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# ON A.C. LIMITS AND MONOTONE LIMITS OF SEQUENCES OF JUMP FUNCTIONS

#### Abstract

The a.c. limits (introduced by Császár and Laczkovich) and the monotone limits of sequences of functions having everywhere finite unilateral limits are investigated.

Let  $\mathbb{R}$  be the set of all reals and let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a family of functions from  $\mathbb{R}$  to  $\mathbb{R}$ . A function  $f:\mathbb{R}\to\mathbb{R}$  belongs to the class  $B_1^*(\mathcal{A})$  if there is a sequence of functions  $f_n \in \mathcal{A}$  with  $f = a.c. \lim_{n \to \infty} f_n$ , i.e. for each point  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  there is a positive integer k such that  $f_n(x) = f(x)$  for every n > k.

It is evident that  $f \in B_1^*(\mathcal{A})$  if and only if there is a sequence of sets  $A_n$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \ldots$ , such that for each positive integer n there is a function  $g_n \in \mathcal{A}$ such that

$$g_n/A_n = f/A_n, A_1 \subset A_2 \subset \ldots \subset A_n \ldots$$

and

$$\mathbb{R} = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$$

In [2, 3] it is proved that in the case of the class  $\mathcal{C}$  of all continuous functions the sets  $A_n$ , n = 1, 2, ..., can be closed and that  $f \in B_1^*(\mathcal{C})$  if and only if for every nonempty closed set  $A \subset \mathbb{R}$  there is an open interval I such that  $I \cap A \neq \emptyset$  and the reduced function  $f/(A \cap I)$  is continuous.

In this article we will investigate the family  $B_1(\mathcal{A})$ , where  $\mathcal{A}$  is the class  $\mathcal{P}$ of all functions  $f: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  such that for each point  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  there are the both finite unilateral limits  $\lim_{t\to x^-} f(t)$  and  $\lim_{t\to x^+} f(t)$ . The pointwise limits of sequences of such functions from  $\mathcal{P}$  were investigated in [4]. Moreover it is well known ([5], p. 45) that if  $f \in \mathcal{P}$  then the set D(f) of all discontinuity points of f is countable.

Key Words: upper semicontinuity, decreasing sequences of functions,  $B_1^*$  class, a.c. convergence, jump function

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## 1 The A.C. Convergence

**Theorem 1.** If  $f \in B_1^*(\mathcal{P})$  then f satisfies the following condition

(T) there is a countable set  $A \subset \mathbb{R}$  such that the reduced function  $f/(\mathbb{R} \setminus A) \in B_1^*(\mathcal{C}(\mathbb{R} \setminus A))$ , where  $\mathcal{C}(\mathbb{R} \setminus A)$  denotes the class of all continuous functions  $g : \mathbb{R} \setminus A \to \mathbb{R}$ .

PROOF. Since  $f \in B_1^*(\mathcal{P})$ , there is a sequence of functions  $f_n \in \mathcal{P}$ , n = 1, 2..., such that  $f = a.c. \lim_{n \to \infty} f_n$ . Put

$$A = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} D(f_n)$$

and observe that the set A is countable. Since the functions  $g_n = f_n/(\mathbb{R} \setminus A)$  are continuous for n = 1, 2, ... and  $f/(\mathbb{R} \setminus A) = a.c. \lim_{n \to \infty} g_n$ , the proof is completed.

The following Example shows that the condition (T) is not sufficient for the relation  $f \in B_1^*(\mathcal{P})$ .

#### Example 1. Let

$$g(x) = \sin \frac{1}{x}$$
 for  $x \neq 0$ ,  $g(0) = 1$ 

and

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{g(x - w_n)}{2^n},$$

where  $(w_n)_n$  is an enumeration of all rationals such that  $w_n \neq w_m$  for  $n \neq m$ ,  $n, m = 1, 2, \ldots$ 

As the sum of an uniformly converging series of functions which are continuous at each irrational point, the function f is continuous at every irrational point. Denote by A the set of all rationals and observe that the reduced function  $f/(\mathbb{R} \setminus A)$  is continuous. So the function f satisfies the condition (T).

