

§4.1 Sequences and Convergence

Why study sequences? Basic math'l object.

Much of calculus can be described/developed w/ seq's (and series): continuous fns, limits (deriv's, integrals)

Informally, a sequence is a list of numbers:

$$1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{5}, \dots$$

Formally A seq. in \mathbb{R} is a fn $f: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,
where $f(i)$ is i^{th} # in list. So above,

$$f(n) = \frac{1}{n}$$

$$f(1) = 1$$

$$f(3) = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$f(2) = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\vdots$$

Usually we avoid the fn notation and
use subscripts: $a_1 = f(1)$, $a_2 = f(2)$, $a_3 = f(3)$, ...

For above, $(a_n) = \left(\frac{1}{n}\right)$

$$(a_n) = \left(1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \dots\right)$$

~~So for above sequence, write:~~



(a_n) = the sequence $(a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, \dots)$

$\{a_n\}$ = the set of #'s in the sequence.

Ex $a_n = \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} \cdot n\right)$

$$(a_n) = (1, 0, -1, 0, 1, 0, -1, 0, \dots)$$

$$\{a_n\} = \{-1, 0, 1\}$$



many, many books use $\{a_n\}$ for what our book calls (a_n) .

Ways to Define/Express a Sequence

① Give a formula to describe the n^{th} term

$$a_n = \frac{1}{n} \quad \text{OR} \quad (a_n) = \left(\frac{1}{n}\right) = \left(\frac{1}{1}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \dots\right)$$

② Give 1st term(s) and recursive formula

$$a_1 = 1, a_n = 2a_{n-1} + 1 \text{ gives } (1, 3, 7, 15, \dots)$$

$$a_1 = a_2 = 1 \quad a_n = a_{n-1} + a_{n-2} \quad (1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, \dots)$$

③ List enough terms to establish a pattern.

$$(a_n) = (1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, \dots) \quad (\text{Square #'s})$$

⚠ Risky! What if somebody doesn't see pattern?
Or a different pattern?

$$(b_n) = (0, 7, 26, \dots) \quad [b_n = n^3 - 1] \quad \widehat{b_4 = 63.}$$

$$(c_n) = (1, 11, 21, 1211, 111221, \dots)$$

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(Greetings from [The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences!](#))

Search: seq:0,7,26

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[A049453](#) Second pentagonal numbers with even index: $n*(6*n+1)$.

+20
17

0, 7, 26, 57, 100, 155, 222, 301, 392, 495, 610, 737, 876, 1027, 1190, 1365, 1552, 1751, 1962, 2185, 2420, 2667, 2926, 3197, 3480, 3775, 4082, 4401, 4732, 5075, 5430, 5797, 6176, 6567, 6970, 7385, 7812, 8251, 8702, 9165, 9640, 10127, 10626 ([list](#); [graph](#); [refs](#); [listen](#); [history](#); [text](#); [internal format](#))

OFFSET 0,2

COMMENTS Number of edges in the join of the complete tripartite graph of order $3n$ and the cycle graph of order n , $K_{n,n,n} * C_n$ - [Roberto E. Martinez II](#), Jan 07 2002

Sequence found by reading the line (one of the diagonal axes) from 0, in the direction 0, 7, ..., in the square spiral whose vertices are the generalized pentagonal numbers [A001318](#). - Omar E. Pol, Sep 08 2011

First bisection of [A036498](#). - [Bruno Berselli](#), Nov 25 2012

LINKS [Table of n, a\(n\) for n=0..42](#).

FORMULA G.f.: $x*(7+5*x)/(1-x)^3$.

$a(n) = 12*n+a(n-1)-5$ with $n>0$, $a(0)=0$. - [Vincenzo Librandi](#), Aug 06 2010

MAPLE seq(binomial(6*n+1, 2)/3, n=0..42); - [Zerinvary Lajos](#), Jan 21 2007

MATHEMATICA s=0; lst={s}; Do[s+=n++ +7; AppendTo[lst, s], {n, 0, 7!, 12}]; lst [From [Vladimir Joseph Stephan Orlovsky](#), Nov 16 2008]

CROSSREFS Cf. [A001318](#), [A005449](#), [A033568](#), [A033570](#), [A036498](#), [A049452](#), [A185019](#), [A194454](#).

