

# Solutions to Class Test on Calculus

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1. Define  $x_n = \sin a + \sin(a + d) + \sin(a + 2d) + \cdots + \sin(a + (n - 1)d)$ , for  $n \geq 1$ . Find all real numbers  $a, d$  for which the sequence  $\{x_n\}_{n \geq 1}$  is bounded.

Solution: First let us assume that  $d/2 \neq k\pi$  for any  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , which ensures that  $\sin \frac{d}{2} \neq 0$ . We observe that

$$\begin{aligned} 2 \sin \frac{d}{2} x_n &= 2 \sin \frac{d}{2} \sin a + 2 \sin \frac{d}{2} \sin(a + d) + \cdots + 2 \sin \frac{d}{2} \sin(a + (n - 1)d) \\ &= \cos \left( a - \frac{d}{2} \right) - \cos \left( a + \frac{d}{2} \right) + \cos \left( a + \frac{d}{2} \right) - \cos \left( a + 3\frac{d}{2} \right) \\ &\quad + \cos \left( a + 3\frac{d}{2} \right) - \cdots + \cos \left( a + (2n - 3)\frac{d}{2} \right) - \cos \left( a + (2n - 1)\frac{d}{2} \right) \\ &= \cos \left( a - \frac{d}{2} \right) - \cos \left( a + (2n - 1)\frac{d}{2} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\left| 2 \sin \frac{d}{2} \cdot x_n \right| = \left| \cos \left( a - \frac{d}{2} \right) - \cos \left( a + (2n - 1)\frac{d}{2} \right) \right| \leq 2$ , for all  $n \geq 1$ . In other words, for every  $n \geq 1$ , we have  $|x_n| \leq \left| \operatorname{cosec} \frac{d}{2} \right|$ . Therefore, the sequence is bounded whenever  $d/2$  is not an integer multiple of  $\pi$ .

Next, let us consider the case when  $d/2 = k\pi$  for some integer  $k$ . In this case, we have  $\sin(a + jd) = \sin(a + j \cdot 2k\pi) = \sin a$  for every integer  $j$ . Therefore  $x_n = n \sin a$ , for  $n \geq 1$ . So in this case, the sequence  $x_n$  is bounded if only if  $\sin a = 0$ , i.e. if and only if  $a = m\pi$  for some integer  $m$ .

2. Suppose that  $\{x_n\}_{n \geq 1}$  and  $\{y_n\}_{n \geq 1}$  are two convergent sequences, with  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_n$ . Determine (with proof/counter-example) whether the following statements are true or false:

- (a)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (x_1 + \cdots + x_n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (y_1 + \cdots + y_n)$ .  
(b)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (x_n)^n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (y_n)^n$ .

(Note, a statement is false if it fails to hold even for just one case.)

Solution: Both the statements are **false** (i.e. they are not necessarily true). Counter-examples are given below.

(a) Take  $x_n = 1/2^n$  and  $y_n = 1/3^n$ . (In fact you can take  $x_n$  to be the  $n$ -th term of any convergent series and take  $y_n = 0$ .)

(b) Take  $x_n = 2^{1/n}$  and  $y_n = 3^{1/n}$ . There are many other counter-examples too.

3. Suppose that  $x_n$  satisfies  $x_{n+1} = \sqrt{6 + x_n}$  for every  $n \geq 1$ , and let  $x_1 = \sqrt{6}$ . Show that  $x_n$  converges and also find the limit.

Solution: First note that  $x_n > 0$  for all  $n \geq 1$ . Next, note that we can also give an upper bound. We shall induct on  $n$  to show that  $x_n < 3$  for all  $n \geq 1$ . Base case:  $x_1 = \sqrt{6} < 3$ . Inductive step:  $x_{n+1} = \sqrt{6 + x_n} < \sqrt{6 + 3} = 3$ .

Thus, we have shown that  $0 < x_n < 3$  holds for every  $n \geq 1$ . Next, we shall try to see whether the sequence is increasing or decreasing. We do a rough work:

$$x_{n+1} < x_n \iff \sqrt{6 + x_n} < x_n \iff 6 + x_n < x_n^2 \iff 0 < (x_n - 3)(x_n + 2).$$

But, the last inequality is false. In fact, we have  $(x_n - 3)(x_n + 2) < 0$  for each  $n \geq 1$ . Therefore, reversing the inequality sign in the above calculation, we arrive at  $x_{n+1} > x_n$  for each  $n \geq 1$ .

Thus  $x_n$  is increasing and bounded above, hence convergent. Say  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n = \ell$ . Letting  $n \rightarrow \infty$  in the recurrence  $x_{n+1} = \sqrt{6 + x_n}$ , we get  $\ell = \sqrt{6 + \ell} \iff (\ell - 3)(\ell + 2) = 0 \iff \ell = 3$  or  $-2$ . Since  $x_n > 0$  for all  $n \geq 1$ , the limit must be  $\ell = 3$ .

4. Suppose  $a$  is a positive real number. Define a sequence  $\{x_n\}_{n \geq 1}$  by

$$x_n = \frac{[a] + [2a] + \cdots + [na]}{n^2}, n \geq 1.$$

Prove that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n$  exists and also find the limit. (Here  $[t]$  denotes the greatest integer less than or equal to  $t$ .)

Solution: We shall give upper and lower bound and see whether we can apply Sandwich theorem. The most crucial bounds for  $[x]$  is that:  $x - 1 < [x] \leq x$  for every  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Using this, we get

$$\frac{n(n+1)}{2}a - n = \sum_{k=1}^n (ka - 1) < \sum_{k=1}^n [ka] \leq \sum_{k=1}^n ka = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}a.$$

Now, observe that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \left( \frac{n(n+1)}{2} a - n \right) = \frac{a}{2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n^2} \frac{n(n+1)}{2} a.$$

So Sandwich theorem applies here and tells us that the given limit exists and equals  $a/2$ .