x_n \rangle$ is monotonically decreasing $\forall n \geq k$, we have —

$$x_k \geq x_n \quad \text{————— ②}$$

Also since l is a lower bound of E

$$x_n \geq l \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N} \quad \text{————— ③}$$

On combining eq-①, ② & ③, we get \rightarrow

$$l - \epsilon < l \leq x_n \leq x_k < l + \epsilon$$

$$\Rightarrow l - \epsilon < x_n < l + \epsilon \quad \forall n \geq k$$

$$\Rightarrow |x_n - l| < \epsilon$$

Hence, $\langle x_n \rangle$ converges to l .

————— Proved