KEYWORD nonn,easy

AUTHOR Joe Keane (jgk(AT)jgk.org).

STATUS

approved

A068601 n^3-1.

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0, 7, 26, 63, 124, 215, 342, 511, 728, 999, 1330, 1727, 2196, 2743, 3374, 4095, 4912, 5831, 6858, 7999, 9260, 10647, 12166, 13823, 15624, 17575, 19682, 21951, 24388, 26999, 29790, 32767, 35936, 39303, 42874, 46655, 50652, 54871, 59318, 63999 ([list](#); [graph](#); [refs](#); [listen](#); [history](#); [text](#); [internal format](#))

OFFSET 1,2

COMMENTS a(n) is the least positive integer k such that k can only contain 'n-1' in exactly 2 different bases B, where $1 < B \leq k$.
A129294(n) = number of divisors of a(n) that are not greater than n. - Reinhard Zumkeller, Apr 09 2007
Apart from the first term, the same as A135300. R. J. Mathar, Apr 29 2008
A058895(n)^3 + a(n)^3 + A033562(n)^3 = A185065(n)^3. _ Vincenzo Librandi, Mar 13 2012
Numbers n such that for every nonnegative integer m, $n^{(3*m+1)} + n^{(3*m)}$ is a cube. - Arkadiusz Wesolowski, Aug 10 2013

LINKS Nathaniel Johnston, Table of n, a(n) for n = 1..10000
Index to sequences with linear recurrences with constant coefficients, signature (4,-6,4,-1).

FORMULA Partial sums of A003215, hex (or centered hexagonal) numbers: $3n(n+1)+1$. - Jonathan Vos Post, Mar 16 2006
G.f.: $x^2*(7-2*x+x^2)/(1-x)^4$. [Colin Barker, Feb 12 2012]

EXAMPLE For n=6; 215 written in bases 6 and 42 is 555, 55 and (555, 55) are exactly 2 different bases.

MATHEMATICA f[n_]:=n^3-1; f[Range[60]] (*From Vladimir Joseph Stephan Orlovsky, Feb 14 2011*)
LinearRecurrence[{4, -6, 4, -1}, {0, 7, 26, 63}, 50]] (* Vincenzo Librandi, Mar 11 2012 *)

PROG (PARI) a(n)=n^3-1
(MAGMA) [n^3-1: n in [1..40]]; // Vincenzo Librandi, Mar 11 2012

CROSSREFS Cf. A000217, A005448, A016921, A058895, A033562, A185065.

KEYWORD easy,nonn

AUTHOR Naohiro Nomoto, Mar 28 2002

STATUS approved

A219695 For odd numbers $2n - 1$, half the difference between the largest divisor not exceeding the square root, and the least divisor not less than the square root.

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4

0, 1, 2, 3, 0, 5, 6, 1, 8, 9, 2, 11, 0, 3, 14, 15, 4, 1, 18, 5, 20, 21, 2, 23, **0, 7,**
26, 3, 8, 29, 30, 1, 4, 33, 10, 35, 36, 5, 2, 39, 0, 41, 6, 13, 44, 3, 14, 7, 48, 1, 50,
51, 4, 53, 54, 17, 56, 9, 2, 5, 0, 19, 10, 63, 20, 65, 6, 3, 68, 69, 22, 1, 12, 7, 74,

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1,11,21,1211

Search

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(Greetings from The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences!)

Search: seq:1,11,21,1211

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A005150 Look and Say sequence: describe the previous term! (method A - initial term is 1).
(Formerly M4780)

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117

1, 11, 21, 1211, 111221, 312211, 13112221, 1113213211, 31131211131221,
13211311123113112211, 11131221133112132113212221, 3113112221232112111312211312113211 ([list](#);
[graph](#); [refs](#); [listen](#); [history](#); [text](#); [internal format](#))

