

Theorem (Limits are unique)

Suppose $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = a$ & $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = b$, then $a = b$.

Proof

We will suppose $a \neq b$ and seek a contradiction.

We may further assume that $a < b$ (otherwise switch them).

Set $\varepsilon := \frac{b-a}{2} > 0$.

• Since $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = a$ we know $\exists N_1$ such that

if $n > N_1$ we have $|a_n - a| < \frac{b-a}{2}$

• Since $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = b$ we know $\exists N_2$ such that

if $n > N_2$ we have $|a_n - b| < \frac{b-a}{2}$

Thus if $n > \max\{N_1, N_2\}$ it follows that

$$b - a = |b - a| = |(b - a_n) + (a_n - a)|$$

$$\xrightarrow{\Delta\text{-inequality}} \leq |b - a_n| + |a_n - a|$$

$$< \frac{b-a}{2} + \frac{b-a}{2} = b-a$$

\uparrow since $n > N_2$ \uparrow since $n > N_1$

* We have just shown that $b-a < b-a$ \swarrow a contradiction!

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