Now we will prove that f is not in the class  $B_1^*(\mathcal{P})$ . Assume, by way of contradiction, that there is a sequence of functions  $f_n \in \mathcal{P}$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \ldots$ , such that  $a.c. \lim_{n\to\infty} f_n = f$ . Then there is a positive integer k and a set, B, of the second category such that  $f_m(x) = f(x)$  for each point  $x \in B$  and  $m \geq k$ . Consequently, the set

$$E = \{x; f_m(x) = f(x) \text{ for } m \ge k\} \supset B$$

is Borelian and of the second category. There is an open interval I = (a, b) such that the set  $I \setminus E$  is of the first category. Let  $u \in I$  be a rational point such that  $u = w_i$  for some positive integer i > k. Since all functions

$$x \to g(x - w_n), \quad n \neq i, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots,$$

are continuous at the point u, the function

$$h(x) = \sum_{i \neq n=1}^{\infty} \frac{g(x - w_n)}{2^n}$$

is also continuous at u. Let  $J \subset I$  be an open interval containing u such that

$$|h(t) - h(u)| < \frac{1}{8^i}$$
 for  $t \in J$ .

There are sequences of points

$$u < u_j, v_j \in J \cap E, \ j = 1, 2, \dots,$$

such that

$$u = \lim_{j \to \infty} u_j = \lim_{j \to \infty} v_j,$$
$$|g(u_j - u)| < \frac{1}{8^i} \text{ and } |g(v_j - u)| > 1 - \frac{1}{8^i} \text{ for } j = 1, 2, \dots$$

Observe that

$$f_i(u_j) = f(u_j) = h(u_j) + \frac{g(u_j - w_i)}{2^i} < h(u) + \frac{1}{8^i} + \frac{1}{8^i 2^i} = h(u) + \frac{2^i + 1}{2^i 8^i},$$

and

$$f_i(v_j) = f(v_j) = h(v_j) + \frac{g(v_j - w_i)}{2^i} > h(u) - \frac{1}{8^i} + \frac{1}{2^i} - \frac{1}{2^i 8^i} = h(u) + \frac{1}{8^i 2^i} - \frac{1}{8^i 2^i} = h(u) + \frac{1}{8^i 2^i} - \frac{1}{8^i 2^i} > h(u) + \frac{1}{8^i 2^i} + \frac{1}{8^i 2^i} + \frac{1}{8^i 2^i} = h(u) + \frac{1}{8^i 2^i} - \frac{1}{8^i 2^i} = h(u) + \frac{1}{8^i 2^i} + \frac{1}{8$$

a contradiction with the assumption that  $f_i$  has the finite limit from the right hand side. So f is not in  $B_1^*(\mathcal{P})$ .

**Theorem 2.** Let f be a function such that there is a countable set A and a  $G_{\delta}$ -set  $B \subset A$  for which the reduced function  $f/(\mathbb{R} \setminus A)$  is continuous and for each point  $x \in A \setminus B$  there are the finite unilateral limits

$$\lim_{\mathbb{R}\setminus A\ni t\to x-} f(t) \text{ and } \lim_{\mathbb{R}\setminus A\ni t\to x+} f(t).$$

Then the function  $f \in B_1^*(\mathcal{P})$ .

**PROOF.** Let  $(U_n)_n$  be a sequence of open sets such that

$$B = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} U_n$$
 and  $U_1 \supset \ldots \supset U_n \supset \ldots$ 

Since every function f with the finite set of all discontinuity points belongs to  $B_1^*(\mathcal{P})$ , without loss of the generality we can assume that the set A is infinite. Enumerate all points of the set A in a sequence  $(a_n)_n$  such that  $a_n \neq a_m$  for  $n \neq m, n, m = 1, 2, \ldots$ 

Next fix a positive integer n and put

$$f_n(x) = f(x)$$
 for  $x \in (\mathbb{R} \setminus U_n) \setminus A$ .

For  $i \leq n$  we define also

$$f_n(a_i) = f(a_i),$$

and for other  $x \in A \setminus U_n$  (i.e.  $x = a_i$ , where i > n) let either

$$f_n(x) = \lim_{\mathbb{R} \setminus A \ni t \to x+} f(t)$$

if x is the left endpoint of a component of the set  $U_n$  or

$$f_n(x) = \lim_{\mathbb{R} \setminus A \ni t \to x-} f(t)$$

otherwise.

