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Quiz - March 16, 2004

Consider the sequence whose n^{th} term is $a_n = \frac{\cos(n\pi)}{n}$. What are the first few terms of this sequence? Find the limit of the sequence.

Answer: The first few terms of the sequence are $a_1 = -1$, $a_2 = \frac{1}{2}$, $a_3 = \frac{-1}{3}$, and $a_4 = \frac{1}{4}$. We see that

$$\frac{-1}{n} \le a_n \le \frac{1}{n}.$$

Therefore,

$$0 = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{-1}{n} \le \lim_{n \to \infty} a_n \le \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0.$$

We conclude that $\lim_{n \to \infty} a_n = 0$.