OFFSET 1,2

COMMENTS Method A = 'frequency' followed by 'digit'-indication.
Also known as the "Say What You see" sequence.
Only the digits 1, 2 and 3 appear in any term. - Robert G. Wilson v Jan 22
2004.
All terms end by 1 (the seed) and, except the third a(3), begin by 1 or 3.
[[Jean-Christophe Hervé](#), May 07 2013]
Proof that 333 never appears in any a(n): suppose it appears for the first
time in a(n); because of 'three 3' in 333, it would imply that 333 is
also in a(n-1), which is a contradiction. [[Jean-Christophe Hervé](#), May 09
2013]

REFERENCES J. H. Conway, The weird and wonderful chemistry of audioactive decay,
Eureka 46 (1986) 5-16.
J. H. Conway, The weird and wonderful chemistry of audioactive decay, in T.
M. Cover and Gopinath, eds., Open Problems in Communication and
Computation, Springer, NY 1987, pp. 173-188.
S. B. Ekhad and D. Zeilberger, Proof of Conway's lost cosmological theorem,
Elect. Res. Announcements Amer. Math. Soc., 3 (1997), 78-82.
S. Eliahou and M. J. Erickson, Mutually describing multisets and integer
partitions, Discrete Mathematics, Volume 313, Issue 4, 28 February 2013,

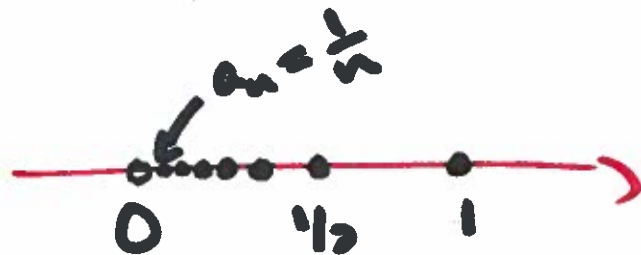
④ Graphically (two common ways)

Helpful, but not rigorous...

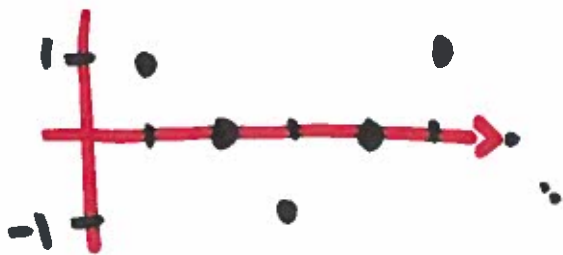
$\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{R}$

