

Theorem Let  $(a_n) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  be a given sequence and let  $S$  be its set of subsequential limits.

Then  $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \sup S$  and  $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \inf S$ .

Proof We'll do the case when  $(a_n)$  is bounded, so  $\limsup a_n$  and  $\liminf a_n$  are real numbers.

We'll do the proof for  $\limsup a_n$ .

Here's the outline of our proof:

Let  $t \in S$ . We'll show that

$$t \leq \limsup a_n$$

This will show  $\limsup a_n$  is an upper bound for  $S$ .

$$\text{so } \limsup a_n \geq \sup S$$

Then,  $\limsup a_n \leq \sup S$  since  $\limsup a_n \in S$  by Lemma 2.

This will show  $\limsup a_n = \sup S$ .

Since  $t \in S$ ,  $\exists (a_{n_k})$  such that  $\lim a_{n_k} = t$ .

Let's compare  $\limsup a_{n_k}$  and  $\limsup a_n$ .

Note  $\forall N$ ,

$$\sup \{ a_{n_k} : k > N \} \leq \sup \{ a_n : n > N \}$$

proof below  $\rightarrow$

$$\text{So } \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} a_{n_k} \leq \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$$

$= t$  by Theorem from last time

Observe  $\{a_{n_k} : k > N\} \subseteq \{a_n : n > N\}$

since if  $k > N$ , then  $n_k > N$ , so  $n_{N+1} > N, n_{N+2} > N, \dots$   
which means  $a_{n_k} \in \{a_n : n > N\}$  for all  $k > N$ .

This means  $\sup \{a_{n_k} : k > N\} \leq \sup \{a_n : n > N\}$

(you can show  $A \subseteq B \Rightarrow \sup A \leq \sup B$ )