Finishing we define  $f_n$  as the linear function on the closures of all components of the set  $U_n \setminus \{a_i; i \leq n\}$ . Then

$$f_n \in \mathcal{P}$$
 for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  and  $f = a.c. \lim_{n \to \infty} f_n$ ,

so  $f \in B_1^*(\mathcal{P})$  and the proof is completed.

For the formulation of the generalization of the last theorem we introduce the following notion:

A set A is said to be an interval set if there is a sequence of nondegenerate intervals  $I_n$ , n = 1, 2, ..., such that

$$A = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n;$$

**Theorem 3.** Let f be a function such that there is a countable set A such that the reduced function  $f/(\mathbb{R} \setminus A)$  is continuous. Moreover, suppose that there is a sequence of interval sets  $A_n$ , n = 1, 2, ..., such that

$$B = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \subset A \text{ and } A_1 \supset \dots A_n \supset \dots$$

and every reduced function  $f/(\mathbb{R} \setminus A_n)$ , n = 1, 2, ..., has the finite limit at every point x such that x is an endpoint of a component of the set  $A_n$  but x does not belong to  $A_n$ . Then  $f \in B_1^*(\mathcal{P})$ .

PROOF. The proof is similar as the proof of Theorem 2. The following example shows that the assumption of Theorem 3 is essentially more general than that in Theorem 2.

**Example 2.** Let g be the same function as that from Example 1 and let  $C \subset [0,1]$  be the ternary Cantor set. Put

$$[0,1] \setminus C = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} (a_n, b_n),$$

where  $(a_n, b_n)$ , n = 1, 2, ..., are components of the open set  $[0, 1] \setminus C$ . For each positive integer n we find a point

$$c_n \in (a_n, b_n)$$
 such that  $g(c_n - a_n) = 0$ .

Let

$$f(x) = \frac{g(x - a_n)}{n}$$
 for  $x \in [a_n, c_n], n = 1, 2, \dots$ 

and

$$f(x) = 0$$
 otherwise on  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Observe that for every countable set A the reduced function  $f/(\mathbb{R} \setminus A)$  does not have the limit from the right hand side for any point  $a_n$ , n = 1, 2, ...Evidently, there is not a countable  $G_{\delta}$ -set containing the set  $B = \{a_n; n = 1, 2, ...\}$ . But if A = B and for n = 1, 2, ... we define

$$A_n = \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} [a_k, \min(a_k + \frac{1}{n}, c_k))$$

then the hypothesis of Theorem 3 is satisfied and the function  $f \in B_1^*(\mathcal{P})$ .

Next example shows that the assumption of Theorem 3 is not a necessary condition for the relation  $f \in B_1^*(\mathcal{P})$ .

**Example 3.** Let C and  $(a_n, b_n)$ , n = 1, 2, ..., be the same as those in Example 2. Find a countable set  $B \subset C \setminus \{a_n, b_n; n = 1, 2, ...\}$  which is dense in C. Enumerate all points of the set B in a sequence  $(z_n)_n$  such that  $z_n \neq z_m$  for  $n \neq m, n, m = 1, 2, ...$  For every positive integer n find a sequence of closed intervals  $I_{n,m} = [c_{n,m}, d_{n,m}] \subset (0, 1), m = 1, 2, ...$ , such that:

if 
$$(n,m) \neq (k,l)$$
 then  $I_{n,m} \cap I_{k,l} = \emptyset, k, l, m, n = 1, 2, \ldots;$ 

 $I_{n,m} \cap C = \emptyset$  for  $n, m = 1, 2, \ldots$ ;

 $\lim_{m \to \infty} c_{n,m} = \lim_{m \to \infty} d_{n,m} = z_n \text{ for } n = 1, 2, \dots$ 

For all positive integers n, m define a continuous function

$$f_{n,m}: I_{n,m} \to [0,\frac{1}{n}]$$

such that

$$f_{n,m}(c_{n,m}) = f_{n,m}(d_{n,m}) = 0$$
 and  $f_{n,m}(I_{n,m}) = [0, \frac{1}{n}].$ 

Let

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} f_{n,m}(x) & if & x \in I_{n,m}, \ n,m = 1,2,\dots \\ n^{-1} & if & x = z_n, \ n = 1,2,\dots \\ 0 & otherwise \ on & \mathbb{R}. \end{cases}$$

Observe that for any countable set A there is a point in B where the unilateral limit of the reduced function  $f/(\mathbb{R} \setminus A)$  does not exist. Since every interval set containing B is residual in the set C, the function f does not satisfy the assumption of Theorem 3.

