

1/10/22

Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem for sequence

"Every bounded sequence has a convergent subsequence"

Proof → let E be the set of all distinct points of a bounded sequence $\langle x_n \rangle$.

Then E is also bounded.

⊗ If E is finite, there must be at least one element say $s \in E$ which is infinitely repeated in $\langle x_n \rangle$.

let $\langle i_n \rangle$ be increasing sequence of positive integers such that

$$x_{i_n} = s \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$$

Obviously $\langle x_{i_n} \rangle$ is a subsequence of $\langle x_n \rangle$ and being a constant sequence.

Hence, it converges to s .

⊗ If E is infinite, then by Bolzano-Weierstrass Theorem for sets, it has a limit point say x in \mathbb{R} .

We shall now construct a subsequence of $\langle x_n \rangle$ which converges to x .

For each $k \in \mathbb{N}$ let $I_k = \left(x - \frac{1}{k}, x + \frac{1}{k} \right)$ be the $(1/k)$ -nbd of x .

Since, x is a limit point of E , the set I_k contains infinitely many values of x_n such element of E .

Thus, for each k there are infinitely many values of 'n' such that —
 $x_n \in P_n$

Now, choose $x_{i_1} \in P_1, x_{i_2} \in P_2, x_{i_3} \in P_3$ and so on such that $i_3 > i_2 > i_1$

Thus, we obtain a subsequence $\langle x_{i_n} \rangle$ of $\langle x_n \rangle$ such that — $x_{i_n} \in P_n = \left(x - \frac{1}{n}, x + \frac{1}{n} \right)$

$$\text{i.e. } |x_{i_n} - x| < \frac{1}{n} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$$

Hence $\lim x_{i_n} = x$

———— Proved

Q. Show that the sequence $\langle (-1)^{n-1} \rangle$ is not convergent.

Let $\langle x_n \rangle$ be a sequence and let $\langle x_{2m-1} \rangle$ and $\langle x_{2m} \rangle$ are two subsequences of $\langle x_n \rangle$

$$\langle x_{2m-1} \rangle = \langle 1, 1, 1, \dots \rangle$$

$$\langle x_{2m} \rangle = \langle -1, -1, -1, \dots \rangle$$

$$\lim x_{2m-1} = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim x_{2m} = -1$$

Since, the two subsequences of the given sequence converges to 2 different limits.

Therefore, $\langle (-1)^{n-1} \rangle$ is not convergent.