

Lec 33. - Solutions to midterm 2 problems.

- Sequences & series, Ch. 9.

• Sequences.

$$\{a_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} = a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, \dots$$

↑
does not
have to be 1.

e.g. $a_n = n$ 1, 2, 3, 4, ...

$a_n = 2^n$ 2, 2², 2³, ...

• a random sequence

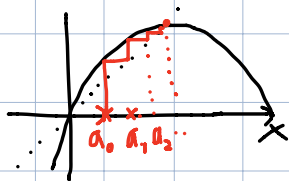
e.g. $a_n = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if coin flip turns head} \\ 0 & \text{if " " " " " tail.} \end{cases}$

• sequence obtained by some iterations

e.g. $a_1 = 1, a_2 = 1, a_3 = 1 + 1 = 2, a_4 = a_2 + a_3 = 3,$
 $\dots a_n = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2}$ "Fibonacci sequence"

e.g. $F(x) = 2 \times (1 - x)$

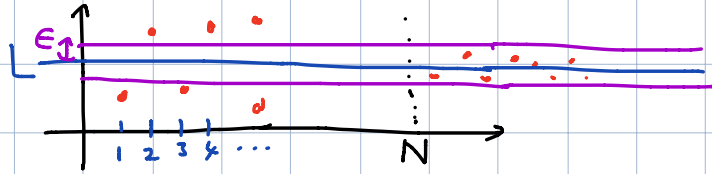
$a_0 = \frac{1}{4}, a_1 = F(a_0), \dots, a_n = F(a_{n-1})$



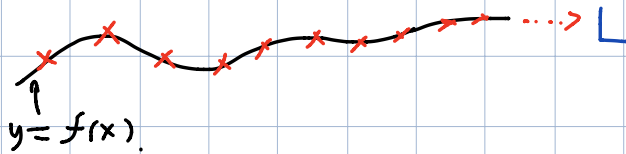
This picture is one of the starting points
of discrete dynamical systems
("study of iterations")

Def $\{a_n\}$ converges to the limit L

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L \iff \forall \epsilon > 0, \exists N \text{ such that } \forall n \geq N, |a_n - L| < \epsilon.$$



Key For $a_n = f(n)$, if $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = L$ then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = L$



e.g. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 + \frac{1}{n})^n$ exists? Value?

sol.

$$f(x) = (1 + \frac{1}{x})^x$$

$$g(x) = \ln f(x) = x \ln(1 + \frac{1}{x})$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} g(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(1 + \frac{1}{x})}{\frac{1}{x}} = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln(1+y)}{y}$$

$$\stackrel{\text{L'Hopital}}{=} \lim_{y \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{1+y} = 1$$

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} g(x) = 1$$

$$\therefore \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^{g(x)} = e^{\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} g(x)} = e^1 = e$$

$$\text{Thus } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(n) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = e \quad \square$$