But we will prove that  $f \in B_1^*(\mathcal{P})$ . For this for every positive integer n define

$$f_n(x) = \begin{cases} f_{i,k}(x) & for & x \in I_{i,k}, \ i,k \le n \\ i^{-1} & for & x = z_i, \ i \le n \\ 0 & otherwise \ on & \mathbb{R} \end{cases}$$

and observe that

$$f_n \in \mathcal{P}$$
, and a.c.  $\lim_{n \to \infty} f_n = f$ .

**Theorem 4.** A function f is the a.c. limit of a sequence of functions  $f_n \in \mathcal{P}$  if and only if it satisfies the following condition:

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(P) there is a countable set A, a sequence of closed sets  $A_n$  and a sequence of functions  $g_n \in \mathcal{P}$ , n = 1, 2, ..., such that

$$\mathbb{R} = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$$
 and  $A_n \subset A_{n+1}$  for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ 

and

$$g_n/(A_n \setminus A) = f/(A_n \setminus A)$$
 for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ 

**PROOF.** Sufficiency. For the proof of the sufficiency of condition (P) we enumerate the set A in a sequence  $(a_n)_n$  and for n = 1, 2, ... we define

$$f_n(x) = \begin{cases} f(a_i) & for & i \le n \\ g_n(x) & otherwise \ on & \mathbb{R}. \end{cases}$$

Then

a.c. 
$$\lim_{n \to \infty} f_n = f$$
 and  $f_n \in \mathcal{P}$  for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ 

Necessity. Let

$$A = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} D(f_n),$$

where  $D(f_n)$  denotes the set of all discontinuity points of the function  $f_n$ , n = 1, 2, ...

Now, we will apply the transfinite induction.

Since  $f = a.c. \lim_{n \to \infty} f_n$ , there is a positive integer  $k_0$  such that the set

$$B_{k_0} = \{x : \forall_{i \ge k_0} f_i(x) = f(x)\}$$

is of the second category. Consequently, there is an open interval  $I_0$  with rational endpoints such that

$$I_0 \cap B_{k_0} \neq \emptyset$$
 and  $f_i(x) = f(x)$  for all  $x \in I_0 \setminus A$  and  $i \ge k_0$ .

Fix an ordinal number  $\alpha > 0$  and suppose that for every ordinal number  $\beta < \alpha$  there are a positive integer  $k_{\beta}$  and an open interval  $I_{\beta}$  with rational endpoints such that

$$E_{\beta} = (I_{\beta} \setminus A) \setminus \bigcup_{\gamma < \beta} I_{\gamma} \neq \emptyset,$$
  
$$f_{i}(x) = f(x) \text{ for } x \in E_{\beta} \text{ and } i \ge k_{\beta}$$

and

$$D_{\alpha} = \mathbb{R} \setminus \bigcup_{\beta < \alpha} I_{\beta} \neq \emptyset.$$

For each point  $x \in D_{\alpha}$  there is a positive integer k(x) such that

$$f_i(x) = f(x)$$
 for  $i \ge k(x)$ .

By Baire's category theorem there is a positive integer  $k_{\alpha}$  such that the set

$$F_{\alpha} = \{ x \in D_{\alpha}; k(x) = k_{\alpha} \}$$

is of the second category in  $D_{\alpha}$ . So, there is an open interval  $I_{\alpha}$  with rational endpoints such that

$$D_{\alpha} \cap I_{\alpha} \neq \emptyset$$

and

$$f_i(x) = f(x)$$
 for  $x \in E_\alpha$  and  $i \ge k_\alpha$ 

Let  $\alpha_0$  be the first ordinal number  $\alpha$  with  $E_{\alpha} = \emptyset$ . Since the family of all intervals with rational endpoints is countable,  $\alpha_0$  is a countable ordinal number. Every set  $I_{\alpha} \cap D_{\alpha}$ ,  $\alpha < \alpha_0$ , is an  $F_{\sigma}$  set, so

