

## Two HW questions that were turned in on Dec 2

1. Suppose  $S$  is discrete and closed. Suppose sequence  $a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots \in S$  converges. Show that a tail of the sequence is constant.

Proof: Say that the sequence converges to  $s$ . Then  $s \in S$  because  $S$  is closed, see 10(b). Since  $S$  is discrete, item 20 tells us that  $(s - \epsilon, s + \epsilon) \cap S = \{s\}$  for some  $\epsilon > 0$ . A tail of our sequence is in  $(s - \epsilon, s + \epsilon)$ , see item 8. Since our sequence is in  $S$ , that tail will be in  $(s - \epsilon, s + \epsilon) \cap S = \{s\}$ . So that tail will be  $s, s, s, \dots$

2. Let  $U$  be a subset of  $\mathbb{R}$  and suppose that: (a) every sequence that converges to a point in  $U$  has a tail in  $U$ .  
Then show that (b):  $U$  must be open.

Proof #1: Assume (a). Let  $S$  be the complement of  $U$ . (Why am I taking a complement? Because in the list of facts, convergent sequences tend to appear in the context of closed sets rather than open sets.) We will prove that  $S = \overline{S}$ . To do this, pick  $x \in \overline{S}$ . Then 11(f) says that there is a sequence in  $S$  that converges to  $x$ . But  $S$  is the complement of  $U$  so no tail of that sequence is in  $U$ . Then the contrapositive of assumption (a) tells us that that sequence does not converge to a point in  $U$ . But it converges to  $x$ . So  $x \notin U$ , hence  $x \in S$ .

This proved  $\overline{S} \subseteq S$ , hence  $\overline{S} = S$ , hence  $S$  is closed, hence  $U$  is open.

Proof #2: Lets do a proof by contrapositive, so we suppose that  $U$  is not open, and we have to prove that there is a sequence that converges to a point in  $U$ , a sequence that does not have a tail in  $U$ .

Negating item 3 we get that there is  $x \in U$  such that  $\forall \epsilon > 0 \ (x - \epsilon, x + \epsilon) \not\subseteq U$ .

Proof #2a:

(Note:  $A \not\subseteq B$  is the same as saying that there exists an element  $a \in A \setminus B$ .) Now for each  $n$ , take  $\epsilon = 1/n$  and take a point  $a_n \in (x - 1/n, x + 1/n) \setminus U$ . That sequence  $a_1, a_2, \dots$  converges to  $x$  but has no tail in  $U$  because  $a_n \notin U$  for each  $n$ .

Proof #2b:  $(x - \epsilon, x + \epsilon) \not\subseteq U$  is the same as saying that  $(x - \epsilon, x + \epsilon)$  intersects  ${}^cU$ , which is equivalent (see 11(e)) to saying that  $x$  is in the closure of  ${}^cU$ , which is equivalent (see 11(f)) to saying that there is a sequence in  ${}^cU$  that converges to  $x$ . No tail (or element) of that sequence will be in  $U$ .