

2.3 Bolzano - Weierstrass Theorem

Notice that the seq $\{(-1)^n\}$ doesn't converge but it has convergent subsequence.

In this section, we will prove that this is a general principle. That is, every bounded seq. has a convergent subsequence.

DF: (i) let $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a seq. of real numbers

(i) $\{x_n\}$ is said to be increasing (resp. strictly increasing) iff $x_1 \leq x_2 \leq \dots$
(resp. $x_1 < x_2 < \dots$).

(ii) $\{x_n\}$ is said to be decreasing (resp. strictly decreasing) iff $x_1 \geq x_2 \geq \dots$
(resp. $x_1 > x_2 > \dots$).

(iii) $\{x_n\}$ is said monotone iff it is either increasing or decreasing.

RMK:

1. Some times, we call decreasing seq. nonincreasing and increasing seq. nondecreasing.

2. If $\{x_n\}$ is increasing (resp. decreasing) and $x_n \rightarrow a$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, we shall write $x_n \uparrow a$ (resp. $x_n \downarrow a$), as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

3. every strictly increasing seq. is increasing and every strictly decreasing seq. is decreasing.

4. $\{x_n\}$ is increasing iff the sequence $\{-x_n\}$ is decreasing.

Proof $x_n \uparrow \Rightarrow x_n \leq x_{n+1}$ $-x_n = -x_n$ $\Rightarrow -x_{n+1} \leq -x_n$

• We know that any convergent seq. is bounded.

We know establish the converse for monotone sequences.

bdd \nrightarrow conv. decr. \nrightarrow conv.

incr. \nrightarrow conv. monotone \nrightarrow conv.

bdd above + incr. \Rightarrow conv.

bdd below + decr. \Rightarrow conv.

Thm 1: Monotone Convergence Thm (MCT)

If $\{x_n\}$ is increasing and bounded above, or $\{x_n\}$ is decreasing and bounded below, or $\{x_n\}$ is decreasing and bounded below, then $\{x_n\}$ converges to a finite limit.

proof: suppose first that $\{x_n\}$ is increasing and bounded above.

By completeness Axiom, the supremum $\beta := \sup \{x_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ exists and finite.

Let $\varepsilon > 0$. By the approximation property for suprema choose $N \in \mathbb{N}$ s.t.

$$\beta - \varepsilon < x_n \leq \beta.$$

since $\{x_n\}$ is increasing $\Rightarrow x_n \leq x_{n+1}, \forall n \geq N$ } $x_n \leq \beta, \forall n \geq N$

since $\beta = \sup \{x_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\} \Rightarrow x_n \leq \beta, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

Thus it follows that $\beta - \varepsilon < x_n \leq \beta, \forall n \geq N$.

$$\text{part 1 } \rightarrow -\varepsilon < x_n - \beta \leq 0 < \varepsilon$$

$$\rightarrow |x_n - \beta| < \varepsilon, \forall n \geq N. \quad \text{Thus } x_n \uparrow \beta \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty \quad \square$$

part 2: suppose $\{x_n\}$ decreasing and bdd below.

By completeness Axiom, $\alpha := \inf \{x_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ exists and finite.

$$-\alpha = \sup \{-x_n\}$$

$$\text{By part 1, } \alpha = -(-\alpha) = -\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (-x_n)\right) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n$$

So $x_n \downarrow \alpha$

exp: If $|x| < 1$, then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^n = 0$ by Monoton

pf.

It suffices to prove that $|x|^n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$

First, we notice that $|x|^n$ is monotone decreasing $|x| < 1$

since, $|x| < 1$ implies $|x|^{n+1} < |x|^n$, $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$. (def)

Next, notice that $|x|^n$ is bounded below (by 0)

Hence, by the Monotone convergence theorem $|x|^n$ converge to a finite limit say L

$$|x|^n \rightarrow L \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

Next find L .

$$L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |x|^{n+1} = |x| \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |x|^n = |x| \cdot L$$

$$\Rightarrow L = |x|L$$

$$\Rightarrow L(1 - |x|) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow L = 0 \text{ or } |x| = 1 \text{ reject since } |x| < 1$$

$$\therefore L = 0$$

$$\therefore |x|^n \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty \quad \square$$

exp: If $x > 0$, then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^{\frac{1}{n}} = 1$

pf: we consider 3 cases. $(1)^{\frac{1}{n}} = 1$

Case 1: $x = 1$ Then $x^{\frac{1}{n}} = 1$, $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

and it follows that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^{\frac{1}{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 1 = 1$

Trivial

cont.

Case 2: $x > 1$, we shall apply the MCT.

we shall show that ~~show that~~ $\{x^{\frac{1}{n}}\}$ is decreasing and bounded below.

Indeed, since $x > 1$ then $(x^{n+1})^{\frac{1}{n(n+1)}} > (x^n)^{\frac{1}{n(n+1)}}$. Taking the $n(n+1)$ st root of this inequality.