$$I_{\alpha} \cap D_{\alpha} = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} F_{n,\alpha},$$

where all sets  $F_{n,\alpha}$ ,  $n = 1, 2, ..., \alpha < \alpha_0$ , are closed. Enumerate the set A in a sequence  $(a_n)_n$  and all sets  $F_{n,\alpha}$ ,  $n = 1, 2, ..., \alpha < \alpha_0$ , in a sequence  $(F_{k_i,\alpha_i})_i$ . For n = 1, 2, ... let

$$A_n = \bigcup_{i=1}^n F_{k_i, \alpha_i},$$

and

$$g_n = \begin{cases} f(a_i) & for & i \le n \\ f_{\max(k_{\alpha_1}, \dots, k_{\alpha_n})} & otherwise \ on & \mathbb{R}. \end{cases}$$

Then

$$g_n/(A_n \setminus A) = f/(A_n \setminus A)$$

and the functions  $g_n \in \mathcal{P}$  for  $n = 1, 2, \ldots$  and

$$f = a.c. \lim_{n \to \infty} f_n.$$

So the proof is completed.

### 2 Monotone Convergence

**Remark 1.** It is obvious that a function f is the limit of a pointwise converging sequence of functions  $f_n \in \mathcal{P}$  if and only if there is a Baire 1 function gand a countable set A such that

$$\{x: f(x) \neq g(x)\} \subset A\}.$$

PROOF. Necessity. If

$$f_n \in \mathcal{P}, n = 1, 2, \dots$$
 and  $\lim_{n \to \infty} f_n = f$ 

then the set

$$A = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} D(f_n),$$

where  $D(f_n)$  denotes the set of all discontinuity points of  $f_n$ , n = 1, 2, ..., is countable and the reduced function  $f/(\mathbb{R} \setminus A)$  is of Baire 1 class. Consequently, there is a Baire 1 function  $g: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  such that f(x) = g(x) for all  $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus A$ .

**Sufficiency.** Since g is of Baire 1 class, there is a sequence of continuous functions  $g_n$ , n = 1, 2, ..., such that  $g = \lim_{n \to \infty} g_n$ . Let  $A = \{a_1, ..., a_n, ...\}$  and for n = 1, 2, ... let

$$f_n(x) = \begin{cases} f(a_k) & for & k \le n \\ g_n(x) & otherwise \ on & \mathbb{R}. \end{cases}$$

Then

$$f_n \in \mathcal{P}$$
 for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  and  $\lim_{n \to \infty} f_n = f_n$ 

This completes the proof.

For the monotone convergence we will prove the following theorem:

**Theorem 5.** A function f is the limit of a decreasing sequence of functions  $f_n \in \mathcal{P}$  if and only if there are an upper semicontinuous function g and a countable set A such that  $f \leq g$  and f(x) = g(x) for all points  $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus A$ .

**PROOF.** Necessity. For n = 1, 2, ... and  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  we define

$$g_n(x) = \max(f_n(x), \lim_{t \to x^-} f_n(t), \lim_{t \to x^+} f_n(t)).$$

From the inequalities  $f \leq f_{n+1} \leq f_n$  it follows that  $f \leq g_{n+1} \leq g_n$  for  $n = 1, 2, \ldots$  So there is a function g such that  $g_n \searrow g$  with  $n \to \infty$ . From the definition of  $g_n$  and from the inclusion  $f_n \in \mathcal{P}$  it follows that every function

 $g_n, n = 1, 2, \ldots$ , is upper semicontinuous. So, the function g is also upper semicontinuous and  $f \leq g$ .

Let

$$A = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} D(f_n).$$

The set A is countable. Since all functions  $f_n$ , n = 1, 2, ..., are continuous at all points  $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus A$ , we obtain

$$g_n(x) = f_n(x)$$
 for  $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus A$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ 

Consequently,

$$\{x: g(x) \neq f(x)\} \subset A$$

and the proof of the necessity is completed.

