

Section 11.1 Problem 85:

$$a_1 = \sqrt{2}, \quad a_{n+1} = \sqrt{2a_n}.$$

(i) The sequence is bounded from above by 2.

Proof: (By induction) that $a_n < 2$, for all $n \geq 1$.

$a_1 = \sqrt{2} < 2$, so the statement holds for a_1 .

It suffices to show that if it holds for a_n , $n \geq 1$, then it also holds for a_{n+1} .

Assume that $a_n < 2$. Then

$$a_{n+1} = \sqrt{2a_n} < \sqrt{2 \cdot 2} = 2. \quad \text{Hence } a_{n+1} < 2$$

as well.

Since $a_n < 2$, by assumption

(ii) The sequence is increasing:

$$a_{n+1} = \sqrt{2a_n} > \sqrt{a_n a_n} = a_n.$$

by part (i)

(iii) $L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n$ exists, since $\sqrt{2} \leq a_n < 2$, for

all n , by parts (i) and (ii), so $\{a_n\}$ is a bounded sequence, and it is increasing by part (ii) and so the hypotheses of the Monotonic Sequence Theorem are satisfied.

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{2} \leq L &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_{n+1} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{2a_n} = \\ & \quad \uparrow \text{Part (a) of Problem 3} \quad \uparrow \\ &= \sqrt{2 \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n} = \sqrt{2L}. \quad \text{Hence } L^2 = 2L \text{ and } L \geq \sqrt{2}. \\ & \quad \text{Thus } \boxed{L = 2}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ is continuous at L as $L \in (0, \infty)$.