\mathbb{R}

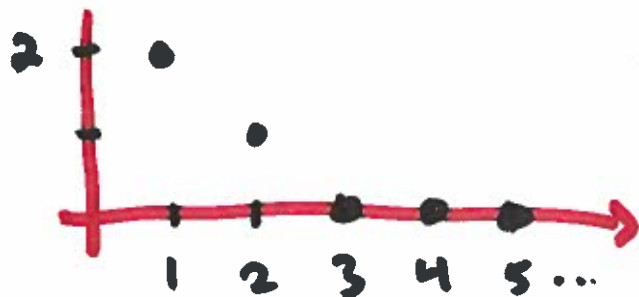
$a_n = \frac{1}{n}$



$b_n = \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}n\right)$



$c_n = \lfloor \frac{2}{n} \rfloor$



Def (s_n) converges to $s \in \mathbb{R}$, written

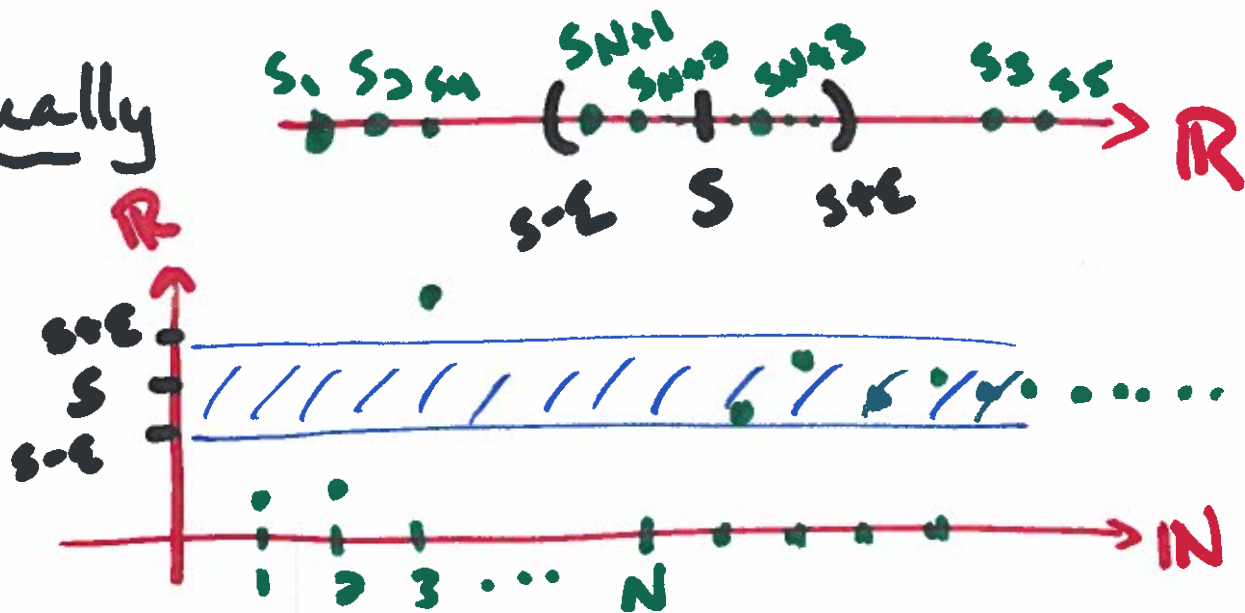
$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = s \quad \text{or} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n = s \quad \text{or} \quad s_n \rightarrow s$$

$$\forall \epsilon > 0 \exists N \in \mathbb{N} \text{ (or } \mathbb{R}) \text{ s.t. } n > N \Rightarrow |s_n - s| < \epsilon.$$

In words: $s_n \rightarrow s$ if eventually every s_n close to s
 $n > N$, some N $|s_n - s| < \epsilon$

⚠ Order matters! You don't choose ϵ . It's given to you, and your challenge is to prove you can (eventually) make s_n be within ϵ of s .

Visually



In general, to prove $s_n \rightarrow s$,

Step 1: "Think" (prepare, algebra)

Do algebra to figure out how large n has to be to ensure $|s_n - s| < \epsilon$. Set N equal to this value.

Step 2: "Proof." Do algebra in reverse.

Given $\epsilon > 0$, choose $N = (\text{magic \#}, \text{depends on } \epsilon)$

Then $\forall n > N$, we have $|s_n - s| = \text{algebra} < \epsilon$

Ex $(s_n) = \left(\frac{n-1}{n}\right) = (0, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{5}, \dots)$

We suspect $\sum s_n = 1$, i.e. $s_n \rightarrow 1$.

Preparation

Want: $|s_n - s| < \epsilon$, i.e. $\left|\frac{n-1}{n} - 1\right| < \epsilon$

$$-\epsilon < \frac{n-1}{n} - 1 < \epsilon$$

$$-\epsilon < \frac{n-1-n}{n} < \epsilon$$

$$-\epsilon < -\frac{1}{n} < \epsilon$$

$\frac{1}{n} < \epsilon$, $\frac{1}{n} < \epsilon$ or $n > \frac{1}{\epsilon}$.
no useful information.

Proof that $\frac{n-1}{n} \rightarrow 1$

Given $\epsilon > 0$, set $N = \frac{1}{\epsilon}$. Then $n > N$, forces

$\Leftarrow \epsilon = \frac{1}{N}$

$$|s_n - s| = \left| \frac{n-1}{n} - 1 \right|$$

$$= \left| \frac{n-1}{n} - \frac{n}{n} \right|$$

$$= \left| \frac{n-1-n}{n} \right|$$

$$= \left| -\frac{1}{n} \right|$$

$$= \frac{1}{n} < \epsilon \quad (\text{because } n > \frac{1}{\epsilon}).$$

Note: $N \in \mathbb{R}$ here, not \mathbb{N} . ok b/c could use arch. princ. to come up with nat'l # $> \frac{1}{\epsilon}$.