We obtain $x^{\frac{1}{n}} > x^{\frac{1}{n+1}}$, i.e. $\{x^{\frac{1}{n}}\}$ is decreasing.

since $x > 1$ implies $x^{\frac{1}{n}} > 1$ it follows that $\{x^{\frac{1}{n}}\}$ is bounded below.

Hence, by the MCT, $L := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^{\frac{1}{n}}$ exists.

To find its value L , we have

$$L = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^{\frac{1}{n}} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (x^{\frac{1}{2n}})^2 = \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x^{2n}} \right)^2 = L^2$$

$$\Rightarrow L = L^2 \quad \text{i.e. } L=0 \text{ or } L=1.$$

since $x^{\frac{1}{n}} > 1$, the comparison Thm shows that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^{\frac{1}{n}} \geq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 1 \rightarrow \text{i.e. } L \geq 1$$

Hence $L = 1$ ✓ so reject $L=0$.

Case 3: $0 < x < 1$, Then $\frac{1}{x} > 1$

It follows from case 2 that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x^{\frac{1}{n}} = \frac{1}{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\frac{1}{x})^{\frac{1}{n}}} = 1$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\frac{1}{x})^{\frac{1}{n}}$$

= 1 by case 2

$x > 1 \rightarrow \lim = 1$

done.



DF 2: A sequence of sets $\{I_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is said to be nested iff

$$I_1 \supseteq I_2 \supseteq \dots \supseteq \{I_1, I_2, \dots\}$$

contains

contains

exp: $(0, \frac{1}{n})$

$I_1 = (0, 1)$

$I_2 = (0, \frac{1}{2})$

exp: $(0, n)$
not nested.

RMK: This is monotone property for sequence of sets. $\therefore I_1 \supseteq I_2 \supseteq I_3 \supseteq \dots$

So $\{I_n\} = \{(0, \frac{1}{n})\}$

is nested.

$\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n = \emptyset$

Thm 2: Nested Interval property.

$I_n = [a_n, b_n]$

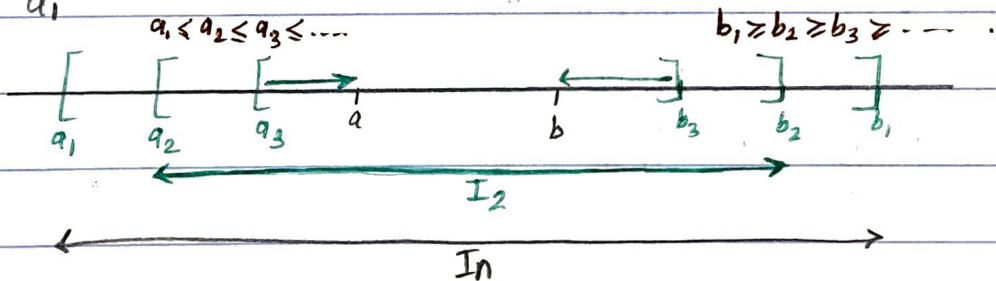
If $\{I_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a nested sequence of nonempty close bdd intervals, then

$E := \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n \neq \emptyset$ Moreover, if the lengths of these intervals satisfy

$I_n = b_n - a_n$
length

$|I_n| \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, then E is a single point.

Proof: let $I_n = [a_n, b_n]$. since I_n is nested, then $\{a_n\}$ is increasing seq. and bdd above by b_1 and $\{b_n\}$ is decreasing and bdd below by a_1



Thus By MCT, $\exists a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ s.t $a_n \uparrow a$ and $b_n \downarrow b$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

(def of interval) since $a_n \leq b_n$, $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ it follows that

(comparison Thm) $\leftarrow a = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} b_n = b$

Thus, $a_n \leq a \leq b \leq b_n$

Hence, $x \in I_n, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ iff $x \in [a, b]$

In particular, any $x \in [a, b], x \in \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n$ i.e. $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n \neq \emptyset$.

Next If $|I_n| \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ Then

$$(b_n - a_n) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

$$b - a = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (b_n - a_n) = 0 \Rightarrow b - a = 0 \Rightarrow b = a$$

Hence, E is a single point if $|I_n| \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$

RMK 1: The Nested Interval property (Thm 2) might not hold if "closed" is omitted

Proof: $I_n = (0, \frac{1}{n}), n \in \mathbb{N}$ are bdd and nested.

counter example

($I_1 = (0, 1) \supset (0, \frac{1}{2}) = I_2 \supset \dots$) But Not closed.

claim: $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n = \emptyset$

spse not, $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n \neq \emptyset, \exists x \in I_n, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

lie $0 < x < \frac{1}{n}, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$

lie $n < \frac{1}{x}, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ this contradicts the Archimedean principle

It follows that $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n = \emptyset$

RMK 2: The Nested Interval property (Thm 2) might not hold if "bounded" is omitted.

Proof: The Interval $I_n = [n, \infty), n \in \mathbb{N}$ are closed and nested but not bdd.

Again $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} I_n = \emptyset$

$$d = \dots = 1$$

$$a \geq d \geq 0 \geq a \geq a$$

Thm 3 : Bolzano - Weierstrass Theorem

every bounded sequence of real numbers has a convergent subsequence.

proof : ...