**Sufficiency.** Since g is upper semicontinuous, there is a decreasing sequence of continuous functions  $g_n$ , n = 1, 2, ..., such that

$$g = \lim_{n \to \infty} g_n.$$

Let

$$A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, \dots\}$$

and for  $n = 1, 2, \ldots$  let

$$f_n(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) & for & x = a_k, \ k \le n \\ g_n(x) & otherwise \ on & \mathbb{R}. \end{cases}$$

Then the functions  $f_n \in \mathcal{P}$  for  $n = 1, 2, \ldots$  and

$$f_n \searrow f$$
 with  $n \to \infty$ .

This completes the proof.

Applying the last theorem to the functions f and  $f_n$ , n = 1, 2, ..., we obtain the dual version of Theorem 4.

**Theorem 6.** A function f is the limit of an increasing sequence of functions  $f_n \in \mathcal{P}$  if and only if there are a lower semicontinuous function g and a countable set A such that  $f \geq g$  and

$$\{x: f(x) \neq g(x)\} \subset A.$$

For the monotone a.c. convergence we have the following theorems:

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**Theorem 7.** There are functions f and  $f_n \in \mathcal{P}$ , n = 1, 2, ..., such that  $f = a.c. \lim_{n\to\infty} f_n$  and  $f_n \nearrow f$  with  $n \to \infty$  and such that for each decreasing sequence of functions  $h_n \in \mathcal{P}$ , n = 1, 2, ..., the relation  $f = a.c. \lim_{n\to\infty} h_n$  is false.

PROOF. We conserve all notations from Example 3. Let f be the function from Example 3. Then f is the a.c. limit of the sequence of the functions  $f_n$ , n = 1, 2, ..., defined in Example 3 and belonging to  $\mathcal{P}$ . As an upper semicontinuous function f is the limit of a decreasing sequence of continuous functions (so, belonging to  $\mathcal{P}$ ).

Suppose, to the contrary that there is a decreasing sequence of functions  $h_n$ , n = 1, 2, ..., with *a.c.*  $\lim_{n\to\infty} h_n = f$ . Since  $h_n \ge f$  for n = 1, 2, ..., for all n, m = 1, 2, ... the inequality  $h_n \ge f_m$  is true. There are an open interval K, a countable set E, and a positive integer k such that

$$K \cap C \neq \emptyset$$
 and  $h_i(x) = 0$  for  $x \in (K \cap C) \setminus E$  and  $i \ge k$ .

Let m > k be a positive integer with  $z_m \in K \cap C$ . In every interval  $I_{m,j}$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \ldots$ , there is a point  $u_{m,j} \in I_{m,j}$  at which  $f(u_{m,j}) = \frac{1}{m}$ . Consequently,

$$h_k(u_{m,j}) \ge \frac{1}{m}$$
 for  $j = 1, 2, \dots$ 

Since

$$z_m = \lim_{j \to \infty} u_{m,j}$$

and  $z_m$  is a bilateral accumulation point of the set  $K \cap (C \setminus E)$ , the function  $h_k$  has not at least one unilateral limit at  $z_m$ . So it is not in  $\mathcal{P}$  and the obtained contradiction proves our theorem.

**Theorem 8.** Let f be a function. Suppose that there are a countable set A, a sequence of closed sets  $A_n$  and a sequence of functions  $g_n \in \mathcal{P}$  with  $g_n \geq f$   $(g_n \leq f), n = 1, 2, \ldots$ , such that

$$\mathbb{R} = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n$$
 and  $A_n \subset A_{n+1}$  for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ 

and

$$g_n/(A_n \setminus A) = f/(A_n \setminus A)$$
 for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ 

Then there is a decreasing (increasing) sequence of functions  $h_n \in \mathcal{P}$ , n = 1, 2, ..., such that  $f = a.c. \lim_{n \to \infty} h_n$ .

PROOF. We will consider only the first case where  $g_n \ge f$ , since the case where  $g_n \le f$  is analogous.

Let  $A = \{a_1, a_2, ..., a_n, ...\}$  and for n = 1, 2, ... let

$$h_n(x) = \begin{cases} f(a_i) & for & i \le n \\ \min(g_1(x), \dots, g_n(x)) & otherwise \ on & \mathbb{R}. \end{cases}$$

Then the sequence of functions  $h_n \in \mathcal{P}$  satisfies all requirements and the proof is completed.  $\Box$ 

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