Ex 4.1.6 Show $s_n = \frac{n^2 + 2n}{n^3 - 5} \rightarrow 0$

Algebra/Preparation Step

Need to find condition on s such that

$$\left| \frac{n^2 + 2n}{n^3 - 5} - 0 \right| < \varepsilon.$$

Tricks of the trade: find "nicer" sequence
which $\rightarrow 0$ and is bigger than ours:

$$\left| \frac{n^2 + 2n}{n^3 - 5} - 0 \right| \leq (\quad) < \varepsilon$$

Showing $\frac{n^2+2n}{n^3-5} \rightarrow 0$

① We only care about what eventually happens, so we can assume $n \geq 2$ so that

$$n^2+2n \geq 0 \text{ and } n^3-5 \geq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \left| \frac{n^2+2n}{n^3-5} \right| = \frac{n^2+2n}{n^3-5}$$

② Try to find a simpler (larger) seq. which bounds

ours. KEY $\frac{n^2+2n}{n^3-5} < \frac{p(n)}{q(n)}$ if $p(n) > n^2+2n$
 $q(n) < n^3-5$

Helps if p, q have form $k \cdot n^{\text{power}}$, $\text{degree}(q) > \text{deg}(p)$

Showing $\frac{n^2+2n}{n^3-5} \rightarrow 0$

- For large n (specifically, $n \geq 3$)

$$n^2 > 2n \Rightarrow n^2 + n^2 > 2n^2 + 2n$$

$$\underline{2n^2} > n^2 + 2n$$

$p(n)$.

- For large n (specifically, $n \geq 3$),

$$n^3 - 5 > n^3 \text{ never true!}$$

How about $\frac{1}{2}n^3$?

$$n^3 - 5 > \frac{1}{2}n^3 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}n^3 > 5$$

solve

$$n^3 > 10$$

$$n > \sqrt[3]{10} \approx 2.15\dots$$

$$n^3 - 5 > \frac{1}{2}n^3$$

$q(n)$.

Showing $\frac{n^2+2n}{n^3-5} \rightarrow 0$

So for $n \geq 3$, we know $\frac{n^2+2n}{n^3-5} < \frac{2n^2}{\frac{1}{2}n^3} = \frac{4}{n}$.

③ Any N for simpler sequence $(\frac{4}{n})$ will work for our messy one, too.

$$\text{Want: } \left| \frac{4}{n} - 0 \right| = \frac{4}{n} < \epsilon \Leftrightarrow n > 4/\epsilon.$$

So if $n > \frac{4}{\epsilon}$ and $n \geq 3$

$$\frac{n^2+2n}{n^3-5} < \frac{4}{n} < \epsilon.$$

$n \geq 3$ $n > 4/\epsilon$

Proof that $\frac{n^2+2n}{n^3-5} \rightarrow 0$ (Finally - Whew!)

Given $\epsilon > 0$, set $N = \max\{3, 4/\epsilon\}$. Then $n > N$

$$\Rightarrow |s_n - s| = \left| \frac{n^2+2n}{n^3-5} - 0 \right| = \frac{n^2+2n}{n^3-5} < \frac{4}{n} < \epsilon$$

$n \geq 2$ $n \geq 3$ $n > \frac{4}{\epsilon}$

This is all a special case of

Thm Suppose $a_n \rightarrow 0$. If for $k > 0$, $m \in \mathbb{N}$ we have $|s_n - s| \leq k \cdot a_n$ then $s_n \rightarrow s$.
for all $n > m$.

Notes ① $\left| \frac{n^2+2n}{n^3-5} - 0 \right| \leq 4 \left(\frac{1}{n} \right)$
 s_n s k a_n ($m=3$)

② This is the Squeeze Thm!

If $0 \leq f(x) \leq h(x)$

and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 0 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} h(x) = 0$

$$0 \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(x) \leq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = 0.$$

Pf Given $\epsilon > 0$, need to show $|s_n - s| < \epsilon$ for some eventual values of n .

Because $a_n \rightarrow 0$, $\exists N_1$ s.t. $|a_n| < \frac{\epsilon}{k}$

Let $N = \max\{m, N_1\}$ Then $n > N$

$$\Rightarrow |s_n - s| \leq k |a_n| < k \left(\frac{\epsilon}{k} \right) = \epsilon$$

Q: How to prove a sequence diverges?

