Numbers and Sets (2011–12)

- 1. Define a sequence $(x_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ by setting $x_1 = 1$ and $x_{n+1} = \frac{x_n}{1+\sqrt{x_n}}$ for all $n \ge 1$. Show that $(x_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converges, and determine its limit.
- **2.** Let $(a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ be a sequence of reals. Show that if $(a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ is convergent then we must have $a_n a_{n-1} \to 0$. If $a_n a_{n-1} \to 0$, must $(a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ be convergent?
- **3.** Let $[a_n, b_n]$, n = 1, 2, ..., be closed intervals with $[a_n, b_n] \cap [a_m, b_m] \neq \emptyset$ for all n, m. Prove that $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} [a_n, b_n] \neq \emptyset$.
- 4. Which of the following sequences $(x_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$ converge?

$$x_n = \frac{3n}{n+3}$$
 $x_n = \frac{n^{100}}{2^n}$ $x_n = \sqrt{n+1} - \sqrt{n}$ $x_n = (n!)^{1/n}$

5. Which of the following series converge?

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1+n^2} \qquad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n!}{n^n} \qquad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n^2+n}} \qquad \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^n}$$

In the last case, the * means omit all values of n which, when written in base 10, have some digit equal to 7.

- **6.** Let $a_n \in \mathbb{R}$ and let $b_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n a_i$. Show that, if $a_n \to a$ as $n \to \infty$, then $b_n \to a$ also.
- 7. Let $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_n$ be a divergent series, where $x_n > 0$ for all n. Show that there is a divergent series $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} y_n$ with $y_n > 0$ for all n, such that $y_n/x_n \to 0$.
- 8. A real number $r = 0 \cdot d_1 d_2 d_3 \dots$ is called *repetitive* if its decimal expansion contains arbitrarily long blocks that are the same; that is, for every k there exist distinct m and n such that $d_m = d_n$, $d_{m+1} = d_{n+1}$, ..., $d_{m+k} = d_{n+k}$. Prove that the square of a repetitive number is repetitive.
- **9.** Show that any collection of pairwise disjoint discs in the plane is countable. What happens if we replace 'discs' by 'circles'?
- 10. Show that the collection of all finite subsets of \mathbb{N} is countable. What goes wrong if we try to use the diagonal argument to show that it is uncountable?
- 11. A function $f : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}$ is *increasing* if $f(n+1) \ge f(n)$ for all n and *decreasing* if $f(n+1) \le f(n)$ for all n. Is the set of increasing functions countable or uncountable? What about the set of decreasing functions?
- **12.** Find an injection $\mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}$. Is there an injection from the set of all real sequences to \mathbb{R} ?
- 13. If $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_n$ is a convergent series of reals, must $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} x_n^3$ converge? (NB: maybe $x_n < 0$.)
- 14. Let $S \subset \mathcal{P}\mathbb{N}$ be such that if $A, B \in S$ then $A \subset B$ or $B \subset A$. Can S be uncountable? Is there an uncountable family $T \subset \mathcal{P}\mathbb{N}$ such that $A \cap B$ is finite for all distinct $A, B \in T$?
- 15. Is there an enumeration of \mathbb{Q} as q_1, q_2, q_3, \ldots such that $\sum (q_n q_{n+1})^2$ converges?