Recall the defⁿ:

$s_n \rightarrow s$ iff $\forall \epsilon > 0 \exists N \in \mathbb{N} \forall n > N \Rightarrow |s_n - s| < \epsilon$.
implied \forall

$s_n \not\rightarrow s$ iff $\exists \epsilon > 0 \forall N \in \mathbb{N} \exists n > N$ and $|s_n - s| \geq \epsilon$

i.e. $\exists \epsilon > 0$ for which you can't ever guarantee s_n is within ϵ of s !

Ex $\frac{1}{n} \not\rightarrow 9$ b/c we can't guarantee $\frac{1}{n}$ will be within ϵ units of 9 for $\epsilon = 1$. In fact,
 $|\frac{1}{n} - 9| \geq \epsilon = 1 \quad \forall n$ - not even a matter of finding the n !

So to prove s_n DIVERGES, you must show it cannot converge to any $s \in \mathbb{R}$ - that's hard!

Must exhibit some $\epsilon > 0$ s.t. no matter how large n gets, you cannot guarantee $|s_n - s| < \epsilon$ for any s .

Ex Prove $s_n = (-1)^n$ diverges. $(s_n) = (-1, 1, -1, 1, -1, 1, \dots)$

Let $\epsilon = 1/2$, suppose $s_n \rightarrow s$.

$\exists N$ s.t. $n > N$, $|s_n - s| < \epsilon = 1/2$.



Thus $-\frac{1}{2} < s_n - s < \frac{1}{2}$.

No matter how large n is, s_n still oscillates b/w $-1, 1$.

n odd $\Rightarrow s_n = -1$, so $-\frac{1}{2} < \overset{-1}{\bullet} - s < \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow -\frac{3}{2} < s < -\frac{1}{2}$

n even $\Rightarrow s_n = 1$, so $-\frac{1}{2} < 1 - s < \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} < s < \frac{3}{2}$

Thus $-\frac{3}{2} < s < -\frac{1}{2} < \frac{1}{2} < s < \frac{3}{2}$

This is a contradiction. Hence s_n does not converge to any s .

Thm If $s_n \rightarrow s$, $s_n \rightarrow t$ then $s = t$. (limits are unique)

Pf We want to show $s = t \iff s - t = 0$

(Thm 3.2.8, followup HW) $\iff |s - t| = 0$

$\iff |s - t| < \epsilon \quad \forall \epsilon > 0.$

Since $s_n \rightarrow s$, $s_n \rightarrow t$, given $\epsilon > 0$, we know

$\exists M$ s.t. $n > M \Rightarrow |s_n - s| < \epsilon$

$\exists \underline{K}$ s.t. $n > \underline{K} \Rightarrow |s_n - \underline{t}| < \epsilon$

⊕ Could use $\epsilon/2$ for these

Then $N = \max\{M, K\} \Rightarrow$ both ineq's are true.

For $n > N$ we therefore have

$$|s-t| = |(s_n-t) - (s_n-s)| \quad (\text{add } 0)$$

$$\leq |s_n-t| + |s_n-s| \quad (\Delta \text{ ineq})$$

$$< \varepsilon + \varepsilon \quad \textcircled{*} \quad \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$$

$$\text{So } |s-t| < 2\varepsilon. \quad \textcircled{*} \quad \varepsilon.$$

as desired.

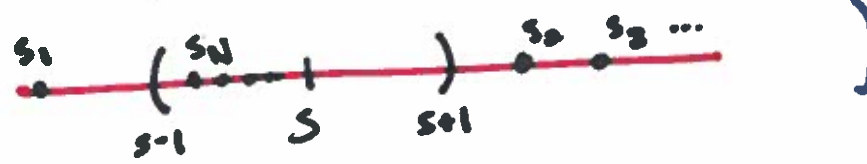
⊛ Idea could go back and find M, K such that $|s_n-s|, |s_n-t|$ are less than $\varepsilon/2$. Then $|s-t| \leq |s_n-s| + |s_n-t| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} = \varepsilon$.

Thm A convergent sequence is bounded

(Read the proof of Thm 4.1.13 in book -

have a pencil and scratch paper in

hand to draw a number line and

follow along: )